

FORDINGBRIDGE TURKS RESERVES 1-4 MUDEFORD MENS CLUB
M. A. HART PAGE CROFT CUP FINAL
Thursday 23rd March 2017 at Hurn Bridge

Hayward Saturday Division Two title favourites Mundeford Mens Club lifted the M.A.HART PAGE CROFT CUP following their convincing 4-1 victory over Fordingbridge Turks Reserves on Thursday night at Hurn Bridge.

Mundeford had an early chance when Jack Hancock broke away to clip the ball just over the bar and Liam Welton cut inside a minute later but his shot was blocked by a Turks defender. Fordingbridge goalkeeper Steve Canning had to be alert to tip the resultant corner over the bar.

Welton looked to have been tripped inside the penalty area by Stuart Cromie after ten minutes but, luckily for Fordingbridge, Mundeford were only awarded a free kick outside the box which was blocked by the defensive wall.

Mundeford continued to threaten with Craig Armstrong's diagonal cross from the left finding Welton beyond the far post and his first time effort was only just off target.

Jack Hancock was tripped by Stuart Cromie inside the penalty area in the 16th minute and there was no escape for Turks this time with referee Pasy Grillo immediately pointing to the penalty spot. Mundeford left back Josh Thayner stepped up to slot the penalty kick neatly into the corner of the net.

Mundeford had opportunities to increase their lead with Welton and Alex Spencer both clean through with just the 'keeper to beat. Welton sliced his shot high and wide while Spencer's effort flashed past the post. At the other end, John Bailey put a well flighted free kick into the danger area on the half hour but Turks were unable to capitalise. But, when Kevin Ainsworth-Slapp hauled Mike Lathe down in the 42nd minute, Bailey had another opportunity to deliver a free kick into the Mundeford penalty area. This time it paid dividends for Turks with Francesc Bosch-Mira getting to the ball fractionally ahead of Mundeford 'keeper Adam Cutler to score the equaliser.

A Kevin Ainsworth-Slapp volley was just wide of the Fordingbridge goal ten minutes into second half then Turks 'keeper Stuart Canning produced an excellent diving save to parry Jack Hancock's shot in the 57th minute. Unfortunately for Fordingbridge, the rebound fell kindly for Liam Welton who drilled it neatly inside the far post to restore Mundeford's lead.

Fordingbridge suffered another setback six minutes later when Jack Hancock put Alex Spencer through and, when the Mundeford striker was brought down by the Turks 'keeper, penalty taker Josh Thayner was again called upon and he converted the spot kick with consummate ease.

Turks responded with John Bailey creating room to get in a shot from the edge of the box which went wide but Mundeford were relentless and only a series of excellent saves from the Fordingbridge goalkeeper kept them at bay.

Canning was at full stretch to turn Welton's shot away and he quickly recovered to pounce on Spencer's follow up effort.

Hancock then had a shot well saved by Canning in 85th minute and the Turks 'keeper made another fine save when he dived full length to stop Craig Armstrong's long range effort.

Then, in stoppage time, Hancock played a clever ball through to Craig Armstrong and the Mundeford skipper gave the 'keeper no chance with a clinical strike into the far corner of the net.

Mundeford Mens Club's experienced defender James Taylor was chosen for the Man of the Match award by Hayward League President Mike Fowler.

Fordingbridge Turks Res :- Steven Canning, Michael Andrews, Alex Hawey, Robin Tennant (Kris Wilkins 72 mins), Paul Roberts, Calum Fraser, Francesc Bosch-Mira (Mike McMurray 66 mins), Mike Lathe, Carl Charman, John Bailey, Stuart Cromie (Ben Jury 60 mins).

Mundeford Mens Club :- Adam Cutler, Jack Herridge, Josh Thayner, Kevin Ainsworth-Slapp (Tom Dear 84 mins), Jordan Fillery, James Taylor, Liam Welton (Ally Rider 90 mins), Craig Armstrong, Alex Spencer, Jack Hancock, Travis Bussell (Sam Wiggins 72 mins).