

Match Reports 14th April 2018

“TANGERINES TASTE VICTORY IN EAST DORSET”

PARLEY SPORTS 1 GILLINGHAM TOWN 3



Gillingham continued their winning run but had to come from behind against a determined Parley side in a match that was littered with stoppages but exploded in a ten-minute period in the second half, which ultimately determined the outcome of the match. Both teams started the first half brightly with chances at both ends, but the game turned into a battle of attrition, with too

many fouls being conceded by both sides, slowing the game down. On 30 minutes, Parley took the lead after a period of sustained pressure when Ben Bosley cut in from the right and fired off a shot that hit the post only for Matt Newberry to follow up and knock home the rebound. They could have doubled their advantage if their finishing was a little sharper, but the visitors fought their way back into the game but could not find an equaliser with the half ending with Parley deservedly 1-0 ahead. The introduction of Buddy O’Shea to the Gillingham attack at half-time paid dividends immediately as with one of the first attacks of the half his physical presence was too much for the Parley defence to deal with, as he brushed them aside, then coolly clipped the ball into the net. Next came a period of the game that changed the course of the match. A Parley sin bin, a Gillingham sin bin, Brad Hansford saw red for Gillingham. Gillingham went from having a man advantage to being one in deficit, all of this was punctuated by a superb Elliot Bevis run, gliding past two defenders, before drawing a foul from Parley’s Billy Wheatley then dusting himself down to dispatch the penalty himself. So, when the sin bins were completed Gillingham were 2-1 ahead but down to 10 men against a Parley side with their full complement of players. It could have been a long 25 minutes for Gillingham to defend, however as substitutions were introduced and formations tinkered with, Will Pike grabbed the opportunity to drive past two defenders into the box and slip the ball past the advancing home keeper to make it 3-1 to Gillingham. The visitors held on for another victory, but they were pushed all the way by Parley Sports in an exciting game which saw Parleys Wheatley also sent off late on for collecting a 2nd yellow following an altercation at the final whistle.



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"LONG LIKES THE TASTE OF BALTI AS HE BAGS 3"

BALTI SPORTS 1 HAMWORTHY REC 3

Hamworthy Rec completed the perfect seven days with this win their 4th in four games, but Balti were worthy opponents and made it difficult at times for the visitors. Chris Long was the goal scoring hero for Rec with a fine hat-trick. He caused the home defence problems all afternoon with his pace, but this was without a doubt a fine all-round team performance with every player in the matchday squad putting in a shift. The visitors were ahead on 4 minutes when Callum Charlton threaded a perfect pass for Chris Long to run in from the left and fire in from a tight angle to give the visitors the lead. Rec were well on top and looked to increase their lead. Brad Hill saw his 30-yard piledriver tipped over, before ending a good move by screwing his shot wide. Richie Sands and Ross Hampton-Brown both had chances blocked and a Pete Pritchard header flew across the face of goal. However, the hosts didn't buckle under the pressure and in fact the hosts fashioned themselves a well taken equaliser when a left-wing cross was superbly headed home by Oscar Preece, to put Balti level. HT 1-1. Rec started the second period in the same vein as the first - creating chances and missing them! Ali Garard had a shot blocked and Long blasted over the bar, before Garard got a touch from close range to a low cross but saw the ball roll agonisingly past the post. But the nerves were eased on 58 minutes when another good move ended with Josh Pratt supplying the perfect cross to the far-post for Long to gleefully smash in and restore the visitors advantage. Balti always looked capable of getting a point and an ambitious overhead kick went just wide, but the visitors defence, well marshalled by Ricki Walden restricted the hosts chances to a minimum. The icing on the cake for the visitors came a minute from the end when Ross Hampton-Brown flighted the ball perfectly for Long to power in a header to complete a deserved hat-trick and cap a fine win.

"WESTLANDS RETURN TO WINNING WAYS TO SQUASH THE CHERRIES"

STURMINSTER NEWTON 0 WESTLAND SPORTS 4



It was the visitors Westland Sports who took the points from a Sunny Barnetts Field and put their Somerset Senior Cup Semi Final defeat firmly behind them with this deserved win. Sturminster started brightly and had the first chance of the game with Ivan Ivanov firing over on 3 minutes. Westlands responded and on 5 minutes drew a good stop from Matt Robson in the Sturminster goal. On 8 minutes another excellent stop from Robson prevented Westlands from taking the lead. But on 12 minutes, Westlands pressure told with Anthony Herrin heading in the opening goal. The hosts responded well, Stuart Frear had a rasping effort destined for the top corner superbly turned around his post by the visitor's keeper Sam Watts. It took until the 35th minute for the next chance of the game, which Joshua Payne netted so doubling the visitors advantage, HT 0-2. Sturminster came out in the second half showing some real battling spirit and intent but were caught out in

the 51st minute when the visitors increased their lead further though Jamie Irwin's effort. Again, the hosts tried to respond but without creating any clear-cut opportunities and on 78 minutes Westlands completed their scoring when substitute Dwayne Forshaw netted the 4th to complete this resounding win.

"ROCKIES WIN ON THE ROAD TO STUN SPORTS"

DORCHESTER SPORTS 0 SHAFTESBURY RES 2

Dorchester Sports offered very little in a game with limited chances but the clinical visitors deserved all 3 points and were 2 up by half time, Sports were sloppy in possession and lost the ball twice in dangerous areas with Shaftesbury punishing them ruthlessly, firstly when Archie Few scored and secondly when Callum Bent benefitted. Dorchester Sports created nothing at all during the game and were a pale version of the side that had impressively won last time out.

"BULLS WIN AGAIN AS MERLEY END WITH 9"

MERLEY CS 0 HOLT UNITED 1

Holt continued their recent good form with this hard-fought victory at Merley in a close game in which the home Custodian Aaron Drayton had an eventful time. First blood went to Holt on 8 mins when a long ball over the top caught the Merley defence napping and Luke Homer finished well to put the visitors ahead. Math Groves went close on the half hour, but his close-range effort was deflected away for a corner. Merley enjoyed a lot of possession but were unable to create any real chances for the remainder of the half, HT 0-1. The visitors continued to employ the long ball game after the break and almost caught Merley out on a couple of occasions, whilst Merley stuck to the task and applied the pressure through some nice quick passing football. However, the game swung in Holts favour when Jamie Moore's was dismissed for a second yellow card following a foul. This meant a change in formation for Merley, compromising their attacking intentions. Holt had a chance to double their lead on 80 mins when keeper Aaron Drayton brought down Nathan Saxby for a penalty. Drayton however, made amends with a superb save from the same player from the spot kick to keep the hosts in the match. As Merley pressured for an equaliser, keeper Drayton was sent forward for a last-minute corner and as the ball broke for Holt on the counter attack, he ended up bringing down a Holt striker on the half way line as he charged forward toward the empty Merley goal. This challenge left the Referee with no alternative as Drayton was dismissed leaving Merley to finish the game with nine men and defender Steve Gilbert wearing the keeper's jersey.

"BEARD SCORES 4 AS SWANS RETURN TO WINNING WAYS"

MERE TOWN 0 SWANAGE T & H 4

Swanage returned to winning ways after defeating Mere Town away in The Dorset Premier League in what was the longest trip of the season for the Swans, the travelling certainly didn't cause any issues as Teenage striker and leading scorer Cameron Beard scored 2

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first half goals to put the Swans in the driving seat. The Same player scored with a header to complete his hat-trick, then finished things off from the penalty spot for number 4. This win halts a run of 4 consecutive defeats for the Purbeck side.

“ROYAL COMEBACK TO TAME THE ZEBRAS”

SHERBORNE TOWN 3 BLANDFORD UNITED 5

This was the proverbial game of two halves as the hosts dominated the 1st half only for the Mark Ford Royals to dominate the 2nd half. Blandford came into the match looking to build on recent positive performances, but they had a shock as Sherborne came out determined to get some much-needed points on the board. The hosts went in front on 5 minutes as Haydn Brown scored after being put through by Shane Pulling. 10 minutes later it was 2-0 as some great skilful play from Ollie Hibbard set up Pulling to make it 2-0 to the Zebras. Sherborne kept pushing and should have added to the tally but missed 3 glorious chances, however they did get their deserved third when Pulling put through Hibbard who produced a great finish. This was the best football Town had played all season, however just before the break the visitors pulled 1 back when Mark Ford rounded the home keeper to slot home, HT 3-1. The half time team talk must have been not for the faint hearted in the visitors dressing room as Blandford came out for the 2nd half a different outfit, with their changed attitude, they pushed Town onto their back foot back and suddenly gaps were emerging from all over the park. Blandford scored after 52 minutes through Ford again and this really got the visitors tails up as they sensed a comeback was possible. With their tails up, Blandford scored their 3rd courtesy of Fords hat trick strike, they then took the lead as Archie McCarthy scored to complete their remarkable comeback. The visitors were then reduced to 10 but undeterred they went and scored their 5th with prolific marksman Mark Ford getting his 4th of the game to seal 3 valuable points.