

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2014

**BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1, MAIDENHEAD UNITED 3  
(VANARAMA CONFERENCE SOUTH)**

After the promise delivered by the midweek draw with Wealdstone the Blues put in a poor showing at the ProKit UK Stadium against the Magpies and slipped to a disappointing defeat.

They never recovered from a lack lustre start when the visitors gained control of the game more or less from the first whistle and were two goals ahead by the break. There was an improved showing by Stortford after the break but they conceded a third goal with six minutes left before new signing Ishmael Kamara netted a consolation goal two minutes into time added on at the conclusion of the contest.

Rod Stringer made a couple of changes to the side that had taken a point from the meeting with Wealdstone four days earlier. Joe Wright returned between the sticks whilst Ashley Miller, after his knee injury, was back on the right side of the defence. On the bench and coming on as substitutes in the second half were new additions to the squad Ryan Auger and Ishmael Kamara.

Right from the off United were into their stride and gained a strong grip of the midfield as the Blues struggled. In the 6<sup>th</sup> minute Stefan Brown deflected a goalbound shot from his colleague Lanre Azeez over the bar from close range. Then, four minutes later when Azeez centred low from the right **ASHLEY MILLER** could only blast the ball into his own net with an attempted clearance (0-1).

Stortford's first proper attack ended with Maidenhead keeper Elvijs Putnins holding a deep Johnny Herd cross from the left. But the Blues were soon on the back-foot again after 15 minutes as George Allen slipped some ten yards inside his half and this allowed Ashley Nicholls to take the ball clear upfield and the former Blues midfielder finished with a shot from the edge of the box that Joe Wright pushed aside diving to his right.

The Magpies were out-muscling Stortford in midfield and the hosts didn't help themselves with some inaccurate passing. The visitors doubled their lead after 26 minutes when, with the Blues defence apparently waiting for an offside decision, Nicholls' cross from the left touch-line was headed past Wright by an unmarked **ADRIAN CLIFTON** (0-2).

Late in the half Stortford did start to put some pressure on the Berkshire side's defence with Putnins having to stretch himself to punch away a

Spencer McCall corner and then a minute before the interval McCall had a good chance to reduce the arrears after Ryan Melaugh had supplied the midfielder, in space near the edge of the area, with a through pass. However, McCall, perhaps with too much time, placed his shot too close to Putnins who saved comfortably.

The visitors could have had a third goal before half-time as the Stortford defence had a couple of scary moments in the final seconds of the half.

Half time: 0-2

Following a strong message from Rod Stringer at the interval the Blues came out for the restart looking much more positive and there was a penalty shout turned down as an early cross into the box by Ryan Melaugh looked to strike United defender's hand.

Then a Sheldon Sellaars' low cross was inches wide of the far post before, in the 66<sup>th</sup> minute, the same player shot over the top of the bar from an angle on the right after a cross by Ryan Melaugh had found him. But the visitors kept their defence tight and the Blues found it difficult to penetrate the United back-line.

Maidenhead were close to adding a third goal in the 68<sup>th</sup> minute with Dave Tarpey's free-kick from just outside the box going close past Joe Wright's left upright.

After the hour mark Rod Stringer brought on substitutes Ryan Auger, Ishmael Kamara and Declan Hunt to replace Ashley Miller, Sheldon Sellaars and Joe Tabiri.

As the half wore on Stortford looked more threatening going forward and when Johnny Herd crossed from the left in the 73<sup>rd</sup> minute Mikel Suarez was well placed but his header lacked power to trouble keeper Putnins. Then, in a matter of minutes from successive corners taken by Spencer McCall, a shot from Mikel Suarez was deflected narrowly off target and a Phil Anderson near post header suffered the same fate.

Six minutes from the end of normal time the Magpies caught the Blues on the break and cutting in from the right substitute **REECE TISON-LASCARIS** beat Joe Wright with a low shot into the far corner of the net from the edge of the box (0-3).

Three minutes later Ryan Melaugh, having run clear of the Maidenhead defence, was denied by Putnins who blocked well just inside the area and as the spinning ball looped goalwards United skipper Mark Nisbet

somehow prevented the ball crossing the line with a header from under the bar.

The Blues did eventually net a consolation goal in the second minute of injury time. After linking with Spencer McCall in an attack down the centre of the park **ISHMAEL KAMARA** finished with a low shot into the net past Putnins from 12 yards (1-3).

During the match Referee Anthony Serrano cautioned the Blues' Joe Tabiri, George Allen and Ishmael Kamara along with the Magpies' Brett Longden and Bobby Behzadi.

Full time: 1-3

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Ashley Miller (sub – Ryan Auger 60 mins); Johnny Herd; Joe Tabiri (sub – Declan Hunt 76 mins); George Allen; Phil Anderson; Sheldon Sellaars (sub – Ishmael Kamara 69 mins); Anthony Church; Mikel Suarez; Spencer McCall; Ryan Melaugh.  
Unused substitutes: Rio Bryan-Edwards and Jermaine Osei.

MAIDENHEAD UNITED: Elvijs Putnins; Brett Longden; Leon Solomon (sub – Bobby Behzadi 82 mins); Ashley Nicholls; Mark Nisbet; Simon Downer; Eddie Hutchinson; Adrian Clifton (sub – Daniel Brown 76 mins); Stefan Brown; Lanre Azeez (sub – Reece Tison-Lascaris 79 mins); Dave Tarpey.  
Unused substitutes: Jacob Erskine and Cain Davies.

Attendance: 310