

## Tunbridge Wells Mens I 7 Blackheath I 0

2011/12 means something special for the T wells Mens section. 2010/11 was a season of promotion and growth. Juniors maturing and a team uniting... And such is the law of momentum; the off season has attracted even more prosperity:

Ben Brandt, one of last seasons junior talisman played in the senior England mixed teams victory over Wales, a host of new faces from afar and university graduates coming back home. On paper the first team squad has huge potential... But on Saturday 1st of October the sun exceeded its parts. The expectations of hockey grandeur were met shortly after the starting whistle. Linking moves and threatening carries put the Blackheath visitors 1 goal down after 7 minutes. Only 2 minutes later a speculative overhead caught the Wells defence out and the scores were levelled. For a brief period Blackheath thought they were in a contest with a buoyant, newly promoted group of pretenders that would soon realise their place. 20 minutes later Blackheath had conceded 3 more, two of which in the space of as many minutes.

28 degrees of blistering sunshine sapped second half energy from the Wells onslaught. But as more goals went in the confidence grew. Blackheath continued to play but the 'play' never turned into a contest. 3 more second half goals for Wells and none conceded and the match was over. Tunbridge Wells captain Gav Rimmer talked to the team after the game about having more to give. 7 were scored but many chances were missed. The team travel to Crawley who are recently relegated from the league above next Saturday... Expectations just got higher. Result 7-1 Win. Tunbridge Wells scorers: Murdoch 2, Brandt 1, Chris barber 1, Turner 3.

## Tunbridge Wells Vets 0 Blackheath Heathens 9

With the mercury nudging a warm 30 degrees C everyone knew it was going to be a tough game. With couple of unforeseen drop outs earlier that morning the vets started undermanned and Blackheath pushed their advantage not just in numbers but in youth also. Wilby battled hard on the left trying to find Barnes. Crosby and Mitchell worked hard trying to stem the flow of attackers through the centre but the sun began to take its toil quickly.

The Wells defence struggled to contain the overlapping Blackheath Midfield and soon the goals rained in. In the spirit of fairness the Blackheath Captain loaned a couple of his players and with a change in formation Wells started the second half much better, passing and moving the ball with a new found confidence. Mitchell and Wilby attacked quickly up the wings and forced two penalty corners both there saved by an athletic opposition goalkeeper. Ultimately the damage had already been done and the Vets will look to start afresh again next week

## Kenley Tournament (Grasshoppers)

This week we travelled to Kenley, in Surrey, where we took part in their annual tournament. This gave us the opportunity to meet the other teams that we will be playing , this season, as we have joined the Surrey Grass Conference.

Kenley's ground is quite charming, with two pitches, nestling in a wooded valley.

There were seven teams meaning that we had to play six matches of approximately 20 minutes each.

Our first game was against Masonians, who apparently have nothing to do with masons. The club used to be Reckitt & Coleman's but when it was folding up was saved by a benefactor called Mason. So this has also been an educational trip. Anyway the opposition started at a furious pace and scored from a right wing cross,

where was our left back? We then pulled ourselves together and Ghostley scored after a fine move. It ended thus a 1-1 draw.

Our second game was against our hosts Kenley. Their name derives from the fact that the club is located in Kenley. Same pattern as game one, they scored and Barker equalised for us, another 1-1 draw.

Our third game, played without a break from the second, ended 0-0. We had chances, as did they, but they were either saved or squandered.

Then our lunch break. We were the last team to eat, and the clubhouse looked as if the locusts had beaten us to it. And so we had makeshift sandwiches of bread, pickle, ketchup and other condiments.

We were now promoted to the main pitch, which meant playing in front of a vast audience. First game against Wallington, who started off much better than us and scored but Barker levelled with a fine dribble and shot and so it ended 1-1.

Game five against Purley who we play regularly, they are younger, fitter and more skillful. They scored two fine goals, Barker pulled one back and so we lost 1-2.

Last match against NPL who seemed to have a lot of players recruited from the other teams. We had all the pressure, I don't think that they got into our D, and Barker had two runs down the right both ending in fine shots and two goals. We won 2-0.

We ended up with eleven points and placed 4th. We acquitted ourselves well and should, on this showing, do reasonably well this season.

Our captain Crawford handled the substitutions well so all ran smoothly. Everyone played well.

#### Tunbridge Wells Vintage (O50) 4 Marden 1

TW put paid to their chances of a third consecutive plate final appearance with this defeat of Marden. The teams were evenly balanced in the first half, with Marden leaving forwards up and creating opportunities if few clear cut shots on goal.

TW though had a more controlled approach which regularly foundered at the last. TW eventually broke the deadlock when the Marden defense stopped expecting the whistle and debutant Irvine bundled the ball over the line.

The lead was short lived when a Marden penalty corner became a stroke which was easily converted.

The second half saw Marden retreat further into their shell allowing TW to control the game. Pressure eventually told and Macnamara, Mitchell and Nicholson scored goals, following some fine passing.

#### Tunbridge Wells Royals 2 - 2 Bromley and Beckenham

On a sweltering hot day the Royals travelled to Brombeck in good spirits looking to build on a solid start to the season having been unbeaten in their first 2 league matches. The match began with Brombeck utilising some excellent pace on their wings and putting the Royals defence and midfield under all sorts of pressure. A melee in the Royals defensive circle led to a head injury to sweeper Di Dunmall forcing her off for most of the remainder of the match and with only 1 sub in the heat the Royals would need all their team spirit to get anything out of the match.

After 10 minutes Royals went 1-0 down to a scrappy goal which trickled over the line but it was nothing more than Brombeck deserved as The Royals had had to completely re-shuffle the defence and midfield to accommodate the injury.

After the goal Brombeck seemed to ease off in the heat and with tireless work from Maddie Godfrey and Fran Hawkins on each wing Royals got a foothold in the game and Hawkins scored with a well placed shot. At 1-1 the unpires decided to call a drinks break and Royals resumed and scored almost immediately through good work on the right wing by Hawkins and excellent movement in the centre by Raisa Rampersad on debut which allowed Godfrey to come in and score from the left wing in the centre of goal.

At 2-1 the game became open and there were chances at either end. A dubious penalty corner was awarded and a deflected goal was scored making it 2-2. Hawkins was clean through but taken out by the Brombeck goalkeeper but no flick was awarded and this led to Hawkins leaving the match with a leg injury. Dunmall bravely re-entered the fray and several more chances were created but the heat had taken its toll on both sides and the match ended 2-2.

Royals remain 4th in the Premier League and undefeated and Emarcia Marcus was voted player of the match after an excellent hard working display.

#### Tunbridge Wells Ladies III 1 Sevenoaks Acorns 4

Wells have started the season well, but having lost a few crucial players were brought down to earth. After going behind to a weak goal, Wells pressed forward. The equalizer came when Ellie Sands finished off a sustained attack. However, Wells were the victims, again, of a bizarre decision. A Sevenoaks shot rebounded off the inside of the post and out. The ball did not cross the line to most people's eyes, so it was a shock to find a goal awarded. With inevitability the two cutting goals were scored by Lucy Woodward, who having benefited from Wells summer coaching defected to Sevenoaks, where she showed up her team-mates' finishing. Excellent. Wells were denied a flick in the dying seconds when the Sevenoaks foot on the line passed unnoticed.

#### Tunbridge Wells IV 8 Tunbridge Wells V 0

Buoyed up from their win, last week, the 4ths were determined to carry on marching forward. Playing against a depleted but determined 5ths side the 4ths played a strong cohesive game with great communication amongst the players. The 5ths goalie, du Plessis, played a mammoth game saving many attempts by the 4ths at the goal face.

Man of the match, Amanda Wren took charge of the middle ground game which in turn resulted in 8 goals being scored - Jess Begg: 2, Louise Robinson: 2, Sarah McClelland 1, Capt. Sarai Howkins: 3.

#### Tunbridge Wells Ladies V 0 Tunbridge Wells IV 8

Having shown themselves adept at beating depleted teams, the 4s were always going to be a handful for the 9 player 5ths. By half-time the 5ths were only 2 down, one of the goals the result of a cruel deflection. On the plusside, Lize du Plessis, playing her first game in goal for Wells showed herself to be a real asset. On the field the defence of Akers Douglas, Shah and Hadaway played heroically. The Harrisons tracked back to break up attacks. Elise Rendall combined excellently with Emma Goff to show the most skillful play. With another forward the game might have been very different. Even so, Rendall might have scored had she not been stopped by a blatant kick which could have earned a card.

Until late in the game the 5ths played hugely, but the heat took its toll and the 4s took advantage.

#### Boys U16 Triangular

##### Canterbury 8 Tunbridge Wells 0

On a very hot day the Tunbridge Wells boys held a very strong Canterbury team to 2-0 at half time this certainly disturbed the Canterbury rhythm who appeared to arrive with the impression it was going to be a simple walk over. Unfortunately their strength and size made the score less respectable by the end but this was not a fair reflection on the effort and skills of the team. All boys worked hard and made good moves and passing but the determination of Canterbury made sure they won all 50 50 balls and their strength of passing made sure the ball reached its destination.

### Canterbury 5 East Grinstead 1

The Canterbury side proved too strong for the East Grinstead team who also struggled against the strength of the mainly older team.

### Tunbridge Wells 6 East Grinstead 1

After the experience of the first game and a few more dropouts due to illness the reduced team managed to display their skills and prove their worth. There was a fine display of skills and intense effort through the heat which undoubtedly paid off. Well done to the whole team who managed to consolidate an excellent victory.

Other scores TW Mens II 3 Blackheath 0, TW III 4 Sevenoaks 2, TW IV 2 Sevenoaks 0