



18/19 NEWSLETTER – 36



Match Reports

6th & 10th April 2019

6th APRIL 2019

“REC LEAVE IT LATE TO MAKE TITLE WINNING STATEMENT”

WESTLAND SPORTS 1 HAMWORTHY REC 2

A goal four minutes from time earned Rec a priceless win in their table-topping clash at Westlands. What promised to be an excellent game of football was spoilt a bit by a strong crosswind that affected the quality of the match a little. Nevertheless, both sides were 100% committed. As expected, it was a tense game throughout, with both sides having spells of pressure and then having to defend well. The hosts started the day five points behind Rec, with a game in hand. Westlands flashed an early free-kick across the face of goal, before Rec settled and Callum Charlton's cross was pushed away, before he tried a long-range effort over the bar. Another neat move ended with Brad Hill trying his luck, but again, over the top. But then Westlands replied and nearly went in front, following a free-kick, but lucky for Rec the shot hit the bar. But on 27 minutes it was 1-0. A defensive error gifted Westlands the ball on their left and as the cross came in the resulting low drive from Henry Lawrence-Napier was deflected into the net by Hamworthy's Rich Sands to put the hosts in the driving seat. Westlands were then dealt a serious blow soon after when their keeper Sam Watts was forced off with a serious knee injury. Rec looked to find a way back Hill's cross found the head of Charlton, only for the stand-in keeper Alex Murphy to save easily. But right on half-time Rec got the break they were looking for. Hill supplied a fine ball down the middle for Chris Long to run onto and calmly place a low shot past the advancing keeper, HT 1-1. Ash Boyt had a headed attempt go wide and Westlands had a free-kick which caused anxiety in the Rec defence, before it was cleared for a corner, but generally, play became scrappy in the 2nd period and clear-cut chances were few and far between. Rec were defending well, with Wrixton, Walden and Co. solid at the back. On the break both sides looked capable of pinching a goal and Hill fired two attempts wide before John Webb's shot was deflected away for a corner. But on 86 minutes Rec secured the points. John Webb crossed from the left and the hosts keeper seemed to gather the ball, but it fell from his grasp and Callum Charlton was in the right place to stab the ball over the line, to the delight of his teammates and travelling supporters. The remaining minutes were calmly played out as Hamworthy secured a vital win.

“CORFE PIP THE CHERRIES IN HUGE BASEMENT WIN”

CORFE CASTLE 1 STURMINSTER NEWTON 0

For the second match day in a row The Fortress was bathed in glorious spring sunshine. The perfect conditions for a hugely important game in the Dorset Premier League. The visitors Sturminster Newton were in desperate search of the 3 points as defeat could well see them as good as bottom of the league. Corfe too are desperate for points as they try and secure safety, a must win for both teams. The importance of the game seemed to play a large part in both team's performance, it was cagey from the outset. Both teams were working well with possession but neither wanted to make a mistake. Two fine saves from Corfe's young goalkeeper Brad Smith kept the home side in the game and left Stur frustrated as they were two very good chances. The deadlock was broken after half an hour when a cross-field ball found Corfe's Italian superstar Ryan Cattano. He watched the ball all the way to his right foot when he connected wonderfully on the volley, resulting in a rifled trajectory into the far top corner. It was what can only be described as a "worldie" HT 1-0. The second half was much like the first, very nervy from both sides and the game stretched as Stur began to look long and pushed more men forwards. However, Corfe stood strong and were able to see out the match without conceding. One for the scrap book as clean sheets are not often on the agenda at Corfe games.

“BALTI PROVE TOO HOT FOR THE SWANS”

SWANGE T&H 3 BALTI SPORTS 5

Swans were beaten at Day's Park by Balti Sports in The Dorset Premier League. Despite taking a sixth minute lead through Joe Clarke's penalty, Swans were soundly beaten 5-3 at Day's Park. After taking the lead, Swans were then indebted to a number of smart saves by 'keeper James Langdon to keep their lead intact before Danny Andrews equalised for Balti. Swans skipper Paul Best headed over for Swans before Sami Nichols put Balti into the lead with a lucky goal when the ball hit him following a clearance with the ricocheting into the net just before the break, HT 1-2. Two minutes into the second half, Andrews put Balti further ahead and he then completed his hat-trick to put the game beyond The Swans. Substitute Jack Drummond then netted a fifth for Balti but full credit to the Swans as they never gave up and a late brace from leading scorer Paul Best gave the score line some respectability.

“GILLINGHAM MAKE HARD WORK OF BEATING THE RANGERS”

GILLINGHAM TOWN 4 WAREHAM RANGERS 2

Gillingham ran out winners however struggled against the visitors; whose play belied their lowly league position. Wareham started the game well, were physical, determined and took to game to Gillingham, creating opportunities which they wasted. They were punished in the thirteenth minute as Dan Cox was on the end of a move to squeeze the ball home for Gillingham to take the lead. Rather than deflate the visitors it galvanised them, within a minute they were level through Joe Ward and ten minutes later they took the lead, as they reacted quicker in the penalty area, so drawing a foul and converting the spot kick through Nick Bennet's well taken strike. In turn this galvanised the Gills and they created chances that both Matt Samuel and Buddy O'Shea converted to take a 3-2 lead into the break. However, this was not before Scott Armstrong in the Gillingham goal was called into action on a couple of occasions to keep the visitors from scoring again, HT 3-2. The second half was an attritional affair, with the next goal crucial to the balance of the game. With both teams striving for that important goal, the game was stretched, there were chances at both ends, but the game was finally sealed in the 89th minute as Buddy O'Shea headed home from close range to secure the victory.

“ZEBRAS CANTER TO A BIG WIN”

SHERBORNE TOWN RES 6 PORTLAND UTD RES 0

Sherborne looked to carry on from their great win at Merley CS last week by taking on a Portland Utd Res side, who like Town had been struggling to get numbers due to work commitments/holidays. For the first 30 minutes both sides had chances to open up the scoring but it was 18-year-old Ollie Hibbard who broke the deadlock finishing at the second time of asking after being put through by Scott Martins excellent through ball in the 37th minute. 2 minutes later and the lead was doubled courtesy of Martin's bullet header, HT 2-0. The second half was all about who got the next goal and the hosts made sure it was them when Martin scored again 1 minute after the restart. Scott then completed his hat trick finishing well in the 54th minute. Town continued to dominate possession and looked to increase the goal tally and once again Martin produced the goal with his fourth for the day with a cheeky little header on 75, substitute Owen Down came off the bench to score his second of the season with a great strike from the edge of the box to wrap up the scoring in the 86th minute. Once again, the young zebra side did themselves proud controlling the midfield despite their ages of 16 to 18. The back 4 deserved their clean sheet and will look to keep another one as they host Corfe Castle next Saturday.

“SPORTS CAPITULATE AS MERLEY HIT THEM FOR 6”

DORCHESTER SPORTS 3 MERLEY CS 6

A 1st half capitulation cost Dorchester Sports dearly as Merley Cobham Sports romped to a 6-3 Dorset Premier League victory at the Avenue Stadium. Midway through the first half, Ashley James' men had been competitive but were brutally disposed of within 22 harrowing minutes as Merley struck five times. Most extraordinary of all the visitors' strikes was the opener from Jamie Moores, who let fly from 55 yards to beat home keeper Sam Turner. Moore's' goal opened the floodgates as the stunned hosts were put to the sword by their marauding opponents. Merley doubled their lead when Lee Wilkins headed home a free header in the box before the unmarked Asa Phillips took advantage of more slack marking to nod past Turner for 3-0. James' men then suffered a demolition on the counter-attack as Merley retrieved possession from a home corner before supplying Phillips to finish off a rapid break. Merley still had time to net a simple fifth, again unchallenged, for 5-0 at the interval. To their credit, Dorchester Sports dug in and delivered a much-improved second-half display – although the damage was already done. Defender Pat Thomas pulled a goal back but Merleys Josh Buck then scorched a 25-yard effort beyond Turner to make it 6-1. Undeterred, Jamie Samways crossed for Jason Read to score with a header from a corner and Will Turland wrapped up the scoring with an 80th-minute effort. Speaking to Echosport, dejected home boss James admitted Merley “ran riot” at times. He said: “I’ve never witnessed anything like it. It was just 22 minutes before half-time – probably the craziest I’ve ever witnessed. “We had no answers to what they were throwing at us, it was pure bombardment. We let ourselves down very, very badly. It was a bit of a shambles to be honest. “It all happened so quickly it was one, two, three, four, five before half-time. It was carnage, they just ran riot.” However, James confessed Sports' spirited response in the second half merely hid their defensive deficiencies. He said: “It papers over the cracks. The first-half wasn't good enough, we know that. It was disappointing because before the (first) goal went in it was quite an even game. “Then we seemed to concede one goal and it all falls apart. We've got to stop that. “When (Merley) get in their stride and get their tails up, they're virtually impossible to stop and they proved that.”

“BULLS STAMP OVER THE ROYALS”

HOLT UNITED 5 BLANDFORD UNITED 3

An entertaining game at Petersham Lane took place as spectators got to witness 8 goals with 4 of the them coming in the last 6 minutes of the game. The Royals took the lead after a well worked counter attack which saw Paul Ford slot past the home keeper, Holt responded 5 minutes later after the away side failed to stop a cross and their prolific forward Nathan Saxby latched on to it finishing it off nicely. Not much in it in the first half, Holt had a bit more of the ball but Blandford looked dangerous on the counter, HT 1-1. The Second half was a much more entertaining affair, both sides creating plenty of chances but it was the home side who took the advantage after some lacklustre defending from the Royals, Holts Saxby managed to get in behind and round the visitor's keeper for his second on the 70th minute mark. The Royals hit straight back 2 minutes later, Paul Ford latching on to a through ball to get his second of the game, Holt re-took the lead again in the 87th minute as Saxby completed his hat trick only for the Royals to equalise again in the 89th by Rob Manson. But Holt were not finished as they continued to press for a winner as they took all 3 points after scoring in the 91st and 93rd minute courtesy of efforts by Nathan Redwood & Ali Garard. An entertaining game by two sides who are not too far apart from each other in the League Table, both teams tried to play and never gave up, all in all a good spectacle and a good advert for Dorset Premier League Football.

“PARLEY WIN ON THE ROAD”

SHAFTESBURY RES 1 PARLEY SPORTS 2

Parley picked up another win after a decent performance at Cochrams scoring for the visitors were Jack Voisey & Ben Bosley whilst replying for the hosts was Rob Hatchard.

10th APRIL 2019

“REC WIN AGAIN BUT ARE INDEBTED TO PHILLIPS”

WAREHAM RANGERS 1 HAMWORTHY REC 2

In this bottom v top clash Rec had young goalkeeper Harry Phillips to thank for taking all three points. He made a series of fine saves to keep Wareham at bay. The hosts looked anything but a team struggling at the bottom end of the table and defended stubbornly to frustrate Rec and looked very capable at set-pieces. An early goal put Rec in the ascendency, but Wareham refused to lie down and despite a second Rec goal they grabbed a late goal to ensure a tense finish. On 6 minutes Rec were in front. John Webb and Sam Carter combined with the latter providing a neat, low finish for 0-1 and the same player nearly doubled the lead soon after, but his turn and shot was just wide. Wareham wasted a couple of chances by blazing a shot well over and another effort going inches wide, before Richie Sands burst through the middle and set up Callum Charlton, whose shot was headed off the line. Phillips then produced a great, diving save to turn the ball away for a corner, before Chris Long's volley clipped the bar. HT 0-1. The hosts had further chances at the start of the second half, with Phillips, again, tipping a shot round the post and another shot just wide. But on 65 minutes the game seemed to be wrapped up when great work by John Webb created a chance for Chris Long, who showed good composure to hold off the defender and fire in the second. Immediately after John Webb was denied by a late challenge and from the resulting corner Long headed wide, before Brad Hill saw his low shot pushed onto the post. Phillips produced another fine tip-over, from a header, before Wareham pulled one back courtesy of Timothy Taylor, on 75 minutes, from a corner. The final fifteen minutes were a tense affair with Wareham still looking capable of getting a point and they would have, but for another great Phillips save, turning a low, goal bound shot round the post, in the dying minutes.

“WESTLANDS JUST BEAT THE BEES”

BRIDPORT RES 1 WESTLAND SPORTS 2

Bridport took to the St Mary's pitch against another top 3 team for the second time in 7 days but were without 5 regular players due to work commitments, illness and injuries but were still in confident mood following a good performance against league leaders Hamworthy Rec in their last game. Bridport started well but it was Westlands who forced Bridport keeper Billy Fleet into the first save of the match when he had to get down quickly to his right to keep a fierce shot out from just outside the box. Soon after Fleet was called upon again to tip over a header following a great cross from Josh Payne. Bridport then began to cause the visitors a few problems and both Ryan Leader and Josh Hull did really well in wide areas creating good chances that they maybe should have scored from. The contrast in the two teams was clear with Bridport continuing to try to pass the ball from back to front whereas Westlands looked to get the ball forward quickly to their impressive front players. The first half looked like it was going to remain scoreless until 40 minutes when a fine strike BY Alex Murphy from fully 30 yards out flew past the outstretched Fleet and into the bottom corner of the net to open the scoring, HT 0-1. The second half started with Bridport having to make a change when Sam Day was forced off with a recurring ham string injury which gave Kieran Mcallister his debut in a Bees reserve team shirt. Both defences restricted any clear-cut chances for either team but the visitors should have doubled their lead when Josh Payne was able to get past Jaydon Scadding at full back and produce a pin point cross for the Westlands striker, however he missed an easy header from 5 yards. Bridport were punished severely after 70 mins when their defence stopped expecting an off side decision which exposed Fleet and gifted Westlands an easy tap in, courtesy of Sam Plumley to make it 2 nil and effectively seal the 3 points. Substitute Riley Weedon produced a moment of pure class on 85 minutes when he spotted the Westlands keeper off his line and lofted the ball perfectly into the back of the net from 40 yards to reduce the arrears. Bridport then had a chance to equalise in the final minute, but Sam Handsides free kick was well saved by the keeper to deny the young hard-working Bees team a point. With 5 more home games to go for the Bees, and with the possibility of some players returning to the team, a top 8 finish requested by the manager is still well and truly possible.

“MERLEY TAME THE SWANS”

SWANGE T&H 1 MERLEY CS 3

Swanage suffered a 3-1 home defeat to Merley Cobham Sports at Day's Park in The Dorset Premier League. The Swans struck after 6 mins when Garan Bennett scored from the penalty spot, however Sports hit back with 2 goals in 4 minutes through Josh Buck after 11 minutes and then Asa Phillips 3 minutes later. Swanage keeper Langdon had to be at his best on several occasions to keep the free scoring visitors at bay and the hard-working Cody Rose-Moore was always a threat for the home side at the other end, HT 1-2. Into the second half, and the Swans were showing a real desire to force the equaliser, but Merley were always dangerous and hit the woodwork on a couple of occasions. It was the visitors who extended their lead when Matt Groves capitalised on a defensive mix up from the Swans to score his sides third and put the match beyond the battling home side. Garan Bennett went close with a couple of long-range efforts and striker Cody Rose-Moore always looked possible to add to his sides total.



“PETERSHAM LANE STALEMATE”

HOLT UNITED 0 SWANAGE TOWN & H 0

Holt United and Swanage Town & H finished all square at Petersham Lane in The Dorset Premier League. Swanage started the brighter of the sides with Clark and Atkinson going close with Parslowe also hitting the bar from long range, however Swanage keeper Langdon had to be at his best producing a good save at the other end to deny Saxby. The hosts then took control of the game but produced very little to trouble the

visitors who continued to give the ball away cheaply, but the back 3 of Harlowe, Godwin and Bartlett held firm. H.T.0-0. The second half deteriorated into a scrappy affair with both sides creating very few chances and with a goalless draw looking the obvious outcome both sides had great chances to snatch the points in the dying minutes, Atkinson for the Swans had a clear run on goal but hit the keeper's legs and a home forward missed a great header when well placed.

"BLANDFORDS LAST GASP WINNER IN 7 GOAL THRILLER"

BLANDFORD UTD 4 PARLEY SPORTS 3

The Royals entertained Parley Sports at the Rec, with several changes in the line-up, the home side started brightly and soon found themselves 1-0 up after some tidy play down the left which resulted in a good ball across the box for Steve Smith to show his attacking instincts to tap home. Soon after Parley found an equaliser courtesy of Ben Bosleys left foot shot from the edge of the box, minutes later and the visitors went ahead as the home side failed to clear their lines from a corner with Bosley scoring again, HT 1-2. The Royals started brightly in the second half dominating large periods of the game, constantly filling the box in hope to find an equaliser, their hard work was soon to be rewarded when Mike Johnson latched on to a flicked on ball to fire home. Blandford then took the lead in route one style after the home sides goalkeeper found Mark Ford in space to which he finished off nicely lobbing the visiting keeper to make it 3-2. Five minutes from time the Royals failed to stop a cross and Parley equalised again through Callum Lee's header. Blandford love a last minute come back and that is exactly what happened, as Parleys replacement keeper Brad Kendrick missed his kick so allowing Mark Ford to tap in the winner seconds from full time. This was hard on Parley but full credit to the Royals for their win.

"SHERBORNE DESERVEDLEY STUN MERLEY"

MERLEY CS 1 SHERBORNE TOWN RES 2

Merley went into this match favourites and were unbeaten since the start of October and they were up against a Sherborne side who have recently lost their way picking up 1 point in their last 5 games. The odds further didn't help the away side as work and holiday commitments left the zebras travelling with only 11 players which included their manager. Sherborne started the game well, although Merley had most of the ball it was the visitors causing more problems. Glenn Nathan, Ryan Thurgood had chances to put Sherborne ahead but it was the league leaders who made the breakthrough scoring from decent throw in set piece eventually finished by Lee Wilkins. Town levelled things up 6 minutes later with a similar goal to Merleys. Matt Watson rose highest to head home following Darren Rows long throw in the 36th minute, HT 1-1. The second half Merley came out the traps fast and went up a couple of gears but they couldn't find a way through the organised town line up. With all their pressure going forward, they left gaps at the back, and a pin point ball from Paul Johnson led to Town getting their second of the match as Ollie Hibbard beat his full back for pace and skill and fired into the bottom corner. Merley missed 2 glorious chances to level things up but the rub of the green was on towns side as they held on to win the match 1-2.

"HAMWORTHY HAMMER THE BLUES"

HAMWORTHY REC 9 PORTLAND UTD RES 0

After two weeks of inactivity Rec returned with a thumping win over Portland Res. After taking an early lead the result was never in doubt, with returning goalkeeper Andy Knights a virtual spectator, barely having to make a save of note. With George Webb out injured manager Kirk Grice shuffled the pack and returned Callum Charlton to his normal wide midfield role - to telling effect, as after only five minutes his low cross was neatly touched in by Carl Edwards to put Rec one up. And on 18 minutes the lead was doubled when Charlton chased the ball and delivered a high cross which was beautifully volleyed home by Brad Hill. Rec were well on top and Hill instigated a good move that saw Ash Boyt's long-range effort fly just over, before Portland had a half-chance go wide. The industrious Charlton then set up Chris Long, only for the keeper to produce a good tip-over. But on 41 minutes Charlton's corner arrived at the feet of Hill to slam in the third,

HT 3-0. Three goals in five minutes early in the second-half put Rec in an unbeatable position. On 50 minutes Hill's corner was powerfully headed in at the far post by Chris Long, before Charlton crossed for John Webb to head the fifth and on 55 minutes Long chased and won the ball and slipped a low pass for Ash Boyt to stab in his first goal of the season. A triple substitution then had immediate effect when, on the hour, Josh Pratt supplied a through-ball for Sam Carter to run onto and make it seven. Rec were looking likely to score in virtually every attack and it was soon eight when, on 64 minutes, Carter teed up John Webb for his second goal, before five minutes later Long ran down the middle and slotted in the ninth. It seemed certain that it would be double figures, but some dogged defending by the visitors kept a rampant Rec at bay and in the three-player chase for a hat-trick Chris Long went closest, right at the end, when his clever volley from a Webb corner flew just over

"GILLINGHAM WIN ON THE ROAD IN CORFE"

CORFE CASTLE 0 GILLINGHAM TOWN 3

A resplendent spring afternoon was the setting for Saturday's game between Corfe Castle FC and Gillingham Town. The previous meeting between the two was a close-run competition which ended 2-1 for the Gills. The first half saw several good Corfe chances, which unfortunately weren't converted thanks to some good goalkeeping from the visitors, the wood work and some inaccuracy from the Corfe marksmen. Gillingham had also made some chances and converted one late on in the first half, when an over hit cross was put back across the box to be nodded in by Gillingham's Matt Samual, HT 0-1. Gillingham took the initiative straight away in the second half. From a free kick in their own half, a direct long ball into the right-hand channel caught out the Corfe back four as Gillingham's Buddy O Shea drove into the box and powered the ball past the keeper at the near post. Gillingham put the game to bed 15 minutes later when a similar ball into the right-hand channel caught out the defence again, this time O Shea lifted the ball first time over the stranded Corfe keeper which completed his brace and an impressive personal performance. The game finished 0-3. Disappointing for Corfe after such a promising first half, they failed to make any impact on the second half. Corfe will have to dust themselves down and look to next week's game against fellow bottom of the table strugglers Sturminster Newton, in a must win for both teams."

"BALTI LEAVE IT LATE TO LEAVE STURMINSTER TASTING DEFEAT"

STURMINSTER NEWTON 0 BALTI SPORTS 1

Balti Sports continued their assault on fourth place in the Dorset Premier League as a cheeky backheel from teenager Jack Drummond secured a 1-0 victory over Sturminster Newton United. Drummond, promoted to the starting XI at the expense of striker Ricky Lane, repaid manager Marco Nott's faith in him with a deft flick from Danny Andrews' cross in the second half. Victory handed Balti their fourth win in five games, keeping the pressure on Gillingham Town in fifth with the Gills lying six points adrift with two games in hand. The Cherries has started the brighter of the two sides, belying their position of 16th, with goalkeeper Andy Nott forced into making a flying stop to tip a fierce effort over the bar. Prior to Drummond's goal, Andrews went closest to scoring with a lob that bounced narrowly wide. Drummond then gave Sports the lead with his well-taken goal and Balti had to survive an injury-time header from the Cherries, who passed up the opportunity to take a point with a poor finish. Speaking to Echosport, Nott lavished praise on match-winner Drummond. He said: "That's the good thing about him being a youngster, he's free to do whatever he wants, he tried it and it came off. "I'm really happy for him to get his goal because he's been banging the goals in for the reserves. "We thought we'd give him a chance with not much to play for and try and look at some of the young lads for next season. "Josh Hickman and Liam O'Shaughnessy both looked really accomplished, faultless really." Nott also hailed Balti's defence, who kept a fifth league clean sheet of the season. He said: "Our defence was outstanding, we're so solid at the moment with the back four and Andy in goal. "Charlie Kenderdine was man of the match in the holding role in midfield. They just completely nullified them. "They had one good chance at the end with a header they probably should've scored from. Our defence has been very good for a number of weeks, it's quite a settled back four now and they're getting their rewards. "There weren't a lot of chances in the game in general.

"WESTLANDS KEEP UP THE HEAT AFTER SMOTTH WIN OVER THE ROCKIES"

WESTLAND SPORTS 5 SHAFTESBURY RES 3

A good competitive match with Westlands prevailing in the end after a good battle. Sports attacked from the start and after a sustained spell of pressure opened the scoring in the 17th minute. Josh Payne won the ball and slipped a nice pass through to Callum Thompson who side footed past the onrushing Shaftesbury keeper. In 24 minutes, it was 2-0, Sam Carney thumped in a good shot that the keeper parried but Josh Payne was following up and he slotted in the rebound. Things looked bleak for the visitors but they kept their heads up and were rewarded in the 34th minute when a cross from the left was headed in at the far post by Rob Hatchard. Inspired by this Shaftesbury came more into the game and the half ended with Westlands holding a slim one goal lead, HT 2-1. The second half started with the visitors pressing for an equaliser which they got after only five minutes with a low free kick by Jason Beal which was missed by everyone in the box and ended up in the far corner of the net. Westlands management then made a couple of substitutions to try and wake the team up and this paid dividends in the 62nd minute when a low free kick from Callum Thompson was thumped into the net off the underside of the bar by Alex Murphy. In the 77th minute Westlands eased back into a two-goal lead with Callum Thompson finishing off an Ant Herrin pass by prodding it past the advancing keeper. Going in to the last 10 minutes Westlands two goal lead looked quite secure but again the visitor's shocked the home side when JJ Hockett drilled the ball into the net after the Westlands defence had failed to clear a long ball into the box. That made it a nervy finish for Sports but they quickly re-established their two-goal advantage when Callum Thompson completed his hat-trick by knocking in a Louis Irwin cross after a good move down the left. There was no time for another Shaftesbury fight back as Westlands played out time comfortably.

"BEES STING RANGERS TO THE TUNE OF 5"

BRIDPORT RES 5 WAREHAM RANGERS 2

Bridport Reserves smashed five past Wareham Rangers in a big 5-2 victory over Wareham Rangers in the Dorset Premier League. The result sees the Bees up to ninth in the table, and have games in hand over Portland United Reserves and Dorchester Sports above them. The Bees got off to the perfect start, Jaydon Scadding crossed a ball in from a corner for Ryan Gall to head in after two minutes. The corner itself was disputed, and Bridport Reserves boss Shaun Annett's later admitted he did not think it was a corner and believed it should have been a goal kick. The lead was then doubled after 11 minutes, when a ball through from Harry Fleet found Josh Hunter, who clinically finished to the goalkeeper's right-hand side. Wareham were rattled and the Bees were in a very efficient mood, as Robin Jones netted a third after just 13 minutes. Wareham did have their chances however, and a challenge from Dan Baggs gave away a penalty after 30 minutes. However, this was struck firmly against the crossbar and away to safety. Yet the Bees kept their 3-0 lead with them into the break. The second half began on a difficult note for the Bees, losing Riley Weedon to a groin strain. Yet Hunter pounced to widen the margin not long after, firing in his second and the Bees' fourth after 50 minutes. The Bees became complacent however, and Wareham grabbed a quick double to narrow the scores, netting in the 77th and 86th minute. However, Gall grabbed his second to restore the three-goal cushion after 89 minutes. After the match, Annett's was pleased with the result but bemoaned the concession of the two goals. Annett's said: "I am pleased we were clinical, because I said to the players, the team are bottom of the league, we need to get at them and we need to get at them early and we need to put this team to bed early if we can. "They did exactly what I asked, but then to concede two sloppy goals took the gloss off the result. "Against better teams we would not have got away with that so much."

WEDNESDAY 3rd APRIL

"ROYAL WIN IN THE PURBECKS"

WAREHAM RANGERS 1 BLANDFORD UNITED 6

A young Royals side travelled to Wareham Rangers this evening and came away with all 3 points securing a well-deserved 6-1 win, Blandford scored 3 in each half with Rob Manson (11) Mark Ford (21) & Brad Perry (38) followed up in the 2nd half by Charles Culliford (50) Substitute Luke Pidgely (64) and finally Mark Ford with his 2nd and the Royals 6th in the 69th minute, replying for Wareham was Aaron Merredew.

“REC STING THE BEES WITH HILLS FREE KICK”

BRIDPORT RES 0 HAMWORTHY REC 1

This was one of Rec’s toughest games of the season, but another precious three points were clinched, late on, thanks to a brilliant Brad Hill free-kick. In the reverse fixture Rec ran in seven goals, but there was never a chance of that happening again as Bridport defended for their lives and continually thwarted Rec’s attempts. As you would expect Rec had more of the ball and played some neat football, but too many moves broke down in the final third, thanks to some excellent defending by the hosts. An early Brad Hill cross eluded Callum Charlton, before Bridport saw a speculative shot fly over. Ash Boyt’s free-kick found Carl Edwards, but his shot was wide and Richie Sands’ long-range attempt was saved by the keeper. But the closest Rec came to a goal was when Edwards charged down the middle and lobbed the on-rushing keeper, only for the ball to bounce and hit the bar. Bridport finished the half strongly and a free-kick was headed only inches wide, before another good move was also off target. HT 0-0. Rec continued to press forward in search of the elusive first goal and Sam Carter showed great control to bring down Hill’s cross, only for the shot to fly over the bar. Hill was involved in most of Rec’s best moves and he set up another chance, this time for John Webb, but again, the shot was too high. But on 75 minutes came the decisive moment. John Webb was fouled just outside the area and up stepped Brad Hill to send a “Beckham-esque” free-kick brilliantly beyond the diving keeper and into the net - cue best goal-celebration of the season! Bridport were dealt another blow soon after when they were reduced to ten men, for a bad lunge on Todd Coombs and Rec took control in the remaining minutes to see out the game. But there was still time for the hosts the launch a dangerous ball into the box, cleared by the excellent Dave Wrixton. With Bridport down to nine men (a sin bin in the last couple of minutes) Rec nearly made it two when Chris Long’s great run and cross found Hill, whose first-time shot was inches off-target.

“MERLEY SCALE THE ROCKIES”

SHAFTESBURY RES 1 MERLEY CS

Following Saturday’s shock defeat for Merley CS, they returned to winning ways with a well-deserved win at Cochrams against hosts Shaftesbury Res, level 1-1 at the break Merley stepped up a gear in the 2nd half to run out easy winners, scoring for the visitors were Brandon Randall and a pair from Joshua Buck.