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Match Reports Mid-week 15th & 16th August 2017

15th AUGUST 2017

"PHILLIPS WINS IT FOR MCS WITH HIS HEAD"

PARLEY SPORTS 1 MERLEY COBHAM SPORTS 2

After narrowly losing in their opening fixture at the week end, Merley secured their 1st win of the season with a close 2-1 win at near neighbours Parley Sports. In a bright, competitive match the opening exchanges were cagey, however the visitors did hit the bar in the 27th minute through Matt Groves, with 35 minutes on the clock, the visitors took the lead after Parleys Ali Williams was dis possessed 30 yards out, resulting in Groves being played in, with the striker coolly slotting home 0-1. Back came the hosts, and were deservedly level 8 minutes later when Ali Williams atoned for his earlier error by smashing home following a blocked Ben Bosley shot from a corner 1-1. Into the 2nd half, Merley again hit the woodwork in the 58th minute, however 2 minutes later Asa Phillips nodded the visitors back in front from a corner to once again demonstrate how dangerous Merley are from set pieces 1-2. Again Parley searched for the equaliser with Merley indebted to their keeper Aaron Drayton pulled off a couple of good saves, the 1st in the 65th minute following a Mike La Ronde effort hitting the woodwork and again in the 85th minute when he thwarted Ben Bosley in a 1 on 1 situation. One down side was the 3rd sin binning of a Parley Player this season late on.

"REC MAKE HARD WORK OF IT AS THE ROYALS SHOWED THEIR GRIT"

HAMWORTHY RECREATION 2 BLANDFORD UNITED 1

Rec made it two wins from two with this victory over Blandford, but it was far from easy for them. As in the previous game they went behind early on and had to fight their way back into the match. Having gone in front by half-time Rec failed to add to the score line and the visitors always looked capable of gaining a point. After only five minutes Rec were behind. A cross from the right was tapped in at the far post with the home defence floundering. The hosts then had a succession of chances, with Ali Garard firing just wide from Harry Stokes' pass, before having another attempt blocked by the keeper. Ross Hampton-Brown's clever lob was just over the bar before Rec drew level on 34 minutes. A telling run and cross from the right by Stokes resulted in an own goal as a defender and Garard tussled for the ball at the near post and just four minutes later a fine team move ended with Ash Boyt firing in a neat, low finish to put Rec 2-1 up at the interval. The Royals missed a sitter right at the start of the second period to fire Rec into action. Garard again found the keeper in good form when he produced another fine block, following Boyt's great pass, before man of the match, Marc Fairbrother set up sub Chris Long to fire just over. Garard and Long combined well to set up a chance only for the Rec sub to be bundled over in the box, with the penalty appeals ignored by the ref. Blandford, who had shipped seven goals in the previous match, to their credit, made life

difficult for Rec and looked dangerous in breakaways, but Rec held out for another precious three points. FT 2-1

"HAMWORTHY SURPRISE THE CHAMPIONS"

HAMWORTHY UNITED RES 1 HOLT UNITED 1

The Hammers 2nd string deservedly earned point with this battling display against the defending Champions Holt, who were playing their 1st game of the season after the week ends no show at Petersham Lane by their visitors. In a tight 1st half, chances were at a premium however in the 64th minute the visitors edged in front when Ryan Cooper scored 0-1, not to be deterred, the home side continued to press and were deservedly rewarded just 4 minutes later when they were awarded a penalty, which was duly dispatched by Jamie Kay to restore parity 1-1. Further chances came and went for both sides and at the final whistle it was the youngsters from Hamworthy who were celebrating for their deserved point gained against many people's favourites to win the League.

"GILLINGHAM WIN AT THE NEW BOYS"

MILBORNE PORT 0 GILLINGHAM TOWN 3

This game was the Gills' first away league fixture in the Dorset Premier League. Right from the off both teams struggled to play any quality football with numerous mistakes being made and, therefore, neither team was able to create any good chances. It was a Milborne defensive error that gave the Gills their first chance when, with 7 minutes on the clock, Ryan Schouten pounced on an under hit back pass, but he was put under pressure by a defender and his shot went wide of the goal. With 22 minutes played a superb Joe Smeeton cross was met by an unmarked Elliot Bevis on the penalty spot, but he somehow put his header inches wide of the post. A couple of minutes later Jamie Beale was called into action when he made a good stop for a fiercely struck shot and the Gills keeper made another good save with 8 minutes left in the half. So at half time the score was still 0-0 with neither team really dominating the game. The Gills came out looking a bit more lively at the start of the second half and just 7 minutes later they took the lead. Elliot Bevis put a delightfully flighted free kick to the back post where Nick Thomson rose highest to head home and give the Gills a 0-1 lead. Just before the hour mark Harry Smith drew a save out of the home keeper and then just on the hour mark Jamie Beale was tested again, but he kept his clean sheet with a good save. The Gills began to get a grip on the game now and their midfield was becoming more and more dominant. They were creating more chances now and Nathan Miller went close with two headers; the first going just wide and the second bouncing back off the crossbar. With 10 minutes left Ryan Schouten went close and the pressure told 3 minutes later as the Gills scored a second goal when Elliot Bevis saw his shot from just inside the area find the back of the net. It was all Gillingham now and the third goal came in the last minute when Joe Smeeton was brought down on the edge of the area and Elliot Bevis' free kick looped over the keeper into the goal. So the game finished with a deserved 0-3 victory for the Gills over a resolute Milborne team who did themselves proud in the first half but couldn't maintain that level of football.

16th AUGUST 2017

"STALEMATE AT COCHRAMS"

SHAFTESBURY RES 2 MERE TOWN 2



Honours were even at the end of this keenly contested, tight & scrappy local derby. The first half ended in stalemate with both teams resolute in defence and keeping clear goal scoring opportunities to a minimum with the visitors just about shading it. Shaftesbury came out brighter at the start of the second half and went 1-0 up in the 51st minute with a well worked goal finished off by the head of Shaun Colohan and then on 70 minutes went 2-0 up following a fine finish from Lee Gale. Mere made some changes and went to 3 at the back to try to salvage something from the game, a tactic that clearly worked as Gavin Bendell scored his second goal in two DPL games this season to make it 2-1 in the 75th minute, you could see the belief grow in the away team as they sensed they could get something from the game. Then in the 78th minute Jack Twyford hit a shot from outside the box which the Shaftesbury keeper could not keep out and all of a sudden it was 2-2 with the momentum clearly with the visitors. However 2 minutes later in the 80th minute, the 'sin bin' reduced Mere Town to 10 men when Jamie Samways transgressed, this clearly saw the emphasis change for Mere who were going all out for the win having to then grind out for a 2-2 draw as the hosts then sensed their chance to go for the win. To be fair a draw was a fair result on the night.

Photo Courtesy of the DPL

"PURBECK BRAGGING RIGHTS FOR THE SWANS"

WAREHAM RANGERS 0 SWANAGE TOWN & HERSTON 1



Swanage made it 2 wins from 2 as they beat local rivals Wareham in the 1st Purbeck Derby of the season, to be fair the visitors deserved the win as the home side never got going in the game, they were 2nd to nearly every ball and never managed to gain any momentum with the visitors wanting the game more across the park, the only surprise to many was the fact the score was only 1-0 to the Swans. Swanage secured the 3 points thanks to a Cameron Beard header after 22 minutes following a free kick from Jacob Harrop. Chances were few and far apart in an entertaining first half, with Cameron Beard, Graeme Rose, and Perry Mullins always dangerous. H.T. 0-1. The second half proved just as competitive as the 1st but both defenses held firm. Swans Boss Tim Brown must have been delighted with the performance and the manor of which his side dug in for 3 valuable points. Another positive from the match was the performance of James Langdon in the Swans goal, playing his first match since a shoulder operation in January.

Photo courtesy of ST&H FC

"STURMINSTERS PERFECT START CONTINUES AWAY FROM HOME"

SHERBORNE TOWN RES 0 STURMINSTER NEWTON 3

The Zebras suffered their 2nd League Defeat of the season against a well drilled Sturminster Newton side, the overriding story of the game was 3 home mistakes leading to 3 goals with visiting striker Jamie Danoris capitalising each time to help himself to a hat trick, his 2nd in 2 games. Sherborne's heads never dropped and their young side battled gamely until the end of this evenly contested encounter. The visitors were 2 up at the break and after 2 games sit jointly at the top of the table.

"SPORTS CONJURE UP A DRAW IN THE RIDGEWAY DERBY"

DORCHESTER SPORTS 1 BALTI SPORTS 1

The local ridgeway derby ended all square in a game of two half's with Dorchester having the better of the first half and Balti the second but Dorch will feel they should have been out of sight before the break, It was complete dominance from the home side as they pressed and got good numbers forward and were creating early chances without taking them, they did take the lead when a clever one two from a Jamie Samways corner resulted in Samways curing his shot into the top corner from 30 yards, the home side continued to mount pressure and Balti had Andy Nott in goal to thank when he saved well from a Will Turland one on one, then the save of the match as he tipped Samways long range effort on to the post, Captain Lewis Amors cross then found Turland at the back post but his header flew over the bar and another chance went begging for the hosts, missed that eventually would prove costly going into the break. Into the 2nd half and Balti came out strongly and started well and were level just a minute after the restart when Danny Andrews cross found Shane lock at the back post and his header flew past Turner, Balti were on top until Ashley Batchelor got sin binned for the away side, and that meant the hosts were able to regroup, but Balti nearly took the lead through a calamitous own goal as Dorchester's Danny Pearts wayward header needed tipping on to the post from alert custodian Turner. The last 15 mins was end to end but no one could find a winner.