



Bashley 1 Downton 0
Tuesday 21st November 2017
Bournemouth Senior Cup Semi-Final



No Easy Route to Final by Mike Cranidge

Bashley hot from a 4-0 thrashing of Cowes Sports met unsuspected resistance from a feisty Downton whose never-say-die attitude prevailed until the final whistle.

Bashley started as they left off on Saturday and camped in their opponent's half but any thoughts of a walk-over were quickly dispelled when in-form Conor Whiteley surprised the crowd and himself by missing an open goal. The Robins were by now seeing more of the ball, but their efforts would appear to be in vain when Lewis Ross was brought down in the penalty area. Ross: cool, calm and deadly, rarely misses but a combination of keeper Stevan Jones and a goalpost dented his record and gave hope to the visitors. It needed the net-finding skills of Kabba Jack to settle the nerves of the home supporters and it was a goal worthy of a semi-final. Wing-back Sam Jackson



ended his run by cutting inside and finding Jack in the box (both literally and descriptively) with a sharp cross. Cooley taming the ball, Jack twist-turned and unleashed an unstoppable shot. Young Patrick Spiteri was looking lively and was unlucky not to open his Bashley account when his fierce angled shot found the side netting.

The Robins had grown in confidence and started the second half with a series of high balls that caused confusion in the Bashley goal area; Keeper Joe Coombes suddenly found himself the centre of attention and damaged a hand in the protection of his net. The game was now open with a cup-tie feel. Bashley found difficulty taming the gusty conditions and were guilty of over-kicking; whilst Downton turned predator with fast breaks and good interplay which kept the Bash defence on their toes. Bashley had chances but failed to take them and it was left to Downton to provide the coda. A series of corners led to a goalmouth scramble, hand-bagging and a handball appeal confident only to the visitors. The final whistle was more than welcomed by the home supporters.



Bashley: 1. Joe Coombes, 2 Pat Spiteri (sub 12 Rhys Owe 66mins), 3. Lewis Aimson, 4 Brad Strickland, 5 Chris Lucas(Y-88), 6 Brad Morris(c)(Y-61), 7. Sam Jackson(Y-90+2), 8. Harrison White (sub Harry Cooper 81 mins) 9 Kabba Jack (1g-37), 10. Conor Whiteley, 11 Lewis Ross.

(sub 12
 Declan
 sub 14



Downton. 1 Stefan Jones(Y-27) 2 Dan Savage 3 Pete Fletcher Tom Aldridge 77 mins) 4. Ben Vincent (Y-80) 5. Ben Smith 6 McGregor (Y-90) 7. Harry Crisp 8.Craig Tyson (c) 9 Zak Ford (Paul Gulliver(Y-85) 50mins) 10.Dan Telfer (sub 15 Sam O'Hagan (Y-90+5) 69mins) 11.Shaun Prentice



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Downton Match report



Downton bowed out of the cup thanks to a solitary goal in a game that certainly saw them have chances to make the first final of the season.

With first choice keepers unavailable, Steve Jones once again rolled back the years to pull on the number one jersey. The Robins began strongly, with chances for debutant Zak Ford and the speedy Shaun Prentice, while Jones was kept busy in goal.

And it was Jones who was called into action first - giving away a penalty only to then save it, with the help of the post.

He could do little about the next attack, though, with Bashley squeezing behind the Downton defence and finishing well.

Downton threw on a slew of substations in the second half - eventually going to three up front with subs Paul Gulliver and Tom Aldridge joining Shaun Prentice in attack. With the minutes ticking by, the Robins threw everything at the Bashley defence, with the hosts keeper dropping the ball at a crucial moment and the away side unfortunate not to get a penalty. Gaps opened up at the back too, and the defence had to be at its best to avoid going further behind.

In the end, the Robins can consider themselves unfortunate not to at least get the equaliser, but it's Bashley who go through to the final of the Bournemouth Senior Cup.

