

Saturday 23rd Nov 2013

Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report



Whitehawk FC



Bishop's Stortford FC



Whitehawk 1 - 1 Bishop 's Stortford : HT 0 - 1 : Att 159

The Skril South

After a break of three weeks the Blues returned to Skril South action and brought home a point from the Enclosed Ground where seven days ' previously they had lost to the hosts in an FA Trophy tie.

The Brighton side again proved to be tough opponents and after Stortford had taken a deserved lead a minute from the break they were forced on to the back foot for periods of the second half and after conceding an equaliser the Blues, unable to initiate a flow of consistent attacks, had to defend late on to ensure that they shared the points.

As expected, Rod Stringer made a number of changes to his side. Joe Wright and Ashley Miller returned as did Anthony Church after suspension whilst new loan signing from Hyde, Tom Collins, made a first start. With Johnny Herd out with a fractured hand Harry Baker also was drafted into the starting eleven.

Stortford, kicking down the slope first half, made a bright start winning two early corners and Harry Baker tried a long range attempt at goal that was safely held by keeper Dillon Phillips. A good run by newcomer Collins ended with him loosing control and the ball running through to Phillips. The first scoring opportunity of the match came in the 11th minute when Ashley Miller, on the right, found Matt Johnson running into space and the midfielder 's shot from an angle struck the keeper 's legs and rebounded clear.

Although the Blues had the better of the first half, a feature of the first 45 minutes was the number of near misses at both ends. In the 18th minute it took a strong tackle by Ashley Miller to stop a surging run by the Hawks ' Danny Mills. Then, three minutes later Tom Collins also had an angled shot kept out well by the home stopper after Cliff Akurang had headed on a Harry Baker cross.

Midway through the half there was an escape for Stortford as Tommy Fraser turned a free-kick into the path of Danny Mills and the striker lifted the ball over the bar from eight yards as Joe Wright came off his goal-line. At the other end George Allen was close with a shot over the bar after an exchange of passes with Cliff Akurang but the hosts threatened on the half-hour as Sami El-Abd headed narrowly wide at the far post follow a David Da Silva corner.

Whitehawk stopper, Dillon Phillips, made his best save in the 32nd minute. A long diagonal pass from Matt Johnson found Ashley Miller advancing on goal from the right only to be denied by Phillips who flung himself full length to turn the ball away for a corner.

At this stage of the match the Blues had the edge and they took the lead in the 44th minute. A pass forward from George Al-

len past the centre-circle was flicked on by Tom Collins for CLIFF AKURANG to run on to and drill wide and low of the oncoming Dillon Phillips (0-1).

Half-time: 0-1

On the restart play was even and largely uneventful but with the Blues increasingly finding it hard to string some cohesive attacks together the Sussex side began to get an edge on the proceedings.

When George Allen fouled substitute Courtney Richards 30 yards out Hakeem Adelakun 's free-kick resulted in a diving save from Joe Wright to keep his goal intact. Whitehawk forced a number of corners and they eventually levelled the scores in the 68th minute following a free-kick from Tommy Fraser. His ball in towards the far side of the box wasn 't cleared by the Stortford defence and DANNY MILLS poked it into the net from close range (1-1).

The Blues could muster up only a few attempts to threaten the hosts ' goal before the end and the best of them came in the 86th minute when a long throw from the right by Matt Johnson fell loose to Cliff Akurang who rifled his rising shot over the bar from an angle.

There was four minutes of stoppage time during which the Stortford goal came under pressure but they held on for the point.

Referee Constantine Hatzidakis cautioned the Blues ' Tom Collins and Reece Prestedge and Whitehawk 's Danny Mills, Tommy Fraser and Courtney Richards during the contest.

Despite dropping two points Stortford remained in 3rd place in the League table.

Full time: 1-1

BISHOP 'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Ashley Miller; Harry Baker (sub – Josh Fagbohun 79 mins); George Allen; Sean Francis; Callum McNaughton; Matt Johnson; Anthony Church; Tom Collins (sub – Nicky Symons 79 mins); Cliff Akurang; Reece Prestedge.

Unused substitutes: Ben Adams, Tommy Fletcher and Kyle Asante

WHITEHAWK: Dillon Phillips; Michael Boateng; Tom Cadmore; Hakeem Adelakun; Lee Hills; Sami El-Abd; David Da Silva (sub – Courtney Richards 60 mins); Danny Mills; Alex Parsons; James Fraser (sub – Sam Gargan 60 mins); Tommy Fraser.

Unused substitutes: Jake Robinson and Chris Winterton.