

Heartbreak for Blues

BLUES 0 HAMPTON & RICHMOND BOROUGH 1

There was late heartbreak for Blues as they were denied a deserved share of the points by an 89th minute Tom Jelley penalty.

Gordon Boateng's new-look side had been good value for a point against a side who were returning to the National League South after four years in the Ryman League.



With only skipper Johnny Herd remaining from the team that finished the 2015/16 campaign with a draw at Maidstone, Blues fielded eight players making their league debut but matched the Ryman League champions throughout the game.



Earlier neither side had asserted themselves although the visitors had a slight edge on proceedings and Joe Wright in the home goal was the busier keeper. Wright saved a volley from Nicke Kabamba and Shaquille Hippolyte-Patrick's low angled effort was kept out by the keeper's outstretched foot in the opening minutes but it was the hosts who came the closest to scoring before the break with Dominic Green's 25 yard free-kick striking an upright in the 43rd minute.

On the restart Stortford rarely posed a threat to the Hampton goal being closed down quickly by the West London side whilst at the other end Wright saved well from Jamal Lowe and Christian Jolley.



Just after the hour a deep free-kick from the Beaver's Josh Casey landed on the roof of the Stortford net.



A shot from Bradley Woods-Garner (right) almost crept in late on for the Blues and then with little danger apparent Paul Rodgers pushed Jolley in the back for the spot-kick that Tom Jelley duly netted sending Wright the wrong way.



Blues: Wright; Rodgers; Herd; Eyong; Moore-Azille; Vilcu; Woods-Garner; Auger (Ekim 57); Nouble (Osei 67); O'Neill; Green. Unused subs: Furlonge, Benjamin and Lovelock.

Hampton : Howe; Jelley; Casey; Kamara; Gasson; Solomon; Hippolyte-Patrick (Keirnan 77); Collier; Kabamba; Lowe (Hicks 90); Jolley. Unused substitutes: Williams, Odametey and Bishop.

Referee: C Pollard

Attendance: 333

