M.A.HART NICHOLAS READ CUP FINAL

Sponsored by Mike Read & Family.

Thursday 7th April 2016   **at Hurn Bridge**

VIENNA RESERVES   1   RUSHMERE RESERVES 1

Lee Clarke 79 mins   Stuart Davids   61 mins

After extra time   Vienna Reserves won 4-2 on pens

Sunday Division Seven championship rivals Vienna Reserves and Rushmere Reserves went head to head in Thursday night's M.A.Hart Nicholas Read Cup Final and, with honours even at 1-1 after extra time, Vienna eventually lifted the trophy after emerging 4-2 winners in a penalty shoot out.

Rushmere 'keeper Barry South made an excellent save in the early minutes, diving bravely at the feet of Josh Thompson to deny the Vienna striker as he latched onto Craig Warren's low cross.

Vienna looked certain to score on the half hour when Luke Hoare rounded the 'keeper and drilled the ball goalwards.   Rushmere 'skipper Rory Robertson had anticipated the situation perfectly though and got back to clear the ball off the line.

Vienna had another good opportunity in the 43rd minute when skipper Matt Singleton latched onto a through ball to get in a shot from the edge of the penalty area.   South narrowed the angle well to block Singleton's strike with his legs.

Rushmere opened the scoring in the 61st minute when **Stuart Davids** latched onto the ball in midfield before going through to beat Chester with a low shot into the far corner of the net.

Rushmere threatened to double their lead three minutes later when Robertson played a good ball down the right to Stuart Davids whose low cross to the near post was met by Yusuf Akanni.   But the Vienna defence managed to smuggle the ball off the line and away to safety,

Vienna looked to have equalised when Luke Hoare headed the ball into the net from a corner in the 72nd minute but referee Steve Tuley had spotted a foul on the Rushmere 'keeper and the goal was disallowed.

Vienna were on terms in the 79th minute though when a corner from the right was headed home by substitute **Lee Clarke**.

Luke Hoare was through one on one with Barry South in the 83rd minute but the Rushmere 'keeper came out to make a vital save.

Akanni was put through at the start of extra time but Chester saved well at the foot of the past then, at the other end, South used his legs to block Lee Clarke's close range header from a corner.

Cameron Whitwell put Marcos Castro through with just the 'keeper to beat in the second half of extra time but the Rushmere substitute put his shot high over the bar.

Vienna went straight down the other end and Jason Cliffe narrowly failed to connect with a ball across the face of the goal as he slid in at the far post.

In the last minute of extra time Stuart Davids was through again for Rushmere but Chester came off his line to force the ball wide for a corner.

The game had to be settled on penalties and, while Rushmere missed two of the four spot kicks taken, Craig Warren, Lee Clarke, Matt Singleton, and Toby Saunders slotted home all four of Vienna's to win the trophy.

Rushmere's Stuart Davids was chosen for the **Man of the Match** award by Hayward League President Mike Fowler.

Vienna Reserves :-   Nick Chester, Fred Dennard, Carlo Covello, Elliot Lewis, Toby Saunders, Luke Hoare (Dan Pearson 110 mins), Matt Singleton, Jason Cliffe, Josh Thompson (Lee Clarke 68 mins), Craig Warren, Ross Singleton (Thomas Lanham 74 mins).

Rushmere Reserves :-   Barry South, Chris Hudson, Adam Davidson, Marc Crisp, Ross Davids (Cameron Whitnall 59 mins), Jamie Hodges (Marcos Castro 90 mins), Stuart Davids, Yusuf Akanni, Jordan Byfield, Alberto Nozal (Jose Gomez 76 mins), Rory Robertson.