

M.A. HART ROBBINS CUP FINAL

Thursday 26th April 2018

at Hurn Bridge, Christchurch

EAST CHRISTCHURCH SSC 1-2 ABBEY



East Christchurch SSC : Marc Davies, Jack Smith, Tom Harris (Andrei Munteanu 48 mins), Dan Hancock, Will Shaylor (Max Fletcher 61 mins), Dan Whitehouse, Jamie Trimble (Mitch East 88 mins), Sam Kennedy, Alex Whitehouse, Dave Midgley, Jonny King.



Abbey : Luke Dawe, Sean Griffiths, Kenny Strong, Dan Fletcher, Chris Payne (Sam Holland 82 mins), Jack Holland, Dan Manuel, Mark Dykes, Max Wilcock, Richard Sands, Marc Vincent (Callum Perry 75 mins).



Max Wilcock scored two superb headed goals to give Abbey the verdict 2-1 in a hard fought M.A. HART ROBBINS CUP FINAL against East Christchurch SSC on Thursday night at Hurn Bridge.

Both teams had already claimed silverware this season, East Christchurch having become

Hayward Sunday League champions with an unbeaten League record while Abbey had lifted the Mark Hart Sunday Senior Cup in the first of their three Cup Finals.



Both goalkeepers were tested in the early minutes, Abbey's Luke Dawe comfortably taking Dan Hancock's lob from ten yards while his opposite number Marc Davies came out confidently to claim the ball from a corner.

It was from a corner at the other end that East Christchurch took the lead after 14 minutes. Jamie Trimble managed to get his head to the ball and, in the ensuing goalmouth scramble, it was Dave Midgley who emerged with his arms raised in celebration after applying the finishing touch.



Their joy was short lived though when Abbey's Richie Sands supplied an inviting cross from the right a minute later for Max Wilcock to equalise with a superb diving header.

Dan Hancock's header back to Marc Davies in the 17th minute didn't quite carry and as Jack Holland tried to nip between them he collided with the East Christchurch goalkeeper.

Jonny King threatened to restore East Christchurch's lead when he went on a mazy solo run through the Abbey defence in the 23rd minute but he was unable to finish.

East Christchurch's task became more difficult a minute later when right back Jack Smith was

given a straight red by referee Andre Linford following a late tackle from behind on Jack Holland and it was not long before Abbey's Richie Sands received a yellow card for a mistimed challenge on Tom Harris.

Mark Dykes played the ball up to Dan Manuel in the 31st minute and he set up Jack Holland whose low 20 yard shot was saved by Davies at the foot of the post.



Dave Midgley met Jonny King's free kick from the left with a glancing header in the 34th minute that flashed across the goal and a minute later a Richie Sands free kick from the halfway line was headed narrowly wide by Mark Dykes.

Abbey scored again three minutes before the interval when Max Wilcock produced another excellent header from Marc Vincent's cross from the right.

The East Christchurch goal had a fortunate escape at the start of the second half when Max Wilcock whipped the ball goalwards and Marc Davies managed to knock it against the post.

East Christchurch defender Dan Hancock came to the rescue with a vital headed clearance five minutes into the second half and Abbey threatened again in the 58th minute when Dan Manuel's free kick to the far post was headed back across goal by Max Wilcock.



There was an untidy fracas in front of the dug outs in the 75th minute which resulted in Abbey's Mark Dykes being sent off along with East Christchurch manager Pete Old.

Play eventually resumed with Max Wilcock threatening to complete his hat-trick but Marc Davies coming out to block with his legs at the expense of a corner.

Wilcock headed to Dan Manuel five minutes into stoppage time but Manuel's effort went over the bar.



Abbey's two goal hero Max Wilcock was chosen for the Man of the Match award by BHFL President Mike Fowler.