

Saturday 18th Jan 2014

# Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report



Ebbsfleet Utd



Bishop's Stortford FC



Ebbsfleet 2 - 1 Bishop 's Stortford : HT 0 - 1 : Att 907

## The Skril South

Former Blues defender Aiden Palmer scored the winner as the hosts came from behind to net twice in the last 15 minutes to beat Stortford at Stonebridge Road.

It was a match that Stortford, who had taken the lead midway through the first half, could at least have taken a point from but after having the edge for considerable periods of the contest they were guilty of defending too deeply the more the game progressed and the winning goal six minutes from time was poor in respect of inadequate defending.

There was a welcome return to the side for Johnny Herd but Ashley Miller remained absent with a hamstring injury.

The Blues began well against the Fleet who sat third place in the League. In the 6<sup>th</sup> minute Jake Hall and Brian Woodall were involved in an attack that ended with the ball taking a fortunate bounce into the path of Anthony Church whose shot from just inside the box was well saved by keeper Preston Edwards diving to his right. Then two minutes later Sean Francis ' header downfield was nodded on by Woodall to Cliff Akurang for a clear opening but full-back Chris Sessegnon got across to make an excellent block to deny the striker by the penalty spot.

Cliff Akurang headed wide from a Matt Johnson corner whilst at the other end a free-kick from Michael West whistled inches past the far upright.

Stortford went close again in the 14<sup>th</sup> minute through Cliff Akurang with the striker ' s far post header from Brian Woodall ' s cross from the right being held low down by Preston Edwards.

There was a chance for Fleet ' s Anthony Cook when a long pass up the left from Aiden Palmer found him in space and no offside flag raised but fortunately Cook tamely lobbed the ball straight to Sam Cowler.

Stortford went one up in the 23<sup>rd</sup> minute. A Matt Johnson corner from the right was retrieved by Brian Woodall on the other flank and after going past a defender crossed for CLIFF AKURANG to head wide of Edwards (0-1).

The hosts threatened straight after the goal with Billy Bricknell breaking quickly but the danger was snuffed out when Michael Corcoran finally drove wide when shooting from outside the box. A little later Sean Francis was caught in possession and Bricknell crossed inside to Anthony Cook whose low shot was relatively comfortable for Sam Cowler to save.

Both sides looked dangerous when attacking but there was more pressure from the Kent side as the first half entered its later

stages.

Half-time: 0-1

Early on after the restart Brian Woodall was narrowly wide with a long range effort following a Matt Johnson corner and in the 59<sup>th</sup> minute Sam Cowler tipped over a 35 yard free-kick from Anthony Cook.

Midway through the half good work by Cliff Akurang on the left led to Jake Hall placing a shot a foot over the far angle of bar and post. Then, on the other wing, Harry Baker made a forcing run before laying inside to Anthony Church whose effort from 12 yards was deflected off a defender away from danger.

In the 69<sup>th</sup> minute Sam Cowler saved a low drive from the right by Chris Sessegnon at his near post as United 's pressure increased and the equaliser came in the 75<sup>th</sup> minute. Another attack on the right ended with Sessegnon crossing into the middle where Billy Bricknell 's shot on the turn glanced off of Sean Francis to fall kindly for BEN MAY to shoot first time into the bottom corner of net giving Sam Cowler no chance ( 1-1 ).

The Blues nearly retook the lead with near misses in quick succession with ten minutes of normal time remaining. A free-kick into the box from skipper Matt Johnson fell to Jake Hall on the edge of the area and the newcomer 's rising effort was tipped over the bar by Preston Edwards and when Johnson took a long throw from the right in towards the penalty spot Callum McNaughton nodded the bouncing ball over the target.

Stortford were made to pay in the 84<sup>th</sup> minute when the hosts grabbed the winner. Anthony Cook 's corner on the right found its way to Daryl McMahon, who had an increasing influence on the match. The midfielder 's cross to the far post was met by an unmarked Osei Sankofa who headed back across the six yard box for AIDEN PALMER to nudge over the line ( 2-1 ).

Rod Stringer threw on Josh Fagbohun and Liam Enver-Marum to try to make an impact up front. However, the Blues were unable to create any chances to equalise before the final whistle and Billy Bricknell almost scored a third for Fleet in the final minute but Sam Cowler made a fine blocking save.

Referee David Woolford booked the Blues ' Sean Francis and Jake Hall and Fleet 's Michael Corcoran and Anthony Cook.

Full time: 2-1

BISHOP ' S STORTFORD: Sam Cowler; Harry Baker; Johnny Herd; George Allen; Sean Francis; Callum McNaughton ( sub – Josh Fagbohun 85 mins ); Matt Johnson; Anthony Church; Brian Woodall; Cliff Akurang; Jake Hall ( sub- Liam Enver-Marum 89 mins ).

Unused substitutes: Andre Costa, Jordan Lockie and Joe Wright.

EBBSFLEET UNITED: Preston Edwards; Chris Sessegnon; Aiden Palmer; Daryl McMahon; Paul Lorraine; Osei Sankofa; Michael West ( sub – Alex Osborn 63 mins ); Michael Corcoran; Ben May ( sub – Michael Thalassitis 77 mins ); Billy Bricknell; Anthony Cook.

Unused substitutes: Joe Howe, Tom Phipp and Brandon Hall.