



DPL – NEWSLETTER - 27



Match Reports Saturday 10th February 2018

"MERE WIN ROYALLY IN 7 GOAL THRILLER"

MERE TOWN 4 BLANDFORD UTD 3

On a day when 6 DPL fixtures fell foul to the rain once more, it was good to get the game on at Mere. The pitch was wet from the start and the ongoing rain throughout the game did not help, so it was never going to be a 'beautiful' game. However, it was a good honest, competitive match with both teams doing what they could in the circumstances. After an even start it was the visitors who took the lead after just 10 minutes when William Johnson netted. The visitors looked dangerous on the break with some good hold up play and a fair bit of pace in attack. Mere re-grouped and responded with an equalising goal, courtesy of Nigel Benjamin, who had gone on a run down the right wing before his cross come shot found its way into the goal at the near post. The game then moved into a pretty scrappy stage and Blandford re-took the lead after a clumsy challenge by the home side led to a penalty which was duly converted in the 32nd minute by Archie McCarthy. It looked as if the hosts would go in 2-1 down at half-time but another a bit of magic by Benjamin saw him cut the ball back this time for Aiden Beardmore to equalise for the Moonrakers, HT 2-2. A tactical switch at the start of the second half for Mere put the versatile Jordan Shorrocks up front with top goal scorer Joe Paterson as the hosts pressed to take the lead. But then, against the run of play, Blandford re-took the lead when the ball found its way to McCarthy who produced a fantastic lob from close on the half way line beat the home keeper and put the Royals back in front. Mere kept their composure and discipline, continuing to probe and press the visitors defence. Despite the pitch looking much the worse for wear at this stage the home side tried to play their passing game and created several half chances. In the 72nd minute Mere forced a corner and after a bit of a goal mouth scramble Jordan Shorrocks poked the ball in to restore parity. Mere continued to push forward and looked the fitter of the sides as the final whistle drew closer, by having the lion's share of possession and looking at any opportunity to get the ball forward and grab a late winner. The 90th minute arrived but the hosts would simply not settle for a point and their pressure finally rewarded them when Sam Biddescombe weaved his way through a congested penalty area to slot the ball beyond the keeper and several Blandford players in the 6-yard box to score what was the winner.

"PARLEY LEAVE IT LATE TO FINALLY TAME THE ZEBRAS"

PARLEY SPORTS 3 SHERBORNE TOWN RES 1

Parley needed 2 injury time goals to finally overcome a stubborn Sherborne side, played on a very heavy pitch, both sides struggled to get a foothold, literally, early in the game, however on 19 minutes the hosts were awarded a penalty after a handball infringement in the Sherborne box, up stepped the ever-reliable Matt Newberry who promptly blazed the ball over the bar. The home side continued to dominate 1st half proceedings but could not convert the chances created, HT 0-0. The second half, again proved tough for both sides as the conditions took their toll but on 74 minutes the visitors edged in front through Oliver Heberd's cross shot that went in off the Parley crossbar. This set back clearly

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galvanised the home side as they pushed for an equaliser which duly came 6 minutes later when Brady Boomtan converted Josh Moody's low cross. With the game now into injury time, Parley again attacked through Moody whose cross this time was dummied by Mike La Ronde for the ball to be slammed home by Dan Stone. There was still time for the home side to get a 3rd in the 93rd minute when Jack Voisey found himself in the clear to beat the visiting keeper to put gloss onto the score line.

ALL other scheduled Matches POSTPONED due to Waterlogged pitches.

