

Tunbridge Wells Mens I 5 Sutton Valence II 1

With high hopes for the season, Tunbridge Wells 1st team started their campaign against Sutton Valence 2's, a game which in seasons gone by had always been one of high tempo and full of activity. Wells started the game in control, keeping possession and passing fluidly, but Valence stayed firm and it payed off as they scored a hard low reverse shot that Rimmer initially saved only to see it trickle over the line.

At that point going 1-0 down after so much domination, the young wells side showed true grit, determination and patience and continued to calmly play the ball around searching for an opportunity. Great trickery from Tom Clarke Knowles, and some darting runs from Mickey Pelmore had the valence team bewildered, and they gave away a short corner... Chris Pelmore dragged an unstoppable flick to the top right of the goal. After that wells kept sticking to their game plan after some wizard like dribbling from Ben Backx and a sweet cross, Paddy Fyson hit a reverse shot straight past the keeper making it 2-1 to wells. Valence then responded with a bit of pressure but the wells defence of Hart, Siggery, Pelmore and Barber soaked it up with ease, and as wells lured valence into a false sense of security, man of the match Pete Hill blocked a number of tackles in midfield, and set up Ed Norman to force a save from the keeper only for Pink Brandt to slam home the rebound.

Shortly after that Pink Brandt won a short corner, and scored the goal of the game, a ball from Pelmore found him running to the post and the ball flew into the top corner. With wells now 4-1 up and brimming with confidence that was a joy to watch, the last goal was from another short corner, Pelmores Flick saved, but Pink Brandt was there once again and slid the ball to Ed Norman who tapped the ball in at the far post.

A great start to the season, and positioned at top of the league where they intend to stay.

VIOLENT INCIDENT AT THE NEVILL

Tunbridge Wells Police officers are investigating a mugging that occurred during the Grasshoppers match against Canterbury Friars last Saturday afternoon. Witnesses say that an elderly gentleman, who was enjoying a quiet after luncheon stroll, was assaulted by a wild haired younger man brandishing a stick with a curved head. The distinguished elderly gentleman was firstly wrestled and then pulled to the ground. Police are puzzled by the motive and severity of the attack, they have not ruled out the connection to a satanic cult as both victim and assailant were dressed in mystical garb, the first a green and white checked shirt and the other in a similar shirt but coloured red and white. Another theory, under consideration, is that gang warfare has come to our town and these shirts are worn to distinguish different factions or, to use colloquial street talk, 'teams'. A Police spokes person discounted this theory as 'far fetched'.

Grasshoppers 1 Canterbury 0

And so to the game.

A minutes silence was observed for Mike Dawson, a past Canterbury captain, who left us on Friday. As always the game was played in a good spirit and was quite even. We exerted a great deal of pressure through our powerful mid- field but, as so often happens, our forwards failed to put away the chances. We need our flying vicar back to convert them. However Ghosley had a firm shot, saved by their goalie, Ivory scored from the rebound. Much the same in the second half, they had few shots, Crawford had only one save to make, we created chances but no more goals. As with last week we gradually let the initiative slip and we only just hung on for our second victory of the season. Generally we all played fairly well, the defence, once again, keeping us in the match.

Tunbridge Wells I 4 Crostyx 0

Tunbridge Wells' first home game of the season saw them gain their first win after two disappointing defeats on the road. Wells knew that anything less than a win would put paid to their promotion hopes and set out to stifle their opposition at every opportunity. While it took a while for the game to settle down, Wells grabbed an early goal through skipper Jen Hunt that gave them some breathing space in the frantic opening moments.

Once Wells found their footing, Crostyx saw less and less of the ball and on those occasions that the visitors did gain some territory, the Wells defence stepped in and closed down any available passes, forcing Crostyx into repeatedly giving away possession. With man of the match Ele Cairns controlling the middle of the park, Wells were dictating the tempo of the game, tiring the opposition and creating attacking space that lead to numerous opportunites in all areas of the circle.

Further goals from Zoe Shepherd, Lucy Turner and Harriet Alexander added the gloss to an intelligent and disciplined display from Wells.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies IV 3 Tunbridge Wells V 0

This was always going a competitive match and it lived up to the prediction. The match was hard and well-fought by both teams.

The 4s were strong in the first half and after much persistence, got their first goal. A well aimed cross from Kate Fowler was nicely slotted in by Sarai Howkins. The second goal just before half-time was hit in on the reverse stick by Daisy Earle after much scrambling around the goal-face.

In the second half the 5s upped the momentum and caught out the 4s on a number of occasions. Then the 4s woke up and a great first-time hit by Kate Fowler resulted in the third goal. MoM Kate Fowler.