



# 18/19 NEWSLETTER - 34



## Match Reports

**23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019**

### **DPL League Cup Semi Finals**

**“HOLDERS MAKE IT TO THE FINAL ROYALLY”**

**BLANDFORD UTD 1 WESTLAND SPORTS 5**



The reigning holders Westland Sports made it through to this season's final after disposing of an out of sorts Blandford Utd at the Rec. An even first half saw Westlands take a 2-goal lead with strikes from Josh Payne after 15 minutes and Henry Napier-Lawrence on 25. Blandford hit back minutes later through Mark Smith's effort to reduce the arrears, HT 1-2. Westlands moved up a gear in the second half and took total control of the game with 2 quick fire goals just after the re-start, firstly when Calum Thompson got Sports 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 46<sup>th</sup> minute and then through Josh

Payne 2 minutes later, this quick fire double effectively ended the game as a contest. Westlands added a 5<sup>th</sup> mid-way through the half from Anthony Herrin before playing out the rest of the game for a comfortable and well-deserved win. Special mention must go to the officials who were outstanding on the day.

**“MERLEY MAKE MINCEMEAT OF THE BULLS TO PROGRESS”**

**HOLT UNITED 2 MERLEY CS 5**

Holt welcomed in form Merley to Petersham Lane for this highly anticipated semi-final. The hosts had the better of the early exchanges and could have taken the lead following a couple of short corners but Merley were able to clear the ensuing melee in their penalty area. It was from their own corner that the visitors took the lead after 15 minutes. The ball was cleared to the edge of the area but it fell to a Merley player, whose shot was directed in by Lee Wilkins. Holt nearly equalised 5 minutes later when a clearance from Merley's goalkeeper struck Nathan Saxby but the ball dribbled just wide. A couple of minutes later it was 2-0 to the visitors when a defensive error gave Matt Groves the ball at his feet and after a couple of feints, he slotted home calmly. Holt's defensive frailties were exposed again on the half hour and Groves was gifted his second and Merley's 3<sup>rd</sup>. Just before half time Holt were given a lifeline when Nathan Saxby went through on goal and finished well to the keepers right, HT 1-3. Despite the home sides best efforts in the second half, Merley ran away with the game with further goals from Asa Phillips and Joshua Buck. Luke Homer scored a consolation goal for Holt with 10 minutes left but it was too little too late. So Merley CS progress through to their 2<sup>nd</sup> Final of the season after already making it through to the Dorset Senior Trophy Final.

**This seasons final will be played on;**

**SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019 @ Dorchester Town FC – Kick Off 3.00pm – E.T & Pens if Required**

## **LEAGUE**

### **“PARLEY EVENTUALLY CASTLE A STUBBORN CORFE”**

#### **PARLEY SPORTS 4 CORFE CASTLE 2**



Parley picked up another home win as they eventually overcame a battling Corfe side in East Dorset, the hosts settled the better and took the lead in the 12<sup>th</sup> minute following Harry Whites quick thinking in reacting to a loose ball in the Corfe box. On the half hour, and the hosts lead was doubled after Landon Arthur headed a Matt Newbery corner back across the box for John Peat to tap in and extend Parley's lead, HT 2-0. Corfe needed a response and got themselves back into the game right at the start of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half as, Arthur's short back pass was picked up by Courtney Johnstone who halved the deficit for the visitors. Corfe then enjoyed a period of pressure but could not get the equaliser and with 20 minutes to go, Parley extended their lead

when Jack Voisey sent a looping header into the far corner following White's cross. Back came the visitors and again Johnstone scored after he was played through the middle and knocked the ball home to reduce the deficit again, however any chance of a comeback was thwarted in the 78<sup>th</sup> minute when Parley restored their 2-goal advantage when, Cameron Shaw headed home a Billy Wheatley corner to finally seal the points for the hosts.

Photos Courtesy of Steve Harris – [bdfaimages.co.uk](http://bdfaimages.co.uk)



### **“CHERRIES MOVE OFF THE BOTTOM IN SURVIVAL BID”**

#### **STURMINSTER NEWTON 2 SHERBORNE TOWN RES 1**

The Cherries gained a valuable 3 points to lift them off the bottom of the League table in this closely fought local derby. The first half was evenly matched with Sherborne causing the Stur defence a few problems especially from set pieces. Jack Williams came closest for the hosts but for a last gasp tackle from a Sherborne defender, HT 0-0. Sherborne started the second half the better of the two teams and got their reward when they scored from a corner which caused a bit of confusion in the home, leading to James Budden converting a free header inside the 6-yard box, 1-0 to the visitors. Sturminster then started to get into the game after that and put more pressure on the Sherborne back line and drew level with a superb long-range effort from Ben Cowley which gave the Sherborne keeper no chance. 1-1. Both teams went searching for a winner and it was the Cherries who found it in the last 10 minutes when quick thinking from midfielder Stuart Frear, played in a quick free kick to Jack Atkins who wrong footed the Sherborne keeper and score low inside the post. A great comeback from the Cherries who thoroughly deserved all 3 points.

## **“STALEMATE AT THE AVENUE”**

### **DORCHESTER SPORTS 1 PORTLAND UTD RES 1**

Dorchester Sports and Portland United Reserves returned from the Clayson Stadium with a hard-earned 1-1 draw in their Dorset Premier League derby. The Blues' current run reads three draws and six defeats in the last nine games. Sports started strongly but it was Portland who struck first when Sol Roche's pull back was converted by Lloyd Beal's who returned to haunt the club, he left mid-season. After the goal, the hosts increased the pressure and found an equaliser through Gareth Will who rode a couple of challenges before passing the ball into the far corner of the net. Sports were enjoying the best of the first half and Portland goalkeeper Ross Jones then came to the Blues' rescue to make two important saves soon after as Jamie Samways was denied before Adam Steele was thwarted one-on-one. Portland could have taken the lead into the break as Billy Mitchell and Beal's forced Sports' goalkeeper Antony Frost into sharp saves. In the second half, Portland could have gone ahead almost instantly as Sol Roche got in the area but was unable to finish. The best chance of the half came as Roche burst through one-on-one with Frost but the home keeper came out on top to deny the Blues' striker his ninth goal of the season. Late on, Sports tired and the hosts picked up four bookings. From one resultant free-kick, Aston Butcher's glancing header drifted agonisingly over the bar and the hosts later survived another headed opportunity. Che Curran saw red late on for Portland after reacting to a deliberate foul as both sides were forced to settle for a point. Speaking to Echo sport, Sports' boss Ashley James felt a draw was a fair reflection of the game. He said: "It's a fair result in the end. We edged the first half and they edged the second. It was quite an even game. "It's frustrating not to win it after the first half but we were lucky not to lose it with 15-20 minutes to go. "There were a few bookings at the end but I think that was tired legs on our part. Panic set in, they're a lot younger than we are and unfortunately our legs went a bit. There were a lot of silly free-kicks around our box. "They nearly scored with a couple of headers and really it was backs to the wall for us. "We were holding on and luckily we got over the line. "It's mixed really because first half we were brilliant. We didn't come out the same team in the second half, which was disappointing. "We should've gone in three or 4-1 up, their keepers made two good saves and we've wasted good opportunities when through on goal. Our touch let us down." On Beal's strike, James added: "If anyone was going to get the goal it was probably going to be Lloyd!" The Blues' current run reads three draws and six defeats in the last nine games. Blues' boss, Justin Faulkner, said: "It must have been a good game for the neutrals. It had everything – chances, good saves and strong challenges. A typical local derby. "Both teams were determined not to give anything away – they probably shaded the first half. We spoke about certain aspects at half-time and made a few adjustments and I would say we shaded the second half. "I thought their centre-back was probably lucky to be on the field when he made four challenges all worthy of a yellow but only received the one. Other than that, I thought the officials had a good game, I can't complain with the red card which is obviously disappointing. "I've spoken to Che and he knows he has done wrong and up until that moment in the second half we looked the stronger side and we were on top." Faulkner added: "This is a tough place to come, Dorchester Sports are a good side with some talented individuals and I'm sure a few teams have and will find it hard to come here and take points. "For us to come here and take a point – four points from them this season – says a lot about the development of the youngsters we have got coming through. Again, seven of the 14-man squad were 20 years-old or younger. Although we haven't won the game, they have matched Sports and could have won it as well. "I'm proud of what these lads have achieved this season, we may have hit a bad patch at the moment but whatever happens in the last two games we would have achieved what we set out to do and that was to stay up."

Report Courtesy of the **DorsetECHO**

## **“ROCKIES WIN IN THE PURBECKS”**

### **WAREHAM RANGERS 0 SHAFTESBURY RES 3**

After last week's heroics on Portland in the high winds, Shaftesbury's travels continued with a trip to 2nd bottom of the table, Wareham Rangers. This was a well contested game, but Shaftesbury always seemed to have a stronger hold on affairs. The first 45 mins saw the visitors forcing the play, but stout defending from

Wareham, coupled with some poor finishing from the Rockies, meant the teams went in 0-0 at the break. The 2nd half started as the first half ended with Shaftesbury on the attack more often. Wareham however managed a few incursions themselves, and, but for some excellent defence from Shaftesbury, they could have taken the lead. Then a free kick was awarded to Shaftesbury 22yds out, and it fell to Aaron Leney to judge a perfect free kick into the top left-hand corner, to give Shaftesbury the lead. This goal appeared to knock the stuffing out of the hosts, Shaftesbury's captain Jason Beal then added another with a header 15 mins later and finally Lewis Fisher came off the bench to score their third with a well taken shot into the bottom corner after running onto a pass. This was Fishers 4th goal from 3 starts and between himself and Leney, they have managed 7 goals in 3 games. This victory eases the Rockies relegation fears as teams beneath them now appear to be adrift at the foot of the table, this defeat saw the hosts drop to the foot of the table after news of Sturminster Newtons win filtered through.

## **“SWANS AND THE BEES SHARE THE SPOILS”**

### **SWANAGE T&H 2 BRIDPORT RES 2**



The Swans and Bridport Reserves finished all square with a 2-2 draw at Day's Park in The Dorset Premier League. Both sides created and missed chances in the first half with Swans keeper Beeston producing good saves, with Beard, Daries and Atkinson going close but were unable to break the deadlock, HT 0-0. The second half started in a much livelier fashion with The Swans

producing the breakthrough on 52 minutes when Aaron Atkinson burst past 2 defenders and whipped in a great cross which was forced over the line by Tommy Beard. The visitors hit back 2 minutes later when centre back Dan Baggs headed home for the equaliser. Striker Beard had a great chance to restore the home sides advantage but hit the keeper's legs when clean through on goal, back came the visitors and Beeston in the Swanage goal produced a great save at the other end to deny the Bees. Bridport took the lead after 72 minutes when striker Josh Hunter fired home from close range, however 2 minutes later Joe Clark produced the equaliser for Swanage with a looping shot which deceived the visitors' keeper. Charlie Dyke went close to winning the points for The Swans when he unleashed a great shot from 25 yards that the Bees keeper tipped over. A very entertaining match with the 2-2 score being a fair reflection of the game for both sides.

Photo & Reports Courtesy of ST&HFC

## **“BALTI LEAVE IT LATE TO BEAT THE GILLS”**

### **BALTI SPORTS 2 GILLINGHAM TOWN 1**

Balti Sports took a big step towards securing fourth place with a last-minute 2-1 victory over fifth-placed Gillingham Town in their Dorset Premier League battle at Weymouth College. After a goalless first half in which both teams probed their opponents' defences with numerous free-kicks and crosses, the match burst into life in the second period. Balti midfielder Sean Zima, who has made a significant impact since re-joining the Weymouth-based side in mid-season, scored with a cross-come-shot to hand the hosts a slender advantage. However, Gills cancelled that margin out when slack marking in the Balti box allowed a 12-yard free header from which Dan Cox equalised. With time running out, Balti won a corner and Zima's delivery was met with a bullet header from centre-back Phil Anderson as Sports collected all three points in dramatic style. Marco Nott's men are now stationed six points above Town in the table, although the Gills have two games in hand on the league's fourth-placed team. Speaking to echo sport after the win, Nott hailed the

[DPL 2018-2019 – NEWSLETTER 34](#)

March 23, 2019

"manner" of Balti's victory. He said: "It's a fantastic win, especially the manner of it getting a last-minute winner. It's the best time to score and win the game. "It was a really good game of football, a tight game. Both teams cancelled each other out but both wanted to win the game, so it was quite attacking. It was a good game in general to be involved in." Nott also remarked on the stark contrast of 12 months with last year seeing a huge slump in form compared to a strong run to fourth in the standings during the current campaign. He said: "We look a lot more solid. We've got seven or eight captains going out on the pitch now and that goes a long way. "We're not a young side but we know how to win games if we're not playing well. "We've got a good spine in the team and our back four were outstanding (against Gillingham). "Scott Walker, Phil, Liam Taylor and Ross Walker were absolutely outstanding. With me being in goal I could see that with my own eyes." Commenting on Anderson's winner, Nott said: "Sean put another good cross in a Phil, with a fantastic header, got to the front post and put it in the back of the net. It was a great goal."

Report Courtesy of the **DorsetECHO**