



18/19 NEWSLETTER - 40



League Cup Final Match Report

9th May 2019

@Dorchester Town FC

“MERLEY MAKE IT A CUP DOUBLE”

WESTLAND SPORTS 2 MERLEY CS 3

A crowd of just over 200 witnessed Merley Cobham Sports beat defending Cup holders Westland Sports in a competitive final with no quarter asked or given by both sides to lift the League Cup to go alongside the Dorset Senior Trophy they lifted a few weeks ago. Merley started on the front foot and with just 5 minutes on the clock, Josh Buck beat his man to get a shot away which was parried by Rich Pippin in the Westland goal. In the early stages, both sides were guilty of niggly infringements that stopped the flow of the game, Westlands Josh Payne put in a deep cross that Harrison Bruton in the Merley goal held well under pressure. On 11 minutes came a moment of magic as Westlands Alex Murphy won the ball 25 yards out and proceeded to unleash a curling effort that Bruton, despite diving full length, could only watch go past him and into the net to pout the holders 1 up. Back came Merley as Jon Manley in the Westlands defence needed to cover to deny Josh Buck when bearing down on goal. Moments later and a snap shot from Asa Phillips saw Pippin tip the ball around his post and out for a corner. With 26 minutes on the clock Merley were level as Edwards run ended up with his shot finding the back of the net, by now MCS

were on top of things as they attacked with force. With half time looming, Matt Groves went on a run into the Westlands penalty area and was clean through only to be halted by Defender Scott Smith's despairing tackle that left the Referee no option but to award the penalty and send off the Westland's player. Matt Groves dusted himself down and duly dispatched the resultant spot kick by sending Pippin the wrong way, HT 1-2. The second half got underway with the lights on at the Avenue Stadium as Merley took the game to their 10 man opponents, a free kick by Phillips caused concern as Pippin in the Westland's goal needed 2 attempts to juggle the ball out for a corner, which came to nothing, further efforts were created and not taken as Westland's started to ask questions themselves of the Merley defence as they looked more settled on the ball. On 68 minutes Westlands equalised deservedly when a ball to the edge of the box was stroked home by Alex Murphy to register his and Westlands 2nd of the evening, game on. However, Westlands joy was short lived as straight from the restart, the ball found its way forward to Dan Edwards who shot home from the edge of the box, to register is 2nd of the evening and restore Merley's 1 goal lead, a breath-taking few minutes indeed. This goal appeared to knock the stuffing out of the holders as Merley went in search of more goals, Buck's shot went well over in the 72nd minute whilst Asa Phillips mazy run and shot required a decent save from Pippin low down to his left to deny the ace marksman, 4 minutes of added time were required as Westlands went in search of an equaliser, however it wasn't to be their night as Merley finished the game as they had began it on the front foot in the Westlands half of the pitch.

The Presentations were held in the Main stand.

The LMC of the DPL would like to thank ALL involved at DTFC for their help in staging the Final, it was very much appreciated.





Ellis George & Lee Wilkins receive the League Cup from DPL Sponsor Brian Rousell



MERLEY COBHAM SPORTS FC – League Cup Winners 2018 – 2019



MATT GROVES – *MCSFC* receives the Man of the Match award from
DPL Representative Team Manager, Bob Russell

Two further awards were made on the Evening;



ASA PHILLIPS – *MCSFC* receives the Leagues Golden Boot for 2018/19 with 38 Goals

From; DPL Chairman, Mike Mock



SAM WATTS – *WSFC* receives the Leagues Golden Glove award for 2018/19 with 8 Clean sheets

From; DPL Chairman, Mike Mock

