

Tunbridge Wells Vets 5 Horsham 5

The Vets started brightly from the start intercepting a Horsham pass deep inside their own half they quickly counter attacked and won their first penalty corner. The first attempt was saved off the line but a defensive error saw another corner awarded. Wilby received the ball from Elley's injection and stuck the back board sweetly. Shortly Elley had his own goal after picking up a nicely weighted through ball from MacNamara.

The game seemed to be very one sided as Tunbridge Wells dominated midfield Jago and Hynes on the right interchanged passes and made several attacks into the Horsham D. The Horsham keeper made some fine reaction saves from an Elley shot only to see a lobbed effect from Barnes meet the net. Horsham responded on a rare first half counter attack out numbering the defensive trio of Mason, Akery and Templer but they only came away with a penalty corner. The first shot was saved buy goal keeper Digweed but he couldn't prevent the rebound shot from hitting the backboard. Shortly after the restart Tunbridge Wells were caught napping, possibly due to the warm conditions and lack of match fitness, Horsham again counterattacked in numbers to force another goal. Half time arrived for a well needed drink and regroup.

Second half started well but Horsham had worked out Tunbridge Wells only had three at the back and an unmarked Horsham midfield player beat Digweed to make it 3-3.

Clearly annoyed Tunbridge Wells attacked hard and forced a penalty corner and with a change of system Elley injected short to Crosby whose shot rattled the backboard. The game rattled on with attack meeting with counter attack. In a spirited moment Templer intercepted a pass and drove up the left side passing the ball to Mac who jinked left and right at the top of the D before passing the ball back to Templer whose shot was saved off the line by the Horsham Keeper. Horsham threatened again with their skilful centre forward forcing a foul outside the D the free hit was cleared but the next pass went back to Horsham who forced a string of saves from Digweed but Horsham came back again and this time found a goal, four all with 10 minutes to go. It seemed all other when Hynes pounced on to a loose ball in the D and Wells made it five four. However Horsham were not done and in the dying seconds of the match a missed tackle from Templer allowed Horsham to make the game a draw. However there were lots of positives to be taken from the game and everyone was looking forward to a new campaign in Kent Div 2 next week.

Goals, Wilby, Elley, Barnes, Crosby, Hynes.

GRASSHOPPERS 0 EPSOM 3

Our first game of the season, with a new Captain. A new beginning? A new dawn ? A new way of doing things? Well, maybe too soon to say.

A sun dappled pitch awaited our arrival, how did it feel , how did we feel? Pitches have feelings too, so our Groundsperson tells us.

We were 16, a quorum of hoppers or is it a swarm? But too many. Should there be a culling?

Epsom, very fond to the heart of our correspondent, arrived with only 10, and so we lent them our newest and most inexperienced Hopper, David Halloway, famous for receiving the " Vet of the Year , trophy, in Crowborough, about 10 years ago. Does he still have that trophy?

Well quite enough of that. We all had a chat about our holidays, the youngsters about finally getting their children a place at a University (do you really consider Margate a real option?).

Where's the vicar? Thought he was just off for a sabbatical, not for ever, hey ho, and it's off to Rome we go.

And so to the game.

We started very well, or was that the French against the All People of Colour, in the morning?

No we did, Holloway was redundant in their defence as our attacks struck through them like sharp knives cutting through cake.

Anyway, they scored 3 lucky goals, we had one disallowed, missed a few. Hastings narrowly avoided another carding, Lanc. streaked down the wing, Revell threw his stick down twice (a record, he normally does it thrice) .

So welcome to our new captain, Jamie Crawford, initiation to follow.

And the team was: Crawford, Athey, Hastings, Stebbing, Landolt, Lancaster, Ivory, Pelmore, Poulton, Fitzwater, and others that I can't remember .

So our winning run is broken, a very depressing start to our season.

Folkestone I 3 Tunbridge Wells Ladies I 2

Wells were made to pay for not taking chances as Folkestone won this end to end encounter. Having ridden out a nervous opening 5 minutes, Wells took control of the match, scoring through Holly Baldwin after a period of sustained pressure. Although Wells were camped in and around the Folkestone circle, they could not get the second goal that would have given them a firm grip on the match. As it was, Folkestone equalised just before half time from a penalty corner that followed a rare break into the Wells half.

Wells started the second half slowly as Folkestone looked to put their visitors under more pressure. A scrappy second goal saw the hosts take the lead before Wells settled in the home half again. Numerous penalty corners followed and with ten minutes remaining Bex Ross converted from one of these to pull Wells level. Wells went driving forward looking for the win and so left gaps in behind. With 5 minutes left, Wells lost possession on the half way line and Folkestone countered to score a fortunate winner.

Tunbridge Wells Royals 1 Ashford I 1

Tunbridge Wells Royals started their first home match of the season with purpose and skillful team play catching the premier league title favourites off guard. Ashford arrived top of the league and with a very experienced side compared to the excellent mix of youth and experience in the Royals development team. The Royals dominated large parts of the first half with Beck law making lightning paced runs down the right and interlinking superbly with Nicky Freeman who was drafted into the centre forward role from the midfield.

With Maddie Godfrey using her skill and pace on the left flank Royals made several opportunities but did not have the run of the ball where it mattered most in front of goal.

Carolyn Pollard ran the midfield and bossed the match from the centre ensuring the back four were not over exposed. With Di Dunmall and Emarsha Marcus developing an excellent partnership in defence Royals finished the half at 0-0.

Ashford resumed full of purpose and on a hot day the Royals began to wilt. After 55 minutes Ashford deservedly took the lead on their second half showing and this forced the Royals into a tactical change. Lisa Boldrini came on at centre forward and linked well with pace either side of her and pressure was again on the Ashford defence. Boldrini scored from a short

corner with a mazy dribble around the Ashford defence and slotted the ball into the left hand corner.

Ashford rallied again and the Royals did well to keep a point and the match ended 1-1. A great start to the season and Royal look forward to their next match at Bromley and Beckenham.

Tunbridge Wells III 4 Remnants I 1

Wells ladies 3s continued their winning form with a solid victory away at Remnants. Wells were quickly into their stride moving the ball with pace and immediately creating chances. Indeed the first goal came only 3 minutes into the match when Ellie Sands slipped a rebounded shot into the goal. The Wells forwards worked hard and several short corners were won with Bateman scoring, again from a rebounded save.

The third goal came shortly after when Claire Bowler neatly slipped the ball past the keeper. Remnants re - grouped before half time and managed a goal of their own against the run of play. In the second half Wells continued to dominate, but Remnants showed great determination, stepping up to intercept passes and beginning to make more inroads into the Wells half. Most attacks were comfortably dealt with by the solid Wells defence. Wells continued to win short corners and added another goal from from a changed routine. This was beautifully struck by debutant Gigi Barker.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies IV 7 Remnants II 0

After a tough game against last year's division leaders, Folkestone, and losing by one goal in the dying moments, TW 4ths were keen to make amends this week.

Playing a strong, cohesive game, they were able to score rapidly against remnants and by half time they were four goals up. Remnants put up a strong defence with their goalie working over-time in the heat of the day. Goal scorers were: Raisa Rampersad, Louise Robinson, Jess Begg and Amanda Wren all scoring one a piece. Captain Sarai Howkins scored the remaining 3.

After being promoted last year, the 4ths are keen to carry on marching forward. With the team playing so well together, this season looks to be very promising.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies V 0 Meopham II 2

It is to be hoped that this defeat will not prove decisive at the end of the season. Wells were forced to play with only ten players due to the attractions of London and the inability of some to cope with the demands of the ladies game compared with juniors'.

The attendees all played with spirit allowing only one goal in during the first half, something of a keeping error. The welcome presence of Jennie Bowler in the heart of the defence lent stability, inspiring Krishna Shah, Lynne Robertson and Daisy Loveland to clear the circle.

Right at the back Katy Frazer was striking the hit-outs firmly and during the second half began to create openings. Michelle Donnachie and Izzy Harrison opened up the wings for Kate Bickmore and Tessa

Harrison to make shooting opportunities and Wells might well have equalized. Unfortunately as Wells seemed to be in the ascendancy, Meopham made a chance and a double deflection allowed them to score the decisive goal

Tunbridge Wells Boys U18 11(eleven) Holcombe 1

An excellent result for the first match of the season. The boys played well together trusting each other making many short passes and keeping possession. This proved to be an unbeatable combination ensuring good passing from left to right and front to back making use of "roll outs" and "posting up".

It was good to see them supporting each other and that they ran so hard they were pleased to take their turn on the subs bench for a rest. The result could have been greater had they managed to slot away the short corners and ensure their shots were on target! This is something to work on before next week's stronger opposition. It was a pleasure to manage them as they are starting to manage themselves with great respect for each other. Thanks go to John Burton for umpiring and Holcombe for the post match hot dogs!