

M.A. HART IN-EXCESS CUP FINAL

Thursday 6th April 2023

at Hurn Bridge

EAST CHRISTCHURCH ATHLETIC 3 WESTOVER BOURNEMOUTH 2



Division Two title contenders East Christchurch Athletic just got the better of Westover Bournemouth 3-2 in an action packed M.A. HART IN-EXCESS CUP FINAL at Hurn Bridge.

Third Division Westover found themselves under pressure in the early stages with Matt Angell, deputising in goal for the suspended Luke Dennison, put to the test by Athletic and passing with flying colours.

Athletic's Jamie Morgan latched onto a through ball in the 6th minute but was denied by the Westover 'keeper at the expense of a corner. Spencer Churchill rose to head the corner goalwards but Angell clawed the ball away and then had to get down quickly to parry a low shot from Luke Churchill. The ball rebounded to Spencer Churchill who forced it over the line. Athletic's joy was short lived however as the linesman had spotted that the Athletic defender had propelled ball with his hand.

Athletic continued to press and, as the ball came across the Westover penalty area in the 27th minute, Westover skipper Adam Betambeau slid in with a brilliant challenge to prevent Jamie Morgan getting a shot on goal.

Athletic took the lead a minute later though when they got the ball up to **JAYDEN TAYLOR** on the edge of the Westover penalty area and he managed to hold off a challenge from

Jake Harvey before slotting home a left footed shot into the bottom right hand corner of the net.

Westover began to get more into the game but goalkeeper Matt Angell had to dive full length to save a long range effort from Athletic skipper Dan Knox.

Westover equalised in the 40th minute when George Corbin put a high ball in from way out on the right and **SAM BEALE**, anticipating that something might come of it, was following up to knock it in when it rebounded off the crossbar.

JAYDEN TAYLOR put Athletic in front again five minutes into the second half when he was put through and, despite being under pressure from Westover defenders Jake Harvey Adam Betambeau, he showed great composure to steer the ball past 'keeper Matt Angell and in off the inside of the post.

Jake Harvey played an excellent free kick into the Athletic penalty area towards George Corbin two minutes later and Sam Reilly in the Athletic goal did well to tip the striker's effort over the bar. Athletic cleared the resultant corner but Westover defender Alex Henley played it forward again. The ball took a deflection off the head of an Athletic defender and **GEORGE CORBIN** latched onto it to steer it past the 'keeper to put Westover on terms again.

Westover could have been in front in the 55th minute when a corner to the near post was headed just over the Athletic crossbar by skipper Adam Betambeau.

Luke Churchill showed great skill in midfield in the 64th minute to give himself room to get in a shot from all of 35 yards out which brought an excellent diving save from Matt Angell in the Westover goal.

What was to be the winning goal came just a minute later when Athletic skipper Dan Knox and substitute Jake Churchill combined to set up the opportunity for leading marksman **JAMIE MORGAN** to run onto the ball in the Westover penalty area and slam it beyond the 'keeper and into the back of the net.

Matt Angell dived to parry a shot from Jamie Morgan in the 87th minute with defender Alex Henley clearing the ball to safety and the Westover 'keeper was getting down well a minute later to deny Morgan again.

There were chances at both ends in stoppage time with Athletic substitute River Smith bursting through to fire a shot narrowly wide while, at the other end, Westover substitute Ben Chapman got in a close range header from a corner but Athletic 'keeper Sam Reilly was perfectly positioned to save.

East Christchurch Athletic's **Jayden Taylor** was chosen for the **Man of the Match** award by BFL President Mike Fowler.



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East Christchurch Athletic : Sam Reilly, Rhys Jones (Charlie Barnes 73 mins), John Zdrava, Spencer Churchill, Michael Olaore, Daniel Knox (Pat Rogerson 80 mins), Luke Churchill (Ryan Bailey 80 mins), Ethan Fishlock (Jake Churchill 65 mins), Jayden Taylor, Conrad Churchill (River Smith 73 mins), Jamie Morgan.



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Westover Bournemouth :- Matt Angell, Dan Greenall (Kieran Gregory 73 mins), Jake Harvey, Adam Betambeau, Alex Henley, Jacob Beetham (Ben Chapman 72 mins), Conal Burns (Ryan Butterworth 54 mins), Will Ireland (John Franklin 56 mins), Sam Beale, George Corbin (Will Franklin 72 mins), Dan Saul.



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