

Sunday 29th Sept 2013

Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report



Hendon FC



Bishop's Stortford FC



Hendon 0 - 5 Bishop 's Stortford : HT 0 - 3 : Att 269

The FA Cup

The Blues must be wishing that could play on a Sunday every week as they ultimately won this potentially tricky cup-tie comfortably at Earlsmead. Kyle Vassell netted Stortford 's first four goals that included a hat-trick in the space of seven first half minutes. It was the first time since March 2010 that a Stortford player had netted four times – the last occasion being Leon Antoine scoring a quadruple against Stevenage in a Herts FA Senior Cup Semi-Final tie. Probably more satisfying to Manager Rod Stringer was that the Blues kept a clean sheet for the first time this term.

In many ways it was a strange match in that the hosts were the better of the sides in the first half-hour and also that both sides had the opportunities to have added more goals to the final score-line.

Stortford 's starting line-up saw the return after injury of George Allen to the defence whilst Cliff Akurang was moved up front to partner Kyle Vassell. Barnet did not allow George Sykes to play in the tie and therefore the young striker was absent. The starting eleven also saw the return, also after injury, of Anthony Church.

It was very much a tentative start by Stortford and the Greens forced three successive corners early on. In a rare Blues attack, virtually their only one in the first half-hour, a low 25 yard shot from Matt Johnson was just wide of an upright. Michael Bryan, for the hosts, went close with a speculative attempt after 18 minutes and then a header from the same player five minutes later was just past the post following a cross from Aaron Morgan.

A long range effort from Jack Bennett was safely taken by Joe Wright and with Stortford looking second best Aaron Morgan was not far off target at the near post after cutting in from the right flank in the 33rd minute.

Having looked ineffectual in attack and lacking penetration up to that point everything changed in the 34th minute. A great cross-field pass from Matt Johnson found Ashley Miller running from the right flank into the box where he was impeded by Hendon skipper James Fisher. Referee Wayne Porter pointed immediately to the spot and KYLE VASSELL swept the penalty under keeper Sean Thomas diving to his left (0-1).

This was the boost that Stortford required and three minutes later the lead was doubled. A swift raid up the left with Johnny Herd and Reece Prestedge involved tore open the Greens ' defence and when the skipper crossed low in towards the six yard box KYLE VASSELL was there to net from close range (0-2).

Vassell could have completed his hat-trick shortly afterwards but shot straight at stopper Sean Thomas. Dave Diedhiou almost pulled a goal back for Hendon but shot wide when well placed and then KYLE VASSELL notched his and Stortford 's

third by drilling the ball low past Thomas from the penalty spot after the keeper had fouled Cliff Akurang in the box (0-3).

The Greens' Dave Diedhiou was close again – this time with a header - just before the break

Any chance that Hendon had of getting back into the tie was extinguished four minutes after the restart when the Blues and Vassell netted a fourth goal. Matt Johnson, who by now was stamping his authority on the match, together with Ashley Miller linked to enable KYLE VASSELL to run in from the right and whip in a fierce shin high shot that beat Thomas and found the far corner of the net (0-4).

With Stortford now dominating possession they looked dangerous every time they moved forward. In the 56th minute Cliff Akurang and Johnny Herd exchanged passes on the left before Akurang's shot was saved by Thomas and Herd couldn't quite find the net from the rebound. Anthony Church also went close and then in the 64th minute Kyle Vassell and Ashley Miller set up a chance for Cliff Akurang in front of goal but the ball seemed to get underneath the striker's feet and the opportunity was missed.

Another move on the left between Akurang and Herd ended with the latter lifting a rising shot over the bar from 15 yards range. Vassell hit a stinging drive that Thomas parried out but there was little that the Hendon keeper could do to stop Stortford's fifth goal in the 71st minute. A Johnny Herd cross from the left into the area was cleared out to ANTHONY CHURCH who struck a stunning volley from 25 yards that finished in the roof of the net (0-5). It was the midfielder's first goal for the Blues.

Up until the final whistle both sides had chances to net further goals. A minute after Stortford had netted their fifth goal, Greens' substitute Tony Taggart cut in at an angle to shoot low but Joe Wright denied him with a fine save. Then, although Stortford were playing some excellent possession football, another Hendon substitute, Anthony Thomas, broke away from the attention of Callum McNaughton in the 85th minute but was unable to net a consolation goal due to another fine save by Wright who dived to his right to keep out the shot.

At the other end, before the final whistle, Hendon keeper Sean Thomas saved well to keep out Cliff Akurang's 15 yard effort.

There were no cautions for Stortford in the tie but Hendon's Sean Thomas, Lee O'Leary and Aaron Morgan were shown yellow cards.

Full time: 0-5

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Ashley Miller (sub – Ben Adams 70 mins); Johnny Herd; George Allen; Sean Francis; Callum McNaughton; Matt Johnson; Anthony Church; Kyle Vassell (Kyle Asante 70 mins); Cliff Akurang; Reece Prestedge (sub – Nicky Symons 70 mins).

Unused substitutes: Harry Baker, Stephan Hamilton-Forbes, Luke Milbourne and Sam Cowler.

HENDON: Sean Thomas; Chris Seeby; Jack Bennett (sub – Tony Taggart 63 mins); Carl McCluskey; James Fisher; Dave Diedhiou; Casey MacLaren (sub – Max McCann 63 mins); Lee O'Leary; Jefferson Louis; Aaron Morgan; Michael Bryan (sub – Anthony Thomas 63 mins).

Unused substitutes: Michael Murray, Cameron Inch, Dean Cracknell and Sam Flegg.