

Grasshoppers 2 - Canterbury Friars 1

Having lost after taking a 2 goal lead at Canterbury on Boxing Day, Grasshoppers had an early opportunity for revenge, playing at home just a fortnight later. The game was again played on astro, since the Nevill grass was unfit, but Hoppers started brightly and should have had more than one early goal to show for it - Shimell having collected a save rebounding off the goalkeeper's pads, coolly waited for the keeper to commit himself and then flicked it the other way.

Canterbury gradually played themselves back into the match, and both sides set up good constructive attacking moves which then usually broke down with a misplaced or over-ambitious pass. In addition the defences were doing at least enough to rarely allow forwards a straightforward shot on goal when chances were created. Canterbury eventually equalised with a long ball to the far post finding their winger in too much space from TW's viewpoint.

In the last quarter it seemed that the balance was tipping in favour of the visitors. Although both teams were still creating opportunities, Hoppers seemed to be allowing the opposition forwards too much space, with players apparently unsure of whom they should be marking. Then, as Canterbury pushed forward in greater numbers, Hoppers passed the ball well out of defence, moving it around quickly before finding Robinson unmarked coming off the right wing to score the winner with 10 minutes remaining. Another good game played in a good spirit – but from TW's viewpoint a better outcome than a fortnight before. Next week's match will again be played on astro, as TW Vets seek revenge on their preferred surface, having lost to Grasshoppers on grass at the Nevill in the autumn.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies I 0 Southend 0

The final score of 0-0 does not reflect the dominance that Wells had in this fixture. From the start Wells played at a higher pace and intensity to their opposition, rarely allowing Southend into a dangerous position. Wells created several clear cut chances, the visitors being lucky in that four goalmouth scrambles were cleared off the line.

While Wells also missed a penalty flick, they never looked in danger of losing as the backline restricted Southend's attacks with ease as the match went on, superbly marshalled by Brolley's man of the match Roberta Organ. Wells will feel that they should have won this match, playing with a tempo and style that hints at better things to come.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies III 1 New Beccs I 1

Wells were keen to play again after such a long break and knew that top of the table New Beccs would be tough opponents. Wells started brightly moving the ball with pace and making the most of their young forwards. New Beccs were soon under pressure with Wells attacking down both flanks. A short corner was won after about 15 minutes, hit out by Milson to Bateman who slipped the ball right to Freeman who struck home with great strength to put the Wells ahead. Wells continued strongly throughout the half and New Beccs attacks were ably dealt with by the solid defence of Tooze, Blaxland and McClelland.

The second half saw a more determined New Beccs and Wells were under increasing pressure with the New Beccs centre forward staying high to pounce on any through balls. Megan Grist had a superb performance in goal and made several great saves, but eventually New Beccs managed to drill the ball into the goal. Chances came for both teams, but in the end Wells held on for a hard earned draw.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies V 2 New Beccs III 3

Apart from the result, a very enjoyable game to start the New Year. Wells put out a strong team and were disappointed to concede the first goal. However they came roaring back. From a short corner the move initially broke down, but the ball was forced back into the circle for Tessa Harrison to crack home.

In goal, Kira Boulton was called upon to make several smart saves, but the New Beccs keeper was given more to do. From another short Denise Holme hit a firm shot to the keeper's left. Again it was saved, but Harrison had raced in to hammer in the rebound. With mids Hadaway, Montgomery and Vallence piling on the pressure it seemed that Wells must score more goals.

However, following substitutions, New Beccs found a method of attacking Wells down the flank and managed to take the lead. Wells had chances to equalize, but disappointingly failed to capitalize upon them.