

Sat 26th Apr 2014

Bishop's Stortford FC Match Report

Bishop's Stortford FC

Maidenhead Utd



Bishop 's Stortford 1 – 1 Maidenhead Utd : HT 0 - 1 : Att 430

The Skril South

An own goal in the third minute of stoppage time by Maidenhead substitute Tom Gilbey rescued a point for the Blues in their last Skril South match of the season. The point for the Magpies was enough to ensure their survival at the expense of Hayes & Yeading.

Playing their 22nd game in 50 days the Blues naturally looked tired especially bearing mind they had endured extra time and penalties three days earlier in the Herts Senior Cup. The visitors, with the possibility of relegation if they didn't produce the goods on the day, looked the sharper side and showed the greater urgency.

Rod Stringer was able to welcome back Sean Francis to his starting line-up and the central defender featured in the 3rd minute in Stortford's first real attack. Reece Prestedge's high ball from the left towards the six yard box troubled United keeper Jonathan Henly who spilled the ball under pressure from Cliff Akurang and Francis volleyed close past an upright from 15 yards.

The Magpies' Lanre Azeez struck a rising shot over the top from 23 yards in the tenth minute and then Joe Wright held an angled low effort from Harry Pritchard as the visitors forced the pace. United won a number of corners and in the 25th minute Wright held another shot – this time at the near post from striker Reece Tilson-Lascaris on the right.

Maidenhead's pressure eventually told in the 28th minute when they took the lead. Brett Longden was fouled 20 yards inside the Stortford half and Pritchard's free-kick into the box was headed wide of Joe Wright by JACOB ERSKINE and inside the far post (0-1).

A Reece Prestedge corner was headed over the bar by Anthony Church five minutes after the goal and then, shortly before the break, Church had to leave the action due to an injured shoulder and was replaced by Sam Cutler.

Half time: 0-1

In the first two minutes after the restart the Blues were twice close to equalising. First, when Matt Johnson crossed from the right into the box Ashley Miller's glancing header found Cliff Akurang in front of goal but the striker's header was too close to keeper Henly. Then Akurang, at the near post, stabbed a cross from Brian Woodall on the left into Henly's hands.

On the hour a corner from the left by Harry Pritchard saw Reece Prestedge head against own bar at the near post. However, Stortford came back with Matt Johnson finishing a promising attack with a low effort that was comfortably taken by Henly and the Magpies' stopper was more extended when he had to push away a 30 yard free-kick from Sam Cutler in the 63rd minute

after Brian Woodall had been fouled.

There was an escape for the Blues in the 71st minute as another corner from Pritchard nearly produced a goal but Johnny Herd eventually cleared the ball away close to the far post.

The more the game went on the more Maidenhead sat back to protect their lead and Stortford pushed further up the pitch. In the 76th minute a deep free-kick from the left by Matt Johnson was headed goalwards by Sean Francis and Cliff Akurang headed over the bar.

It looked as if Stortford were not going to produce an equaliser but in the last of the three minutes of added time it came. In a final attack a Cliff Akurang shot on the turn was tipped over the top by Henly and when Reece Prestedge whipped in the resultant flag kick from the right towards the near post Maidenhead substitute TOM GILBEY could only turn the ball into his own net (1-1).

Referee Alan Young cautioned Ashley Miller and United's Harry Pritchard and Brett Longden during the match.

Full time: 1-1

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Ashley Miller (sub – Luke Milbourne 82 mins); Johnny Herd; George Allen; Sean Francis; Callum McNaughton (sub – Michael Richens 58 mins); Matt Johnson; Anthony Church (sub - Sam Cutler 42 mins); Brian Woodall; Cliff Akurang; Reece Prestedge.

Unused substitutes: Jordan Brown and Jake Hall.

MAIDENHEAD UNITED: Jonathan Henly; Bobby Behzadi; Leon Solomon; Matt Ruby; Mark Nisbet; Jacob Erskine; Harry Pritchard (sub – Tom Gilbey 82 mins); Adrian Clifton (sub – Harry Grant 58 mins); Reece Tilson-Lascaris ; Brett Longden; Lanre Azeez (sub – Richard Pacquette 50 mins).

Unused substitutes: Johnathan Hippolyte and Elvijs Putnins.