

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015

**BISHOP'S STORTFORD 0 GOSPORT BOROUGH 1  
(VANARAMA CONFERENCE SOUTH)**

The Blues final match of the campaign at the ProKit UK Stadium ended in a loss as a goal from Boro's Mike Carter in the first minute of stoppage time ensured that the visitors took the points back to the South Coast. The result summed up Stortford's campaign on their home turf with only four Vanarama Conference South victories there to show for their efforts.

With loan players James Bransgrove and Bobby-Joe Taylor departing in the week back to their parent clubs Jake Larkins was between the sticks and Adam Bailey-Dennis returned to the centre of the defence after suspension and injury whilst Kenzer Lee switched to the left side of team formation.

Gosport's Dan Smith volleyed over from twenty yards in the 12<sup>th</sup> minute after Larkins had punched the ball away and this was the first of very few incidents of note in the first half of a largely scrappy match. Shots from Sheldon Sellears, twice, and Greg Pearson were narrowly wide for Stortford whilst the strike force of Boro's Justin Bennett and Matt Paterson were kept generally kept quiet although Paterson forced a good save from Jake Larkins just after the half hour.

In the 34<sup>th</sup> minute a through ball from Adam Bailey Dennis down the middle was brought under control by Greg Pearson but his shot from the edge of the area was just off target. Then two minutes from the break a hopeful cross-cum-shot by Joe Tabiri caused problems for Gosport keeper Nathan Ashmore who turned the ball up on to the bar and it rebounded to safety.

Half time: 0-0

Ashmore, saving low, denied Pearson six minutes after the restart after a Kenzer Lee cross from the left had found the striker in space and shot from 15 yards. The visiting stopper then made a superb save under the bar from an Adam Bailey-Dennis header in the 67<sup>th</sup> minute following a Sellears' corner.

Stortford, with more possession as the contest progressed, looked the more likely to break the deadlock. There was a half chance for Anthony Edgar in the 79<sup>th</sup> minute but he delayed slightly with a shot that eventually broke clear away from danger. Four minutes later an Edgar and Kenzer Lee move on the left finished with the latter crossing over to the far post where a Frankie Merrifield header was off target.

The Blues defence had looked strong in the match with Rickie Hayles in particular winning the aerial duels and giving little away but they were caught by a sucker punch following a swift break by Boro' as the encounter entered the first of three added minutes. The attack was started over on the left flank involving two Gosport substitutes Dan Wooden and Andy Forbes. They combined to switch the ball to the other side and when Matt Paterson crossed low from the right Jake Larkins stretched to turn the ball away but only succeeded in diverting the ball into the path of **MIKE CARTER** who drove it into the net (0-1)

Referee Ian Rathbone cautioned the Blues' Kenzer Lee and Gosport's goalscorer Carter in the first half.

Full time: 0-1

**BISHOP'S STORTFORD:** Jake Larkins; Ashley Miller; Kenzer Lee; Joe Tabiri; Adam Bailey-Dennis; Rickie Hayles; Sheldon Sellears (sub – James Walker 68 mins); Anthony Church; Greg Pearson; Frankie Merrifield; Anthony Edgar (sub – Marcel Barrington 86 mins).  
Unused substitutes: Connor Peters, Ben Marlow and Matt Gill.

**GOSPORT BOROUGH:** Nathan Ashmore; Andy Robinson; Rory Williams; Mike Carter; Brett Poate; Sam Pearce; Tom Dunford (sub – Dan Wooden 86 mins); Danny Smith; Matt Paterson; Justin Bennett; Lee Wort (sub – Andy Forbes 68 mins).  
Unused substitutes: Adam Wilde, Francisco Saez-Ferre and Steve Ramsey.

Attendance: 390