

Easter Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2015

**CHELMSFORD CITY 4, BISHOP'S STORTFORD 2  
(VANARAMA CONFERENCE SOUTH)**

Melbourne Park hasn't been a happy hunting ground for Stortford in the past and nothing changed on Easter Monday as the Blues switched off after a good start when they had taken the lead. Once the Clarets had equalised just after the midway point of the first period the Blues fell away and there was only likely to be one winner. Stortford had three valid shouts for penalties during the match but none was given and it was all part and parcel of a hugely disappointing afternoon with City recording a league double over the Blues.



There were a couple of changes in Rod Stringer's side with skipper Anthony Church and Frankie Merrifield in the starting eleven replacing Sheldon Sellaars and the unavailable Joe Tabiri.

Stortford started on the front foot and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> minute an Anthony Edgar corner on the left to the near post resulted in a glancing header from Kenzer Lee that flew across the face of the City goal with no one getting a touch and then in the 16<sup>th</sup> minute they were a goal up. An attack up towards the right corner flag with Anthony Edgar and Anthony Church involved came to a conclusion when Rohdell Gordon fouled Church. Bobby-Joe Taylor's free-kick into the goalmouth was met by a firm header from **ANTHONY CHURCH** and the ball nestled in the bottom corner of the net (0-1).

The hosts gradually got themselves back in the picture and a strong run and cross from the left in the 27<sup>th</sup> minute by Sam Gregory reached Gordon coming into the box from the far side but the striker was denied by a good block by James Bransgrove. However, only another minute had elapsed before Chelmsford were on level terms. Church committed a foul on Leon Redwood on the left and after Redwood's quickly taken free-kick Joe Ward and Harry Morgan combined to transfer the ball into the box where **MARVIN EKPITETA** stuck out a boot to divert it wide of Bransgrove from 12 yards range (1-1).

City's Joe Ward caused problems to Stortford for most of the contest and just after the half hour he planted a dangerous cross in towards the Blues' six yard box but Bobby-Joe Taylor headed the ball away. It looked as the sides were going to go into the interval all square but Stortford conceded a goal in the last minute of normal time when they didn't properly clear a corner. The ball eventually came out to Redwood a few yards inside the Blues half and he delivered a deep cross over towards the far side and from an acute angle Chelmsford skipper **MARK HAINES** produced a side-foot cushioned volley that looped over James Bransgrove and into the netting in the opposite side of the goal (2-1).

Half time: 2-1

Ten minutes after the break Rod Stringer brought on Connor Peters in place of Frankie Merrifield as the Blues boss changed the formation with Bobby-Joe Taylor moving forward into midfield. However, the newcomer found his name in Referee Jake Hillier's notebook within thirty seconds of coming on when he fouled Joe Ward.

Just after the hour mark James Walker was clearly held back in the City box but nothing was given but within a minute Stortford conceded a penalty down the other end. Clarets' striker Michael Cheek running through into the front of the box when fastening on to a long downfield pass from Leon Redwood was brought down by James Bransgrove coming quickly off his line. The Blues keeper was shown a yellow card

whilst **ROHDELL GORDON** converted the spot-kick via the underside of the bar (3-1).

City's third goal meant there was little chance of Stortford getting back in the match and Bransgrove made a fine save in the 74<sup>th</sup> minute when he kept out a low shot from striker Michael Cheek who had been set up for the chance by substitute Mason Spence.

The hosts added a fourth goal in the 82<sup>nd</sup> minute. A long ball down the middle from keeper Tom Lovelock was headed on by Cheek and young substitute **HUGO SKEPELHORN** who had only been on for four minutes raced through to the edge of the box to just get a touch past the advancing Bransgrove (4-1).

**ANTHONY CHURCH** then netted his 11<sup>th</sup> goal of the campaign and Stortford's second goal of the afternoon two minutes later with another header this time following a Bobby-Joe Taylor corner from the right (4-2). Then a couple of minutes later Church almost struck again when he connected with a Rickie Hayles long throw into the box but the ball ran out inches past the far upright.

The Blues' afternoon misery was complete in the 90<sup>th</sup> minute as Ben Marlow was red carded by Referee Jake Hillier for a heavy challenge on Hugo Skepelhorn near the halfway line.

There were six minutes of added time during which a Bobby-Joe Taylor long range effort was a few yards off target.

Apart from Bransgrove and Peters being cautioned Anthony Church and Clarets' Mark Haines were also booked.

Full time: 4-2

**BISHOP'S STORTFORD:** James Bransgrove; Ashley Miller; Bobby-Joe Taylor; Ben Marlow; Kenzer Lee; Rickie Hayles; Frankie Merrifield (sub – Connor Peters 55 mins); Anthony Church; Greg Pearson (sub – Marcel Barrington 69 mins); James Walker; Anthony Edgar (sub – Sheldon Sellaars 64 mins).

Unused substitutes: Anthony Furlonge and Jake Larkins.

**CHELMSFORD CITY:** Tom Lovelock; Harry Hickford; Michael Toner; Leon Redwood; Mark Haines; Marvin Ekpiteta; Harry Morgan; Joe Ward (sub – Evans Kouassi 87 mins); Rohdell Gordon (sub – Mason Spence 72 mins); Michael Cheek; Sam Gregory (sub – Hugo Skepelhorn 78 mins).  
Unused substitutes: Robert Girdlestone and Kevin Maher.

Attendance: 682