

Wed 23rd Apr 2014

Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report



Bishop's Stortford FC



Boreham Wood FC



Bishop 's Stortford 1 - 1 Boreham Wood : Penalties 1 - 3 : Att 240

HERTS SENIOR CUP – FINAL

Six days after winning a penalty shoot-out to lift the County Charity Cup the Blues suffered the heartbreak of this time being on the wrong end of a shoot-out loss at the County Ground Letchworth when fellow Skrill South side Boreham Wood were the victors in this County Senior Cup Final.

Despite the loss it was a plucky performance by the Blues who had Michael Richens harshly sent off by young Referee Adrian Waters just before the midway point of the second half after collecting two yellow cards. The Peterborough United player had been cautioned late in the first period for dissent and collected a second for ungentlemanly conduct when jumping up in front of Wood 's keeper as he was throwing the ball upfield. The Blues battled heroically to take the tie to a dramatic period of extra time and then spot-kicks but Wood keeper James Russell was the hero saving three of Stortford 's four penalties with only Matt Johnson notching from the spot.

With George Allen having completed his suspension over the Easter weekend he took his place in Rod Stringer 's starting line-up and Cliff Akurang also returned up front after injury.

The Blues ' opponents took the lead in the 2nd minute. Woods ' Luke Garrard intercepted a clearance from Anthony Church and slipped the ball to striker LEE ANGOL just inside the area and the lively striker struck a dipping shot over Joe Wright into the back of the net (0-1).

Stortford were struggling to settle and in the 14th minute there was a lack of communication between Callum McNaughton and Joe Wright at the edge of the box that resulted in Angol knocking the ball past both of them and fortunately inches past the upright.

However, after that escape the Blues were back on level terms three minutes later after Ashley Miller had forced a corner on the right. Reece Prestedge 's flag kick fell perfectly for MICHAEL RICHENS ' timely run towards the far post and his header flew into the corner (1-1).

A very mobile Wood side had the edge for the rest of the half with Stortford looking tentative at times. Joe Wright saved well when Ricky Shakes broke upfield and, following an attack on the right in the 23rd minute, only a slight deflection stopped Angol netting at the far post at point blank range.

Woods ' Graeme Montgomery drove wide from 20 yards in the 28th minute whilst George Allen stopped Shakes advancing

clear on goal in the 37th minute. The closest that Stortford came to netting again before the break was an Ashley Miller volley that flew not far off target following an Anthony Church pass.

Once again, as in recent matches, Callum McNaughton had to have his head bandaged - this following a clash of heads with Ricky Shakes.

Half time: 1-1

On the restart the Blues were kicking down the slope but Wood still caused problems with their speedy counter attacks and in the 51st minute Joe Wright did well at the near post to cut out a low centre from the right with Lee Angol waiting with an open goal in front of him.

Stortford 's cause wasn 't helped by the bizarre second yellow card shown to Michael Richens and Angol and Garrard went close with half chances soon afterwards. The Blues players, along with their supporters, thought the numbers per side were going to evened up when, with fifteen minutes of normal time remaining, defender Mark Jones cynically brought down Cliff Akurang when the striker was breaking down the middle but Referee Waters just brandished a yellow card. The resultant free-kick was hit by Ashley Miller straight into the defensive wall.

When a long clearance from the Boreham Wood half skimmed off the top of George Allen 's head in the 77th minute Matty Whichelow fastened on to the ball but he was denied by Joe Wright who had quickly come off his line to hold the ball at the forward 's feet.

At the other end Callum McNaughton met a Matt Johnson free-kick from the right with a header that was just off target and then when Wood won a corner in the 83rd minute Callum Reynold' s header was headed off the goal-line by Ashley Miller.

In the closing minutes for the end of normal time Graeme Montgomery sent Ricky Shakes away goalwards but Jordan Brown made a superb saving tackle at the expense of a corner and finally Cliff Akurang headed over the bar from another Matt Johnson free-kick.

Full time: 1-1

Stortford were kicking up the slope in the first period of what was to be an extra time full of drama. Matt Johnson was narrowly wide with an effort from long distance whilst Joe Wright was at full stretch to turn a Luke Garrard 25 yard drive over the bar. The Blues goal bore a charmed life from the corner taken by Graeme Montgomery with defenders throwing their bodies about in the six yard box until Sam Cox 's close range shot was deflected over the bar.

Wood 's goal also had an escape in the 99th minute as a Matt Johnson corner from the left went up into the air in front of goal and Callum McNaughton somehow headed wide from a few yards out.

Another corner at the Stortford end saw more drama during which George Allen heading against his own post. A minute before the break in extra time Joe Wright saved at the foot of an upright from Ricky Shakes.

Half time extra time: 1-1

In increasingly damp conditions, the Blues were under the cosh from Wood for most of the second period and two minutes after the restart Sam Cox and Lee Angol struck the same post within seconds of each other whilst Wright saved well from Montgomery.

The ten men of Stortford held out bravely to the conclusion of extra time but it was all to no avail due to the outcome of the penalty shoot-out.

Apart from Michael Richens ' dismissal there were cautions for Reece Prestedge and George Allen along with Wood ' s Mark Jones.

Full time extra time: 1-1

The sequence of the penalties that followed in the shoot-out was as follows: -

Reece Prestedge (Bishop ' s Stortford) – keeper Russell saves (0-0)

Callum Reynolds (Boreham Wood) – scores (0-1)

Matt Johnson (Bishop ' s Stortford) – scores (1-1)

Ben Nunn (Boreham Wood) – scores (1-2)

Cliff Akurang (Bishop ' s Stortford) – keeper Russell saves (1-2)

Lee Angol (Boreham Wood) – scores (1-3)

Sam Cutler (Bishop ' s Stortford) – keeper Russell saves (1-3)

BISHOP ' S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Ashley Miller; Jordan Brown; George Allen; Callum McNaughton; Michael Richens; Matt Johnson; Anthony Church (sub – Brian Woodall 111 mins) ; Cliff Akurang; Johnny Herd (sub – Sam Cutler 111 mins) ; Reece Prestedge.

Unused substitutes: Josh Fagbohun, Luke Milbourne and Jake Hall.

BOREHAM WOOD: James Russell; Ben Nunn; Mark Jones; Sam Cox; Josh Hill; Callum Reynolds; Ricky Shakes (sub – Kudos Oyenuga 110 mins) ; Matty Wichelow (sub – Greg Morgan 106 mins) ; Lee Angol; Luke Garrard; Graeme Montgomery (sub – Mario Noto 111 mins) .

Unused substitutes: Loick Pires and James Courtney