

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2014

**BOREHAM WOOD 2, BISHOP'S STORTFORD 0  
(VANARAMA CONFERENCE SOUTH)**

Two goals after the break from the Vanarama Conference South top goalscorer Lee Angol won the points for the League leaders against the Blues at Meadow Park. It was a big disappointment to Stortford that they gained no points from this Boxing Day game that marked the halfway point of the season as they had had much the better of the first 45 minutes. The superiority before the break counted for nothing as Angol with a couple of clinical finishes ensured that the Wood ran out victors in the end.

David Gregory's loan spell with Stortford had ended so it meant a return between the sticks for Joe Wright whilst the other change to Rod Stringer's successful side against Concord Rangers the previous weekend was that James Walker was in the starting eleven for the first time replacing Mikel Suarez who was out with a groin strain.

The first fifteen minutes was end to end action. In the third minute the hosts were awarded a free-kick on the left flank and when Lee Angol close to the near post met Matty Whichelow's cross with a powerful header the ball looked destined for top corner but Joe Wright made a brilliant save leaping high to his right to push the effort out for a corner.

Stortford's first meaningful attack involved the very prominent Sheldon Sellears embarking on a strong run on the right in the 9<sup>th</sup> minute with James Walker just failing to make contact with Sellears' centre in to the six yard box. Joe Wright saw action again shortly afterwards when Joe Tabiri was caught in possession by Angol and advancing towards goal the striker's low shot was blocked by the Stortford stopper at his upright. Then when Anthony Church slipped the ball through the home defence Walker's chip at goal was inches over the angle.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> minute a Wood corner taken by Whichelow to the far post resulted in Ben Martin's header being scrambled away off the line. Two minutes later the Blues came even closer to opening the scoring. Rickie Hayles connected with a Sellears' corner from the right with a volley from twelve yards that rebounded off the near upright.

Although Matty Whichelow was close midway through the first period with an angled drive across the face of goal the Blues were on the ascendancy and possession wise were the more dominant side up to the break. Sheldon Sellears featured in most of the Blues' attacks and Wood keeper James Russell caught a cross from the Stortford midfielder well

before tipping a low shot from Sellears round the post for a corner after Sellears had linked well with Walker and Tabiri.

Another threatening attack involving Tabiri and Sellears seemed to be cut short in the 38<sup>th</sup> minute but when the ball broke to Anthony Church some 25 yards out the Blues' leading goalscorer powered in a shot that was only just wide as his side finished on top at the break.

Half time: 0-0

With the rain becoming heavier after the restart Callum Reynolds for the hosts had a far post header from a very acute angle kept out by Wright following a free-kick on the right from Graeme Montgomery but Stortford retaliated straightaway with a swift move up the left involving Church and Sellears and ending with James Walker shooting wide across the face of the goal.

However, in their next attack, in the 55<sup>th</sup> minute, Wood took the lead. A deep cross from the right by Matty Whichelow found Graeme Montgomery past the far post who teed up **LEE ANGOL** to fire into the net (1-0).

The Blues worked hard to try to net an equaliser. In the 63<sup>rd</sup> minute Joe Tabiri found Ashley Miller in space with a fine pass from the right. However, the Stortford defender's angled effort was well saved being turned past the far upright by Russell. Then two minutes later a long clearance from Joe Wright was collected by Donovan Simmonds on the left and after combining with James Walker the ball was played to Johnny Herd whose low shot was kept out at the near post by Russell's outstretched boot.

The hosts countered in the 73<sup>rd</sup> minute with a half chance for Matty Whichelow striking a 15 yard rising shot over the top and shortly afterwards following a sweeping move upfield Lee Angol provided Anthony Jeffrey with an opening on the left and the substitute hit the base of the post with the ball rebounding off of the diving Joe Wright for a corner.

Wood doubled their lead in the 81<sup>st</sup> minute following another quick counter-attack. Ricky Shakes and Graeme Montgomery were involved in the attack that ended with the latter crossing from the left and the unmarked **LEE ANGOL** headed wide of Wright (2-0).

In the closing stages newcomer Bayan Fenwick was brought on as a substitute by Rod Stringer whilst Joe Tabiri and another substitute, Ryan

Auger, struck long distance efforts that didn't trouble Wood keeper Russell.

Referee Sam Purkiss booked two players from each side in the second half – Adam Bailey-Dennis and Rickie Hayles of the Blues and Wood's Scott Thomas and Callum Reynolds.

Full time: 2-0

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Joe Wright; Ashley Miller; Johnny Herd; Joe Tabiri; Adam Bailey-Dennis; Rickie Hayles; Sheldon Sellears (sub – George Sykes 84 mins) ; Anthony Church (sub – Ryan Auger 78 mins); James Walker; Donovan Simmonds (sub – Bayan Fenwick 84 mins); Frankie Merrifield.

Unused substitutes: Phil Anderson and Spencer McCall.

BOREHAM WOOD: James Russell; Luke Garrard; Jordan Brown; Scott Thomas; Ben Martin; Callum Reynolds; Matty Whichelow (Lewis Toomey 82 mins); Ricky Shakes; Lee Angol; Junior Morias (sub – Anthony Jeffrey 66 mins); Graeme Montgomery.

Unused substitutes: Austin Lipman, Josh Hill and James Courtnage.

Attendance: 278