

# BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1 TIVERTON TOWN 2

## KINGS LYNN T. 2 -BISHOP'S STORTFORD 1

Two goals in six second half minutes saw Blues' recent good run come to an end, on Saturday.

Tiverton completed an early season double over the Blues having won on the opening day of the campaign by an identical score-line.

Stortford struggled to settle in the match and were a log way off their best almost throughout the contest against dour opponents.

Both Sam Hatton and Christian Owusu had recovered from their injuries and were in Kevin Watson's squad whilst on the bench was 16 year-old Marcus Crowther who had produced good performances in the under-18s recent excellent run through to the first round of the FA Youth Cup.



Action in the first half was mostly in midfield as both sides struggled with the gale force wind that blew in Stortford's favour in the first half. A deflected angled shot from George Casey in the 17<sup>th</sup> minute resulted in the Blues first corner and then ten minutes later, after a loose pass by the visiting defence, a deflected effort from Tyrique Hyde resulted in another flag kick. There was an alarm for the hosts in the 34<sup>th</sup> minute as keeper Tyler McCarthy slipped dealing with a back pass but he redeemed himself diving to his right with a fine one handed save to keep out Levi

Landricombe's goal bound shot. Then a minute before the break Darren Foxley's free-kick into the middle almost led to a goal as Dipo Akinyemi's mis-hit shot almost got past keeper Martin Rice's dive at the far post.

On the restart a header from skipper Mike Landricombe following Jamie Short's free-kick skimmed the Blues bar before Stortford had the wind taken out of their sails as Owen Howe struck with two goals in the space of six minutes as keeper Rice fired long, wind assisted clearances upfield.



In the 56<sup>th</sup> minute a long clearance ran loose from Levi Landricombe's possession to Howe and his low shot on the turn from 20 yards found the bottom corne.

Then the marksman collected a flick on from Levi Landricombe and fired in from the right edge of the area and inside Tyler McCarthy's near post.

Stortford had had to make a change earlier in the half as Aaron Tumwa, suffering with a leg injury had to be replaced with top scorer Jason Williams entering the fray and Kevin Watson made further substitutions midway through the half, Tyrique Hyde and Sam Hatton being replaced by Christian Owusu and Jordan Westcott respectively.

Freddy Moncur was close with a first-time drive in the 73<sup>rd</sup> minute whilst Levi Landricombe wasn't far off target with a volley from outside the box at the other end.



A good move five minutes from the end of normal time saw Ryan Richefond and Jason Williams exchange passes before the latter's angled shot deflected off of defender Callum Hall into the arms of stopper Rice.

Then in the 86<sup>th</sup> minute the Blues reduced the arrears. From Christian Owusu's right wing corner a back post header from Joe Robinson squeezed over the line through a melee of legs.

In the remaining time, which included four added minutes, the Blues pushed forward forcing a couple of corners and Westcott shooting close past the far upright but they were unable to snatch an equaliser.

Both Robinson and Marvel Ekpiteta were shown yellow cards during the match whilst the visitors' Ben Mammola, Scott Rogers, Owen Howe and Levi Landricombe all picked up cautions in the second half.

**STORTFORD:** Tyler McCarthy; George Casey; Aaron Tumwa (Jason Williams 54); Sam Hatton (Jordan Westcott 68); Marvel Ekpiteta; Joe Robinson; Tyrique Hyde (Christian Owusu 63); Ryan Richefond; Sam Hatton; Dipo Akinyemi; Freddy Moncur; Darren Foxley.

Unused substitutes: Jack Thomas and Marcus Crowther.



**TIVERTON TOWN:** Martin Rice; Mike Landricombe; Callum Hall; Scott Rogers (Liam Gregory 82); Ben Mammola; Tom Gardner; Jamie Short; Ollie Knowles; Owen Howe (Jamie Price 88); Levi Landricombe; Tom Bath.

Unused substitutes: Nick Hurst and George Rogers

Referee: George Laflin

Attendance: 322

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It was another 2-1 reversal for Kevin Watson's side at The Walks Stadium as Stortford ran second-in-the-table King's Lynn Town close giving them and their supporters some anxious times before the final whistle.

The hosts had started very much up tempo taking a two goal lead in the first seventeen minutes but after Freddy Moncur had pulled a goal back soon afterwards Lynn weren't the same side and looked nervous in the final minutes as their fans voiced their frustrations.

It was always going to be hard for the Blues facing a vastly experienced side. With Aaron Tumwa out with a knee problem and thus joining the absent Mark Hughes and Sam Hatton on the injury list it was again a very young squad that travelled to Norfolk. Stortford only had two players over the age of 21 and they were skipper Marvel Ekpiteta and Jason

Williams who are both 22. Included on the bench was youth team striker Callum Taylor who came on in the closing minutes and at 16 must be one of the youngest players ever to have pulled on a Stortford shirt in a competitive match in the club's history. In Tumwa's absence Darren Foxley dropped back into the left back spot and Jason Williams played up front from the start.

Former Norwich City striker GRANT HOLT just cleared Tyler McCarthy's bar in the 3<sup>rd</sup> minute with a 35 yard volley but was on target in the 9<sup>th</sup> minute when Lynn's early control told. Cameron Norman advanced down the right wing before delivering a cross to the far upright where the big number ten nodded into the net from close range (1-0).

The lead was doubled in the 17<sup>th</sup> minute when Holt was again involved. He played the ball down the centre for Craig Parker to collect and advance towards goal and although the ball ran loose a few yards out, RYAN HAWKINS was able to scramble it past McCarthy (2-0).

Michael Gash had the ball in the net three minutes later but an offside decision was given. Stortford started to settle in midfield and Dipo Akinyemi had a shot blocked by a defender on the edge of the box and Tyrique Hyde drove the rebound close past keeper Alex Street's right-hand post. It was shortly after this, in the 26<sup>th</sup> minute, that the Blues reduced the arrears. Home central defender Sam Gaughran dwelt on the ball a little way out of his own penalty area and then gave a sloppy pass to FREDDY MONCUR. The on-loan player didn't hesitate to go for goal and despite pressure from Lynn defenders took the ball past Street and slotted it between the posts (2-1).

Holt blazed over when well placed in the 32<sup>nd</sup> minute but Stortford now looked

much more comfortable and after a good run by Akinyemi on the left in the 34<sup>th</sup> minute Jordan Westcott had a shot blocked. At the other end, in the 39<sup>th</sup> minute Holt cut the ball back across the six yard box but Parker failed to connect with the cross.

Half time: 2-1

There were few clear cut chances at either end in the second period and whilst the Linnets had more of the possession there was always the possibility of Stortford snatching an equaliser right until the last kick of the game.

A cross from Holt was struck over the bar from fifteen yards by Hawkins ten minutes after the break, whilst at the other end Freddy Moncur saw his free-kick dropped by Street but there was no Stortford player to take advantage. Then, following a move up the right flank involving Hyde and Casey, the latter's cross was hit first time by Jason Williams close past the near post.

With the hosts not creating much in front of goal Tyler McCarthy's only concern around the hour mark was safely dealing with a deep free-kick from substitute Simon Lappin. Showing more belief the Blues mustered up a number of promising moves and in the 76<sup>th</sup> minute when Williams blocked off a clearance from Street the rebound sent the ball across the face of the goal. Stortford were close again two minutes later as Williams collected a pass from Foxley on the left flank and cutting in towards goal was denied by the legs of Street when the leading goalscorer had his low angled effort diverted at the near post into the side-netting.

Apart from George Casey firing over the bar from distance in the 83<sup>rd</sup> minute there were no more openings at either end until

the end of normal time nor in the three minutes of added time.

The match was well officiated by referee Mr Wilson and there were no cards shown during the evening's contest.

STORTFORD: Tyler McCarthy; George Casey; Darren Foxley; Jordan Westcott; Marvel Ekpiteta; Joe Robinson; Tyrique Hyde (Christian Owusu 75); Ryan Richefond (Callum Taylor 86); Jason Williams; Freddy Moncur; Dipo Akinyemi.

Unused substitutes: Alex Rogers and Marcus Crowther.

KING'S LYNN TOWN: Alex Street; Craig Norman; Frazer Blake-Tracy; Sam Gaughran; Ryan Fryatt; Ryan Jarvis; Michael Clunan; Craig Parker (Eoin McQuaid 85); Michael Gash; Grant Holt (Tom Siddons 80); Ryan Hawkins (Simon Lappin 59).

Unused substitutes: Tom Ward and Tom Rix.

Referee: Mr Alistair Wilson

Attendance: 856