AFC BURTON 2-3 ABBEY

MARK HART SUNDAY SENIOR CUP FINAL
Tuesday 17th April 2018
at Hurn Bridge

AFC Burton : Ollie Bull, Ollie Peckham (Danny Smith 77 mins), Dan Brennan, Dean Garton (Spencer Churchill 55 mins), Stuart Ellis, Matt Nicholls, Ronald Frost, Kev Brennan, Dan Seymour (Matt Mabey 65 mins), Steve Flynn, Levi Ridealgh.

Abbey : Luke Dawe, Sean Griffiths, Kenny Strong, Dan Fletcher, Chris Payne, Jamie Holland (Sam Holland 90 mins), Dan Manuel, Mark Dykes, Max Wilcock (Simon Bereznicki 75 mins), Richie Sands, Marc Vincent.

Match Officials Lee Stevens, Brian Channing, Colin Dedman(referee), Mike Fowler (president) Chloe-ann Anderson.

Abbey lifted the MARK HART SUNDAY SENIOR CUP when they defeated Hayward Sunday Division One rivals AFC Burton 3-2 in Tuesday night's final at Hurn Bridge. It was the first of three Cup Finals in thirteen days for Abbey who established a commanding three goal lead before

AFC Burton reduced the deficit with a couple of goals in the closing stages, the second of which came as the game was going into stoppage time. Abbey's opening goal came after just five minutes when Dan Manuel's cross from the right found Jack Holland in oceans of space at the far post to head past AFC Burton 'keeper Ollie Bull from close range.

The Burton defence were having a torrid time and it took an excellent save from Ollie Bull to get Dan

Manuel's effort over the bar in the 10th minute after Max Wilcock had put his "skipper" through.

Burton responded with Levi Ridealgh forcing a corner in the 16th minute as his shot cannoned off an Abbey defender.   Burton proceeded to force a succession of corners and one resulted in a frantic scramble with Dan Brennan looking to have headed an equaliser but it was disallowed.

Burton were piling on the pressure midway through the half but they were unable to breach a very resilient Abbey rear guard although Flynn did put an effort against the post from close range.

Max Wilcock tormented the Burton defence again just before the interval and fired in a shot which Ollie Bull managed to block with his legs.

Abbey doubled their lead four minutes into the second half when Max Wilcock met a corner from the left with a powerful header. Goalkeeper Ollie Bull managed to get a hand to the ball but he was unable to keep it out and Ollie Peckham's desperate attempt to get it off the line only succeeded in slicing it further into the net.

Dan Seymour latched onto a mistimed clearance just outside the Abbey penalty area in the 57th minute but his lob dropped just over the crossbar and Dan Brennan's 62nd minute header was deflected round the post for a corner.

Abbey went further ahead in the 73rd minute when Burton substitute Spencer Churchill, in attempting to head a long clearance from the Abbey defence back to his goalkeeper, put the ball in the path of Max Wilcock who knocked it past the advancing Bull.   Wilcock ran the ball towards the empty net with Churchill, who was desperately trying to recover the situation, unable to prevent it going over the line.

AFC Burton pulled one back in the 77th minute when Levi Ridealgh took a corner from the left and, when the ball came back out to him, he curled it under the Abbey crossbar despite the efforts of goalkeeper Luke Dawe.

A 25 yard shot from Abbey's Marc Vincent was well saved by Bull in the 83rd minute while, at the other end a few minutes later, Luke Dawe was perfectly placed to catch Levi Ridealgh's curling effort.

Burton scored a second goal just as the game was going into stoppage time when Steve Flynn latched onto the ball in the Abbey penalty area to lash it into the net.

In a last throw of the dice, Burton's Ron Frost headed the ball goalwards from a corner kick but goalkeeper Luke Dawe plucked it out of the air and Abbey were home and dry.

AFC Burton's Levi Ridealgh was chosen for the Man of the Match award by BHFL President Mike Fowler.