

M.A.HART IN-EXCESS CUP FINAL

Thursday 14th April 2016

at Hurn Bridge

ABBEY **4** **BRIT SPORTS** **2**

Kev Collins 30 mins, 32 mins Bradley Arthur 24 mins

Chris Payne 34 mins Edward Hammond 78 mins

Gary Shears 47 mins

Abbey emerged 4-2 winners in Thursday night's M.A.Hart In-Excess Cup Final against Hayward Sunday Division Two championship rivals BriT Sports at Hurn Bridge.

BriT drew first blood midway through the first half when their leading marksman Bradley Arthur notched his nineteenth goal of the season. But their lead lasted only six minutes before Abbey took the game by the scruff of the neck, scoring three times in quick succession. Midfielder Kev Collins produced two spectacular efforts from just outside the penalty area with Chris Payne adding the third.

Gary Shears' impressive solo effort early in the second half put the game beyond Sports although they did pull one back through substitute Edward Hammond.

Sports' 'keeper Phil Sanson dived full length to push Dan Manuel's free kick round the post in the early minutes while, at the other end, Robert Leigh rose to head Johnny Harris' cross just wide of the Abbey goal.

Abbey's Chris Payne set up Luke Dawes whose first effort was blocked by the combined efforts of Jamie Kane and Callum Foy and his follow up effort flew into the side netting.

Brit took the lead in the 24th minute when **Bradley Arthur** was put clear by Simon Bereznicki and he ran through to tuck the ball neatly past Lewis Vye and into the far corner of the net.

Abbey were on terms just six minutes later when **Kev Collins** curled a brilliant free kick from outside the penalty area into the top corner of the net.

Collins struck again within two minutes with a similar strike from open play and Sports conceded for the third time in four minutes when **Chris Payne** prodded the ball under the advancing 'keeper despite Jamie Kane's last ditch challenge.

Back came BriT as the first half came to a close with Ollie Soulsby surging forward to supply Robert Leigh and it took a great tackle by an Abbey defender to halt the Sports' striker. Then a well worked short corner between Soulsby and Foy resulted in a close range header from Martin Johnson which was gathered by Abbey goalkeeper Lewis Vye.

Gary Shears powered his way through the middle two minutes into the second half to score Abbey's fourth goal with a low 25 yard strike.

Bereznicki lobbed the ball over Vye in the 76th minute but his effort hit the crossbar before substitute **Edward Hammond**, who had only been on the pitch for two minutes, reduced the deficit in the 78th minute with a near post header from a free kick.

Vye dived full length to push away a Bereznicki shot in the closing stages while, at the other end, Dan Manuel latched onto a through ball to shoot narrowly wide.

Abbey's two goal midfielder Kev Collins was chosen for the **Man of the Match** award by Hayward League President Mike Fowler.

Abbey :- Lewis Vye, John Bates, Chris Payne, Dan Fletcher (Jack Holland 73 mins), Dan Manuel, Mark Dykes (Tim Porter 73 mins), Gary Shears (Marc Vincent 82 mins), Kev Collins, Sean Griffiths, Luke Dawes, Kenny Strong.

Brit Sports :- Philip Sanson, Ollie Soulsby (Edward Hammond 76 mins), Johnny Harris, Joseph Selsby, Callum Foy, Martin Johnson, Simon Bereznicki, Bradley Arthur, Robert Leigh (Louis Greer 45 mins), Jamie Kane, Simon Adair (Brendan Williamson 45 mins).