

**MARK HART SUNDAY SENIOR CUP FINAL**  
Sponsored by M.A.Hart Asphalt & Macadam Ltd.  
**ABBEY 1-2 TALBOT RANGERS**  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at Hurn Bridge



Thursday night's MARK HART SUNDAY SENIOR CUP FINAL at Hurn Bridge between arguably the two best Hayward Sunday League sides certainly lived up to expectations with Talbot Rangers coming back from a goal down to get the better of Abbey 2-1.

A minutes silence was observed before the game in tribute to Kevin Peat, the brother of Talbot Rangers' Dominic Falco, who had tragically lost his life earlier in the month. It was Falco who was the first to test the Abbey 'keeper with a 20 yard effort and the Abbey defence had an early taste of what was to come in the 10<sup>th</sup> minute when Mickey Finch cut inside from the left to fire a shot narrowly wide. In the 22<sup>nd</sup> minute Dan Jeffries headed the ball on for Finch whose curling shot from 20 yards was saved by Luke Dawe in the Abbey goal while, at the other end, Nathan Clark had to be off his line quickly to repel an Abbey attack. Abbey took the lead after 25 minutes when Rangers failed to clear a corner from the right and Gary Shears pounced on the loose ball to steer it home. Falco played Jeffries in after 42 minutes but the Abbey defence, which was well marshalled by Jamie Moores, quickly closed ranks to snuff out the danger. Abbey skipper Sean Griffiths was cautioned for late challenge on Mickey Finch on the stroke of half time, giving Marcus Cullen the opportunity to swing the resultant free kick into the penalty area. Brad Aspin just failed to get his head to the cross but Sami Garcia came in behind him to equalise from close range before celebrating with an acrobatic double somersault. The game continued to be played at a high tempo after the interval and Abbey's Dan Manuel played the ball back to Kev Collins whose lob from distance just curled away from top corner.

Mickey Finch was causing the Abbey defence all sorts of problems, his long range effort bringing a diving save from Luke Dawe and the Abbey 'keeper was then at full stretch to get his finger tips to a blistering effort from Finch in the 54<sup>th</sup> minute which cannoned against the crossbar. Sam Lanahan got behind the Rangers defence in the 64<sup>th</sup> minute to drive a shot just over the crossbar before Abbey found themselves under pressure again with Finch creating an opening for Falco to hammer a shot against the crossbar. Rangers finally got the breakthrough in the 67<sup>th</sup> minute when Mark Pudney cut the ball back perfectly to Kieron Arif on the edge of the box and the Rangers skipper found the far corner of the net through a crowd of players. Falco and Finch continued to give the Abbey defenders a torrid time and Falco drilled in a hard low shot which was blocked by a defender's outstretched leg in the 85<sup>th</sup> minute. Abbey's Mark Dykes was cautioned for a late challenge on Rangers substitute Mark Rourke in the 86<sup>th</sup> minute and, when he fouled the same player again in stoppage time, he was shown a second yellow card by referee Dave Green, immediately followed by a red.

**Abbey** :- Luke Dawe, Chris Payne, Jamie Moores, Mark Dykes, Jack Holland, Dan Manuel, Sam Lanahan, Gary Shears (Marc Vincent 62 mins), Kevin Collins (Dan Fletcher 71 mins), Kenny Strong (John Bates 57 mins), Sean Griffiths.

Unused substitutes :- Gary Vincent and Nick Plank.

**Talbot Rangers** :- Nathan Clark, Jamie Morgan, Mickey Finch (Jake Younger 88 mins), Brad Aspin, Kieron Arif (Mark Rourke 75 mins), Mark Pudney, Dominic Falco, Marcus Cullen, Joe Sullivan, Dan Jeffries (Callum Palfrey 80 mins), Sami Garcia.

Unused substitutes :- Brett Chandler and Rhys Newman.

