

DORSET SUNDAY CHALLENGE CUP FINAL

Sunday 1st May

AFC GLOUCESTER 1 ABBEY 7

Max Wilcock let rip with a four goal blast when Bournemouth Sunday League champions Abbey mercilessly hammered AFC Gloucester 7-1 at the County Ground to lift the DORSET SUNDAY CHALLENGE CUP for the third time. It's a competition that Abbey have dominated in recent years, being defeated only once since 2017. In addition to winning the trophy in 2018 and again in 2019, they reached the final in 2020 only for the competition to be cancelled due to covid.

The Weymouth Sunday League title contenders had taken Talbot Rangers to extra time in last year's final before the Bournemouth side prevailed, but it was apparent after the opening 15 minutes that extra time would not be necessary on this occasion.

Abbey opened the scoring after 8 minutes when **MAX WILCOCK** strode through the middle to blast the ball into the top right hand corner of the net and they doubled their lead three minutes later when a superb diagonal ball from Mickey Hubbard to the far post was headed home by **MAX WILCOCK**.

Abbey added a third goal after 15 minutes when the ball came to **MICKEY FINCH** on the left who drilled a low shot that had too much power for the Gloucester goalkeeper to keep out.

AFC Gloucester managed to staunch the flow of goals from Abbey's prolific strike force until the 56th minute when **MAX WILCOCK** completed his hat-trick, coasting past two defenders in a superb solo run down the right before cutting inside to slot it past the goalkeeper.

A Gloucester defender, in attempting to prevent Max Wilcock's cross from reaching Jack Holland, only succeeded in heading the ball past his own goalkeeper in the 62nd minute to give Abbey a five goal lead.

MAX WILCOCK scored his fourth goal of the game in the 76th minute with a fierce drive into the top corner of the net from 15 yards out.

Luke Dawe made an excellent double save at the expense of a corner but AFC Gloucester managed a consolation goal in the 80th minute when, following a corner from the right, a fiercely struck effort cannoned into the Abbey net off an attacker who knew absolutely nothing about it.



Abbey skipper

MICKEY HUBBARD made it 7-1 in the 88th minute with a stunning effort from 30 yards that rocketed into the top corner of the net.

Gloucester had an opportunity to score a second goal in stoppage time when Richie Sands was penalised for a challenge in the penalty area but the spot kick was brilliantly saved by Abbey goalkeeper Luke Dawe.



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Abbey :- Luke Dawe, Callum Perry (Sam Holland 70 mins), Brad Hill (Richie Sands 37 mins), Mark Dykes (Kenny Strong 76 mins), Sean Griffiths, John Webb, Mickey Hubbard, Jack Holland (Jamie Moores 75 mins), Luke Burbidge (Shane Orchard 62 mins), Max Wilcock, Mickey Finch.

Having already secured the Mark Hart Sunday Senior Cup and the Sunday League title it was fitting that Abbey should bring their seven year reign in the Bournemouth Sunday League to a close by completing the treble with the Dorset Sunday Challenge Cup.

Many congratulations to management duo Nick Plank and Simon Cutler and their players.

Thanks for the memories.

Many thanks to Steve Harris for his superb pictures from the final.