

Saturday 28th Dec 2013

# Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report



Bishop's Stortford FC



Boreham Wood FC



Bishop 's Stortford 1 – 3 Boreham Wood : HT 0 - 2 : Att 430

## The Skril South

There was no festive cheer for the Blues as they slipped to their second successive defeat over the Christmas period and their first Skril South loss at the ProKit UK Stadium since the opening day of the season following a run of six straight victories.

As in the Boxing Day encounter at Chelmsford, Stortford were made to pay for a poor first half when they conceded two goals without reply. Reece Prestedge netted a penalty – his 41<sup>st</sup> goal for the Blues on his 200<sup>th</sup> appearance – soon after the break but was then red carded along with Wood's Greg Morgan straight after the spot-kick conversion following a goalmouth melee caused by the visitors' Mark Jones racing in to take the ball out of the net and starting the fracas. Stortford tried hard to conjure up an equaliser and went close a couple of times before their Hertfordshire rivals sealed the points with their second spot-kick of the afternoon.

Rod Stringer's starting eleven saw the return of Sean Francis and Johnny Herd with Ben Adams and Nicky Symons the players to drop out.

The Blues were ineffectual from the first whistle with inaccurate passing and a lack of sharpness giving their opponents the edge. The opening fifteen minutes or so produced little action or excitement and was far from the atmosphere later in the contest. The deadlock was broken in the 19<sup>th</sup> minute by Wood's first penalty. Callum Reynolds' pass up the right flank found Austin Lipman with Callum McNaughton in pursuit. Lipman cut into the area along the goal-line and was brought down by the Stortford defender from behind. MARIO NOTO gave Joe Wright little chance with the spot-kick (0-1).

Three minutes later Andre Costa sent a pass forward into the Wood box that was just too far ahead of Liam Enver-Marum and keeper James Russell collected the ball. Then, at the other end, Joe Wright dived to hold a low cross from the dangerous Anthony Jeffrey at his near post. Russell later held on to crosses from Costa on the left and Enver-Marum on the right but the Wood stopper had no direct shots to deal with in the first period.

Johnny Herd, who hadn't looked comfortable from early on, departed the action injured on the half-hour mark and was replaced by Harry Baker.

The visitors doubled their lead in the 39<sup>th</sup> minute after Callum McNaughton mis-directed a pass in his own half straight to Austin Lipman who released ANTHONY JEFFREY on a run drifting in from the left which finished with a low drive from 18 yards that arrowed inside the near upright (0-2).

In the final minute of normal time before the interval keeper Russell had to stretch to keep out a deep cross from the right by Matt Johnson but the ball was almost certainly going out of play for a goal-kick in any case.

Half-time: 0-2

After such a poor display from the Blues in the first 45 minutes Rod Stringer made a double substitution on the restart with Tommy Fletcher replacing Callum McNaughton and Josh Fagbohun coming on for Andre Costa. Fagbohun soon featured as Liam Enver-Marum supplied the substitute with a pass to send him towards the box where Wood skipper Charlie O'Loughlin appeared to hold him back. Nothing was given but Stortford were awarded a penalty in the 52<sup>nd</sup> minute when O'Loughlin wrestled Cliff Akurang to the ground at the near post at Reece Prestedge's corner from the right. REECE PRESTEDGE duly sent Russell the wrong way from the spot which was the prelude to the start of the flare-up which at one point saw the Stortford skipper on the ground holding his forehead (1-2).

After several minutes delay Referee Alan Young sent off Reece Prestedge and Greg Morgan for alleged head-butting during the incident. He also yellow carded the visitors' Mark Jones for instigating the melee.

Once the action started again the Blues looked a lot more dangerous and in the 62<sup>nd</sup> minute when Cliff Akurang was fouled by Jones 25 yards out on the left, Matt Johnson's free-kick resulted in a glancing header from Liam Enver-Marum that was just wide of the far post. Then, a few minutes later, Harry Baker swung the ball in from the right and George Allen's contact saw Russell hold on to the ball.

Rod Stringer was dismissed from his dugout by Referee Young in the 71<sup>st</sup> minute for comments made to be followed nearer the end by Assistant Coach Tony Fenn.

Another centre from the right by Matt Johnson in the 81<sup>st</sup> minute caused problems for Russell who somehow managed to turn the ball away for a corner past his back post. However, pushing forward Stortford were always liable to quick breaks from Wood and in the 88<sup>th</sup> minute substitute Graeme Montgomery sent Anthony Jeffrey clear and Tommy Fletcher fouled him just inside the area. Joe Wright dived in the right direction again but was unable to stop the penalty from MARIO NOTO (1-3).

There was eight minutes of added time and during this period George Allen drove wide from the edge of the box after a Harry Baker cross had been cleared whilst Matt Johnson went close from 16 yards. Then, in the final minute, Wood were reduced to nine men as Mark Jones was shown his second yellow card of the afternoon following a poor challenge by the touch-line on Harry Baker.

Referee Young also, during the match, cautioned the Blues' Tommy Fletcher, when conceding the second penalty, and George Allen together with Boreham Wood's Callum Reynolds.

Full time: 1-3

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Ashley Miller; Johnny Herd (sub – Harry Baker 30 mins); George Allen; Sean Francis; Callum McNaughton (sub – Tommy Fletcher 46 mins); Matt Johnson; Andre Costa (sub – Josh Fagbohun 46 mins); Liam Enver-Marum; Cliff Akurang; Reece Prestedge.

Unused substitutes: Nicky Symons and Jack Edwards.

BOREHAM WOOD: James Russell; Ben Nunn; Mark Jones; Luke Garrard; Charlie O'Loughlin; Callum Reynolds; Greg Morgan; Sam Cox; Austin Lipman (sub – Graeme Montgomery 83 mins); Anthony Jeffrey (sub – David Moli 90 + 4 mins); Mario Noto.

Unused substitutes: Matthew Ball, Raheem Sterling-Parker and James Courtage.