

WEST MULLEN 1-5 WEST HOWE
M.A.HART LAWRENCE A BRIVATI CUP FINAL
Thursday 30th March 2017 at Hurn Bridge

West Howe are M.A.Hart Lawrence A Brivati Cup winners for the second time in three years following their impressive 5-1 triumph over Hayward Sunday Division Four rivals West Mullen at Hurn Bridge.

The game started at a cracking pace with both sides throwing caution to the wind. West Howe 'keeper Sonny Turner raced out of his penalty area to perform a timely sliding tackle on Matt Warden while, at the other end, a free kick to the far post resulted in Kyle Leach steering the ball just over the bar from a tight angle.

Ellis George slipped the ball narrowly wide of the West Mullen goal after 18 minutes before West Mullen responded with Mitch Hack being put through by Matt Warden to slip the ball past Turner and agonisingly wide of the far post.

Mitch Hack was clean through again two minutes later and on this occasion he took the ball past the 'keeper and planted it in the empty net to put West Mullen in front.

West Mullen's joy was short lived though with Liam Whittle racing down the right straight from the restart to pull the ball back for Ryan Clarke to slam home West Howe's equaliser, exactly 33 seconds after they had gone behind.

West Howe went ahead in the 36th minute when Gareth Else's free kick from the right into a crowded penalty area was steered home from close range by Sam Davis at the second attempt.

West Mullen were struggling to contain the pacey Kyle Leach and he played a neat one-two on the edge of the box with Ritchie Whiting a minute later to get in a lob which only just cleared the crossbar.

West Mullen produced a neat three man move involving Brad Gale, Cassius Newton, and Matt Warden five minutes before the interval which resulted in Gale getting in a shot but goalkeeper Turner had narrowed the angle well to preserve West Howe's 2-1 lead at the half way stage.

Gareth Else was put through on left in 56th minute to steer a shot wide of near post but West Howe's third goal was to come three minutes later after Ryan Clarke was fouled just outside the penalty area. Sam Davis' free kick was cleared but only as far as Ryan Clarke whose 20 yard volley curled majestically into the top corner of the net.

Leach raced through on left in 66th minute to send an inviting ball across the face of the goal and only just beyond the reach of Anthony Grieve who was coming in at the far post.

Leach then latched onto Ritchie Whiting's excellent through ball a minute later to slide it past the advancing 'keeper and narrowly wide of the post.

Freeman was soon back in action, diving to save from the marauding Leach before West Howe came surging forward again in the 69th minute. This time it was Gareth Else breaking through on the left to chip the ball to the far post where Marston Wortley was unable to capitalise.

Kyle Leach was finally rewarded for his persistence in the 77th minute when he burst through on the left to send a perfectly judged lob over the advancing 'keeper and into the far corner of the net.



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West Howe rounded off the scoring two minutes later when Ryan Clarke was brought down from behind in the penalty area and Gareth Else stepped up to convert the resultant penalty kick.

West Howe's lively front man Kyle Leach was chosen by Hayward League President Mike Fowler for the Man of the Match award.



West Mullen :- Michael Freeman, Dan Warrilow (Callum Clayton 74 mins), Chris Baldry, Mark Lorains (Jack Dunne 63 mins), Joe Walden, Matt Warden, Jamie Robinson, Brad Gale, Mitch Hack, Cassius Newton, Paul Bedford (Chris Ashford 83 mins)

West Howe :- Sonny Turner, Kieron Shirley, Tommy King, Alex Lee, Ryan Clarke, Sam Davis, Gareth Else (Jordan Whittle 81 mins), Ellis George, Kyle Leach, Ritchie Whiting (Graham Warren 72 mins), Liam Whittle (Marston Wortley 65 mins)

