



DPL – NEWSLETTER - 5



Match Reports Saturday 26th August 2017

"SWANAGE BLOOM WITH ROSES WINNER"

SWANAGE TOWN & H 2 HAMWORTHY RECREATION 1



The Swans returned to winning ways after their midweek 6-5 defeat when they defeated a miss firing Rec at Days Park. After an even first-half Rec went in front right on half-time, but the second period saw them struggle to put the hosts under any pressure and Swanage, who showed more aggression and determination, deservedly took the points. Rec gave a debut to Pete Pritchard, recently signed from neighbours Merley Cobham. It was a very even first half with Chris Long and Ross Hampton-Brown both having chances, but Swanage were dangerous at times and Sam Jones, in the visitors goal, made some vital saves, however the visitors

edged in front after few classy moves brought about the only goal of the half, on 43 minutes, when Richie Sands and Ross Hampton-Brown combined cleverly to set up Harry Stokes to fire in for 0-1 at HT. Whatever Swans boss Tim Brown said at half time seemed to have a positive effect on his team as they came flying out of the blocks, and top scorer Cameron Beard snatched the equalizer glancing a Nat Scott header past the keeper for his 10th goal of the season. Striker Graeme Rose scored a fantastic header following a great cross from Aaron Atkinson which proved to be the winner and secured the points in a very entertaining encounter on an energy sapping hot day.

Photos by Haydn Sparkes ST&HFC



"WESTLANDS EARN DRAW WITH CHAMPIONS"

WESTLAND SPORTS 1 HOLT UNITED 1

Westlands were looking sharp early on and created a couple of early chances with Josh Payne twice getting in behind the Holt backline. However, goalkeeper Chris Lynch made a couple of good stops to prevent an early goal. Holt then began to settle into the game and a well hit shot flew just past the Westlands post. On 20 minutes, the visitors took the lead with a neat, but simple goal. A free kick out on the right was fired deep into the box where the dangerous Mike Haskell nodded it back to the onrushing Charlie Gajic and he planted his header firmly into the net. No more scoring in a tight first half but Westlands came out fired up and equalised in the 46th minute when Haydn Hodges burst through to slot past the keeper. Westlands were on top now but could not put away any of their chances and with Holt always dangerous on the break it was an exciting game to the end. Scott Smith picked up a yellow card for Westlands and Nathan Redwood had one for Holt in a well-contested match.

"GILLS WIN IMPRESSIVELY AS THE ROYALS ARE DOWNED"

GILLINGHAM TOWN 5 BLANDFORD UTD 0



This North Dorset derby came hot on the heels of the Gills' 4-0 victory over local rivals Mere Town on Tuesday night. The Gills began this game in confident mood and were dominant from the start. Their first good chance came as early as the 2nd minute when Elliot Bevis rounded Blandford keeper Ben Robbins, but a defender was in the right place at the right time to clear the ball off the goal line. Blandford were struggling to retain any possession and, as a result, couldn't get the ball out of their half. However, their defence were doing a stout job as they were subjected to wave after wave of attacks, with Robbins pulling off several key saves. The pressure had to tell in the end though and with 25 minutes played the Gills got a breakthrough. A shot by Nathan Miller was blocked well by Robbins, but the ball fell to Elliot Bevis who carefully placed his shot over the stranded keeper to give the Gills a 1-0 lead. The pressure on Blandford's goal continued and the Gills doubled their lead just 3 minutes later; Nick Thomson heading home from a corner. Just 2 minutes after this Blandford's defence were under pressure again when Saul Boulton made a last-ditch attempt to block a shot and was adjudged to have used his arms. The resultant penalty was neatly despatched by Elliot Bevis to give the Gills a 3-0 lead with just 30 minutes on the clock. The rest of the half was more of the same with Blandford getting their first chance just before the half time whistle. The second half started the same in the same vein as the first, with the Gills scoring after just 2 minutes, Nathan Miller heading home a Joe Smeeton cross to make it 4-0. After this Gillingham seemed to take their foot off the gas a bit, allowing Blandford to get into the game more, but even when they did get a sniff of goal they found Gills' keeper Jamie Beale in fine form and he made a couple of superb saves to deny them. Their cause wasn't helped either when, just before the hour mark, they had Dan Holland sent to the sin bin for 10 minutes. The game fizzled out after this till the first minute of injury time, when Harry Smith set up Jack Baker who slotted home from about 6 yards out to make the score 5-0. Overall a great win for the Gills, not just in the 5-0 score line but also the manner in which the game was won.

"BALTI TOO HOT FOR RANGERS"

BALTI SPORTS 4 WAREHAM RANGERS 0

Balti Sports maintained pole position in the League after this routine win against Rangers. The hosts started well and got the early goal they deserved through Shane Lock on 10 minutes. Wareham Had a great chance to equalise moments later but the home custodian saved well, after that, Balti had many chances to go further goals clear but wasted them which saw half time arrive with the score still at 1-0. In the Second half you could clearly see that with a hot day and a tough game played mid-week at Swanage, the intensity of the game went out the window for the hosts, Wareham were growing into the game but just after the hour, the next goal would be crucial and it was Balti who got it with a good through ball to Sam Nichols and he made no mistake when calmly converting, this killed the game off as a competitive game as the visitors flagged, this opened the game up for Balti as the open spaces developed. Balti Sports then showed their ruthless side as they took full advantage as 2 further goals put the gloss on the score line, 1st Dan Andrews bagged in the 70th

minute then substitute Rory Zima got their 4th in the 81st minute. All in all, a leggy game for both teams but Balti showed their class even when not at their best.

"GOALESS DRAW AT BARNETTS FIELD"

STURMINSTER NEWTON 0 PARLEY SPORTS 0



The hosts will be far the happier side as these 2 sides served up the 1st goalless draw of the season, Parley created and missed a host of chances in the 1st half as a depleted Cherries Side battled gamely. Into the 2nd half and the visitors remained on top but couldn't get past a resolute and stubborn host defence, they did in fact have their keeper Dan Stone to thank as he pulled off a good save late on to deny Sturminsters James Orchards volley. With the

game drawing to a close, Parleys Ben Bosley saw his late header go wide of the target and so the stalemate was final.

"BRIDPORT RESERVE THE BRAGGING RIGHTS AGAINST THE ZEBRAS"

SHERBORNE TOWN RES 1 BRIDPORT RES 3

On a glorious sunny day at Raleigh Grove, the reserves sides of Sherborne and Bridport locked horns on an afternoon more akin to cricket! Both sides have had transitional summers integrating new and young squads, but neither finding a winning formulae or goals easy to come by. One or both these teams would at least hit the mark in either of these categories today. It was Sherborne who came out the blocks quicker, taking the game to Bridport in a fluent manner, spreading the ball when they could, and keeping the ball on the deck in an effort to get the strikers in behind. However, disaster struck midway through the first half when Sherborne's central midfielder went down in agony after an innocuous challenge by the Bridport centre half. After a delay in play the young midfielder was stretchered off the pitch and taken to hospital, where an x-ray fortunately revealed no break. No one likes to witness an injury like that during play, and to both sides credit, and with a little reorganisation in the Sherborne ranks the game continued. It was Sherborne who broke the deadlock, Ryan Thurgood capitalising on a keeping error, and with his back to goal, on the edge of the area he swivelled and found the back of the empty net from 18 yards. Sherborne first goal of the campaign and into the break 1-0 up. Early in the second half Sherborne had a glorious opportunity to increase their lead when the goal scorer put through his partner in crime James Budden, but he couldn't get a clean connection and the chance went begging. Sherborne introduced youth and raw talent, James Budden was replaced by Ollie Hebbard, who was making his STFC Debut. Hebbard who was with the Swindon academy instantly use his pace and trickery and gave the Bridport back four a new challenge, but Bridport weren't out of this game, Sherborne's Tom Hargreaves lost the ball on the half way line and with a quick break and a neat finish they were back in the game with a fine equaliser, drilled low and hard across the face of goal and nestling in the far corner. Bridport were back!

The game then ebbed and flowed as both sides looked to find the winner, it was to be Bridports day! Two late goals sealed their fate, and the Bees flew back to Bridport by far the happier side.

"MERLEY EVENTUALLY FLATTEN THE ROCKIES"

MERLEY COBHAM SPORTS 3 SHAFTESBURY RES 1

The hosts had to wait until the 2nd half to eventually beat a determined Shaftesbury side, the visitors arrived at Cobham with attack in mind and quickly tried to stamp their authority on the game. Their early pressure was rewarded with the lead on 6 mins when their midfielder headed home from the corner kick. Merley looked stunned, but were back level on 12 mins when Ben Satterley fired home following some slick passing. Satterley almost doubled his tally on 20 mins, but his powerful strike was tipped over. Merley were very much on the front foot now and looked to have taken the lead on 44 mins when Steve Gilbert headed in a corner at the back post but was adjudged to have fouled a visitor's defender and the goal was disallowed. HT 1-1

Merley began the second half with real intent and almost took the lead when Jamie Moores curled a free kick just wide. They didn't have to wait long however, as substitute Ellis George scored his first goal for the club on 53 mins, firing home a loose ball from a corner which Shaftesbury failed to clear to make it 2-1. As Merley continued to pile on the pressure, they extended their lead on 58 mins when Moores blasted home from inside the box. It was all Merley now, but despite Jack Mills and the lively Ben Satterley hitting the woodwork, they were unable to add to their goals tally.

"MERE GET BACK TO WINNING WAYS"

MERE TOWN 4 MILBORNE PORT 1

Mere Town bounced back from a disappointing defeat in midweek to chalk up their third win of the season against DPL newcomers Milborne Port. With a number of players unavailable this match could have been a banana skin for the 'Moonrakers' but they had enough quality to take all the points and look ahead to Wednesdays clash with Westlands. Joe Paterson scored the first goal of the game in the 32nd minute, ending a flowing move with a tidy finish. He could have scored a second goal 3 minutes later had the Milborne keeper not taken him out right on the edge of the box. The 10 men of Milborne battled keenly and were rewarded with a neatly taken equalising goal, lobbing the stranded Mere keeper. In the second half Mere had much more purpose and started to take control of the game. Joe Paterson converted a 66th minute penalty to score his second and Jimmer Samways got on the score sheet with a pile driver of a finish from a narrow angle as he burst into the box. The fourth Mere goal came from Nigel Benjamin. In the 83rd minute the centre half decided he wanted to get in on the action and ran the length of the pitch with the ball, to see his attempted cross end up in the back of the net. All in all, a workmanlike performance sees Mere 3 points behind the league leaders as they continue their good start to their DPL campaign. Meanwhile the visitors are still searching for their 1st point of the season in what already is becoming a very tough campaign.