

Sat 22nd Mar 2014

Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report



Bishop's Stortford FC



Farnborough FC



Bishop 's Stortford 1 – 3 Farnborough : HT 0 - 1 : Att 360

The Skril South

Two goals from the visitors in the last twelve minutes of normal time ensured that the Blues slipped to their second successive home defeat inside a week. Stortford had worked hard to level the scores midway through the second half after Borough had taken the lead on the stroke of half-time. If any side was going to win the match it looked like the Blues after drawing level. But a sloppy goal and a penalty conceded late in the contest cost them dearly with a “play-off” place now looking to be drifting away.

Rod Stringer gave Josh Fagbohun a place in the starting eleven for the first time in a Skril South fixture whilst Jordan Brown returned to the side. After his excellent showing against Hemel Hempstead two days earlier on his return from injury there was a place on the bench for Johnny Herd.

Stortford had the better of the first half when there were few chances to score at either end. In the tenth minute strikers Cliff Akurang and Brian Woodall exchanged passes in an attack down the middle and Woodall 's low shot from the edge of the box was saved at the post by Farnborough keeper Ross Fitzsimmons. Soon afterwards, at the other end, Connor French 's shot on the turn close in was held by Joe Wright. The nearest Stortford came to taking the lead before the break was a near post header from Cliff Akurang that was just wide from Matt Johnson 's free-kick into the box.

Generally, though, Farnborough stopper Ross Fitzsimmons wasn 't put under much pressure. However, it came a little against the run of play when the Hampshire side took the lead as the game entered the first minute of stoppage time at the end of the first period. Following a Matt Ball corner on the left, the ball was half cleared at the near upright and Fraser Colmer returned the ball low into the middle where an unmarked ADAM DOYLE netted with a header past Joe Wright from close range (0-1).

Half time: 0-1

After the break the Blues edged the proceedings and almost levelled in the 56th minute after a corner on the left by Matt Johnson was headed by Callum McNaughton high against the near upright from ten yards.

Stortford, with the wind behind them in the second half, eventually levelled the scores in the 68th minute. Cliff Akurang was fouled midway in the Farnborough half twelve yards in from the left touch-line and Matt Johnson 's free-kick into the goal-mouth was headed on by Sean Francis and a stretching ANTHONY CHURCH found the net from a few yards towards the back post (1-1).

The Blues were close to taking the lead three minutes later when substitute Ryan Melaugh crossed from the left towards the near post and Cliff Akurang 's headed over from 15 yards.

It was the visitors, however, who retook the lead in the 79th minute. After winning a throw on the right Stortford 's defence seemed to switch off and J J Hooper back-headed to substitute DAN BENNETT who cut inside Sean Francis to drive a fine angled low effort wide of Joe Wright and into the far corner of the net (1-2).

Worse was to happen three minutes later as Matt Johnson brought down striker J J HOOPER just inside the angle of the penalty box and although Joe Wright dived in the direction of the ball he was unable to prevent the resultant spot-kick entering the net (1-3).

In the final five minutes before the end of normal time both Matt Johnson and Anthony Church with free-kicks from the edge of the box sent their attempts over the bar.

In the four minutes of added time at the conclusion of the match Farnborough almost added another goal but Phil Page 's cross-shot was turned aside for a corner by Joe Wright.

The scorer of Farnborough 's first goal, Adam Doyle, picked up the only yellow card of the game from Referee Robert Ellis in the first half.

Full time: 1-3

BISHOP 'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Ashley Miller; Jordan Brown (sub – Johnny Herd 61 mins); Reece Prestedge (sub – Michael Richens 84 mins); Sean Francis; Callum McNaughton; Matt Johnson; Anthony Church; Josh Fagbohun (sub – Ryan Melaugh 61 mins); Cliff Akurang; Brian Woodall.

Unused substitutes: George Allen and Jake Hall.

FARNBOROUGH: Ross Fitzsimmons; Josh Huggins; Fraser Colmer; Alfred Bosch; Alan Inns; Darryl Siaw; Harry Lee; Adam Doyle; J.J.Hooper (sub – Phil Page 87 mins); Connor French (sub – Dan Bennett 74 mins); Matt Ball (sub – Courtney Fearn 90+2 mins).

Unused substitutes: Tyrone Berry and Ryan Musselwhite.