



DORSET SENIOR TROPHY – FINAL 23/04/2019

“GROVES DOUBLE SEES MERLEY LIFT THE TROPHY”

MERLEY COBHAM SPORTS 2 HAMWORTHY RECREATION 0



Two of the Dorset Premier Football Leagues leading lights took centre stage at the Specsavers County Ground as Merley CS & Hamworthy Rec went head to head in the DST Final. A good sized crowd witnessed an entertaining, competitive game. A very good Merley side, bossed at the back by ex-Rec favourite, Jamie Moore's, were good value for their win. The game was played at a fast pace throughout, however, Rec never really settled into their normal game, finding themselves two down at the interval as Merley took the game to their opponents relentlessly, and despite

a better showing in the second half they rarely troubled the Merley goalkeeper as MCS looked comfortable throughout despite a spell of late pressure, however Merley saw the game out with few problems. The game started in lively fashion, with a good break by Merley from Josh Buck saw his effort drift wide, Rec saw an Ash Boyt's low shot from a corner, cleared. Merley were slowly getting on top and after a succession of corners went ahead on 19 minutes when Matt Groves, who had scored four times in their last League game played against Rec, outmuscled the defence on the edge of the area and looped his shot over Jack Martin and in to the goal to give Merley a deserved lead. Rec looked to get back on level terms and Brad Hill's dangerous cross was thumped clear and then they had a free-kick fly over the bar. But there were more scares for Rec when Merley had a header from Asa Phillips hit the bar after a long throw in caused problems in the Rec defence. The warning signs were there and right on the break it was 2-0 to Merley when another long throw failed to get cleared and Groves was in the right place again to get the final touch, HT 0-2. Rec started the second half in a livelier mood, forcing two early corners, before Chris Long broke on the left, but was blocked by a defender. Josh Pratt's powerful drive was well saved by Harrison



Bruton in the Merley goal, before Jack Martin in the Rec goal did equally well to deny Merley a third when Josh Buck sprinted through and got a clean shot away. As time ticked away Rec were desperate for a goal and Hill's free-kick was punched away and John Webb's shot deflected for a corner. But the closest they came was a header by Boyt, inches over the bar. Meanwhile Merley's Phillips saw a quick turn and shot go narrowly over as Merley looked to extend their lead, back came Rec and in stoppage time Jordan Basing burst down the middle, lobbed the keeper, but again, agonisingly, just over the top. Merley saw out the remaining minutes with little fuss as they deservedly won the Trophy. All in all a good competitive game, played in the right spirit, well officiated on the evening and a great advert for not only sides that play in the Dorset Premier League but for Dorset Football in one of the Dorset County Football Associations Showcase Cup Finals.

Presentation by Steve Whittle DCFA to Ellis George & Lee Wilkins

Photos courtesy of Colin Chainey DCFA