

TT No.206: *Bob Davies* - Sun 1st April 2012; **Herts FA Sunday Junior Cup Final 2012; The Bell v Oxhey Jets Vets**; Venue: The County Ground, Letchworth; Result: 4-6; Admission: £5 incl. 32-page programme; Attendance: 150 est.

The brilliant sunshine prompted me to visit The County Ground at Letchworth this afternoon to see the Herts F.A. Sunday Junior Cup Final. The two finalist this season were both from the Watford Sunday League, Division 3, The Bell (in yellow) and Oxhey Jets Vets (in orange). What was about to happen in this game will live long in the memory and the County Ground may never host a final like this one again!

Both sides had scored a lot of goals this season and this was born out in the opening ten minutes as the Bell took a 2-0 lead. Oxley Jets steadied themselves from this early set back and leading scorer Lewis Putman (over 70 goals this season!) pulled one back on 18 minutes. The game remained open for the remainder of the half but no more goals. Whatever was said in the Oxhey dressing room at half time didn't have the desired affect!

Once again, as in the first half it was The Bell that struck twice (including a penalty) in the first eight minutes of the second to take a 4-1 lead. They even looked like extending the lead as well. On the hour Oxhey pulled another one back 4-2 for a glimmer of light to appear. Eight minutes later and that glimmer became even brighter as Owen Deamer scored his second to reduce The Bell's lead to one goal. Hope springs eternal and with a striker like Lewis Putman in the side there's always that. He scored the equaliser on 76 minutes and it was game on! Then Oxhey suffered another set-back as defender Chris Malski was shown a red card for pulling back a Bell forward. Down to ten men and a lot of tired legs it did look like extra time. Bell struck the crossbar as they pushed for a winner. Cometh the 90th minute cometh the man and that man was Lewis Putman who found the back of the net to complete his hat trick and put Oxhey in front for the first time in the game. Not content with that two minutes into stoppage time he found himself clear of the Bell defence and kept his composure amidst the challenges to score Oxhey Jets sixth goal. Final Score; The Bell 4, Oxhey Jets Vets 6.

A remarkable afternoon, I'm still getting my breath back!

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