



## Match Reports

**16th February 2019**

### **“SWANAGE WIN DESERVEDLEY ON THE ISLAND”**

#### **PORTLAND UTD RES 3 SWANAGE TOWN & HERSTON 5**



Swanage gained 3 away points at The Weyline Stadium by defeating Portland United Reserves in The Dorset Premier League. Swanage were rocked by the hosts who scored 2 goals in the first 15 minutes through Sol Roche and Lee Sharpe, the visitors replied when Paul Best went close with a long range shot and Rose-Moore missed a great chance when well-placed following good work from Atkinson. Skipper Paul Best did reduce the arrears for his side on 33 minutes, chasing the ball

down and dispossessing the home keeper to fire home. The Swans had keeper Dan Beeston to then thank for only being a goal behind at the interval with some smart saves to maintain his recent good form, HT 2-1. Swanage were a different side in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half and were level after 50 minutes when Atkinson was fouled and Joe Clarke dispatched the resulting penalty for his first goal of the season. Portland then hit back when Josh Camp hit a sweet shot into the top corner to restore their lead. Swanage again showed great character and determination to bounce back and get another equaliser when Paul Best again, beat a couple of players and ran from the half way line to eventually dink the ball over the on rushing keeper for a superb goal. Elliot Parslow then put the visitors ahead for the first time in the game with a brilliant strike, hitting a curling shot into the top corner from long range for his first goal of the season. Then, with 2 minutes remaining Aaron Atkinson wrapped up the points courtesy of a fine solo run which took a few deflections and bobbles on the way but the ball found its way into the net for number 5.

### **“REC RETURN TO WINNING WAYS”**

#### **HAMWORTHY REC 2 STURMINSTER NEWTON 0**

Another three points for Rec, but again, it was a far from impressive performance. In a battle of top versus bottom Rec raced into a two-goal lead after 20 minutes and were seemingly in complete control, but failed to add further goals, despite having chances. The second-half however, was a scrappy affair, with Rec thwarted by a plucky Sturminster defence and some inaccurate finishing. Sixteen-year-old Harry Phillips made his debut in goal and became Rec’s seventh keeper !!!, so far, this season. Playing a 3-5-2 formation which allowed Lewis Proudley from left wing-back to get forward as much as possible and it was, he who had the first chance, getting on the end of a good cross, but having his shot blocked by the keeper. But it was soon 1-0 when Chris Long’s initial shot was parried by the visiting keeper, with the ball running nicely for George Webb to fire in the rebound for his 21st goal of the season. The young Stur keeper was in action again, soon after, saving from John Webb and Lewis Proudley, but could not prevent a second after 20 minutes when Proudley slammed in his first goal of the season, following a free-kick into the area. In a rare venture forward Sturminster forced new keeper Phillips into a good block, before Proudley’s cross was headed over by Callum Charlton, HT 2-0. The second-half became a bit lack-lustre, but Rec still had chances. George Webb raced into the area, rounded the keeper and fired against the bar and Long headed narrowly over from Webb’s cross. Sam Carter, on as a sub, had an early chance, showing good control in the box, but shooting wide and Charlton’s speculative effort was also off target. Sturminster were playing some neat football at times, but rarely threatened Rikki Walden,

Dave Wrixton and Co. at the back, but they did have a good chance when a free-kick was headed narrowly past the post late on. Rec were content to see out the closing minutes and bank another three points.

### **“WESTLANDS TAME THE BULLS IN A TIGHT ENCOUNTER”**

#### **HOLT UNITED 0 WESTLAND SPORTS 1**

Westlands maintained the pressure at the top of the table after this hard-fought win at Petersham Lane against a strong Holt side missing their manager Lee Bradford currently serving a 3-game ground ban !! the all-important goal came in the 1<sup>st</sup> half when Nick Voss scored following a decent move. Credit to the men from Yeovil who dug deep to preserve their lead and take the 3 points home with them to Somerset.

### **“MERLEY CS HIT THE BEES FOR 4”**

#### **BRIDPORT RES 1 MERLEY CS 4**

Bridport welcomed high flying, high scoring Merley CS to the Brewery ground and they knew they would be in for a tough afternoon against one of the top three teams challenging to win the league . Bridport started brightly and created the first chance of the game which fell to Riley Weedon whose long-range shot didn't trouble the Merley keeper. Merley opened the scoring from a left-wing corner on 12 minutes when the Merley player Jamie Moore's was allowed a powerful free header which Jordan Scadding got his hand to in the home goal, but was unable to keep out. Merley scored again on 20 mins when a brilliant through ball inside the Bridport right wing back was met by their impressive left winger who's pin point cross was met by Matt Groves on the 6-yard box for an easy tap in. Bridport responded well and felt hard done by with 2 decisions. Firstly, Riley Weedon was clipped just inside the box but the referee chose not to consult his assistant and gave a free kick on the edge of the box which Bridport weren't able to score from. Soon after confusion between the Merley defenders and goalkeeper resulted in a clear back pass to the keeper who picked the ball up but the referee waved play on instead of giving Bridport a free kick inside the box, HT 0-2. Bridport started well in the second half knowing that the next goal would be crucial and for 15 minutes Bridport gave all they could without finding that final ball or testing the young visiting keeper. Merley then scored their third on the counter when the impressive Sam Handyside was robbed of the ball on the halfway line and with 7 !!! Bridport players in the Merley half, Asa Phillips took full advantage to finish neatly. A fourth goal for Merley soon followed courtesy of Phillips again with his 2<sup>nd</sup>, but Bridport did manage to get a consolation goal with a fine right foot strike from Riley Weedon. Merley deserved the win and the 3 points and are serious contenders for the title but Bridport Reserves put in a good performance considering they were without 6 of their regular players.

### **“SPORTS STUN THE ROYALS”**

#### **BLANDFORD UTD 1 DORCHESTER SPORTS 2**

Dorchester Sports finally broke a seven-game winless run with a dramatic late comeback in their 2-1 victory at Blandford United in the Dorset Premier League. Sports had not picked up all three points since a 3-0 triumph over lowly Sturminster Newton United on December 1. Looking to correct that long drought, during which Ashley James' men collected just two points, the visitors made a bright start. Jamie Rawlings and Jamie Quinton both had opportunities in the Royals' penalty area in the opening exchanges before Blandford took the lead in the 34th minute. A Blandford corner caused uncertainty in the Sports' box and the ball squirted out for Danny Rogers to poke the ball past goalkeeper Antony Frost. James switched Jamie Samways for Will Turland 10 minutes after the break and the forward's introduction proved decisive. In a near mirror situation to Blandford's goal, Turland was this time the beneficiary as he pounced on 75 minutes to equalise. Five minutes later, a moment of brilliance from Turland handed Sports the victory as the striker looped a header from Paul Hill's cross over the stricken home gloveman. Sports had to withstand heavy pressure in the latter stages but held firm to register a big win. Speaking to Echosport, James admitted his side was “buzzing” after securing a much-needed three points that see the Dorchester outfit remain in ninth. He said: “It proved that we haven't given up. It's the best way to win, being behind with 15 minutes to go and still battling to try and win the game and get two late goals. “All the lads were buzzing after the game. We knew that

performance was there, we just needed a bit of luck. It was a great performance and a massive win. "The whole game was end-to-end, it was great. Both goalkeepers made some good saves and both defences were pretty solid but we created more. "We had a few good chances in the first half but didn't really test their keeper. "We had a lot of the ball (in the first half) but somehow went in one-nil down. "(Rawlings and Quinton) were causing them a lot of problems and we knew that if we kept doing that second half, we would finally break them down. It's nice that we did."

Report Courtesy of the; **DorsetECHO**

### **"ROCKIES HALT A RUN OF 9 DEFEATS WITH A POINT"**

#### **SHAFTESBURY RES 1 BALTI SPORTS 1**

After a run of 9 losses, the Rockies ground out a valuable point, amid foggy conditions, against a good Balti side still buoyant from their win against the League leaders last week. Balti were only able to name 11 players for the clash in north Dorset but battled away despite missing a host of key men. Sammy Nichols was the creator as Balti took a first-half lead in injury-time, dribbling through the Rockies' middle and sliding striker Danny Andrews in clean through. Andrews was initially one-on-one with the home keeper until a covering defender scrambled back, but the tricky Andrews was able to turn his man and fire into the bottom corner from 12 yards. Shaftesbury applied some pressure in the second half, chipping several free-kicks into dangerous areas, and duly equalised from a set-piece on 70 minutes. A free-kick from the halfway line forced a miscommunication in the visitors' rear-guard as goalkeeper Andy Nott elected not to claim the ball and the covering Balti defence diverted the ball into their own net. Ryan Dovell spurned a one-on-one chance as the hosts' keeper made a solid stop before Danny Andrews also squandered a clean through opportunity, his lob landing over the crossbar. But Shaftesbury held on for a draw and Balti boss Marco Nott described picking up a point as a fair result. He told Echosport: "It was very tough conditions; the fog was quite deep and it was a difficult pitch to play on. "The lads gave absolutely everything and we couldn't criticise them at all. The quality clearly wasn't there but we had umpteen quality players missing. "It was just a case a battling and trying to get a result. To come out with a draw we're quite happy with it – I think a draw's a fair result." Nott reserved plaudits for 16-year-old Josh Hickman, who enjoyed a solid debut for the Weymouth-based outfit. He said: "He's a reserve player and he's only a 16-year-old, he's never played at that level before. "He got called upon an hour before we were meeting to go to Shaftesbury and he played left-back for 90 minutes. "He didn't put a foot wrong and did really well for his debut. We're just really happy he had a good game. "As a 16-year-old, it was probably a bit daunting but he had a good game."

Report Courtesy of the; **DorsetECHO**

### **"ZEBRAS HIT FORM IN THE PURBECKS"**

#### **WAREHAM RANGERS 0 SHERBORNE TOWN RES 2**

The Zebras travelled down to a much-improved Wareham side who battled hard but the first half was to prove costly to the hosts. Sherborne went after their opponents from the off and created a chance after 2 minutes when Joe Moonzell hit a shot but it went straight into the keeper's arms. Scott Martin opened the scoring for the visitors after a great through ball to Elliot Mann from Thurgood gave Mann the chance to drill a low cross to Martin who couldn't miss from 5 yards out. The second came after a pin point ball from Matt Watson to Martin who then ran onto the ball before firing home to grab Sherborne's 2<sup>nd</sup> of the game and in doing so keep his tally growing for the season. Sherborne has 2/3 other good chances to put the game to bed but just before the break Wareham up their game and came close to pulling a goal back but the striker fired wide, HT 0-2. Wareham changed their shape and attitude in the second half but couldn't test the Sherborne keeper unless it was a cross shot. Late on, Mann had a brilliant well worked goal ruled out for offside as Sherborne looked for a third and killer goal. The game finished 2-0.

## **“GILLINGHAM CASTLE CORFE AT HOME”**

### **GILLINGHAM TOWN 2 CORFE CASTLE 1**

Gillingham Town continued their good home form, with a hard-earned win against lowly Corfe Castle, however were made to fight all the way to get the three points. Even though the first half ended in stalemate, both sides had opportunities, the Corfe forwards opened up the Gillingham defence only for wayward finishing to let them down, whilst Gillingham were getting joy down the flanks however were unable to convert a number of chances from within the six-yard box. As the pattern continued during the second half, inevitably it was a mistake that helped break the deadlock. A long ball into the Corfe penalty area was misjudged by the defender and as he went to control the ball it struck his arm, the referee and linesman were in agreement – however unintentional, it was a clear handball. Buddy O’Shea stepped up to blast the penalty home to put the hosts in front. Buddy O’Shea then doubled his account as Alex Staffie found him in the box, a quick drop of the shoulder and a clinical finish should have put the game beyond Corfe. However, Corfe rallied, and a goalmouth scramble reduced the deficit when Matt Suttle scored and it was a nervy last few minutes, punctuated by a number of sin-bin offences for the visitors – but Gillingham held on for a deserved victory against their plucky opponents.

