



# 18/19 NEWSLETTER - 26



## Match Reports

**19th January 2019**

### **“MERLEY WIN 11 GOAL THRILLER AT THE HOME OF THE LEADERS”**

#### **HAMWORTHY REC 5 MERLEY CS 6**



A bad day for the leaders as they slipped to their first home defeat of the season against local rivals Merley Cobham Sports who thoroughly deserved their win at Magna Road. The game was in doubt because of the heavy overnight and morning rains, but was passed perfectly playable, with very heavy conditions, which the visitors adapted to a lot better than the hosts and they were better in all departments. Rec tried to play their

usual neat, passing game, which simply didn't work on this type of pitch, especially in the first half. The second period saw Rec grow stronger in the last twenty minutes, but two late goals were not enough to salvage a point. The game started well for Rec when, on 7 minutes Chris Long collected the ball, beat a defender and sent his low shot into the corner (*see photo*) for a fine goal, to give Rec the lead. But it only lasted three minutes when Merley equalised from a free-kick by player -manager Matt Groves and on 15 minutes the same player put the visitors ahead, following a scramble in the area. Merley were now well on top and had other chances before Groves was at it again on the half-hour, scoring twice in two minutes, to make the score line of 1-4 to the visitors. Rec desperately needed to get back in the game and just before the break John Webb was set up by Brother George and lashed in a 25 yarder to give Rec a glimmer of hope. HT 2-4. The next goal was always going to be crucial and it was the visitors who claimed it on 55 minutes when Buck, who had been a threat to the home defence all afternoon, broke down the left and thumped a beauty high into the net for 2-5. Back came Rec and on the hour, Sam Carter sent George Webb away down the middle and his neat finish made it 3-5. Rec were now having their best spell of the game and Carter's shot was tipped over by the visiting keeper, before Rec had a penalty shout ignored. But the killer blow came on 70 minutes when Merley got their sixth, when Lee Wilkins finished off a good move. Rec were now pushing forward and Long went close with a header, again well saved and a shot just wide before, in the 87th minute Long's shot was parried, and Jordan Basing followed up for 4-6. Dave Wrixton's attempt from a corner went wide, before, in the last minute Long headed in his second, at the far post to reduce the deficit to just 1 goal, however there was not enough time to get the equaliser.

### **“WESTLANDS HIT THE SWANS FOR 6”**

#### **WESTLAND SPORTS 6 SWANAGE TOWN & H 0**

The visitors came out with all guns blazing, pinning Westlands back on the defensive for the first 5 minutes with sustained attacks. Having ridden that early storm Westlands hit back and opened the scoring in the 6th minute against the run of play. After some good build-up play down the left the ball was pulled back to Alex Murphy and he scored with a shot that hit the Swanage keeper's foot and rolled into the net. Swans had a great chance to equalise in the 12th minute but the final shot came off the post and was grabbed by a grateful Westlands keeper Sam Watts. It was end to end now with both teams having chances but it was

Westlands who increased their lead in the 35th minute when Henry Lawrence-Napier converted a Harry Vandervell pass at the far post, HT 2-0. The opening spell of the 2nd half was fairly even until Westlands stretched their lead to 3-0 in the 63rd minute when Alex Murphy side-footed in after some strong pressure forced a mistake in the visitor's defence. Four minutes later it was 4-0 when some nice approach play ended with Alex Murphy having another easy side-foot finish. Swanage were looking a bit weary now and in the 79th minute Alex Murphy scored his fourth goal of the match, and Westlands 5th when he ran on to a short pass back and rounded the keeper. The final flourish came with 4 minutes to go when Sports centre half Jonny Manley went on a solo run right through the Swanage defence and was tripped in the box. Manley took the kick himself and drilled it in to make the final score 6-0.

### **"HONOURS EVEN IN ISLAND STALEMATE"**

#### **PORTLAND UNITED RES 0 BALTI SPORTS 0**

Portland United Reserves and Balti Sports played out a 0-0 stalemate on Saturday, despite Ethan Devaney and Sean Bessant going close in the Dorset Premier League. Shots on target were at a premium as both sides were determined to take the bragging rights in this hotly-contested derby. It was the Blues that could, and probably should, have gone in to the break ahead, as Balti keeper Andy Nott did well to save one-on-one with Derek Wall before Aston Butcher's header from a Billy Mitchell corner found the side-netting. At the other end, a low drive was comfortably saved by Ross Jones before the keeper was called on to save a free-kick from underneath his crossbar. In the second half, the Blues applied the pressure with the best chance falling for Mitchell whose low drive struck the post and rebounded back out. Balti had golden chances in the second half through Chris Reader and Devaney which could have won them the match. Reader had a brilliant opportunity when, after a scramble in the box, the ball came to him when eight yards out, but his shot went just over the bar. With 15 minutes to go, Nott again preserved the stalemate for Balti, with a superb stop to push an effort on to the post. Devaney was then denied as the Blues cleared his shot off the line with two minutes to go. In the dying minutes, Sean Bessant's free-kick was superbly saved by Nott with his knees. Portland manager Justin Faulkner said: "It was a good local derby contested and played competitively and in the right spirit. "There wasn't a lot of goalmouth action, but I think we had the better chances to score and we should have done better with those. "Both sides defended well but I don't think any side wanted to give anything away." "We are happy to take a point against a very good side in DPL terms and we can take the positives of a clean sheet and the good chances we created which maybe we could have done better with. "Balti boss Marco Nott added: "It was a very competitive game, it was very hard-fought, and both teams had chances to win it. "I thought the whole team were outstanding, defensively it was a real solid team display. "For him (*Andy Nott*) to make that save, a save that definitely got us that point, shows that his shot-stopping is absolutely phenomenal."

Report Courtesy of the; **DorsetECHO**

### **"PARLEY PIP THE CHERRIES"**

#### **STURMINSTER NEWTON 1 PARLEY SPORTS 2**

The Cherries welcomed Parley to Barnett's Field in what was to prove a closely fought encounter in which the hosts will feel they should've got at least a point from the game. On a sticky pitch Sturminster had the better of the first half and played some good football in difficult conditions but Parley also looked a threat going forward with Sturminster keeper Sam Stroud making saves with shoots from distance, HT 0-0. Parley started the brighter in the second half and were soon in the lead when a shoot and a scramble inside the 6-yard box saw the ball fall to Jonny Cook to tap into the net. This goal spurred Parley on and they put lots of pressure on the Sturminster goal, but the cherries defence held strong. Sturminster had a couple of chances to equalise before Parley got their second goal of the game from a corner in which the cherries argued their keeper was fouled, however, the ball dropped nicely to John Peat to finish off and double the visitor's advantage. Sturminster then made changes and started to get at the Parley defence and deservedly got a goal back,

when a corner was netted with James Neal getting the final touch. The game opened up after this with both sides having chances to score but in the end, Parley claimed all 3 points.

### **“WEST DORSET HONOURS EVEN”**

#### **DORCHESTER SPORTS 1 BRIDPORT RES 1**

Dorchester Sports’ wait to break a sequence of winless results goes on after an action-packed 1-1 Dorset Premier League draw with Bridport Reserves at the Clayson Stadium. Ashley James’ men have not won since December 1st, when a 3-0 scoreline handed Sports victory over then bottom side Sturminster Newton United. A goalless first half saw the hosts have plenty of possession until moves consistently broke down in the final third. However, Sports got their breakthrough on the hour when Will Turland smashed past Bees’ goalkeeper Billy Fleet to hand his side the initiative. The county town side’s lead was to last just 10 minutes when predatory finishing from striker Robin Jones at a corner got Shaun Annetts’ men back on level terms. Sports had to weather a late storm when Bridport twice hit the bar, while Dan Peart’s free-kick forced an excellent stop from Sports’ gloveman Antony Frost. Speaking to Echosport following the clash, James felt neither team’s performance warranted a defeat. He said: “It was quite even, I don’t think both teams deserved to lose the game. “I thought Bridport probably did more to win the game and created more chances than us. They’ll probably be a bit frustrated that they didn’t win. “But we’re quite happy with a point. Both teams had a few chances – in the end it was a fair result.” Sports’ lack of ruthlessness in the final third did not pass James by. He said: “We got into the final third without really testing their keeper too much. “We had a lot of possession and got in some good areas but it broke down a little bit too easily in the final third. “We played well and we can take some positives from it.” James added: “They hit the bar a couple of times, but theirs was from long-range. Alex Gould cleared one off the line as well for us. “Then obviously the free-kick at the end where we’ve seen Dan do it for us a couple of times, a direct free-kick, hit the top corner in stoppage-time, but Antony made a good save to deny him. “They did have the more clear-cut chances but we did play well and take some positives from it. “We just wanted to try and stop conceding silly goals and we seemed to be doing that. Their main strikes were from 20-25 yards.” Sports and Bridport played out a 1-1 draw at the Avenue Stadium, with both goals coming in the second half, Sports took the lead when Will Turland blasted his shot past Billy Fleet on 60 minutes, but Bridport hit back when Robin Jones scored inside the 6 yard box from a Bridport corner on 70 minutes, Bridport did smash the bar late on and Dan Peart had a good free kick saved late on from Antony Frost in the Sports goal. So honours even and a point a piece.

Report Courtesy of the; **DorsetECHO**