

FA Inter-League Cup: Dorset Premier League XI perfect from the spot after teams cannot be separated in 120min.

Shoot-out heartache for Pinsard's men at the Track



Josh Concanen keeps his eyes firmly on the ball as it is flicked on by a Dorset opponent. (26377120)

FOOTBALL
by Matt Lihou
sport@guernseypress.com

FNB Priaux League XI.....3
Hale, Murray, Alvarez

Dorset Premier Lge.....3
Payne 2, Saxby

(a.e.t. Dorset win 5-4 on pens)

IT WAS a case of what should have been as the Priaux League's elite suffered yet more Guernsey penalty heartache at the Track on Saturday to end their FA Inter-League Cup hopes prematurely.

Shoot-outs from 12 yards have not been kind to Guernsey sides of all persuasions in recent months or years and so it proved again, although ironically it was Alderney man Josh Concanen who became the victim of the drama this time around.

His miss second up, well saved by the excellent Dorset goalkeeper Matt Robson, meant that successful conversions from Sam Hale, Simon Marley, Zak Chatterton and Sam Hall were in vain as the visitors were faultless in netting all five.

But the reality is that this should not even have made it that far, or indeed the extra half-hour that was needed to separate the sides after a six-goal thriller in tough conditions.

To say the hosts dominated proceedings in the first 45 minutes would be an understatement and they will still be wondering how they only went in at the interval a goal to the good – Josh Payne's strike in the late stages of the first half to reduce the arrears to 2-1 proving crucial.

That Payne strike – sliding past Guernsey keeper Jason Martin after breaking the offside trap – was the first occasion the visitors created any kind of chance as they were outplayed by an excellent home outfit.

By then, Hale had given Charlie Pinsard's Sarnians a 10th minute lead and just before the midway point of the first half, Sam Murray had doubled it with a superb turn-and-finish under pressure.

Both goals had Hall heavily involved in the build-up and the Rovers man was superb all afternoon, belying the heavy Track turf – most had assumed this match would move to the KGV's all-weather surface – in beating Dorset players at will with his quick feet.

It was Hall's driving run and pull back for the onrushing Hale – also magnificent throughout – that broke the deadlock as the home centre-back swept home from 10 yards.

Hall himself came close to doubling the lead before Murray did exactly that by getting the better of Dorset centre-back William Johnson on this occasion, in what was an intriguing battle all game, before firing home his left-footed effort.

Even after that lead was extended to 2-0 it continued to be a game of home attack versus visiting defence, albeit without any genuine openings, but



Priaux League Representative XI midfielder River Marsh stoops in an attempt to head the ball towards the Dorset Premier League goal. (Pictures by Adrian Miller, 26377122)

then came the Dorset sucker punch.

A hopeful ball lumped forward over the top wrong-footed centre-back Steve Concanen and Payne broke the offside trap – incorrectly in the eyes of the home side – before sliding past Martin.

That was the moment that turned a superb first half full of ingenuity and promise to one with a hint of frustration for Pinsard and his assistant William Woodford, who nonetheless would still have been impressed with their side's endeavours.

But come the second half, come the heavy downpour of rain and suddenly on a heavy pitch, allied with a couple of tactical tweaks, including bringing on the impressive Sam Handyside, Dorset were right back in it.

They were level on the 53-minute mark when another long ball saw Steve Concanen slip in the mud at the most inopportune moment and in popped that man Payne again, to steer past Martin for the second time.

Priaux League captain Craig Young came close to restoring the home lead with a thumping 20-yard drive that was well turned away by Robson, but that was soon forgotten as the Dorset turnaround was complete midway through the half.

This time Payne turned provider as his cross from the left-hand side was headed home by Nathan Saxby to now leave those wearing green chasing the game, with Murray coming close to an equaliser a few moments later.

Things were starting to get a bit

desperate by the time the 77th minute came but then was Guernsey joy again, as Joe Alvarez timed his run into the box superbly to head down emphatically from a deep cross as team-mates also waited should he not oblige.

Josh Concanen came close to winning it with the last kick of the 90 minutes, with his fierce shot creeping inches over the crossbar, but extra-time it was and the first period of that passed by without incident.

Payne had a wonderful chance to win it in the second period for Dorset as he was put through again but this time fluffed his lines, ending what had been a perfect conversion rate for his side – the rate now the mere three goals from four chances.

That would have been costly had home substitute Marlon Jardim kept his shot down in the final minute after a scramble, but it flew just over and with it came the lottery of penalties – with Guernsey's numbers again not quite coming up.

TEAMS

Guernsey Priaux League: Martin, McKane, S. Concanen, Hale, Alvarez, Marsh, J. Concanen, Young, Hunter, Hall, Murray. Subs used: Chatterton, Jardim, Oluborode, Marley.
Dorset Premier League: Robson, Neal, Manley, George, Johnson, Barrett, Edwards, Mills, Phillips, Payne, Saxby. Subs used: Handyside, Kamal, Wells, Thurgood.
Referee: M. Gidman.



Priaux League captain Craig Young on the edge of the Dorset box. (26377105)



Priaux League striker Sam Murray challenges for a ball into the Dorset area. (26377095)



Sam Hall is left floored by a Dorset opponent. (26377138)

Proud sponsors of the Island men's

Representative Team

Experts in the provision of Fiduciary Services, FNB has the expertise to meet your every need

Licensed by the Guernsey Financial Services Commission to conduct Fiduciary Business

fnbit.com
01481 748100

Proud sponsors of Guernsey's

Priaux League

Experts in the provision of Fiduciary Services, FNB has the expertise to meet your every need

Licensed by the Guernsey Financial Services Commission to conduct Fiduciary Business

fnbit.com
01481 748100