

Tunbridge Wells Mens I 3 Cliftonville I 1

With Wells narrowly trailing Cliftonville in the league, the Mens' 1sts travelled to east Kent nursing high hopes of reclaiming second place. With a pre-dawn meet at the Nevill, due to the 10.30 pushback, Wells had plenty of good preparation time, and this paid off with a bright start, leading to an early deflected goal from striker Fyson from a well-rehearsed short corner routine. Continued pressure from a drilled Wells side forced Cliftonville errors, and with midfield general David Hemsley dictating a high pace, Wells pushed for a two goal lead. This well-deserved advantage eventually came from another short corner routine, this time Hemsley drilling a fiercely struck shot past the flailing Cliftonville keeper.

Domination from the Wells back four of Hart, Tim Barber, Siggery and Barnaby meant that any Cliftonville chances before half time were muted. Fast, unerring passing through the midfield kept the pace high, and the fitness of the Wells side showed, with frustrations leading to a yellow card for dissent for an opposing striker.

The second half started brightly, but neither side managed to penetrate the opposition defence for much of the half, until a moment of individual brilliance from Sam Clarke-Knowles. Beating two players near the D, Sam C-K fired an inch perfect pass to Fyson, who again deflected the ball into the top corner from short range. At 3-0, this effectively closed the game out for Wells, yet Cliftonville continued to press for a consolation. The away defence held strong until a fortunate deflection took the ball into the path of their striker, who finished well on the reverse. From then on, Wells' captain/goalkeeper Rimmer was outstanding, commanding the defence, who were ably assisted by the midfield trio of Hemsley, Norman and Tom Clarke-Knowles.

The final whistle blew to the celebrations of Wells players, and the 3-1 win leaves them well placed for a run at automatic promotion, or a potential end of season play-off.

Tunbridge Wells Mens III 4 Holcombe IV 1

TWHC men's 3rd XI had an early game away at Holcombe to build on last week's impressive win. With several changes to personnel there was the fear that Wells would take a step backwards however Crawford in goal, Chris Page at sweeper, Romaine at centre mid and Burley upfront carried on where their colleagues the previous week left off. From the start Wells played pressing attacking hockey punctuated by crisp passing and balls of vision coming from Romaine and Bailey in the midfield to the attacking partnership of Burley and Cockayne. Wells quickly found themselves 2-0 up through Cockayne and Romaine and Holcombe were struggling to get into the game. With Holcombe resorting to throwing balls over the top the Wells defence came into play but seemed to be in control of the situation. Due to a slight lapse in concentration Holcombe saw their aerial approach pay off. With the ball coming down behind the Wells defence the Holcombe forward showed sublime control to bring the ball down and then slipped a pass that split the remaining wells defenders for the Holc's wide player to finish at the far post. Unperturbed Wells stuck to their game plan resulting in an excellent move that culminated in Smith finishing for his second goal in as many games.

The second half saw Wells continue their fine play without managing to penetrate the Holcombe circle. As frustration increased, some sloppy distribution from Page at the back gave Holcombe a couple of opportunities which they failed to capitalise on. Finally Wells got the ball to Burley who showed control and composure to round the Holc's keeper and slot the ball home for a deserved goal to seal the victory. Next up for Wells are Wellcome at home where the plan is to make it 3 on the bounce.

Tunbridge Wells Mens IV 5 Old Bordenians VI 2

TW Monarchs winning run continued as they went joint top of the table following this hard earned win over Old Bordenians.

Three goals from short corners from Grogan, Fyson and Elliott and two from open play from Mauduit and Heritage were just rewards for the pressure exerted, and showed the growing maturity of the side.

Old Bordenians were well in the game in the first half and were unlucky to be 2-1 down at half time.

However, they could not sustain their effort and had to make do with the first and last goals of the match.

BRIGHTON VETS 5 TUNBRIDGE WELLS VETERANS 3

Like your least favourite computer that crashes will dull monotony, Wells Vets contrived to produce the kind of rage amongst the spectators that is normally confined to ones PC and the privacy of your desk.

The performance certainly warmed no cockles, although by the freezing seaside, the only thing warmed was the egos of the Brighton forwards who ghosted through Wells defensive line on countless occasions, but were programmed to score, of course, just the customary 5 times.

The softly softly approach succeeded only in presenting the ball to the oppositions midfield – a decent dose of crash, bang, & wallop enabled skipper Goodwin to score Wells first, a quite marvellous reverse stick clout, and two deflections of completely contrasting design by Shearer and Mitchell brought the further 2 consolation goals

Those whose satnav enabled them to get to Brighton's homely shed were entertained accordingly.

Tunbridge Wells Grasshoppers 4 - Sutton Valence 1

Grasshoppers dominated throughout most of the match, although in a reversal of the previous week Sutton Valence created some good opportunities on the break. In their only brief but sustained period of pressure Sutton scored a well fashioned goal, to pull back to 1-2 at half time. Hoppers dominance was based on moving the ball around early and accurately, with Mills, Adams and Holmes particularly building attacks down the right.

With fewer substitutions than usual it was perhaps easier to sustain the teamwork, and the build-up play was consistently good throughout the side. With a little more calm in the 'D', and less accomplished goalkeeping, Hoppers might have scored twice as many. As it was Mills (2), Pelmore and Ghosley all scored as the end result of good teamwork, each of the goals coming from movements starting in the Hoppers' half of the pitch.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies III Maidstone III 1

Wells travelled to Maidstone for this Kent Div 1 match. The match started a little tentatively, but Wells began to settle and make good use of Kate Fowler who controlled the midfield well. The forwards looked bright and several good runs into the circle by Spink and Sands gave Wells hope that a break-through would come, however, by half time neither team had managed to trouble the goalies.

In the second half Wells played with greater confidence and belief and the breakthrough came from a short corner passed to Fowler whose shot was saved, but she made an excellent follow up to slam the ball past the keeper. Wells pressed throughout the half winning several short corners, Milson was unlucky not to score when she saw her solid sweep rebound off the post.

It was Fowler who scored Wells second with a good drive into the circle and well placed shot. Solid defence from Hadaway, Booth and Blaxland kept Maidstone at bay until the last 3 minutes when they were awarded a penalty corner. This was well worked and swept into the net from the left, but Wells held on to their goal advantage to take the points.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies IV 3 Blackheath IV 0

On a bitterly cold Saturday morning the 4th team prepared to play against Blackheath who were currently lying one place behind them in the league. Pressure was on once again to prove themselves and come away with a winning score.

With a number of easy goals missed at the beginning of the match it was upto Emma Beamish playing defence to show the forwards how a goal was scored with a cracking shot just before half time.

Black heath played hard to level up the score but TW came back again with Emma scoring for the edge of the circle followed a few minutes later by Tess McClelland (another defence) scoring the third goal.

This was a well fought game by both sides and all credit to tw defence who worked hard at both ends of the pitch.

Next week the team go upto Beckenham to play against New Becs who are currently just below them.

Tunbridge Wells V 3 Kent Uni I 4

A tale of two heart-breaking umpires. Wells had won the previous encounter 14-2, but expected no repeat. However in the opening minute Tessa Harrison was once again cutting through the defence to score. The uni team is set up to attack and by half-time they had come back to lead 2-1. It was obvious that Uni were susceptible to the long ball and Emily Vallance sent down a host of testing drives. On one occasion the defence were rattled into a foul in the circle leaving Holme one on one with the keeper. Inexplicably the umpire gave a short just as advantage revealed itself.

Uni continued to pour forward, being thwarted time and again by the defence. Goalie Louise Togoh pulled off several point-blank saves. However Wells got back on terms. The ball found Hattie Montgomery free on the left. Her first attempt found air, leaving her to score with an impressive reverse stick shot. This provoked Uni who immediately struck back.

Into the last few minutes and Harrison charged down a hit out, got away her shot which was saved only for Montgomery to score with the follow-up.

The restart took the game into the final two minutes. The defence and mids were implored to clear the ball, but to their disbelief Uni were awarded a short. The final whistle blew leaving the penalty corner to be completed. There was an inevitability to Uni scoring with the final hit of the game, Togoh beaten by a deflection. The team and in particular the defensive unit did not deserve this after the brave performance.