

Match Reports Saturday 17th March 2018

DPL LEAGUE CUP SEMI FINAL

"REC EVENTUALLY OVER RUN THE ZEBRAS"

HAMWORTHY REC 4 SHERBORNE TOWN RES 1



At a cold and at times snowy Magna Road, it was the hosts Hamworthy Rec who overcame the elements and a stubborn Sherborne side to reach this seasons League Cup Final. With conditions dictating the play on a heavy pitch it was the visitors who adapted better and took the game to their hosts, Sherborne's league position belied them as they did not

look like a side near the bottom of the table forcing the home custodian Sam Jones into 2 good saves in a tight 1st half. After the break, the visitors took the lead in the 48th minute with a well taken finish from Ollie Hibberd. This goal kick started the hosts into life and only 2 minutes had passed, and they were level through Callum Charlton's fine left foot shot. Just after the hour mark, Rec's Chris Long picked the ball up on the left, he jinked his way infield and fired a powerful shot past the stranded Zebra keeper to put the hosts in front. Long again scored in the 65th minute to extend Rec's lead when converting a cross close in, by now Rec were overrunning Sherborne and had total control of the game and with time running down, Dan Manual added their 4th with a good finish in the 87th minute, given the conditions, this was a good cup tie with both sides playing their part but with this win the League and Cup double is a real possibility for the men in green.



[Photos courtesy of steve@bdfaimages.co.uk](mailto:steve@bdfaimages.co.uk)

The remaining Semi-Final will be played next weekend, weather permitting !!! between

Westland Sports FC v Balti Sports FC – ko 2.30pm @ Alvington Lane – ET & Pens if Req

DPL LEAGUE

"ALL WHITE FOR DORCH AS THEY CLIP WESTLANDS WINGS"

DORCHESTER SPORTS 2 WESTLAND SPORTS 1

A MAGIC Ashley White strike in the 88th minute was enough for Dorchester Sports to beat Westland Sports in a snowy Dorset Premier League battle at the Avenue Stadium. Will Turland had put the hosts in front before Westland's Jamie Irwin levelled soon afterwards, setting the scene for White's dramatic late winner. Sports were without their three first-choice centre-backs in Dan Peart, Cormac Lochrie and Jason Read. Boss Ashley James chose Dan Belt and Alex Gould as a makeshift defensive partnership. Westland's Josh Payne was a real threat and curled a shot against the post, before rounding Antony Frost in the home goal and hitting the side netting. Sports' first chance fell to 16-year-old striker Joel Hewitt, but his powerful header was well saved by Sam Watts from a rich Beasley Cross. Dorchester lost Gareth Will with just 20 minutes gone and he was replaced by Turland. Thereafter it remained goalless in the half, but upon the resumption, Sports started on the front foot and another Hewitt header clipped the top of the bar with Watts beaten. Jamie Symes then saw his goal bound curling shot well saved by Watts, but from the resulting corner the keeper was finally beaten as his punch from a Jamie Samways' cross found Turland who smashed in from 10 yards. Westland responded brightly and should have levelled but Irwin shot over from close range before equalising shortly after when he rounded Frost and tapped in from close range. In reply, Samways had a shot saved by Watts and substitute Lewis Amor should have given the hosts the lead but his strike flew over the bar. Payne went through one-on-one for Westland and shot agonisingly wide. But Sports plugged away and White chipped Watts from 40 yards after the keeper rushed out for a clearance to spark mass celebration on the home side's bench. Speaking to Echosport after the game, manager James said: "It was a massive win for us. It was end-to-end, and any team could have won it, but it was a really special goal and a great way to win the game." On White's strike, James added: "If you want the ball to fall to anyone you'd want it to be him. As soon as it left his foot I knew it was in." The victory sends Sports one point behind Westland, who lie second, but James' men have a game in hand and sit fourth. Sports play Sherborne Reserves on Saturday.

Report courtesy of the **DorsetECHO**

"10 MEN CHERRIES HOLD ON TO EARN POINT"

STURMINSTER NEWTON 3 MERLEY CS 3



Sturminster Newton continued their fine recent form by gaining a hard-fought point at Barnett's Field. The game started in an end to end fashion with Sturminster playing some nice football, and after 4 minutes created their first opportunity, when Niall Woollard fired at the Merley goal, but it was no real test for the Merley keeper. After 7 minutes Merley took the lead, when Alan Marsh found himself free just inside the Sturminster box, and he finished well past

Sam Stroud. Merley came again a minute later, Groves fired over when well placed. On 12 minutes Groves again found himself 1v1 against Stroud, but this time Was denied by an excellent double save by the home keeper. In the 18th minute, some nice interplay in the midfield released Niall Woollard who broke away from his marker, firing across goal, the Merley keeper made a fine save but the loose ball fell to Jamie Danoris to equalise for the hosts. On 22 minutes Jamie Danoris was shown a straight red card for a late challenge, leaving Sturminster with 10 men with over an hour to play. The game then descended into a closely fought affair, with Merley applying lots of pressure. On 40 minutes, a sharp counter attack by the home again found Woollard free down the right, he squared to the on rushing to Ivan Ivanov to slam the ball home and give Stur a 2-1 lead at HT. The second half started again with the visitors applying lots of pressure, but again were guilty of committing too many players forward, as another quick break from the hosts saw a nice piece of interplay finding Tom Carter just inside the visitors box, he chested the ball down, swivelled and finished into the bottom corner to put Stur 3-1 in front on 50 minutes. Merley continued to apply intense pressure on the home goal and reduced the arrears on 65 minutes when Marsh finished with a deflected strike. On 72 minutes Merley were awarded a penalty, which subsequently saw Sturminster reduced to 9 men as Darren Spiller found himself in the Sin Bin for questioning the penalty award, in the meantime and after the short delay, Merley's Matt Groves calmly converted the spot kick and the scores were level. The hosts were now playing with 9 men for 10 minutes and showed real character to defend and pacify the constant Merley pressure. However, it was the hosts who had the final chance of the game when substitute Connor Frost drove towards the edge of the Merley area and fired just wide with the last kick of the game. The game finishing 3-3 and a fully deserved point for Sturminster given their numerical disadvantage for an hour.

"ROCKIES SINK THE SWANS"

SHAFTESBURY RES 3 SWANAGE TOWN & H 1

Shaftesbury picked up 3 deserved points after this win at Cochrams in what an eventful game was especially for the visitors Perry Mullins. After passing a morning Pitch inspection the game was played against a cols snowy backdrop and in a tight 1st half, the hosts just about edged it with Sam Harris going close after 2 minutes, Lee Gale saw his effort cleared off the line after rounding the visitor's keeper. There was still further time for the Rockies to hit the Bar and Post but could not get their noses in front, Swanage offered little but were always a threat. The second half followed much the same as the first as on 53 minutes De Carteret headed wide for the hosts, however 1 minute later the home side eventually made one of their chances count as Andy Baker gave them the lead, Lee Gale doubled the advantage with 20 minutes to go. To the Swans credit they never gave up and deservedly pulled a goal back in the 75th minute through Perry Mullins effort, moments later the visitors were awarded a penalty, up stepped Mullins with a chance to restore parity however his spot kick cannoned back off the bar and away to safety. With 5 minutes to go the home custodian was forced into an excellent stop to preserves the Rockies lead and following that, only 1 minute later Baker got his 2nd and the hosts 3rd to finally secure the points. It wasn't Swanage's day and to make matters worse, Mullins saw a deserved red card in the final minute of the game for a poor challenge.

"MERE COME FROM 4 DOWN TO LICK BALTI"

MERE TOWN 5 BALTI SPORTS 4

On a freezing cold afternoon, the snow held off long enough for this fixture to be played. The pitch was still recovering from last week's 1-1 draw versus Parley, with the continued rain meaning it was a difficult surface to play on. Another factor was the gusting wind which meant any balls in the air were difficult to judge, giving problems to both sides. However, given all that, what transpired over the next 90 minutes was simply why we enjoy this game so much. Balti started the game very brightly and on the front foot, dominating possession and forcing Mere to play the ball in their own half. The hosts found themselves two goals down in very quick succession, both coming in identical ways, from corners with Sam Nicholls and Scott Walker scoring for the Visitors. Whilst Mere had plenty of bodies in the box they could not defend against Balti's aerial threat. So, two down after just 14 minutes of play. Things got worse for Mere when Balti doubled their advantage to lead 0-4 by the 22nd minute. Both their 3rd from Shane Lock and 4th through Dan Andrews stemmed from some hesitancy from an under the weather Miles Fielding in the Mere Town goal and attempted clearances going to a Balti player. Balti's 4th was an excellently executed lob over the stranded Fielding. This staggering start shook the hosts into action and the remainder of the half was dominated by a more energetic and forceful Mere. Joe Paterson pulled one back from the penalty spot and the momentum started to shift. An unlucky Ollie Russell pulled up with a hamstring issue meaning the introduction of Jamie Samways into the centre of midfield. Despite good pressure from Mere it remained 4-1 to Balti at half time and lots for the hosts to think about. Charles Parry who had picked up a dead leg towards the end of the first half was replaced by Mariusz Kawaler at the start of the second half. The half started well for the hosts when in the very first minute they were awarded a penalty. Up stepped Joe Paterson to see his shot superbly saved by the Balti keeper who parried the ball past the post. However, Paterson made up for this miss when the resulting corner led to a goal mouth scramble and he poked the ball home from close range to make it 2-4. Game on. Mere started to dominate proceedings and showed a lot of spirit as they tried to further close the gap on Balti. Next, Upstepped Jamie Samways to hit an absolute screamer from 25 yards to make it 3-4. The ball had been cleared by the Balti defence, but it sat up perfectly for Samways to hit it on the half volley up and over the Balti keeper. As soon as the ball left his boot you knew it would hit the back of the net. The momentum was clearly with the hosts and after the ball had been played to Jack Twyford in the Balti box, the ball made its way to Joe Paterson to complete his hat-trick and haul Mere back to 4-4. You could feel that Mere might well pull off the impossible, but it was not until the 89th minute that Sam Paterson played the ball through the Balti defence on the halfway line for his brother Joe to break through one-on-one with the keeper. His first touch looked heavy as he burst into the Balti half, but Paterson managed to touch it past the oncoming Balti keeper. This touch, also looked heavy, taking Paterson wide of the goal and looking like it would harmlessly run out of play. However, Paterson's will to win gave him the energy to reach the ball and touch it home for his 4th goal of the game and a dramatic late winner to complete an unthinkable fight back after the first 22 minutes of play!

"GILLINGHAM TAME THE BULLS"

GILLINGHAM TOWN 5 HOLT UNITED 2

The Harding's Lane pitch passed a mid-morning pitch inspection and hosted a passionate game, with both teams contributing some good football on a tricky surface, which was not helped by a biting cold gale which blew across the Gillingham basin. With the advantage of the wind in the first half Holt dominated early possession as Gillingham struggled to clear their lines – however they soaked up the visitor's pressure well and stand in goalkeeper Nick Squires dealt well with the conditions smothering any efforts that beat the Gillingham back line. Gillingham played on the break and the pace and inventiveness of the front three kept the Holt defence alert, Buddy O Shea raced clear only to find the Holt keeper also in fine form. The deadlock was finally broken when pressure from Holt stopped Gillingham clearing the ball and after a couple of ricochets the ball fell to Holt's Charlie Gadjic on the edge of the box who curled the ball into the corner of the goal. This only seemed to galvanise the home team and they equalised soon after as Elliot Bevis jinked past his marker and played a perfectly weighted ball across goal for Macauley Biddle to fire home. The game became a bit fractious as the half proceeded – three players saw the sin-bin and as tackles came thick and fast from both sides, the referee dived for his notebook in the hope of calming proceedings. However half time arrived with no more additions to the score and honours even 1-1. The second half however proved a different affair – Gillingham dominated the half with a combination of their superbly martialled defence, dominant midfield and quality attacking play and substitutes who affected the game positively to claim three well deserved points. A corner fell to Ashley Clarke who rifled the ball home to make it 2-1. Macauley Biddle repaid Elliot Bevis for his assist in the first half with another superbly weighted pass which Bevis stroked home. Ryan Schouten then came on and sealed the game – with a poacher's goal from a corner, then again when released through, he found the bottom corner for a brace and the game was wrapped up. A momentary lapse of concentration saw Gillingham gift Holt a late consolation scored by Nathan Saxby, but the second half performance ensured that Gillingham moved up to third in the table after a very good encounter in which both teams deserve credit for serving up a good game in tough circumstances.



DORSET SENIOR TROPHY – FINAL UPDATE

Holt United FC will face *Westland Sports FC Res* in the Final

On April 24th, 2018 – Venue TBC

MID WEEK MATCH REPORT – 14th March 2018

"TANGERINES CLAIM NORTH DORSET BRAGGING RIGHTS"

SHERBORNE TOWN RES 2 GILLINGHAM TOWN 7

Gillingham Town claimed bragging rights after this Derby win at Raleigh Grove against a youthful Sherborne side bolstered by a couple of 1st team players not included in the 1st team squad also playing tonight. The Tangerines proved too hot to handle in this local derby as the Zebras looked for a decent performance before going into their League Cup

Semi-Final clash with Hamworthy Recreation at the week end. Gillingham got off to a flying start when they scored a belter of a goal in the third minute. Their second came shortly after with some fortunate play and the third came from a Haydn Brown own goal following a teasing cross which spilt the defence and goal keeper, HT 0-3. Gillingham wasted no time adding to their tally as they scored again on 47 minutes. Marc Caines got sent to the sin bin for dissent. The visitors continued at will and got their 5th whilst Caines was off the field of play. Sherborne pulled a goal back through sub James Budden who is finding some good form at present. Sherborne got their second through Haydn Brown after some great football from Rich Maidment. Gillingham sealed the win scoring 2 more late on. The visitors showed their experience at this level and ruthlessness in front of goal against a young reserve side despite being bolstered by having experienced 1st team strikers Sam Jarman and Marc Caines in their ranks. Gillingham's scorers on the night were, Elliott Bevis with a Hat trick, Macauley Biddle, Elliot Pearce-Eavis, evergreen Nick Thompson and an OG.

