

# L'Ghoul's magical curler earns Whites victory

By JAMES MARTIN

NASSIM L'Ghoul added to Kurtis Cumberbatch's first ever Dover Athletic goal to secure a 2-1 win over Maidenhead United, extending the Whites' best-in-the-league away record.

Dover "did their talking on the pitch" in the first game since Saturday's controversy at Hartlepool, where Inih Effiong was subjected to alleged racial abuse on the way to a 2-0 victory.

Andy Hesselthaler made just one change from that win, introducing Bobby-Joe Taylor into the defence in place of Josh Passley. He was tasked with policing Seth Twumasi down Maidenhead's right.

Aaron Simpson, Taylor's counterpart on Dover's right flank, looked to spring a quick break early on. He appeared to be clear of the Magpies' defence, but he lost his footing at the crucial moment and the attack broke down.

The opening exchanges were otherwise cagey, although powerful forward Effiong was a constant dangerous presence.

The hosts grew into the game as it progressed, and Scott Doe recovered well to deal with a dash in behind by United's James Akintude 15 minutes in.

The first major chance fell to Dover, however, and they took it, as Jai Reason won a free-kick right on the edge of the area.

Referee Lloyd Wood waved away half-hearted claims that the infringement was in the box, but it ultimately did not make a difference.

While the initial effort cannoned into the wall, midfielder Cumberbatch was on hand to slam the ball home beyond Fulham loanee Taye

Dover Athletic's Nassim L'Ghoul  
IAN SCAMMELL



Ashby-Hammond from 25 yards.

The sweet strike into the bottom-left corner took the wind out of Maidenhead's sails and the half petered out as the rain began to sheet down.

The visitors defended well from a free-kick just before the whistle following Simpson's bookable offence and they went in ahead at the break.

The second half was immediately

livelier. Effiong enraged home fans by winning a free-kick from what they perceived to be a dive just five minutes after the restart, and only a good Ashby-Hammond save prevented Will De Havilland from converting Dover's second from the resultant set-piece.

Maidenhead went one better in the 62nd minute, when newly-introduced Danny Whitehall produced a

sumptuous free-kick to level the scores.

The lead was restored within 15 minutes, however, as one of Dover's substitutes also delivered - L'Ghoul ghosting past his man and curling in a beauty to make it 2-1.

Whitehall came close to repeating his free-kick party trick in the dying moments, but L'Ghoul's strike ultimately proved the difference.

## Fleur finish title charge with flourish

FLEUR de Lis A rounded off their championship winning season with a 6-0 away victory to Alma B in the Dover, Deal and District Bar Billiards League.

Gareth Butcher (5,840), Craig Carlson (7,420) and Derek Latham (5,820) swept the singles in Deal, with pairs wins for Butcher and Latham (4260), Latham and Carlson (5,550) and Carlson and Butcher (6,800).

Alma A confirmed their runners-up spot with a 5-1 win away to Fleur de Lis C in Sandwich. Terry Laslett (1350) and Mike Callanan (4290) put the visitors in front, before Ann Keen (3080) gained Fleur C's point.

All the pairs went to Alma A, via Lin and Mike Callanan (3900), Dave Howarth and Lin Callanan (4480) and Laslett and Lin Callanan (2070).

In Dover, Sea Angling Club B defeated Sea Angling Club A 6-0 to finish third in the table. Gregg Davison (2300), Dave Allsopp (1610) and Chris Lee (1880) took the singles, with doubles successes for Allsopp and Jay Davison (1730), Lee and Allsopp (2120) and Jay Davison and Lee (2930).

The final table has Fleur de Lis A on top with 85 points, with Alma A second on 60 points and Sea Angling Club B in third on 51 points.

Fleur de Lis C finish fourth on 47 points, Alma B are fifth with 36 points, whilst Market Inn Bees finished sixth on 34 points and Sea Angling Club A come bottom on 15 points, all with 12 games played.

## BOWLS RESULTS

Gateway Bowls Club 105-100 Kearsney: G Robinson, S Windebank, P Grettton 4-26; R Edgington, J Turner, K Fox 21-10; N Dixon, S Scott, D Hudson 22-15; P Norris, B Milner, B Scott 17-15; G Horsler, L Dixon, C Windebank 20-16; A Holman, C Bessent, B Wakeham 21-18. Gateway 65-56 St Margarets: J MacQuire, G Miles, P Gtettton 13-12; I MacQuire, S Kane, D Hudson 21-12; J Skeen, J Smith, B Gibbons 14-17; A Holman, B Amos, S Smith 17-15. Gateway 134-85 Boughton: B Smith, A Booth, R Langley 24-12; G Miles, B Gibbons, K Fox 17-25; S Kane, C Bessent, D Hudson 19-22; B Milner, S Windebank, B Wakeham 28-8; M Fitzpatrick, P Booth, M Bessent 24-6; R Edgington, S Smith, P Grettton 22-12. Gateway 84-99 Thanet: L Dixon, N Dixon, J Avis 10-19; G Miles, B Amos, D Hudson 9-16; A Holman, J Smith, D Langley 24-10; M Fitzpatrick, B Milner, B Wakeham 13-22; I MacQuire, S Kane, P Grettton 15-14; J MacQuire, S Smith, K Fox 13-18.

River Bowling Club 77-88 Sellinger: J Burn, P Bedo, P Kynoch 13-20; M Smith, W Arnold, S Conroy 14-15; M Ambrose, G Simmonds, N Smith 13-27; S Baldwin, G Brenton, A Leishman 12-14; C Phipps, E Law, D Smith 25-12. River 95-86 New Romney: C Rawson, M Welburn, M Kirby 20-13; J Williams, D Britnell, N Smith 14-17; P Bedo, W Arnold, D Smith 15-18; D Butcher, E Law, A Leishman 15-16; E Chambers, S Reeder, J Hopkins 15-13; B Locke, J Yarnell, S Conroy 16-9. Dover (Ladies) 46-18 Deal: P Kynoch, S Baldwin, K Kirby 25-11; S Leever, C Phipps, R Webb 21-7.

## STRIKER

WEEK 12: John Heath £1000, V Fagg £50, J Upton £25, Peter Fowkes £25, Denise Bowley £25, Marilyn Gilbert £20, E Deighton £20, M Phillips £20, Scott Lawrence £10, S Smith £10, Lynda Curtis £10, M J Philpott £10, C Hadley £10.

## Beaumont happy with game plan but Sharks can't hold on

DOVER Rugby Club lost narrowly on Saturday, 27-24 at Gravesend.

The Sharks had been beaten 43-13 and 53-3 in their last two visits to Gravesend so knew they were facing an uphill battle.

A number of changes were made from last week's winning start to the league, including Will Morrison who made his debut on the wing.

Dover started on the front foot and forced Gravesend into conceding a penalty after ten minutes, which Martyn Beaumont slotted home to make it 3-0.

The hosts levelled shortly after an infringement at the lineout and Gravesend's penalty levelled.

The Sharks started the grow into the game and after some tactical

kicking, Morrison forced a turnover and Joe Cooper went over, Beaumont converting for 10-3.

Almost straight from the kick off, Dover lost their concentration and conceded a penalty. Gravesend converted to make it 10-6.

Gravesend started to peg Dover in their own 22 with tactical kicking, and a straightforward kick down the middle saw Gravesend capitalise and go under the posts on the stroke of half time, to send the home side into the break 13-10 up.

George Curtis entered the sin bin for a trip, before the hosts went over to stretch their lead to 20-10.

Dover rallied after conceding the try, with the forwards getting on top and using the driving maul to

put Gravesend on the back foot.

The Sharks were getting advantages from the referee, before the ball was spun wide to Beaumont, who fed James Bowman to go through for a score. Beaumont converted and Dover were back in the game at 20-17.

With little more than ten minutes remaining, Dover were pushing for the win, and Beaumont looked to have given them just that when he passed a number of defenders to score, then successfully converting off the post for a 24-20 lead.

The Sharks were trying to hold out for victory under the posts, but it wasn't to be as a Gravesend back went under the posts to score, with the conversion slotted to give

Gravesend a crucial score.

With barely any time left, Dover were unable to respond.

Head of rugby Beaumont said: "The pack were excellent yet again, set piece was a real strength and their commitment to our game plan is really paying off.

"Our discipline, despite some silly yellow cards, has been superb and I am pleased with where we are at.

"The game could have gone either way at the end but sometimes it does not go your way.

"John Foster was clearly man of the match, but many of our boys put their hat in the ring."

Dover now have two home games running, starting with unbeaten Haywards Heath on Saturday, 3pm.