



# 18/19 NEWSLETTER - 20



## Match Reports

**24<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**“MERLEY PUT SWANS TO THE SWORD TO THE TUNE OF 11”**

**MERLEY CS 11 SWANAGE TOWN & H 0**

This has been a tough fixture over the past couple of seasons, but with Merley scoring for fun and Swanage struggling in recent games it was soon clear that this game would follow that trend for both sides. Merley got off to a flying start when Jamie Moore's met a Matt Groves corner with a bullet header into the top corner after just 4 mins. Merley doubled their lead from the spot on 11 mins when James Young's impressive run into the box was stopped with a trip and Groves sent the keeper the wrong way for 2-0. Just a minute later it was 3-0 when a Josh Buck cross was perfectly placed for the Swanage defence to turn into their own net. Merley continued to batter the visitors defence and made it 4-0 on 17 mins when Dan Edwards latched on to a lovely through ball from Buck and finished with confidence. Groves heaped more misery on their opponents when Groves grabbed his second and Merleys fifth following a superb pass from Asa Phillips on 19 mins. Phillips himself hit the woodwork just a minute later before Swanage launched their only meaningful attack of the game on the counter, but Lewis Mills did well to get an impressive block on the goal bound shot to keep the visitors at bay. Lee Wilkins made it 6-0 on 27 mins, heading home a Groves free kick. Even at 6-0 up Merley continued to launch wave after wave of attacks and could easily have added to their tally on several occasions, HT 6-0. Merley could have easily sat back after the break but went straight in for the kill when Groves completed his hat trick on 46 mins with a tap in from another pin point cross from Buck. Brandon Randall was next to find the net on 55 mins after some lovely exchanges with Phillips left him through on goal. Phillips finally got himself on the scoresheet on the hour when he got on the end of a Groves corner for 9-0. Merley continued to attack at will and Wilkins grabbed his second and Merleys tenth on 75 mins with a powerful strike, with Phillips again the provider. Player Manager Groves grabbed his fourth and completed the rout on 82 mins when slid through by Edwards for 11-0. Merley were superb today and despite the impressive goal tally, it could easily have been so much worse for shell-shocked Swanage.

**“WESTLANDS WIN A TIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH BALTI”**

**BALTI SPORTS 2 WESTLAND SPORTS 3**

Balti Sports sustained a fourth loss on the spin after Westland Sports pulled off a dramatic late comeback to take a 3-2 victory from their closely-fought Dorset Premier League contest at Weymouth College. Sports took the lead when promising centre-back Darren Harding nudged home a tap-in following defensive uncertainty from Westland when defending a corner. Westland responded to equalise just before half-time, but Balti retook the lead after the break courtesy of a magnificent finish from substitute Sammy Nichols. The midfielder, on for new signing Chris Reader, smashed a long-range effort first time into the net following a mis-kick from the Westland goalkeeper. The visitors remained a threat on the break and equalised in controversial circumstances. Balti thought they had won a corner, with the linesman flagging for the set-piece only to be overruled by the referee. From the resultant goal-kick, Westland stormed upfield and played in substitute Alex Murphy to tuck home. Worse was to follow for Balti as Simon Proffitt's poor clearance fell straight to Adam Barratt, the striker rounding gloveman Andy Nott with five minutes remaining to find the empty net and seal all three points. Balti's misfortune was compounded when Nott had to play on with an elbow ligament injury that is expected to keep him out for up to a month. Speaking to Echosport, manager Marco Nott described the late loss as "gutting". He said: "They were a very good side, but we're kicking ourselves a bit. I'd say they were the dominant team, not really creating a lot of chances. They were a threat on the break, but we kept our shape and discipline. "I was really pleased with the boys. We're in a situation

without Danny (Andrews) and Ricky (Lane) and a lot of defenders are out. "We're not going to win the league, but I was pleased with how we competed, it was just gutting because they scored with five minutes to go."

Report courtesy of the; **DorsetECHO**

### **"BULLS BEAT THE BLUES"**

#### **HOLT UNITED 2 PORTLAND UNITED RES 1**

Portland United Reserves tasted defeat for the 1st time in 8 games at the hands of Holt United in The Dorset Premier League on Saturday. The Blues had won each of their last 7 DPL games, Portland United Reserves Manager Justin Faulkner said his squad are still positive after the defeat in what they are achieving this season. Holt went ahead when a pullback was converted by Shane Jackson before the hosts then doubled their lead when a ball in behind the Portland rear guard was converted by Dominic Falco. Portland reduced the arrears in the last 10 minutes when Aaron Ryan slotted home when put through by Sean Zima, but they were unable to take anything from the game for their efforts. Captain Adam Anstey took charge of the game in Faulkner's absence, he commented "The performance wasn't that bad and the pitch held up better than we expected. As a team on the whole I felt we were comfortable, we kept the ball well and certainly had more of the ball. Things just didn't happen for us today." Faulkner commented "Unfortunately I wasn't able to be at the game for family reasons but the reports I'm getting is very encouraging, you get them days when anything you try doesn't come off for you, we haven't had many this season so perhaps we were due one. But we will move on to the next game and try to put this result right. I really can't complain how this season is going and everyone is still positive, we knew this would be a tough against Holt who are a proven DPL side with bags of experience and I'm sure they wanted a bit of revenge for the 4-1 defeat they took at our place.

### **"ROCKIES WIN WITH HOME COMFORTS"**

#### **SHAFTESBURY RES 3 SHERBORNE TOWN RES 1**

After 7 consecutive away league games this was our first home league game since the 1st September. It was a game we simply had to win in order to kick start our league campaign. With only one enforced change from our previous game the hosts settled quickly and were soon in front. Aaron Lane Leney beating the off-side trap and rounding the visiting goalkeeper to tap in on 17 minutes. The lead was doubled on 34 minutes when Andrew Baker again beat the off-side trap and finished well with a cool side footed finish. As the half time interval approached Shaftesbury wasted several excellent opportunities to put the game to bed, with Laney and Beal missing the best of them, HT 2-0. In the second half the hosts had to weather some early Sherborne pressure before they scored the third and decisive goal. A towering goal bound header at the back stick from Warren Meadowcroft was effectively saved by a Sherborne defender and the penalty was duly awarded. Laney stepped up to smash in his second of the game. Again, the hosts wasted far too many chances to hammer home their advantage and were then guilty of some poor defending to allow Sherborne to score a late consolation goal in the 87<sup>th</sup> minute from Olli Burns.

### **"ROUTINE WIN FOR PARLEY AGAINST STUR"**

#### **PARLEY SPORTS 5 STURMINSTER NEWTON 0**

This was a routine win for the hosts as they put 5 past bottom placed Sturminster in East Dorset. Played on a heavy pitch after the overnight rain, Parley took the lead in the 4<sup>th</sup> minute as Ryan Coopers cross was headed home from 8 yards by Jack Voisey, 2 minutes later and Voisey was at it again as he got the hosts 2<sup>nd</sup> when finishing neatly from 25 yards out after a long ball over the top of a static Newton defence, HT 2-0. The second half started slowly probably due to the conditions as both sides probed but too little effect, however on 73 minutes Ben Bosley picked up a loose ball and fired home for Parley's 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ten minutes later and it was 4 after Dan Haynes shot went in of the post. Finally, Bosley got his 2<sup>nd</sup> and Parleys 5<sup>th</sup> in the 86<sup>th</sup> minute when he finished well after a quickly taken free kick by Callum Foy.