

Saturday 25th October 2014

SUTTON UNITED 2, BISHOP'S STORTFORD 2 (VANARAMA CONFERENCE SOUTH)

Goals at the end of each half from Ashley Miller enabled Stortford to come back from a two goal deficit and maintain their unbeaten record at Gander Green Lane since the clubs first met in the Conference South in the 2004-2005 campaign. The record now stands at six unbeaten for the Blues at United's home.

Stortford were under the cosh for most of the first half as the hosts dictated the game and they were two ahead minutes a minute from the break before Ashley Miller poached his first goal of the game. Play was much more even on the restart and Stortford's endeavour was rewarded with an equaliser from the defender in the first of five minutes added time.

Rod Stringer's side showed a number of changes with skipper Anthony Church missing with a thigh injury and George Allen out with a broken toe. Phil Anderson replaced Allen in the centre of defence whilst Donovan Simmonds was also in the starting eleven having been signed earlier in the week. The other newcomer Frankie Merrifield was on the bench. With Church absent Joe Tabiri wore the captain's armband.

Apart from a Mikel Suarez header that just flashed wide in the third minute following a Ryan Auger corner on the left the Us were dominant through most of the first period. They set a strong tempo and after Kane Haysman had an overhead shot held low by David Gregory they took the lead in the 17th minute. Michael Spillane's long ball down the middle pressured Danny Fitzsimons and Phil Anderson and with the aid of a fortunate rebound **JESSY REINDORF** ran through to crack a rising shot into the top corner from the edge of the box (1-0).

A drive from distance from Ryan Auger was two yards wide of the target in the 19th minute but the Surrey side were quick in their attacks upfield and stretched the Blues' defence. In the 23rd minute Johnny Herd's clearance was charged down by Kane Haysman who cut inside and had his angled effort blocked. Then in the 35th minute Haysman featured again this time linking with Reindorf before slipping the ball across the six yard box where no one fortunately converted into the net.

Shortly afterwards former Stortford favourite Glen Southam was narrowly over bar with a long range volley. But Sutton's lead was doubled in the 38th minute. A quickly taken free-kick by Jack Evans found Dale Binns on the left who squared the ball into the box for

Haysman to receive but unfortunately Joe Tabiri tackled him late and Referee Paul Kelly awarded a penalty which **GLEN SOUTHAM** dispatched with ease (2-0).

Things didn't look rosy for Stortford but they got a lifeline a minute from the interval. A long throw on the left by Johnny Herd towards the near post wasn't dealt with by the Sutton defence and when Mikel Suarez nudged the ball forward **ASHLEY MILLER** poked the loose ball over the line (2-1).

Stortford almost found themselves two goals behind again as in United's next attack Haysman laid the ball back to Evans whose rising angled drive from outside the area was no more than six inches over the bar.

Half time: 2-1

The Blues looked to be much more positive at the start of the second period and Ryan Melaugh finished off a good move in the 49th minute by crossing low from the left and after Ryan Auger had a shot from 15 yards blocked by a defender Mikel Suarez's follow-up shot was deflected for a corner.

Just after the hour David Gregory was at full stretch to hold a Michael Spillane chipped effort above his head. At the other end, in the 66th minute, Suarez headed an Auger free-kick past the near post. Substitute Rod Young was close with a first time attempt from just inside the box with twenty minutes left as the Blues looked to make their greater share of possession in the second half count.

However, the hosts were still dangerous at times and twice almost notched a third goal. Firstly, in the 72nd minute, a powerful header from Spillane following a Kane Haysman cross flew just above the bar and then two minutes later when Jessy Reindorf headed Glen Southam's right wing corner into the six yard box both Spillane and Craig Dundas went for the ball but with David Gregory spreading himself well Dundas could only shovel the ball wide.

Ten minutes from the end Sutton keeper Tom Lovelock couldn't hold on to a Johnny Herd long throw but the ball was cleared and there was another near miss at the other end when Dundas and substitute Shaquille Hippolyte-Patrick broke down the middle and the latter's low shot skimmed past Gregory's left hand upright.

The board showing the added minutes at the end of the contest had only gone up thirty seconds earlier when Stortford grabbed an equaliser from another long throw towards the box from the left by Johnny Herd. The

throw glanced off the head of another Us substitute, Kevin Amankwaah, and dropped nicely for **ASHLEY MILLER** to stretch and guide past Lovelock from a couple of yards range (2-2).

Referee Paul Kelly booked six players, all in the second half, with Ryan Auger and Johnny Herd picking up yellow for Stortford and Jessy Reindorf, Michael Spillane, Jack Evans and Dale Binns for the home side.

Full time: 2-2

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: David Gregory; Ashley Miller; Johnny Herd; Joe Tabiri; Danny Fitzsimons; Phil Anderson; Ryan Melaugh (sub – Rod Young 63 mins); Spencer McCall; Mikel Suarez (sub – George Sykes 88 mins); Ryan Auger; Donovan Simmonds (sub – Sheldon Sellaars 85 mins).

Unused substitutes: Frankie Merrifield and Scott Shulton.

SUTTON UNITED: Tom Lovelock; Jack Evans (sub – Kevin Amankwaah 89 mins); Callum Hart; Michael Spillane; Shaun Cooper; Charlie Clough; Kane Haysman; Glen Southam; Craig Dundas; Jessy Reindorf (sub – Shaquille Hippolyte-Patrick 81 mins); Dale Binns.

Unused substitutes: Bedsente Gomis, Brandon Johnson and Alan Julian.

Attendance: 514