

Wednesday 9th May 2018

M.A. HART IN-EXCESS CUP FINAL Hurn Bridge, Christchurch

WEST HOWE 1-2 LOCH & QUAY a.e.t.



West Howe : Graham Warren, Sam Davis, Liam Whittle, Ryan Clarke, Alex Lee, Dan Dominey, Marston Wortley (Kieran Shirley 104 mins), Ellis George, Jordan Whittle (Tommy King 62 mins), Richie Whiting (Luke Scrimshaw 62 mins), Adam Louka.



Loch & Quay : Matt Harvey, Michael Barber, Chris Ballam (George Hatch 93 mins), Chris Dillon, James Keith (Chris Senior 75 mins), Ethan Maddocks, Rhys Jones, Charlie Heggan, River Smith, Pepe Smith (Harry Cooper 87 mins), Dan Hickford.



Match Officials – John Harvey, Dave Brindle, Mike Fowler (President), Ian Chiddicks and Dean Hayward.

River Smith scored both goals to give Sunday Division Two champions Loch & Quay the verdict 2-1 after extra time against West Howe in Wednesday's M.A.Hart In-Excess Cup Final at Hurn Bridge. The quality of the Loch & Quay side was there for all to see but Division Three

runners up West Howe, who have had some epic battles with them in the past, gave the favourites a run for their money in a magnificent game.

The game began at a cracking pace and West Howe's Jordan Whittle burst through on the right to drill a low shot which was comfortably saved by the diving Loch & Key goalkeeper Matt Harvey.

Loch & Quay responded with a lob from River Smith which was tipped over the bar by West Howe 'keeper Graham Warren who then came out confidently to claim the resultant corner kick.

River Smith raced past two defenders in the 18th minute but his progress was halted in the West Howe penalty area by a superbly timed tackle by Liam Whittle and the ball was safely gathered by goalkeeper Warren.

Warren was almost caught out a minute later though when Dan Hickford's cross from the left towards the near post was headed narrowly wide by Pepe Smith.



A cross from the left in the 38th minute just eluded Rhys Jones as it fizzed across the face of the goal then West Howe launched a superb counter attack down the left which resulted in the ball coming across to Jordan Whittle whose rising shot flew over the bar.



River Smith put Loch & Quay in front ten minutes into the second half when he latched onto the ball in a goalmouth scramble and clinically dispatched it.

River Smith held off a challenge on the hour to curl a neat effort just wide of the angle of bar and post then West Howe's Ryan Clarke was fouled

by Ethan Maddocks just outside the Loch & Quay penalty area resulting in a dipping free kick from Sam Davis which only just cleared the crossbar. Rhys Jones was adjudged to have fouled in the penalty area in the 74th minute and the resultant spot kick was blasted home by West Howe substitute Luke Scrimshaw to put them on terms. Pepe Smith's flicked header did not deceive Craig Warren in the 78th minute while Ryan Clarke's shot from the edge of the box seven minutes later hit the top of the Loch & Quay crossbar on its way over.

Hickford played the ball forward to River Smith in the 88th minute but he was just off target with his strike and Charlie Heggan put River Smith away in stoppage time but Warren dived to his right to make another excellent save.

West Howe had their moments in extra time with Ellis George chasing a ball out of defence but his attempt at goal was charged down by a defender. Then Louka went through to slot the ball inside the far post but the flag was up for offside and Louka was given offside again a minute later as he ran onto a through ball with just the 'keeper to beat.

Then, nine minutes from the end of extra time, River Smith got behind the West Howe defence to settle the issue with another clinical finish, slotting the ball past the goalkeeper to spark scenes of jubilation from the Loch & Quay contingent.



Loch & Quay goalscorer River Smith was chosen for the Man of the Match award by BHFL President Mike Fowler.