

Tue 4th Feb 2014

# Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report

Bishop's Stortford FC

Staines Town FC



Bishop 's Stortford 1 – 0 Staines Town : HT 1 - 0 : Att 288

## The Skril South

Joe Wright was the hero for the Blues when he saved an 89<sup>th</sup> minute penalty to deny the Swans a share of the points at a blustery ProKit UK Stadium. Louie Theophanous ' late spot-kick lacked power but Wright, in for the injured Sam Cowler, dived to his left and smothered the low effort.

Earlier in the contest, with the wind in their favour blowing from the direction of the Airport end, Stortford failed to capitalise on an 8<sup>th</sup> minute goal from Matt Johnson. However, after the break the visitors, although having the greater percentage of possession, lacked penetration and gave Joe Wright few problems. In fact the Blues had several chances to extend their lead in the second half but failed to take them.

Apart from between the sticks, Rod Stringer 's other changes to the side were the return of skipper Reece Prestedge after serving his suspension, Michael Richens dropping back to the full-back position and Liam Enver-Marum coming into the starting line-up to partner Brian Woodall up front. Sean Francis, Cliff Akurang and Johnny Herd remained unavailable due to injury or illness.

The Blues got into gear from the first whistle and looked sharp before taking the 8<sup>th</sup> minute lead. Ashley Miller did well to intercept a Staines pass just inside the visitors ' half and sent the ball forward to Liam Enver-Marum who then laid it back to the oncoming MATT JOHNSON and the midfielder hit a low left-footer from 22 yards that found the net between Staines stopper Jack Turner 's dive and an upright ( 1-0 ).

Four minutes later the Swans ' Ashley Lodge delayed a shot and lost possession when worked into a good position by Louie Theophanous but it was Stortford who were calling the tune at this stage. After linking with Liam Enver-Marum, Matt Johnson struck a low drive inches wide from all of 35 yards and then in the 19<sup>th</sup> minute a surging attack involving Reece Prestedge, Brian Woodall and Jake Hall ended with the latter thundering a rising 30 yarder just over the target.

Matt Johnson again went close in the 31<sup>st</sup> minute – this time with a 30 yard free-kick after Liam Enver-Marum had been fouled.

However, as the interval approached the Middlesex side came more into the picture. A free-kick in the 37<sup>th</sup> minute from Max Worsfold flew past the far post and then five minutes later Ashley Lodge slipped the ball down the middle for Calum Willock to chase but Joe Wright came out quickly to hold the ball at the striker 's feet. With a minute remaining of normal time Staines ' Louie Theophanous should have done better with a header from Kurtis Pykes ' cross from the right that he sent wide of the mark.

Half-time: 1-0

Staines' substitute Dan Brown, who had only just come on to the pitch, almost grabbed an equaliser within a minute of the re-start but his effort was blocked away out of danger.

Ten minutes into the half saw Stortford go close on several occasions to netting a second goal. Firstly Jake Hall played the ball to near the edge of the box where Liam Enver-Marum turned a defender but keeper Jack Turner blocked the shot from the striker. Then seconds later Brian Woodall's centre from the left fell to Jake Hall whose 15 yard shot deflected a foot over the bar. From the resultant corner on the right taken by Reece Prestedge, Callum McNaughton, falling backwards, lifted his shot over the bar from ten yards.

Play was end to end for a period midway through the half before the visitors thought that they had equalised in the 79<sup>th</sup> minute but when Ashley Lodge hooked the ball into the net quite rightly the goal was disallowed due to him being in an offside position.

With the Blues having trouble retaining possession, the Swans increasingly pushed forward. However, this was leaving the visitors exposed at the back and Stortford substitute Josh Fagbohun went on a solo run on the left in the 82<sup>nd</sup> minute before driving wide of the goal. Reece Prestedge was also wide from distance and there was a great chance in the 86<sup>th</sup> minute as Fagbohun chased a long ball and flicked the ball across into the path of Liam Enver-Marum who only had keeper Turner to beat. Unfortunately Enver-Marum's shot hit Turner's legs and rebounded clear.

The closing minutes saw a nervy Blues defence repel the Staines' attacks until the penultimate minute when a run on the left by full-back Jordaan Brown took him to just inside the box where Michael Richens was ruled to have fouled him and therefore conceded a penalty.

Thankfully Joe Wright saved Theophanous' spot-kick that meant the Blues, in their first Skrill South match at the ProKit UK Stadium for over a month, had avenged the defeat at Staines prior to Christmas.

Referee Wayne Porter booked Michael Richens and Staines' former Blue, Sanchez Ming, in the first half.

Full time: 1-0

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Michael Richens; Ashley Miller; George Allen; Callum McNaughton; Jake Hall; Matt Johnson; Anthony Church; Brian Woodall (sub – Josh Fagbohun 71 mins); Liam Enver-Marums); Reece Prestedge.  
Unused substitutes: Harry Baker, Jordan Lockie, Andre Costa and Luke Milbourne.

STAINES TOWN: Jack Turner; Sanchez Ming; Jordaan Brown; Lewis Ferrell (sub – Stephane Ngamvoulou 57 mins); Chris M'Boungou; Jerel Ifil; Ashley Lodge; Max Worsfold (sub – Louie-Rae Beadle 67 mins); Louie Theophanous; Calum Willock; Kurtis Pykes (sub – Dan Brown 46 mins).  
Unused substitutes: Bharam Pashaj and Kyle Merson.