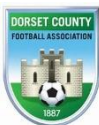




DPL – NEWSLETTER - 30



Match Reports Saturday 10th March 2018



DORSET SENIOR TROPHY SEMI FINAL

"BULLS LEAVE IT LATE TO REACH 2nd SUCCESSIVE FINAL"

MERLEY COBHAM SPORTS 1 HOLT UNITED 2



Holt United left it late to reach their 2nd successive Dorset Senior Trophy Final after a hard-fought victory against hosts Merley Cobham Sports. The scene was set for an excellent semi-final between two strong sides who like to get the ball down and play. Merley showed their intent in the early minutes and put Holt under pressure with some great attacking moves, but it was Holt who had the first clear cut chance on 13 mins when Nathan Saxby found himself through on goal but Merley keeper Aaron

Drayton was on his toes to smother at Saxby's feet. Merley pushed on and should have taken the lead on 28 mins when Lee Wilkins acrobatic overhead from a long throw went just over. Alan Marsh should again perhaps have put the hosts in front when he was put through one on one on the half hour, but the Holt keeper closed him down quickly and pulled off the save. Two mins before the break Holt almost found themselves in front until a superb tackle from Josh Pickering took the ball off the toe of the Holt striker Mike Haskell as he shaped to shoot, but as half time last loomed Merley were awarded a free kick out on the left. Jamie Moore's curled the ball over, Gilbert nodded down, and Lee Wilkins was

1st to react and prod the ball home from close range, HT 1-0. Holt enjoyed a strong period after the break and deservedly levelled the game on 58 mins following a defensive misunderstanding capitalized on by Haskell who bravely put the ball in the net (*see photo Rt*) Some excellent football followed from both sides, but the next clear-cut chance fell to home striker Asa Phillips on 72 mins, however, his shot went just the wrong side of the post. Merley centre back Gilbert almost booked their place in the



final with a fierce shot from 30 yds on 85 mins with struck the underside of the bar and bounced down on to the line before Holt quickly blasted the ball clear. But with the game heading for extra time, it was the visitors who found the winner with just 3 mins left with



Photos courtesy of steve@bdfaimages.co.uk



SOMERSET SENIOR CUP QUARTER FINAL

"WESTLANDS EASE PASS GREEN"

WESTLAND SPORTS 5 STOCKWOOD GREEN 2

Westlands brushed aside visitors Somerset County Premier League side Stockwood Green at Alvington to progress into the Semi Final after an emphatic 5-2 win, scoring for the hosts were Jamie Green, Henry Napier, Haydn Hodges and a double from Joshua Payne.

DORSET PREMIER LEAGUE

"ROYALS BAG 4 AGAINST THE RANGERS"

BLANDFORD UTD 4 WAREHAM RANGERS 1

The hosts picked up a much needed and deserved win against basement dwellers Wareham, however it was the visitors who started the game well and took the lead in the 10th minute when Aaron Merridew's corner went straight in. Their lead lasted only 2 minutes as the Royals equalised when Charles Cullingford headed home following a corner. Blandford eventually edged in front on 50 minutes when Kyle Linford's effort from outside the box found its way into the net through a crowded Wareham defence. With 9 minutes remaining Mark Ford popped up with the Royals 3rd when shooting home from inside the box, he got his 2nd and Blandford's 4th in the last minute when following a quick break, he rounded the keeper to slot home.

"STALEMATE AT MERE"

MERE TOWN 1 PARLEY SPORTS 1

On a heavy pitch after so much rain this was never going to be a festival of football but with so many postponements in recent weeks both sides were just glad to be playing. Mere were coming into this game off the back of two wins, whilst Parley had suffered two defeats and were still reflecting on their 1-0 defeat at Wareham last time out. The game got off to a lively start and it was clear that it was going to be a competitive encounter with no quarter given on the 50-50 challenges. After 7 minutes Mere had a free kick awarded some 30 yards out. Some quick thinking by Ryan Down saw him play the ball

down the channel to defender Ollie Russell who had made an intelligent run into space. Russell ran onto the ball and sent the ball beyond the far post where Joe Paterson met his cross with an excellent header beyond the keeper. 1-0 to the hosts and just the start they wanted. In the 14th minute the ball was played back to Miles Fielding in the Mere goal who, in attempting to clear the ball, sent it straight to Parley's Matthew Newbury who intercepted it 40 yards out. Newbury then proceeded to burst forward in possession, twice losing Mere players by faking to shoot/pass before he finally took it through to slot an excellent individual goal past Fielding to make it 1-1. The rest of this half was end to end stuff with Parley having the best of the chances to take the lead. Finn Evans had a good chance just before half time for Mere when he picked up the ball on the wide right and used his pace to make his way into the box. He took the ball past several Parley defenders but just failed to get a shot off before the Parley keeper smothered the ball, HT 1-1. The second half was a real battle of attrition with both sides working hard on a difficult surface. Parley continued to cause Mere problems with some neat football and pace in attack, but they could not convert the opportunities they created. The home side too created chances as the game became more stretched but not too much in the way of clear cut chances. The home support was not happy when Sam Biddescombe took the ball into the Parley area and appeared to be fouled by a Parley defender as he was clean through and about to shoot, with nothing given from the Match Official. The temperature rose on the pitch as the half continued with a Parley player sent to the sin bin as the battle took its toll. As the final whistle blew to end the game at 1-1 the hosts were happy to settle for a point in a good DPL contest with both sides enjoying periods of possession but a lack of quality in the final third kept the score as it was.

