

# BISHOP'S STORTFORD 0 TRURO CITY 3

## (VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH)

Up against another in-form side at the ProKit (UK) Stadium the Blues slumped to their fourth successive defeat. The very efficient Cornishmen moved into the play-off positions on the back of this victory and took their unbeaten league run to nine games.



It was a far different story from the Stortford victory at Treyew Road back in August. The defeat must rank as one of their worst on home turf this campaign with the visitors dominating the proceedings for a large percentage of the contest. They bossed the midfield as the Blues gave the ball away too cheaply at times. Stortford had their moments and could have scored seconds before both the first and second goals. However, they weren't clinical in front of goal and although Morgan Ferrier was lively he seemed to be the only threat to the White Tigers' defence.



Nick Haycock was in charge with Rod Stringer unavailable on the day. There were four changes in the Stortford starting eleven as Tom Lovelock, George Allen, Frankie Merrifield and Robbie Willmott came into the team. Included on the bench was new goalkeeper signing Danzelle St.Louis-

Hamilton. Prior to the start of the match skipper Johnny Herd was presented with an award for clocking up 150 appearances for the Blues.

A swift attack on the right almost gave Stortford the lead in the 2<sup>nd</sup> minute. Ferrier cut in from the wing and hammered a fierce shot that was beaten away by City keeper Martin Rice and when the ball ran loose in the penalty box both Robbie Willmott and Corby Moore had shots blocked. Straightaway a long ball out of the Truro defence from Arran Pugh found ISAAC VASSELL running in acres of space against a threadbare defence and brushing aside Kenzer Lee the menacing striker ran on to place a low shot past the advancing Tom Lovelock (0-1). Vassell was to prove a handful for the Blues back four and in the 6<sup>th</sup> minute he was involved in an attack that ended with Dan Green's shot being blocked away for a corner by Johnny Herd. Stronger in midfield Truro held the balance of play and in the 18<sup>th</sup> minute a glancing header from Cody Cooke at the far post following a Ryan Brett free-kick was not far off target. Just before the half-hour Elliott Buchanan delivered a header goalwards from Corby Moore's cross but it lacked power and was caught comfortably by Rice.



In the 32<sup>nd</sup> minute a misplaced pass by the Blues on their left side allowed a chance for the visitors to double their lead but Tom Lovelock made an excellent save turning Vassell's shot round the far upright for a corner. Stortford continued to live dangerously and a minute later Vassell netted with a header from Green's centre but the goal was overruled for offside.

The Blues rallied in the ten minutes or so before the interval. In the 35<sup>th</sup> minute Ferrier almost got on the end of a deep free-kick into the area from Kenzer

Lee but Rice just claimed the ball. Then, after Ferrier had done some good work on the left he laid the ball into the path of Buchanan on the angle of the box but Blues' leading marksman drove his first time effort too high. A couple of minutes later City defender Shane White made a fine block to stop Ferrier breaking through on a Buchanan pass down the middle. There was more pressure from the Blues in the closing minutes of the half following a Buchanan corner on the right with Robbie Willmott lobbing the ball back into the middle from past the far post and Frankie Merrifield heading over from close range. But the visitors were dangerous on the break and Matty Jay drove wide from a good position from another Vassell lay-back. Then in added time when White crossed into the box from the right Lovelock made a brilliant save to deny Cody Cooke scoring with a header.

Half time: 0-1



Early on after the restart Robbie Willmott set up Morgan Ferrier to cut in on goal and this time Rice kept the ball out with his legs. In almost identical circumstances to the first goal City immediately went down the other end and scored. The goal came in the 50<sup>th</sup> minute. Johnny Herd dallied on the ball to be dispossessed by Vassell who clipped the ball into the middle and RYAN BRETT found the far corner of the net with a glancing header (0-2).

In the 54<sup>th</sup> minute an angled shot on the turn from Ashley Miller landed on the roof of the net but Stortford remained susceptible to Truro's counter-attacks and Lovelock was again called into action to make a blocking save when Matty Jay was put through by Dan Green. The visitor's third goal arrived in the 62<sup>nd</sup> minute. On this occasion a raid on the left saw Cooke and Vassell combine and when the latter crossed into the middle MATTY JAY converted from eight yards (0-3).

Nick Haycock made a double substitution immediately after the third goal with Mikel Suarez

and Chris M'Boungou replacing Johnny Herd and Josh Ekim. The Blues came close to reducing the arrears in the 71<sup>st</sup> minute after a deflected deep cross from the left by Frankie Merrifield produced a diving header at the back post that grazed the bar. Stortford might also have had a penalty in the 75<sup>th</sup> minute as Ferrier was clearly dragged back by substitute Jake Ash just inside the box. Nothing was given by Referee Neil Hair and it always looked the case that City were the more likely to add to their convincing winning margin. A shot from a stretching Cody Cooke was deflected away for a corner by Tom Lovelock and substitute Ben Adelsbury was close with a shot on the turn before the final whistle but the points long before then were bound for Cornwall.



#### **TEAM DETAILS AND MATCH DETAILS:-**

**BISHOP'S STORTFORD:** Tom Lovelock; Ashley Miller; Johnny Herd (Mikel Suarez 63); Josh Ekim (Chris M'Boungou 63); Kenzer Lee; George Allen; Corby Moore; Frankie Merrifield; Elliott Buchanan (Byron Lawrence 74); Robbie Willmott; Morgan Ferrier.

Unused substitutes: Alli Abdullahi and Danzelle St.Louis-Hamilton.

**TRURO CITY:** Martin Rice; Shane White; Connor Riley-Lowe; Ryan Brett; Aaron Bentley (Jake Ash 69); Arran Pugh; Ollie Knowles; Dan Green; Matty Jay (Ben Adelsbury 63); Isaac Vassell (Matt Wright 74); Cody Cooke.

Unused substitutes: Les Afful and Aaron Dawson.

Goalscorers: Truro City – Isaac Vassell 3, Ryan Brett 50, Matty Jay 62.

Referee: Mr Neil Hair

Attendance: 355