

M.A. HART ROBBINS CUP FINAL

Tuesday 30th April 2019

at Hurn Bridge, Christchurch

EAST CHRISTCHURCH SSC 2 JP MORGAN 1



East Christchurch SSC won the M.A. Hart Robbins Cup for the second time in their history when they just got the better of JP Morgan 2-1 in the Hurn Bridge final. East Christchurch have excelled in cup competitions this season, winning the Mark Hart Sunday Senior Cup and reaching the quarter finals of the prestigious F.A. Sunday Cup but JP Morgan made them work hard for their victory.

Alex Whitehouse left JP Morgan defenders Claudio Selimi, Joe Manley, and James Hardiman in his wake in the 7th minute and, as Federico Zorzi closed him down on the edge of the penalty area, the East Christchurch leading goalscorer drilled a short narrowly wide.

JP Morgan went close in the 16th minute when Luke Brown's low shot came back off East Christchurch goalkeeper Marc Davies. Ryan Roberts tried to stab the loose ball in from close range but Matt Piovan's last ditch challenge was just enough to force Roberts to put his effort against the side of the post and behind.

A free kick to the near post was headed on by Mal Thomas in the 20th minute and the close attentions of JP Morgan 'keeper Nigel Dunn forced Jamie Trimble to hook the ball over the bar.

East Christchurch went ahead in the 22nd minute after Jack Smith was fouled wide on the left by Ben Gard. Jonny King's free kick to the far post eluded goalkeeper Nigel Dunn and **Dan Whitehouse** came in to head the ball into the empty net.

JP Morgan defended resolutely as East Christchurch continued to press and, as the first half came to a close, it was East Christchurch on the back foot as JP Morgan forced a succession of corners.

JP Morgan equalised four minutes into the second half when Marc Davies came out of his area to challenge Ryan Roberts for a high ball and it broke to **Luke Brown** who lobbed the ball into the net over defender Dan Hancock who had got back to cover the goal.

Luke Brown then dispossessed Dan Whitehouse ten yards inside the East Christchurch half in the 55th minute and ran through but Marc Davies was off his line quickly to deny him.

East Christchurch took the lead again in the 63rd minute when Jamie Trimble was fouled just outside the JP Morgan penalty area and, although Nigel Dunn got his hands to **Jonny King's** free kick, the ball slipped between them and dropped into the back of the net.

JP Morgan had a lucky escape in the 87th minute when Jonny King raced down the left and his cross was steered against the underside of the JP Morgan crossbar and down in front of the line by Jamie Trimble,

There was a late scare for East Christchurch in stoppage time when Joe Manley's through ball enabled substitute Harry Yates to get behind the defence to drive a shot against the outside of the post while, at the other end, Mitch East crossed for fellow substitute Andre Munteanu to head just over the bar.

East Christchurch SSC defender **Jack Smith** was chosen for the **Man of the match** award by BHFL President & Chairman Mike Fowler.

East Christchurch SSC : Marc Davies, Jack Smith, Matt Piovan, Dan Whitehouse, Dan Hancock (Tom Harris 82 mins), Jamie Trimble, Darren Orchard, Sam Kennedy (Sol Bower 76 mins), Alex Whitehouse, Jonny King (Andrei Munteanu 90 mins), Mal Thomas (Mitch East 90 mins).

JP Morgan : Nigel Dunn, Ben Gard (Richard Vaughan 85 mins), Federico Zorzi, James Hardiman, Matt Jones (Omar Abdelatti 82 mins), Joe Manley, Claudio Selimi, Gerard O'Mullan, Ryan Roberts (Harry Yates 50 mins), Luke Brown (Nathan Evans 72 mins), Kelly Barth (Gerald Chigariro 63 mins).