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Match Reports

9th February 2019

“BALTI TOO HOT FOR THE LEADERS”

BALTI SPORTS 2 HAMWORTHY REC 1



Two goals in five minutes early in the second half condemned Rec to their third league defeat of the season, against a good Balti side. The hosts never let Rec settle into their normal passing game and were first to the ball in many situations. Injury and illness meant manager Kirk Grice had to bring in defender Phil Staples to play in goal and he put in a capable performance, making a couple of good saves and having no chance with either of the goals. It was nearly a dream start for Rec when, in the first minute, George Webb and Jordan Basing combined to set up Chris Long, only for him to be flagged offside. Dave Wrixton headed clear a dangerous Balti

corner, before George Webb supplied a great pass to Long, whose attempt was cleared for a corner. But midway through the half Rec went in front. An impressive move saw Basing head the ball down for George Webb to fire low past the diving keeper and into the corner for 0-1. Back came Balti and Staples produced a good save to a long-range shot, before a dangerous ball into the box eluded everyone, HT 0-1. Rec had two chances right at the start of the second period, with Basing chasing a through-ball and unluckily placing his shot just wide and George Webb then just beaten to the ball by the keeper. But the game turned on 55 minutes when Balti scored an equaliser through Ricky Lane with a good low finish after a neat move and with the hosts now having a good spell they notched, what was to be the winning goal, on the hour. Rec switched off at a corner and when a shot eventually came in the ball cannoned off the bar and was headed in from close-range by Carl Mc Clements for 2-1. Rec made some changes and were unlucky when they had a Brad Hill goal ruled out for offside, after their best move of the match. But Balti were still dangerous on the break and Staples made another smart save to deny them a third, before Hill's telling cross into the box was headed away by a defender. In the dying minutes Rec nearly snatched an equaliser, but Dave Wrixton blazed his first-time shot over the bar.

Photo courtesy of the; **DorsetECHO**

“WESTLANDS LEAVE IT LATE TO TAKE THE WIN”

WESTLAND SPORTS 4 BLANDFORD UNITED 2

An entertaining match played in difficult conditions with the home side just easing through with a flurry of late goals. Blandford started brightly and it was no great surprise when they opened the scoring midway through the first half. Striker Mark Ford pounced on a mistake by the Westlands defence and thumped the ball into the net from 12 yards. That was how things stood at half time although Westlands had been pressing as the half ended, HT 0-1. In the 47th minute Westlands got the quick equaliser they were looking for when Liam Stobbs stroked the ball into the corner of the net. Blandford almost struck back straight away when a

shot came back off the post and rebounded out. On the hour mark an Alex Murphy shot for Sports also hit the post but then rebounded straight into the keeper's arms. Blandford then created a couple of good chances but first half scorer Ford blasted both efforts over the top. It was the visitors though who edged in front for the second time in the 67th minute when a deflected shot was turned in at the far post by Paul Ford. Things were looking a bit dodgy for Westlands at this stage but they upped the pace and were rewarded in the 75th minute when Nick Voss was brought down in the box and Ant Herrin smashed in the resulting spot kick to level things up at 2-2. Westlands kept pressing forward and when Aaron Sweet drilled over a corner in the last-minute Jonny Manley dived full length to power a header into the back of the net. 3-2 to Westlands but there was more to come. Two minutes into injury time Nick Voss made a good run down the left and crossed to the far post where Alex Murphy was on hand to thump in the fourth goal. A hard battle and credit to both teams for a cracking match.

“MERLEY GO GOAL CRAZY AGAIN”

MERLEY CS 8 DORCHESTER SPORTS 2

Merley took a while to get into their stride but took the lead on 12 mins with an Ellis George header following a Matt Groves corner. Their lead didn't last long as Dorchester virtually went straight up the other end from their kick off and levelled with Merley still gathering themselves. Despite long periods of possession, Merley struggled to create real clear-cut chances until the 41st minute, when Dan Edwards latched on to a loose ball and fired his side back in front. Josh Buck still had time to further increase the hosts lead and made it 3-1 on the stroke of half time with Groves again the provider, HT 3-1. Merley began to turn the screw further after the break. Brandon Randall made it 4-1 on 54 mins following some good work from Edwards in the build-up. Groves added a fifth on 59 mins, with Randall this time the provider. The visitors caught Merley on the break just a minute later and finished well for 5-2. Any hopes of a revival were soon put to bed as Merley launched wave after wave of attacks. Buck added his second and Merleys sixth on 78 mins with a great solo effort. Just a minute later and it was 7-2 when under pressure from Lee Wilkins, the Dorchester keeper gifted Groves his second of the game. Groves completed his hat trick on 82 mins with Wilkins again involved in the build-up for 8-2. But for a missed penalty and a disallowed goal it could have been even worse for Dorchester Sports as Merley once again went goal crazy.

“TANGERINES TOO SWEET FOR THE CHERRIES”

STURMINSTER NEWTON 0 GILLINGHAM TOWN 5

Gillingham completed a comfortable win against their North Dorset rivals at Barnett's Field. Gillingham started brightly and opened the scoring as Alex Staffie broke through the defence and scored at the second attempt. Buddy O'Shea soon doubled the lead when he found space in the box, turned neatly before rifling the ball home. Tim Trevett effectively ended the game just before half-time as he chased a through ball, out muscled the defender and slotted the ball home, HT 0-3. Sturminster pressed hard during the second half, with the advantage of the wind, however both Staffie and O'Shea doubled their individual tallies, giving Gillingham a comfortable afternoon, much to the relief of their manager, who got the opportunity to see things a little closer, during a confident and relatively untroubled cameo display at centre half.

“EAST DORSET STALEMATE”

PARLEY SPORTS 0 PORTLAND UTD RES 0

Parley defended well in the first half against a very strong wind, with keeper Taylor Hibbs making several crucial saves. Parley created a couple of good chances on the break and had a penalty appeal turned away

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as Matt Newbery appeared to be fouled in the box. It was Portland's turn to defend against the wind but on 55 mins they won a penalty as John Peat handled a left-wing cross. however, Billy Mitchell's penalty strike wasn't good and Hibbs saved well. His kick down field then almost caught out the home keeper who back peddled to catch the ball under his bar. Both sides created decent chances but the defences came out on top in what was an entertaining goalless draw.

"NORTH DORSET STALEMATE"

SHERBORNE TOWN RES 1 SWANAGE T&H 1

Swanage came to Raleigh grove looking for revenge after losing to the zebras a month ago but they found themselves very fortunate not to be 2-0 down after 5 minutes after the hosts came fast out of the traps. Jack Baker scored for the Zebras after 7 mins with a fine finish, after that goal the game really opened up for both sides. Sherborne missed a number of chances to increase their lead, largely due to a man of the match performance from the visiting keeper, meanwhile, Swanage also broke through two / three times and were looking dangerous on the counter. Swanage did get their deserved equaliser on 37 minutes after Aaron Atkinson, rounded the keeper to easily slot home, HT 1-1. The second half wasn't as fluent as the 1st but both keepers were having really good games, so keeping the scores level at 1-1. The second half will be remembered for town legend Sam farthing who sustained a nasty injury after a class of heads and needed to be stretchered off the pitch. He has since been diagnosed with a fractured skull but thankfully he doesn't need surgery and did return home later that evening. Everyone connected to Sherborne Town FC, Swanage Town & H FC and the wider football community wishes Sam well for a speedy recovery.

"BEES STING THE ROCKIES"

SHAFTESBURY RES 0 BRIDPORT RES 2

After only one win in 8 matches, Shaftesbury came into this game with a much-altered team, having the added benefit of some 1st team players, due to their game being called off in the morning. However, as is all too common, added senior players, does not automatically give you an advantage. The game began in an even fashion, but the early passing game from the home team let them down on a sticky pitch when normal passes wouldn't reach their intended target. Bridport seized on one of these in completed passes to run to the by-line and whip in a low cross which was slotted home by Josh Hunter for a 0-1 lead. Although there were no further goals in the first half, Bridport were comfortable as Shaftesbury searched for a leveller, HT 0-1. The second half began with the home team trying to play ground ball, but a mistake at the back with another miss placed pass, gifted Bridport the ball again and a well taken shot from Riley Weedon across the goal just past the diving home keeper gave Bridport a 2-goal cushion. The rest of the game was spent mainly in the Bridport half, but as the saying goes, they could have played for the rest of the weekend, and Shaftesbury would not have been able to score. So, another defeat for the Rockies, keeping them dangerously close to the relegation area. Bridport were the worthy winners, with text book marking and formation. Shaftesbury now need a win against a tricky Balti Sports next Saturday to stop this losing streak and climb away from the drop.

MID WEEK MATCH REPORT – 06/02/2019

“WESTLANDS MADE TO WORK FOR THE POINTS”

SHAFTESBURY RES 1 WESTLAND SPORTS 2

They might be at the wrong end of the table, but the Rockies certainly made 3rd place Westlands work for the 3 points. The visitors went ahead early in the 1st half after a Shaftesbury move broke down and a simple cross found Nick Voss who shot past Dan Card to go 1-0 up. Shaftesbury fought back and a cross into the Westlands penalty area found Aaron Leney, who sadly fluffed the shot wide. Westlands made occasional forays into the Home teams half, but Card made a few important saves to keep the score at 1-0. The 2nd half was played at pace with Shaftesbury coming closest to levelling matters, only for the post to save the goal bound ball from Ted Hardiman. Against the run of play, Westlands doubled their score with a low shot from substitute Sam Carney which went past unsighted Card in the home goal. If the crowd thought that was it, they were mistaken as time and again Shaftesbury forced the play, and but for the visiting keeper Sam Watts producing a man of the match performance, the game could have ended as a draw or even a win for Shaftesbury as they only had Rob Hatchards effort to show for their endeavours. A draw would have been a fair result, but sadly the home side ended with nothing.

