

Late goal seals promotion

Mid Somerset 1
Chard 0

In the final league game of the season Mids clinched promotion to South Division Two after beating local rivals Chard with the only goal of the game.

For most of the match a goalless draw seemed to be the likely result as there were no clear-cut chances in the first half, only two short corners for both teams which were wasted. There were more chances in the second half, but Steve Dowden, Roger Knife and Dan Durston would readily admit that they should have done better with their scoring opportunities.

During the final 10 minutes it was Chard who were pressing and they could have pinched victory but after a short corner shot was disallowed the Mids' defence managed to hold out.

Mids broke deadlock with two minutes left on the clock after a Mike Davis run down the right wing to the by-line saw him put a perfect cross to the back of the circle where the unmarked Darren Wilson swept the ball into the net. With the goal coming so late in the game Chard had no time to equalise and Mids celebrated after the final whistle.

With second-in-the-table Exeter Hornets also winning, Mids finished three points clear of their nearest rivals. Two years ago Mids were denied promotion due to a league reorganisation after winning the play offs, so by finishing top hopefully the same fate should not befall the club on this occasion.

Ottery Crickets 2nds 2
Mid Somerset 2nds 2

Mids got off to a great start with a goal inside the first 30

seconds after a flowing move down the right resulted in Shaun Plenty scoring the opener to see Mids off to the best possible start.

However, Ottery equalised before Mids regained the lead before half-time with Matt Pope getting on the score sheet.

Mids' teenage defence, Payne, Tinnion, Crees and Thompson, thwarted most of the home side's attacks, but shortly after half-time Ottery equalised when uncertainty in the Mids' defence let in a soft goal.

Both sides tried hard to gain the all-important winning goal, but with no further balls hitting the back board, the game ended in a hard-fought draw.

The league season for Mids' Seconds ends on Saturday when they complete their fixtures against Torbay.

The original fixture was cancelled due to the adverse weather two weeks ago.



Mids' captain boxes in a threat from a Shepton Mallet player

Mid Somerset 2nds 5
Torbay 3rds 1

In their final game of the league season Mid Somerset Seconds completed the double over Torbay to follow up their previous win by seven goals to three.

The first was scored by Matt Pope after a run and cross from the right wing by Andy Berry, while the second came from a penalty stroke converted by Andy Rogers after a Torbay defender stopped a goal-bound shot with his body. The third goal came after Jonathan Crees and Gareth Searey set up Jodie Wood, whose shot the keeper saved, but Pope followed up to score his second of the game.

The second half saw two more goals for Mids, but sandwiched in between was a consolation goal for the visitors.

Goal four was a reverse-stick shot from Dan Durston while the final goal was scored by captain Gareth Searey.

This victory enabled Mids to finish seventh in South East Division Two with 27 points, a satisfactory position after last season's promotion.



More action from the Shepton Mallet v Mid Somerset derby match