

“REC STORM TO 9 FROM 9 AT THE FORTRESS”

CORFE CASTLE 2
HAMWORTHY REC 3

Corfe Castle welcomed league leaders Hamworthy Rec to The Fortress, a good crowd gathered on what was a resplendent afternoon. The visitors started the better with a high press on Corfe and Rec found their break through after just 3 minutes when 15 minutes, when Brad Hill slipped in John Webb to set up George Webb for a neat, low finish inside the post. This set up Rec for a period of dominance and John Webb was just beaten by the home keeper to a Sam Thompson cross, before a defensive mistake let in George Webb, only for his shot to be headed away. Corfe responded well and profited from good possession when they worked a nice break down the left flank, Ocean Smith squared to the arriving Josh Baker who passed the ball into the empty net just past the half hour mark. Back came Rec and on 36 minutes George Webb combined with Ash Boyt to drill in his 11th goal of the season and five minutes later John Webb ran on to a through-ball and cleverly beat defender and keeper to make it three, HT 1-3. Both teams approached the second half with similar intensity, Sam Thompson had an early chance for the visitors beaten away, before Aaron Robertson produced his second important save to deny the plucky hosts. Thompson had a good first-time effort saved, before Hill blazed over following good work by John Webb. Corfe were getting men behind the ball and frustrating Rec and play became scrappy, but the hosts set up a nail-biting finale when they scored a second on 84 minutes, when Ocean Smith beat his man down the left again and squared to substitute Matt Suttle who finished well. However, the nearest the hosts came to getting a deserved equaliser was when they had a long-range shot pushed away by the ever-alert Robertson in the Rec goal, for a corner as Rec held on for the win.

“BLANDFORD EVENTUALLY TAME THE ZEBRAS WITH 2nd HALF SHOWING”

BLANDFORD UTD 6
SHERBORNE TOWN RES 1



Royals win again on a glorious afternoon !!! The Royals welcomed Sherborne Town Reserves to Park Road in what looked to be a tricky fixture as you never know what to expect from the visitors. Things didn't start too well as the visitors took the lead on 20 mins after a lacklustre start by the home side, a forced substitution allowed Mark Ford to come on and score with his first touch lobbing the advancing keeper. Both sides continued to do very little before the break, HT 1-1. After a stern telling off from the Blandford Manager at half time, the Royals came out a different side and blew Sherborne away scoring 5 in the second half, a Hat trick from the superb Bradley Pike, a back-post header from Tom Oliver and a well worked team goal finished off by Paul Ford. A very entertaining 2nd half in front of a bumper crowd, the win moving the Royals up to 5th in the table, losing only 1 game so far. Solid performances from the back four with Tom Oliver having a particular good game, also Jack Jones and Brad Pike were outstanding in the second half as was Mark Ford after coming on. Elliot Manson also continues to impress with his new role in midfield.

“TANGERINES LEAVE BITTER TASTE FOR MCS”

GILLINGHAM TOWN 1
MERLEY CS 0

Free scoring Merley couldn't find their scoring boots as the hosts won a hard-fought game courtesy of a 2nd half Elliot Bevis strike in what was a great all-round team performance from Gillingham.

"BSP STAMPEDE OVER THE BULLS"

BS PARLEY	4
HOLT UTD	1



The hosts produced arguably their best performance of the season as they beat a determined Holt side at Chapel Gate. Scoring for the hosts were Mike Thompsett, James Bergin, Matt Newbury & Johnny Cook.

"WESTLANDS SWOT THE BEES"

WESTLAND SPORTS	6
BRIDPORT RES	2

Westlands took an early lead in the 3rd minute of the match. Malik Kamal challenged the Bridport keeper for a back pass and the ball fell to Luca Martin who buried it in the top corner. Bridport weren't downhearted by their early concession and after half an hour they drew level. A long ball into the box was knocked down to Brandon Scadding who thumped it in. Ten minutes later Bridport were caught napping when a quick Westlands free kick put Josh Payne clean through and he coolly slid the ball past the advancing keeper to make it 2-1 to the home side. It was end to end and just before the break the teams were level again. The Westlands defence seemed to hesitate when a ball was played into the box and Bridport's Josh Hunter pounced to drill a low shot into the net. All even 2-2 at half-time. Westlands changed their shape at half time and this paid dividends in the 50th minute when new signing Tim Trevett headed in a Malik Kamal cross. Westlands were in full control now and in the 65th minute skipper Adam Barratt ran through and curled in a left foot shot to make it 4-2. Bridport were deflated now and in the last ten minutes Sports added two more goals. In the 85th minutes Phil Wells was on the spot to volley in number five after a Nick Voss shot came off the crossbar. Then in the last minute, Jacob Manley ran onto a through ball and smashed in the sixth. An entertaining game played in perfect conditions.

"CHERRIES AND THE SWANS PRODUCE A POINT APIECE"

STURMINSTER NEWTON	2
SWANAGE T&H	2

Swanage gained a point at Sturminster Newton United with a 2-2 draw in The Dorset Premier League. Swans started the better of the sides with Cody Rose-Moore, Elliott Parslow and Paul Best all going close. Barnes, Dave Best and Clark were showing tenacity in midfield and the defence looked untroubled; however, it was the home side who took the lead after 26 minutes with a far post header from George Coleman. A minute later Swans were on level terms when Elliot Parslow was tripped and Joe Clarke converted the resulting penalty. Keeper James Langdon had to be at his best making a smart save to prevent the home side from taking the lead. Swans were dealt a blow when The Cherries took the lead with another far post header from Harry Boulton a minute before the interval, HT 2-1. Swanage dominated long periods of the second half with Dave Best missing the target when well-placed and had another shot cleared off the line by the overworked Sturminster defence. Sturminster nearly increased their lead when a speculative shot hit the crossbar. Swans suffered a major blow after 60 minutes when Paul Best was injured and had to be substituted. The visitors increased the pressure on the home side and were finally rewarded in the 86th minute when Joe Clarke hit a superb free kick into the top corner for a well-deserved point.

“SPORTS STUN THE SWANS TO PROGRESS”

DORCHESTER SPORTS 2
CHRISTCHURCH 4



Dorchester Sports bowed out of the FA Vase at the second qualifying round stage despite a valiant effort in a 4-2 loss to Christchurch at the Clayson Stadium. Competing in the competition for the first time in their history, Sports earned the chance to go up against their Sydenhams Wessex Premier Division opponents with a 1-0 win over Swanage in the previous round. Despite there being a two-tier difference between the sides, Sports were competitive for large periods of the game, although the Priory did dominate the first half. Sports' keeper Ashley Weeks was called upon to make two excellent saves but was powerless to prevent the visitors taking a 1-0 lead in the 45th minute. Christchurch rained a cross down into the Sports' box and Harvey Wright was on hand to head past Weeks. An enlarged first-half stoppage-time, due to Sports' full-back Ashley Smith's substitution for concussion, bore two further goals in a hectic period. The Dorchester side equalised when Adam Steele crossed for Darren Watts to fire home, but Wright notched his brace in 1st half injury time, smashing home into the top corner from 18 yards out. After three goals in three minutes, Sports went in 2-1 down but were soon back on level terms as popular Romanian striker Alex Stafie swept home Paul Hill's cross for 2-2. Christchurch battled back and led for a third time when Max Wilcock headed home a corner in the 58th minute. Sports were unruffled and began to dominate, creating four clear chances from which they crucially failed to score. Stafie and Watts were both denied from range, while Jamie Quinton missed from close range before Oli Lowes squandered a golden one-on-one chance. Those misses were to prove costly as Nick Swann settled the tie in the 78th minute, rifling into the top corner. With legs tired from a superb effort, Sports conceded a penalty when Dan Peart tripped a Christchurch forward. However, Weeks guessed right to smartly save and keep the score at 4-2. Home boss Ashley James said: "We pushed them really close but unfortunately fell a bit short at the end. "It was a great effort and performance. On another day it could've been different. It was a battle, they were a big side we're a small side and our lads stood up to everything. "Unfortunately we just couldn't get the lead. It may have been different if we'd managed to get our noses in front. We kept coming from behind but the key was they took their chances and we didn't."

Report courtesy of the; **DorsetECHO**