

Grasshoppers 1 Tonbridge Black Knights 1

It was a beautiful autumnal day, last Saturday, when we hosted our arch rivals from Tonbridge, the homeless, peripatetic and nomadic Black Knights(no relation, we believe , to Dudley).

This is a game to which we look forward with mixed emotions. Fear for our safety, revenge for previous encounters, and a good robust game, ' clean' would never be used in this context.

As usual, the mind games started before the game commenced . On arrival at our changing room we discovered that the opposition had commandeered our corner, but we were not deterred and prepared ourselves according to our time honoured customs. Some concern was expressed by our Ethics Committee on discovering that some Grasshoppers live in, or near, Tonbridge!

And so to the game. We got off to a fast start with the opposition pegged back in their own half for long passages of play, our forwards having several shots on their goal. But, as always seems to happen we began to fade and they took the upper hand.

But we created more chances and Shimmel slotted the ball into their net. 1-0 to Grasshoppers. The game was finely balanced when they equalised 1-1.

Then a trademark move by Black Knights, a heavy tackle on one of our forwards felling him to the ground, followed by a ' clearance' hit driving the ball into our prone players' skull. Fortunately, contact on the ball was not very hard and no permanent damage, as far as we can see, was done.

That was the result, a robust game played in a good spirit with the honours shared.

And how they saw it

THE Tunbridge Wells Grasshoppers and the Tonbridge Black Knights drew a fiercely contested [derby](#) clash in the glorious sunshine at the Nevill ground. The Grasshoppers were quickest out the blocks and were unlucky not to go ahead when the Knights keeper Morley made an excellent double save down low to his left.

As the first half wore on, the Black Knights began to get a foothold in the game and Grasshoppers' keeper Crawford was forced into action from a short corner, parrying away Kitchenham's shot.

A few minutes later the game had its first talking point as Black Knights thought they had scored, but the goal was correctly disallowed for a foot fault in the build up.

This sparked the Black Knights into life and a lovely one touch move resulted in another fantastic save by Crawford. The second half began with a sustained spell of pressure from the Black Knights but a smart Grasshoppers counter-attack played in Shimmel, who finished well.

With defences dominating, the Black Knights were up against it, but soon got their reward as Goodwin surged into the area and drilled his shot past the keeper to equalise.

The Knights midfield worked tirelessly with George's tackling and Tipper's creativity, but could not find a way through the well organised and structured Wells defence, calmly masterminded by Burton and Revell. Towards the end, tempers flared and the Grasshoppers' midfielder Pelmore felled Tipper with a very poor challenge.

Notably for Black Knights, there was a debut for Stone and he made it one to remember with a great game at left-half. But the game fizzled out in the end as neither team could find a winner and the derby spoils were shared in a game where the defences came out on top.

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In the end Wells had only the bare 11 to play as many dropped off the list on Friday and Saturday (- not willing to travel?) Wells were certainly the stronger side as individuals, but didn't really come together as a team until the second half (when the goals were scored). Some wrong positioning at the start didn't help (based on knowledge of last year!) - with the result that our first half was really only held together by the efforts of only 2 of the 3 mid field players. Once the team was rearranged at half time the girls started to pull together and

had most of the game in their half. Our goalkeeper didn't touch the ball - but we had many shots on goal saved by theirs! Goals werer scored by Rose Down and Charis Heim

Womens results 1s L 4-3, 2s W 2-0