



# 18/19 NEWSLETTER - 33



## Match Reports

**16th March 2019**

### **“MERLEY MOVE TO THE TOP AFTER BALTI WIN”**

#### **MERLEY CS 2 BALTI SPORTS 0**

With both Westlands and Ham Rec fixtures postponed, Merley started the game knowing a win would see them top the league on goal difference. Balti set out to stop Merley scoring and rely on counter attacking to try to nick a result. To a certain extent their plan worked for the first half. Despite dominating possession, the hosts couldn't seem to find a way through on goal, HT 0-0. Merley almost took the lead on 50 mins when skipper Lee Wilkins goal bound header was deflected wide. On 63 mins, Brandon Randall should have put the home side in front, but was unable to find the net from close range. The deadlock was finally broken on 68 mins when Merley had three shots blocked before the ball fell to Asa Phillips who fired into the top corner for 1-0 Merley. The goal meant Balti had to chase the game a little, leaving Merley more space to create chances. Phillips grabbed his second of the game and 33rd of the season on 80 mins to secure the points and send his side to the top of the table. Balti finally registered their one and only shot of the game late on when they caught Merley on the break, but the striker shot well wide, leaving Merley with their second successive clean sheet to go with their now 19 game unbeaten run.

### **“CONDITIONS HELP A ROYAL WIN”**

#### **SHERBORNE TOWN RES 0 BLANDFORD UTD 2**

blistering conditions for both sides had a huge impact on this game. Sherborne dominated the first half and should have gone one up in the first minute but Elliot Mann missed the target. Town had 4/5 other great chances to score but didn't take them and this would prove to be costly, HT 0-2. Blandford came out in the second half with the wind behind them and had two shots in this half and scored 2 goals. Town pushed on the counter with Elliot Mann going close from a free kick but nothing fell kindly for the hosts. Blandford battled well and worked extremely hard and won the game 0-2. Manager Glenn Nathan has now told his lads they now have 5 cup finals to put them in a safe position and avoid relegation

### **“GILLS BEAT THE SWANS”**

#### **SWANAGE T&H 0 GILLINGHAM TOWN 2**

Gillingham ran out winners in a tricky encounter in windy conditions on a challenging pitch, where credit should be given to both sides for attempting to play in a positive way. A bright start from Gillingham was rewarded in the third minute as Ryan Schouten pounced on a loose ball in the six-yard box to rifle home for an early lead. Gillingham kept applying the pressure and should have added to their advantage, but poor finishing ensured that they only lead 1-0 at the break. Swanage came out after the break with more purpose and took the game to Gillingham, creating some opportunities and looking threatening at set pieces. They were unable to penetrate the Gillingham defence however, and when counter attacking Gillingham created a couple of opportunities to score but squandered the chances to seal the game. It was left until the 88th minute, when a great ball by Buddy O'Shea found Alex Staffie in space, he lobbed the advancing goalkeeper to give the Gills a victory they deserved, but were made to fight hard for on the Jurassic Coast.

## **“ROCKIES WIN AGAINST THE BLUES”**

### **PORTLAND UTD RES 0 SHAFTESBURY RES 4**

A depleted Portland United Reserves torrid end to the season continued at the hands of Shaftesbury Town Reserves in The Dorset Premier League at The Weyline Stadium. Shaftesbury led at half time in a game played in gale force winds when a speculative effort was parried by Ross Jones to leave Shaftesbury frontman Lewis Fisher a simple tap in. Josh Camp could have levelled when the visiting keeper on debut, Jack Allen kept him out when put in one on one. Shaftesbury celebrated being a goal up at half time as they were then to play with the strong wind at their backs. Their celebrations weren't premature as they rattled in 3 more in the second half, courtesy of Courtney Jones, Aaron Leney and with his 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Rockies 4<sup>th</sup>, Fisher again to wrap up 3 well deserved points. Looking back at the game Portland United Reserves manager commented "A very bad day at the office today, for the opening 15 minutes there wasn't any other team in this game and it looked like it was a case of how many we would win by, but all credit to Shaftesbury they wanted far more than our players and that is the more disappointing thing. We do have a lot of youngsters and they need to learn pretty quickly if you want to succeed at any level the minimum is hard work and graft, something this team hasn't got at the moment."

## **“SPORTS SWOT THE BEES TO GAIN WIN”**

### **BRIDPORT RES 1 DORCHESTER SPORTS 2**

Bridport and Dorchester took to St. Mary's field on a very blustery afternoon and with a pitch in desperate need of a roll. Bridport got off to the best start possible when Josh Hunter scored after only thirty seconds following a deflection inside the six-yard box which wrong footed the visiting keeper. The pitch and weather conditions didn't suit either team however Bridport seemed to struggle more in the opening fifteen minutes. Dorchester equalised after thirteen minutes when poor communication between Ryan Gall and keeper Billy Fleet gifted Dorchester their equaliser. Neither team, for the remainder of the first half, were able to create any clear-cut chances but Dorchester's set pieces always looked threatening, HT 1-1. The second half started with Bridport having the stiff wind behind them, Josh hunter had an opportunity to score with a one on one with the keeper but the bobbly pitch made it impossible to control the ball and the chance was squandered. Dorchester took the lead early in the second half following the award of a free kick after a foul from Dan Peart on the edge of the penalty area. Billy Fleet appeared to have his wall perfectly placed and although he got his hands comfortably to the ball, he wasn't able to keep it out. Bridport applied pressure for the remainder of the game with a large percent of ball possession but were not good enough on the day to find that little bit of quality in the final third of the pitch to hurt Dorchester, so much so that the Dorchester keeper was barely tested in the second half. A draw would have been a fair result but Bridport will need to improve significantly in all areas of the pitch if they are to achieve their goal by the end of the season.

## **“BULLS BEAT THE CHERRIES IN A TIGHT ONE”**

### **HOLT UNITED 2 STURMINSTER NEWTON 1**

The Bulls overcame a dogged Sturminster to finally prevail at a blustery Petersham Lane, the Home side were indebted to their prolific marksmen Nathan Saxby and Ali Garard who both scored whilst replying for the visitors was Warren Meadowcroft.