



18/19 NEWSLETTER - 24



Match Reports

5th January 2019

“ISLANDERS GAIN SMOOTH WIN AT THE ROCKIES”

SHAFTESBURY RES 0 PORTLAND UTD RES 3

On a cold day in January The Islanders visited Cochrams and returned to the Island 3 points richer. It was never going to be a feast of football for the home team, as depleted numbers due to players stepping into the 1st team and a suspension meant the hosts were very light up front. Saying that they did have a few chances to score but squandered them along with some good saves from the Portland keeper. Just before the break Portland scored through Josh Camp with what in reality was a scrappy goal, but all the same it counted, HT 0-1. Shaftesbury is not a team to just give in and in the 2nd half they showed their fighting spirit as they battled in search of a leveller. However, Portland managed to score a good 2nd goal courtesy of Sol Roche, and with Skipper Ashton Butcher running a solid visiting defence, the home side just couldn't strike back. A 3rd goal late on by Roche, again, ended this match and this now means that Shaftesbury are finding themselves slipping nearer to the relegation zone in the table.

“WAREHAM CLAIM LOCAL BRAGGING RIGHTS WITH DESERVED WIN”

WAREHAM RANGERS 4 CORFE CASTLE 2

In a huge game at the foot of the table, Wareham gained a 2nd successive win to overcome their near rivals from Corfe. Throughout the game, the hosts were the more determined side and deservedly picked up 3 precious points. In a tight 1st half, the hosts took the lead in the 42nd minute when Patrick Correia scored, a minute later and Nick Bennet doubled Rangers lead, Back came Corfe, who reduced the arrears courtesy of a soft penalty award duly dispatched by Courtney Johnston, HT 2-1. Corfe equalised soon after the break following some good work from Brendon Flockton and Johnstone to set Ryan Cattano for a neat finish. Instead of kicking on Corfe struggled to get any foothold in the game after the leveller and the home side struck twice through Sam Keefe in the 68th minute and then Aaron Merredew in the 82nd minute to complete a fully deserved victory.

“STALEMATE AT MERLEY”

MERLEY CS 1 WESTLAND SPORTS 1

This game featured two of the top three sides in the table, however the home side will feel that it was 2 points lost rather than the one gained as having been so on top during the first half, Merley were perhaps a little complacent after the break and were made to pay on 50 mins when Westlands took the lead through Alex Murphy. Merley looked shell-shocked for a while as Westlands enjoyed their best spell of the game. Steadily the tide turned back towards the home side and they began to control the game once again, but they seemed to just lack the killer touch in front of goal. Their break through finally came on 70 mins when Josh Buck and Brandon Randall combined down the left flank with Buck teeing up Asa Phillips for the long awaited and deserved equaliser. Merleys confidence grew with each attack as they battered the Westlands defence relentlessly looking for a winner. With just five mins remaining everyone at the game surely thought they'd done just that when Matt Groves cross from the left found the head of Phillips, whose well placed header looked goal bound before the Sam Watts, Westlands keeper, pulled off a stunning save to keep his side level and earn them a point.

“REC RUN RIOT AT THE AVENUE”

DORCHESTER SPORTS 1 HAMWORTHY REC 8

Dorchester sports suffered their worst ever result after getting hammered 8-1 by the lead leaders Hamworthy Rec. It was certainly a Happy New Year for Rec as they ran riot at Dorchester Sports in a very impressive performance. Rec bounced back from last week's cup defeat to Westland's in the best possible way. Right from the first whistle Rec were on the front foot against a good side who rarely surrender points at home. With skipper Rikki Walden out injured Ash Boyt returned to the side, as captain. Also, back was keeper Aaron Robertson. Chris Buyer-Ash kept his place in defence and it was he who had the first chance, early on, when his close-range shot, following a corner, was blocked. Rec were piling on the pressure and Sam Carter, John Webb and brother George all went close, before the first goal came, in the 14th minute. Carl Edwards chased a through-ball and crashed his shot against a post, but Brad Hill, following up, calmly netted the rebound. But the lead only lasted a minute, as in their first venture forward, Sports equalised with a 30-yard beauty from Ryan Ross, over Robertson and into the top corner. Back came Rec and Edwards went close, before, on 21 minutes, George Webb cleverly hooked the ball in to restore the lead and ten minutes later it was three when Edwards was pushed over in the box, with Carter striking his spot-kick low to the keepers right. HT 1-3. It was important Rec got the next goal and Carter, twice, and George Webb nearly obliged. Rec were still dominating, and the only surprise was that it took until the 71 st minute to get the fourth goal. Ash Boyt played a delightful pass to Chris Long, on as a sub, to collect and his trusty left foot did the rest. Sports had their second attempt with a free-kick, fielded by Robertson, before Rec ran riot in the last ten minutes. Another classy move on 80 minutes ended with Hill, unselfishly, setting up George Webb to make it 1-5 and two minutes later Long scored a fine individual goal for the sixth. He then completed his hat-trick two minutes from time, rounding the keeper and slotting in from a tight angle, before Webb completed his treble in the last minute, converting a penalty after the tireless Edwards had been cluttered by the keeper.

“BULLS WIN NARROWLY AGAINST THE TANGERINES”

HOLT UNITED 2 GILLINGHAM TOWN 1

Gillingham lost narrowly at Holt, despite dominating much of the game and probably deserving of an equaliser in a frenetic last 15 minutes. Gillingham started brightly, enjoying the lion's share of possession without creating any clear-cut chances, so it was against the run of play that Holt broke and fired home from outside of the area courtesy of a decent Ali Garard strike. The pattern continued during the half with Gillingham still in control, however just before half-time Holt broke again from a Gillingham corner and this time, Joe Sullivan finished neatly from the edge of the box to take a 2-0 lead in to the break. The second half began slightly more evenly, Holt had a chance to extend their lead but squandered it and were made to pay for that mid-way through the half as Will Pike shot from outside the box flew into the top corner. The game was set for an exciting, tense finish and it certainly delivered. Holt then had a player sent off for a second bookable offence; Gillingham broke, won a penalty. The home keeper guessed the right way and made a great save. Pressure was mounting, and a header from a corner was spectacularly saved by the keeper, pushing the ball out for another corner. As the Gillingham goalkeeper made his way up to join proceedings the ball floated neatly onto his head, but from close range he narrowly headed wide. The last chance had come and gone, and Holt were relieved to take all three points.

“BALTI TOO HOT FOR THE ZEBRAS”

BALTI SPORTS 4 SHERBORNE TOWN RES 1

Balti won back to back games as they overcome a very hard-working Sherborne side who never gave in. The zebras stunned the home players by taking a lead after only 1 minute when Scott Martin finished from just outside the box following a lovely passing move. That goal clearly rattled the home side, but town couldn't take advantage and as the half went on Balti got into the game. They equalised on 30 mins through Ethan Devaney and then they took the lead bang on half time through the same player, Devaney, with the goal of the game, HT 2-1. The second half saw Balti add another two goals. The first coming from a mistake from the

town keeper as he failed to hold onto the ball with Chris Reader taking full advantage to score and the forth came against the run of play from Charlie Kenderdine as the visitors were dominating the last 1/4 of the match. Late on, Balti saw their striker Dan Andrews sent off for foul and abusive language aimed towards the official which took the gloss off a decent home performance.

“BRIDPORT KICK OFF 2019 WITH WIN”

BRIDPORT RES 3 PARLEY SPORTS 2

Bridport went into the game buoyed by the return of several of their players from long term injuries and playing at home for the first time in the League since September 1st. Both teams started well with Parley looking the more dangerous, after twenty-three minutes they took the lead on the counter attack through Ben Bosley after Bridport had committed numbers forward and Parley were able to break down the left-hand side, square the ball across the six-yard box for an easy tap in. Bridport equalised four minutes later from a Dan Baggs free kick outside the Parley penalty box, which took two deflections before finally finding the back of the net. Five minutes later Parley were awarded a free kick for an unfortunate hand ball by Lewis Gray on the edge of the Bridport penalty box. The free kick was struck beautifully by Josh Moody into Billy Fleets' top left-hand corner giving Parley the lead again. Bridport equalised on forty-two minutes when a right-wing corner from Riley Weedon was met brilliantly by Will Gape who gave the Parley goal keeper no chance with a bullet header. Bridport changed formation at half time which proved to be a good decision as they improved their performance and restricted Parley to only a single chance which Billy Fleet saved well. The Bees took the lead on the seventy eighth minute following an unfortunate defensive error, allowing Robin Jones to take full advantage, finishing brilliantly with a right foot strike into the bottom left hand corner. This proved to be the winning goal as Bridport managed the game well for the final fifteen minutes to earn three valuable points. It was a well contested game by two good footballing sides and very well officiated.

“BLANDFORD ROYALLY DO THE DOUBLE OVER NEWTON ... JUST”

BLANDFORD UNITED 2 STURMINSTER NEWTON 1

The Royals hosted Sturminster Newton looking to continue their recent good form, with a couple of players back in the fold the hosts made some changes after last week's poor performance. The Visitors were much improved from the last time these two sides met, but it was the home side that took the early advantage, Joe Freak with a tidy finish inside the box after a good ball in. The home side were in control and saw a shot hit the bar only for the visitors to break quickly and equalise just before halftime. HT 1-1. The home side controlled large periods of the 2nd half without the Royals defence ever really being tested, it wasn't long before Blandford were back in control and re took the lead with a nice finish from Elliot Manson who found the bottom corner. The Royals continued to attack and hit the woodwork again after a thunderous volley from Elliot Manson who is revelling in his role in Central Midfield, the home side tried to get the 3rd goal but it finished 2-1.