

## **Isle of Wight 1<sup>st</sup> XI 20 (twenty) - 1 Lavant**

The Isle of Wight continue to dominate Hampshire 6, sticking a huge 20 goals past bottom of the table Lavant on Saturday to record their biggest win for nine years, with three players picking up five goals a piece.

The visitors were not helped by only being able to field 10 players, but to their credit never gave up and played the match in good spirits.

In fact, it was Lavant who very nearly took the lead when a forward broke through early on, only to be caught and tackled by Vice-captain Stuart Allen.

This initial warning was what the Island needed, and from then on they were ruthless with their opponents, not giving them any space on the ball and constantly breaking through and hammering shots at Lavant's stand-in keeper, who despite the scoreline produced some excellent saves.

It only took about seven minutes for the tide to begin, when Stephen Woodford picked up his first from a cross from Simon Butler.

Rob Forrest then picked up number two, dancing past Lavant's defence and slotting home. Colin Simmonds soon made it three before Tom Gould added another. Both Simmonds and Forrest scored further goals to pick up their hat trick before Woodford got another before the break to give the Island a 9 – 0 lead.

A shuffle of positions at half time gave the Island a new look in midfield and attack and they began where they left off, with Simmonds taking his tally to four and Woodford adding a quick-fire hat trick to take his personal goals total to five.

Stuart Allen then broke through and smashed home to score his first goal for three years, before Forrest picked up another two to also take his total to five.

Simmonds then immediately intercepted Lavant's push-back and jiggled his way into the area to score again to also take his personal tally to five.

The Island were then awarded a penalty flick when Simmonds was taken out by the keeper, and Richard Reynolds calmly slotted home, which became the Island's 100<sup>th</sup> league goal in only 12 games. Lavant were to get reward for their efforts when they forced a succession of penalty corners and on the third, a goal bound shot struck a shin on the line resulting in a penalty flick which was converted, denying youngster Tom Speer a clean sheet.

But immediately, Allen went up the other end and scored to secure a brace before skipper Butler pounced on a loose ball and found the corner.

The 20 – 1 win was the Island's biggest since thrashing Winchester 21 - 0 in 2003 and has done wonders for their goal difference, taking it to plus 83 with second placed Salisbury on just plus 35. The team have now scored an incredible 102 goals in 12 games, averaging almost nine a game.

Third-placed Fordingbridge dropped points, giving the Island an eight point cushion within the promotion places.

This weekend the team have two games, firstly a league match at City of Portsmouth on the Saturday, before hosting higher-league opposition in Basingstoke on the Sunday at Smallbrook in the first round of the League Cup - a competition the team have reached the final of in the two previous seasons.

Sunday's game gets underway at 12pm.