

Isle of Wight 2nd XI 5 - 1 Hamble IV

Top of the table Isle of Wight II came into the game with a blend of experience and youthful dynamism and produced a great start to the game with slick passing and excellent running to produce a goal for in-form Craig Bruce within 5 minutes.

However, soon after the loss of the highly influential Lewis Heaven-Gandy through injury, the IW lost its balance and the determined opposition clawed their way back into the game.

The welcome return of Mark Dickinson with his resolute blocking and tackling helped keep Hamble at bay and half time left the Island with a slender lead.

The second half saw Hamble snatch an equaliser soon after the break and the game became a tense and hard fought affair. Two factors helped swing the game the Island's way though, one being the move of Tom Young to midfield to help stabilise the middle of the pitch and bring control and calm to the Island play. The other was the introduction of Alan Ball who controlled the ball in the forward line and produced clever passes to feed the lightning quick Bruce.

The result was a flurry of goals for the home team with Bruce scoring three more goals and Carl Joyce scoring another to secure an important three points for the title contenders.

Another tough game, with an opposition that would not give up, but finally the good work of all the team produced a great 5 – 1 win. The Island remains top of the table and moves a little closer to promotion but this weekend face one of their toughest games of the season. They visit third place Blandford, a side notoriously very strong on their own ground. Should the Island sneak a win, they would have a 10 point cushion within the promotion places.