

Thursday 12th April 2018
NEWTOWN ATHLETIC 1-5 TOWER PARK
M.A.HART LAWRENCE A BRIVATI CUP FINAL
at Hurn Bridge, Christchurch



Newtown Athletic : Lee Devlin, Ross Bartlett (Ryan Mabey 81 mins), Lee Edwardson (Lewis Tapley 65 mins), Luke Powell, Adam Janes, Matt Farley, Dale Walters, Tom Mann (Charlie Ruck 56 mins), Liam Holland, Ricky Powell, Ben Franklin.



Tower Park : Mark Dancer, Carl Phillips (Ryan Turner 38 mins), Kris Wilkins, Ryan Malcolm, Connor Picken, Lewis Cannings, Matthew Wilson, Dave Niven, Ross Dominey (Jesse Nash 92 mins), John Bailey, Webster Muringayi (Chay Lothian 70 mins)



Sunday Division Five leaders Tower Park were 5-1 winners against Division Four high flyers Newtown Athletic in Thursday night's M.A. HART

LAWRENCE A BRIVATI CUP FINAL at Hurn Bridge. The scoreline is somewhat flattering to the victors though, with three of their goals coming in the closing minutes of what had been a closely contested game.

Newtown started brightly with a free kick to the far post but it was just too high for skipper Adam Janes to direct his header and then danger man Liam Holland burst through the middle but was unable to get enough power in his shot to trouble Matt Dancer in the Tower Park goal.



Newtown produced an excellent attacking move in the 20th minute with Dale Walters' precise through ball finding Liam Holland on the right who cut inside to set up Ricky Powell whose first time effort went narrowly wide of the top corner.

Tower Park went close when John Bailey's shot from outside the penalty area two minutes later took a looping deflection off Janes and Newtown 'keeper Lee Devlin had to backpedal quickly to prevent it dropping behind him.

Park went ahead in the 23rd minute though when John Bailey put Lewis Cannings away on the left and his ball towards the far post was steered home by Carl Phillips from six yards out.

Devlin was off his line two minutes later to deny Connor Picken while, at the other end, Holland's effort flashed across the face of the goal and narrowly wide of the far post.

With the first half coming to a close, John Bailey's free kick into the Newtown penalty area came back out to Kris Wilkins whose 20 yard strike was held by Devlin.



Tower Park's Connor Picken was chosen for the Man of the match award by BHFL President Mike Fowler

Tower Park started the second half well and Connor Picken met a corner from the left in the 53rd minute with a far post header that had Devlin beaten but Luke Powell was perfectly positioned to head it off the line. The ball came out to substitute Ryan Turner but his effort from the edge of the penalty area sailed over the bar.

Park doubled their lead two minutes later though with Ross Dominey playing Connor Picken in and the young midfielder raced through the middle before rounding the 'keeper and planting the ball in the empty net.

Dominey was through with just Devlin to beat on the hour but Devlin was able to get the Tower Park front man's shot away with his legs.

Picken had a 65th minute shot blocked while, at the other end in the 70th minute, Newtown had an effort headed off the line and Dancer was then called upon to make a brilliant save.



Substitute Charlie Ruck halved the deficit for Newtown in the 71st minute when he took the ball deep into the Tower Park penalty area and slotted it home before the defenders could close ranks.

Picken set up a chance for Dominey in the 80th minute but his curling effort went just over the bar. Tower Park put the result beyond doubt two minutes from time though when Ryan Turner was put through with just Devlin to beat and he clipped the ball neatly over the Newtown 'keeper.

John Bailey rifled a fourth goal for Tower on 90 minutes, capitalising on a defensive slip before producing a clinical finish then, two minutes into stoppage time, Devlin raced out of his penalty area to flatten Dominey. The Newtown 'keeper received his marching orders for the challenge from referee Dave Green and Dominey also left the field, having to be replaced by Jesse Nash.

John Bailey took the resultant free kick and, as it came down off the underside of the crossbar, substitute Jesse Nash was following up to slam the rebound home.

