

Tue 11th Mar 2014

Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report



Bishop's Stortford FC



Dorchester Town FC



Bishop 's Stortford 1 – 1 Dorchester Town : HT 0 - 0 : Att 257

The Skril South

A match that the Blues controlled for long periods, with Anthony Church twice hitting the woodwork with headers, ended with Michael Richens snatching an equaliser three minutes from the end of normal time. Playing their first fixture at the ProKit UK Stadium for over a month it seemed, after the visitors had taken the lead, that almost continuous pressure in the second half would come to nothing for Stortford but Richens, on loan from Peterborough United, was in the right place at the right time to net his second goal in Blues colours after a Matt Johnson free-kick into the penalty box. The result meant that Stortford recorded their first "home" draw of their Skril South campaign.

Rod Stringer 's squad against the Magpies showed two changes to that had started against Tonbridge a few days earlier. Callum McNaughton and Liam Enver-Marum started the match whilst Jake Hall and Cliff Akurang were on the bench.

Attacking the Airport end, the Blues started well and in the 9th minute Reece Prestedge chested down a Michael Richens cross from the right into the path of Brian Woodall whose shot from 20 yards was well saved by the Dorset side 's keeper Alan Walker-Harris, who diving to his left, turned the ball round the post for a corner. Soon afterwards a low long-range effort from Prestedge narrowly went wide of the same upright.

In their sporadic raids upfield the visitors looked sharp and it took a fine tackle from Callum McNaughton in the 23rd minute to stop the Magpies ' Nick Crittenden when he advanced in the inside left channel towards the edge of the box.

Stortford, though, had the edge and most of the possession but Dorchester were defending well and limiting space in the final third of the pitch for the Blues whose passing going forward in the first period was not always accurate.

In the 33rd minute a glancing header by Reece Prestedge from a Matt Johnson free-kick on the right flew wide of the far post and Stortford were close to taking the lead before the break. Stopper Walker-Harris had to deal with a high, swirling misdirected clearance from one of his own defenders that was falling close to his goal-line. Then, in the final minute of normal time, a Johnson corner on the left saw Anthony Church nod the ball against the bar and sixty seconds later Church 's flick-on allowed Reece Prestedge to cut in from the left flank only to see Walker-Harris block the skipper 's shot at the base of the near post.

Half-time: 0-0

Early on after the restart good work by Liam Enver-Marum on the right led to Brian Woodall driving a shot not far off target from the edge of the box. However, the visitors struck a blow in the 49th minute when they went one up after the Blues failed

to clear a corner taken on the left. The ball was cleared away to the same flank twice before it was returned back in to the danger area for a third time by Charlie Losasso and centre back NATHAN WALKER found the net with a header that Joe Lumley got a hand to but was unable to stop (0-1).

From this point onwards it was virtually one-way traffic as the Blues pressed hard for an equaliser. Brian Woodall again went close after combining with Liam Enver-Marum in the 57th minute but on the hour mark they, along with Callum McNaughton, made way for Cliff Akurang, Harry Baker and Josh Fagbohun as Rod Stringer made a triple substitution.

Harry Baker was very prominent in Stortford attacks until the final whistle and in his first minute on the pitch he volleyed inches past the far post from an acute angle following Reece Prestedge 's deep cross from the left.

The Magpies ' keeper Alan Walker-Harris did well to hold on to a Matt Johnson free-kick under pressure midway through the half. In the 71st minute Baker seemed to be tripped by Charlie Losasso when going round the Dorchester player in the area but Referee John O ' Brien waived play on and then the next attack concluded with Anthony Church having an angled shot saved at full length by a diving Walker-Harris.

More pressure saw Stortford go closer still in the 78th minute. Matt Johnson 's corner on the right was headed goalwards by Sean Francis and the ball was nodded against the outside of the post by Anthony Church at close range.

Another incisive attack by the Blues produced nothing when Nathan Walker blocked a shot on the turn by Cliff Akurang inside the area but eventually the leveller arrived in the 87th minute. Harry Baker again menaced the Magpies left side and was fouled by Jake Smeeton. Matt Johnson 's free-kick swung into the box and MICHAEL RICHENS, centrally placed, volleyed the ball through a crowded six yard area and past Walker-Harris (1-1).

There was an additional four minutes of stoppage time and during this period Cliff Akurang had half chances to clinch a winner for the Blues. Firstly the striker 's back header to a Matt Johnson long throw looped high and dipped past the back post and then, in almost the last action of the night, he met a Johnson corner from the right with a powerful header but it flew off target.

Both sides collected three cautions apiece from Referee O ' Brien. George Allen, Michael Richens and Anthony Church were booked along with the visitors ' Charlie Losasso, Jake Smeeton and skipper Mark Jermyn.

Full time: 1-1

BISHOP 'S STORTFORD: Joe Lumley; Michael Richens; Ashley Miller; George Allen; Sean Francis; Callum McNaughton (sub – Josh Fagbohun 60 mins); Matt Johnson; Anthony Church; Brian Woodall (sub – Cliff Akurang 60 mins); Liam Enver-Marum (sub – Harry Baker 60 mins); Reece Prestedge.

Unused substitutes: Jake Hall and Jordan Brown.

DORCHESTER TOWN: Alan Walker-Harris; Sam Lanahan; Jake Smeeton (sub – Steve Walker 90 + 3 mins); Mark Jermyn; Nathan Walker; Nathan Craig; Nick Crittenden; Jamie Gleeson; Ashley Yeoman (sub – Jake McCarthy 80 mins); Warren Byerley (sub – Clive Makoni 89 mins); Charlie Losasso.

Unused substitutes: Jack Twyford and Ryan Case.