

EASTBOURNE BOROUGH 0, BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1

Charlie Sheringham's 23rd minute goal was enough to give Blues their third straight away win, last Saturday.

Stortford might be having problems finding their form at the ProKit (UK) Stadium but it's a very different story on the road as they were victorious at Priory Lane for the first ever at the seventh attempt after previous unsuccessful visits – three draws and three defeats in Conference South fixtures.

Rod Stringer's side looked confident and comfortable from the start and over the ninety minutes the hosts could have few complaints with the final score. Borough hit the bar in the second half and late pressure resulted in Tom Lovelock making several fine saves but apart from that Stortford always looked the more threatening outfit.

Chris M'Boungou made his debut in the centre of defence with George Allen absent through a knee injury picked up the previous week otherwise the starting eleven was unchanged. Also, on the substitutes bench were new signings Morgan Ferrier and Omar Rowe. Matty Fanimio had left to join Eastleigh.

The Blues took the game to the Borough from the start. A good move in the 2nd minute on the left involving Kieran Bywater and Johnny Herd saw the latter cross into the far side of the box and Elliott Buchanan send a volley across the face of the goal. Then four minutes later when De'Reece Vanderhyde slipped the ball inside to Matt Johnson the midfielder's 25 yard effort was kept out by stopper Lewis Carey with a full length dive his right to turn for a corner. Two successive corners were followed in the 15th minute by a free-kick from Bywater that Carey saved well this time going to his left.

Skipper Ian Simpemba headed over from a Jack Evans corner in the 17th minute for the hosts and then Elliott Romain struck a rising shot over the angle of the post and bar a minute later. However, in the 23rd minute, CHARLIE SHERINGHAM scored the only goal of the game with an excellent piece of play. He did well to keep control of the ball when closed in on the halfway line by a couple of Borough players. He managed to lay the ball back to Kieran Bywater who instantly whipped a pass low down the middle for the striker to outpace the defence before coolly placing past the oncoming Carey.

The hosts' frustration grew as the Blues continued to have the better of exchanges and Simpemba and Romain were shown yellow cards in a short space of time whilst Kieran Bywater wasn't far off target with another free-kick. Five minutes before the break Nathaniel Pinney lifted the ball over the bar after cutting in from the right whilst at the other end a long range attempt from Matt Johnson was held low down by Carey and then a far post header by Sheringham from a Johnny Herd centre was wide.

The hosts made a decent start after the break with Ryan Worrall's acute angled cross hitting the top of the bar in the 48th minute and a couple of

minutes later after Chris M'Boungou had committed a foul the resultant free-kick from Jack Evans hit the crossbar.

Just prior to the interval Elliott Buchanan had received a painful whack on the ankle after being tackled from behind and he was eventually forced to come off in the 53rd minute to be replaced by Morgan Ferrier who immediately looked lively. Evans went close for the Sussex side with a header from Worrall's cross but just before the hour mark Ferrier made a quick raid down the left and his cross fell to Kieran Bywater but Carey made a good save parrying the ball away. Then, in the 61st minute, Anthony Church slid a precision pass for Ferrier to collect and attack from the left but this time Carey kept out the shot with his legs at the expense of a corner.

In the last twenty minutes the Borough were exerting more pressure and Tom Lovelock was seeing more action. He made a good take to hold on to a header back to him from Kenzer Lee. Morgan Ferrier saw another effort from his boot turned for a corner by Carey in the 75th minute but shortly afterwards Lovelock made an excellent save from a 35 yard volley by substitute Miguel Baptista. Then in the 81st minute another substitute Darren Lok headed wide from Evans' deep cross from the left. In fact both the Eastbourne replacements were to feature in the closing minutes and after hesitation in the Stortford defence a 25 yard attempt at goal from Baptista saw Lovelock save well again.

The Blues could have made the game safe in the 89th minute as Church and Ferrier made inroads into a now sparse defence but with a goal looking virtually certain both Ferrier and Matt Johnson had shots blocked before Carey claimed the ball.

More late pressure from the hosts resulted in Baptista shooting narrowly over from the left angle of the box and in the second of four minutes of stoppage time a long clearance upfield from Carey dropped for Darren Lok to have a chance from close range but Tom Lovelock was there to drop on the ball and calm the situation.

Both Morgan Ferrier and Chris M'Boungou collected second half bookings.

TEAM INFO AND MATCH DETAILS:

BISHOP'S STORTFORD: Tom Lovelock; De'Reece Vanderhyde; Johnny Herd; Alli Abdullahi (Christian Smith 86); Kenzer Lee; Chris M'Boungou; Kieran Bywater (Frankie Merrifield 90); Anthony Church; Elliott Buchanan (Morgan Ferrier 53); Charlie Sheringham; Matt Johnson.

Unused substitutes: Omar Rowe and Josh Ekim.

EASTBOURNE BOROUGH: Lewis Carey; Craig Stone; Sam Beale; Ryan Worrall (Kane Haysman 66); Ian Simpemba; Kieran Khinda-John; Gavin McCallum (Darren Lok 72); Nathan Collier; Nathaniel Pinney; Jack Evans; Elliott Romain (Miguel Baptista 57).

Unused substitutes: Liam Wilson and Louis Rogers.

Referee: Mr I Fissenden

Attendance: 424