

Tunbridge Wells Vets: 2 Ashford V 1

Tunbridge Wells started brightly immediately putting pressure on the Ashford defence and within the first minute David Barnes stuck the back board from a Murray Crosby cross. T wells maintained pressure with Roger Hynes causing trouble along the right. Alan Nicholson was unlucky to see his shot go wide. Dave MacNamara provided a killer pass, from a long corner, to Roger Hynes who sent the keeper the wrong way and made it 2 nil. With their tails up T Wells should have finished the half with at least 4 more goals. The second half Ashford fought back but hard work from Andy Elley, Mark Mason, and Steve Akery blunted the Ashford attack but only for a soft goal to bring the score up to 2-1. T Wells came close to scoring again when James Wilby's penalty corner shot went just wide. More pressure from Ashford in the last ten minutes resulted in T Wells fighting hard for the win Alex Templer made a couple a crucial tackles to make up for a below par performance at the back but was satisfied at the end with a well fought win.
Scorers: Dave Barnes, Roger Hynes

Tunbridge Wells Monarchs 2 Brom Becks 0

The Monarchs travelled back to Brom Beck following their pre-season friendly. In this match the game ended with a 3-3 result. Wells started Saturday's game with a changed side and took a while to settle. After 15 minutes, Wells took control and started to pepper the goal. Brom Beck's keeper stopped all shots to frustrate the Wells attack.

The second half resumed at 0-0 and Wells started to turn on the gas taking advantage of the 3G pitch hitting with ball with purpose. The stalemate continued until a short corner in which Nigel Bateman slipped left for Charlie Nyren to weave around the keeper and slot the ball home. Towards the end, Nigel Bateman was hacked 6 yards outside the D. Bateman took the hit straight away, driving into the Brom Beck defence to fire home the 2nd Goal.

This was a great performance from Wells who showed patience to win the match which could have gone either way. The young guns showed fantastic determination, character and skill – Murdoch, Lay C and Lay W, Thomas, Moore and Barnaby.

PURLEY 3 GRASSHOPPERS 1

Our second game in the Surrey Grass Conference saw us travelling to Purley , old friends / foes.

As always, we viewed their team with some trepidation, much younger, fitter and stronger.

The game got off to a cracking start with our forwards combining well and pressurising their defence and even getting in a couple of shots.

Purley were always fast on the break with slick and skillful passing. But our defence held out bolstered by the returning Martin Athey.

Then a mistake in our defence and they scored. We continued to press and Roger Morson equalised.

Purley won a short corner which we dealt with , but the ball was struck , quite softly, from the edge of our D , past Jamie Crawford, into the corner of our goal, 2-1.

Half time came and we made changes with Nick Ivory being replaced by Tim Revell. This was not a straight swap positionally which meant that there were several changes to our formation which, in retrospect, weakened our team.

One of their forwards waltzed through our defence, unopposed, and it was 3-1.

We had a few chances as did they. Neil Ghosley had a fine shot saved by their keeper.

A good game played in a fine spirit but in the end age told.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies I 4 Blackheath 1

At the start of the day Wells sat one place above the visitors by virtue of goal difference. Knowing that this was their sternest test of the season so far, Wells started at a high tempo forcing a string of short corners that went unconverted. After ten minutes Wells took the lead, sustained pressure leading to Jen Hunt poaching the opener after the Blackheath keeper had saved at a short corner.

As Blackheath applied pressure looking for the equaliser, Wells struggled to keep their shape and the game broke down into a period of counterattacks that created only one clear opening, Holly Turner unlucky to hit the post from 6 yards out. Fortunately Wells bucked this trend as shortly afterwards Bex Ross finished from close range to give Wells a two goal cushion.

The second half saw Wells having to absorb a large amount of pressure, keeper Ali Playle pulling off several fine saves to maintain the advantage. However, Blackheath scored a scrappy goal to give the visitors hope. The goal seemed to spark Wells to life and they quickly regained their shape, dictating play and allowing Brolley Player of the Match Jen Hunt to grab two more goals for her second hat-trick of the season. Wells were unfortunate not to increase their lead as Olivia Rendall hit the post in the dying moments.

Tunbridge Wells Royals 1 - 2 Burnt Ash

Royals took their so far unbeaten record to Burnt Ash who also had yet to lose a match. The match started superbly from a Royals point of view with Raisa Rampersad scoring in the first 30 seconds. Royals dominated for about 10 minutes until Burnt Ash took a hold of the match. The experience and pace of their midfield over running the Royals and several chances were created but Lydia Walter again had another fabulous day in goal making excellent reaction saves.

Royals hung on defending well with Di Dunmall and Sarah Martins solid and disciplined at the back until 10 minutes from time a missed tackle led to a Burnt Ash striker directly in front of goal and Walter had no chance. At 1-1 Royals rallied slightly with Maddie Godfrey again impressing but fatigue took its toll again and Ash scored with only 3 minutes left.

Royals reflect on a 2-1 defeat but none the less a performance which showed excellent endeavour and sheer hard which will begin to pay off in the coming weeks.

Joint man of the match awarded to Di Dunmall and Maddie Godfrey.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies III 3 Canterbury III 0

Wells ladies 3s returned to winning ways with a strong performance against Canterbury. Good passing and fast running from the forwards allowed Wells to create chances and allowed Rachel Fox to put a rebounded shot away. Whilst Canterbury had some tricky forwards the Wells defence remained solid and the ball was moved into attacking positions quickly. Wells won a short corner before half time which was cleanly struck by Lou Bateman hammering into the bottom left corner.

Canterbury came out strongly in the second half and gained a few short corners in quick succession, but Laura Blaxland was quickly out to meet the strike and any shots were efficiently cleared by Chris Poth in goal. Once Wells regained their composure they began to pressure the Canterbury goal again. Man of the match Fox made a good pass to Bateman on the top of the circle who struck home for the third. Two more chances fell to Bateman who put both just wide. This was a great team performance which takes Wells to joint third in the league.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies IV 0 New Beccs III 1

Though the late start of 4.30pm was always going to be a handicap, T.Wells were determined to play hard and come away with a win. New Beccs were constant in their attack on our goal with Megan Grist saving ball after ball and the defence - Sam Barker, Jennie Bowler, Tess McClelland, Xanthe Stebbings, Hayley Dann, Emma Beamish and Kate Holden working over time in keeping the score positive.

In the second half New Beccs finally broke through and with that Wells tried their utmost to go up a gear. Two goals were disallowed, the first as the ball was out of the circle and the second as it was too high. The game finished with Wells holding seige to the New Beccs goal but unfortunately they came away without a point.

MoM: Kate Holden

Tunbridge Wells Ladies V 5 Cobdown 2

The game started with a minute's silence for a male player from Cobdown who had died the previous week during a match while playing for Sutton Valence. Due to match times Wells had assembled an extremely strong team. The scoring was opened by new junior, India Hicks in her first Ladies game. Remember the name. Wells did the bulk of their scoring in the second half with Carolyn Pollard helping herself to a hat-trick. Lisa Boldrini scored too and was able to lay the ball on for others up front. Not to be outdone, Tessa Harrison showed her class and goalie Chris Poth was called upon to make several outstanding saves.

Tun. Wells Boys U16 4 BBHC 0

BBHC weren't the strongest team but they had a couple of useful players. Wells struggled to break down their defence as they had 9-10 men behind the ball and in their 25. I couldn't fault the attitude of most of the team, James Champion was given a green for gamesmanship. I felt the green was maybe a little unnecessary and a chat from the umpire would have sufficed.

The back four struggled to play as a unit as BBHC had very little structure up front. Henry Murdoch spent most of the game man marking their lone forward. However he stepped in front very well and made some important tackles. The half-backs and the other centre-back were allowed to play unusually high but they linked well with the players playing in front of them. Very good distribution from Henry, Charlie, George, James C and Ed F. I felt they very much lead the younger/less experienced players by example.

In the midfield it was a similar issue, there was plenty of movement up the lines but very limited transfer from side-to-side. There was a fantastic piece of hockey between Ed F, George and James C. Turner would have been proud by the interchange between them as they played it between them and eliminated 3 if not 4 players en route to the edge of the D. Similarly James B and George B worked very well together on the right side.

Up front the opening 10 was fairly sluggish. However I was impressed by Tom W, Toby, Will M and Dom who kept running. Could have been a bit less flat as a front three but the hard work did pay off against their defence. In the second half they created more space with their movement and were unlucky not to score more.

Scorers Charlie Lay, George Barnaby, Will M and James Champion.

Other results: Mens 1 lost 3 – 2, 2s drew 1 – 1, 3s lost 2 – 1, Ladies 3 won 3 - 0