

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2015

EASTBOURNE BOROUGH 3, BISHOP'S STORTFORD 0  
(VANARAMA CONFERENCE SOUTH)

Stortford's recent successful run with just one defeat in eight matches was brought to a halt at a very windy Priory Lane. Facing the blowy conditions in the first half the Blues found it hard work and never got a foothold in the match early on and conceding two goals in the final twelve minutes before the break left them a mountain to climb in the second period. They gave an improved performance on the restart but never really threatened the Borough goal until very late in the contest. Then the final result had a slightly flattering look about it in favour of the hosts when they added a third goal in added time.

It says a lot about Stortford's travelling form that this was the first time in a league match away from home this term that they have conceded more than two goals in a game.

There was only one change to Rod Stringer's side from that which won at Bath in midweek and this was Greg Pearson in the starting eleven in place of Mikel Suarez who was unavailable but injured in any case. The substitutes' bench included James Walker and new signing the former West Ham United player Anthony Edgar.

The South Coast side set a quick tempo from the off and took the game to the Blues from the start. In the 8<sup>th</sup> minute a free-kick from striker Nathaniel Pinney was close after a hand ball outside the box by Kenzer Lee and then shortly afterwards when the same player got past Rickie Hayles on the right his cross was met by Gavin McCallum whose shot was saved by James Bransgrove.

Stortford's best attack of the half came in the 26<sup>th</sup> minute with Bobby-Joe Taylor and Sheldon Sellears involved in an attack that ended with the latter crossing into the middle and Ben Marlow having a shot blocked inside the area.

Borough went ahead in the 33<sup>rd</sup> minute. Joe Tabiri lost possession in the middle of the park and when Gavin McCallum raided down the right flank he finished with a long diagonal cross that **SIMON JOHNSON** nodded past Bransgrove at the far upright with the ball just evading the keeper's dive (1-0).

A few minutes later the Blues suffered another blow when the struggling Rickie Hayles had to come off the pitch with a hip injury to be replaced by James Walker.

Matters then got worse in the 41<sup>st</sup> minute. Following another Borough attack McCallum headed over Bransgrove but Kenzer Lee did well to clear off the goal line. However, the respite was brief as seconds later after a short corner routine between Johnson and Sam Beale, Kieron Khinda-John's header hit Greg Pearson and rebounded loose to **DARREN LOK** whose first time left footed shot from 15 yards flew into the net giving James Bransgrove no chance (2-0).

Half time: 2-0

Lok went close again for the hosts two minutes after the restart but Stortford gradually came more into the picture. A Sheldon Sellears corner in the 59<sup>th</sup> minute almost resulted in Adam Bailey-Dennis netting with a far post header but Borough stopper Lewis Carey turned the ball away for another flag kick. Then an acute angled free-kick from Bobby-Joe Taylor was tipped over the bar by Carey and Taylor's corner saw Adam Bailey-Dennis put the ball wide at the far post.

In between times newcomer Anthony Edgar replaced Sheldon Sellears. Despite greater possession for the Blues the home side's attack continued to pose problems and James Bransgrove had to be alert to block away a shot on the turn from Gavin McCallum in the 67<sup>th</sup> minute.

Stortford had strong penalty appeals turned down with fifteen minutes left after an attack on the left led by Bobby-Joe Taylor and Anthony Edgar that culminated with central defender Ian Simpemba seemingly knocking Edgar off the ball illegally. However, Referee Lee Venamore was unimpressed.

Most of Stortford's attacks fizzled out at the edge of the box and Borough's Pinney was close over the bar from inside the area and then in the 86<sup>th</sup> minute when substitute Richard Pacquette set up Gavin McCallum on a run at goal James Bransgrove came out to make an excellent blocking save.

It was only in the closing minutes that the Blues looked as though they might reduce the arrears. A move up the right in the last minute of normal time ended with Ashley Miller having his effort forced away by Lewis Carey and from the corner by Bobby-Joe Taylor a header from Kenzer Lee struck the bar.

There were five minutes of added time and in the third of them Borough netted their final goal. Substitute **KANE HAYSMAN** gained possession on the halfway line and stormed down the middle to finally finish with a shot past Bransgrove (3-0).

In the final action of the afternoon Bobby-Joe Taylor was fouled near the left sided angle of the area and Anthony Edgar's free-kick was pushed away at the near post by keeper Lewis Carey.

All three cautions noted by Referee Venamore were in the first half as Blues' Ashley Miller and Adam Bailey-Dennis and Borough's Simon Johnson's names went into the notebook.

Full time: 3-0

**BISHOP'S STORTFORD:** James Bransgrove; Ashley Miller; Kenzer Lee; Rickie Hayles (sub – James Walker 37 mins); Adam Bailey-Dennis; George Allen; Sheldon Sellears (sub – Anthony Edgar 61 mins); Joe Tabiri; Greg Pearson (sub – Frankie Merrifield 80 mins); Ben Marlow; Bobby-Joe Taylor.

Unused substitutes: Connor Peters and Jake Larkins.

**EASTBOURNE BOROUGH:** Lewis Carey; Chris Sessegnon; Sam Beale; Jack Evans; Ian Simpemba; Kieron Khinda-John; Ryan Worrall (sub – Kane Haysman 69 mins); Gavin McCallum; Nathaniel Pinney (sub – Richard Pacquette 80 mins); Simon Johnson (sub – Matthew Aldred 84 mins); Darren Lok.

Unused substitutes: Adam Watts and Louis Rogers.

Attendance: 511