

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015

EBBSFLEET UNITED 4, BISHOP'S STORTFORD 0  
(VANARAMA CONFERENCE SOUTH)

The Blues season ended disappointingly when they succumbed to a four goal defeat at Stonebridge Road. A promising first twenty minutes faded into the memory after former Stortford midfielder Matt Johnson put the hosts ahead. There was another goal before the break and then a further two shortly after the resumption as Stortford were forced to play second fiddle for most of the final three-quarters of the contest.

Stortford took the game to Fleet in the early minutes and won two successive corners but then the hosts threatened as Sean Shields and Michael West linked in a swift move with the latter's final angled effort just past the near upright.

In the 11<sup>th</sup> minute a Rickie Hayles free-kick found Adam Bailey-Dennis at the back post and the defender's header was volleyed inches over the top by Sheldon Sellaars. Fleet striker Adam Cunnington netted a few minutes later but an offside decision was given. However. In the 20<sup>th</sup> minute the Kent side took the lead following a corner on the right from Michael West. The flag-kick was met by a far post header from Anthony Acheampong and with the ball going across the area **MATT JOHNSON** drove it into the net via Kenzer Lee who was on the goal-line (1-0). It was noticeable that Johnson, who was named later as Fleet's "Man of the Match", didn't celebrate his goal against his old club.

The hosts continued to have the edge but Stortford were handed a slice of bad luck in the 35<sup>th</sup> minute as Adam Bailey-Dennis was put out of action for over eight minutes after being the victim of a heavy challenge by Fleet skipper Stuart Lewis that neither Referee Sam Purkiss nor nearby Assistant Referee Lee Forrester saw fit to warrant at least a yellow card.

The ten men Blues were close to equalising in the 37<sup>th</sup> minute. Greg Pearson and James Walker combined to deliver the ball out to the right wing where Sheldon Sellaars took it forward and then drove in a low angled shot into the six yard box that keeper Brandon Hall pushed out. The ball ran loose to Pearson but his close range goalbound effort was blocked away for a corner by Anthony Acheampong. It was nearest that Stortford came to scoring in the match.

Then with the Blues still a man short the hosts doubled their lead two minutes later. A deep cross from the right by Matt Fish was headed back across goal at the far post by Matt Godden and **ADAM CUNNINGTON** hooked the ball into the net from eight yards (2-0).

Half time: 2-0

The second half was barely a minute old when Fleet made it three nil. They robbed the visitors straight from the kick-off and Matt Fish picked out Aiden Palmer. He advanced into space, delivered a short ball into **STUART LEWIS** who took a step and unleashed a superb shot over Jake Larkins and under the bar from a good 25 yards (3-0).

The lead was extended in the 53<sup>rd</sup> minute when a long ball down the middle from Tom Bonner saw the Stortford defence stretched and **ADAM CUNNINGTON** shrugged off a challenge and ran on to shoot past Larkins (4-0).

United remained dangerous when going forward and when substitute Danny Kedwell crossed into the Stortford box in the 64<sup>th</sup> minute Matt Godden headed straight at Jake Larkins and Blues stopper was called into action five minutes later blocking away an angled shot from Sean Shields at the near post.

Stortford mounted a number of attacks in the later stages of the game but they lacked penetration and didn't get close to netting a consolation goal during that time.

Full time: 4-0

**BISHOP'S STORTFORD:** Jake Larkins; Ashley Miller; Kenzer Lee; Frankie Merrifield; Adam Bailey-Dennis; Rickie Hayles; Sheldon Sellaars; Anthony Church; Greg Pearson; James Walker (sub – Marcel Barrington 63 mins); Anthony Edgar (sub – Connor Peters 72 mins).  
Unused substitutes: Joe Tabiri and George Allen.

**EBBSFLEET UNITED:** Brandon Hall; Matt Fish; Aiden Palmer; Matt Johnson (sub – Karn Miller-Neave 84 mins); Anthony Acheampong; Tom Bonner; Matt Godden; Stuart Lewis; Michael West (sub – Theo Lewis 63 mins); Adam Cunnington (sub – Danny Kedwell 61 mins); Sean Shields.

Unused substitutes: Kenny Clark and Preston Edwards.

Attendance: 954