



Westbury United Football Club



TOOLSTATION LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Saturday 25th November 2006

WESTBURY GO SECOND AFTER EXCITING WIN

Bridport 1-3 Westbury United

Westbury finally found the gold at the end of the Dorset rainbow on a bright, showery afternoon in Bridport. Credit must go to the home groundstaff for getting the pitch playable after a lot of heavy rain. It took a penalty ten minutes from the end to finally settle their nerves after home keeper, Martin Peters, had made a series of excellent saves.

Luke Smith and Nathan Hallett ran the game on Westbury's left wing during the first half. Smith was always a danger with good set piece delivery while Hallett's pace got him in behind the Bees' defence on several occasions.

Lee Morgan and Steve Seals failed to find the target from close range, but it was Peters who had to keep his side on level terms with top drawer saves from Wayne Wheeler, Hallett and Tom Staddon ; the latter a bullet header at the end of a flowing move involving Seals and Wheeler.

The opening goal came on 35 minutes when a fine free kick from Nick Beales was met by a powerful Mark Pearce header that flew into the net.

The nearest Bridport came was when Dan Wise unleashed a fierce 30 yard free kick that Nick Evans had to turn over the bar.

The second half was a much more even affair, with Bridport pushing men forward and causing some panic in Westbury's defence. Tony Cunningham and Andy Hall were inches from finding the target and, as Westbury counter attacked, Hallett sent in a low cross that Staddon met ten yards from goal only to see his strike fly over the bar! Hallett then headed over from a Smith corner before minutes later bringing another great save out of Peters in a one on one situation.

Bridport increased the pressure and sure enough Westbury were made to pay for their missed chances. On 73 minutes Tony Cunningham headed goalwards and the ball was cleared off the line, however it was won back in midfield and a free kick conceded by Westbury ; Dan Wise crossed to the same forward who was unmarked and able to divert his effort beyond the reach of Evans to level the score at 1-1.

There followed a frantic period of play with both sides going all out to take the lead. Westbury substitute Aaron Billett anticipated a defensive error on 76 and finished with ease to regain the lead. Billett created another opening on 80 minutes and, as Staddon turned in the box, he was fouled by Tim Cunningham and a penalty awarded. Seals stepped up and thrashed the ball into the bottom left of Peters' goal.

With a little breathing space and a justified look to the scoreline, Westbury were reduced to ten men when Matt Sharp was given a somewhat harsh second yellow card. This spurred Bridport back into action and Rich Jackson outpaced Seals only to see his left footed strike hit the crossbar and bounce away from goal.

*STAR MEN : Martin Peters (Bridport) and Nathan Hallett (Westbury Utd)
TEAM - Nick Evans, Matt Sharp, Luke Smith, Mark Pearce, Steve Seals, Lee Morgan,
Nick Beales, Lee Meaden, Tom Staddon, Wayne Wheeler, Nathan Hallett
SUBS - Aaron Billett, David Whyte, Marc Lanfear (all used)