

## LADIES REPORTS

### **Cambridge University 0 – 2 Tunbridge Wells 1<sup>st</sup> XI**

After a long Christmas break and a cancelled game last weekend due to a frozen pitch, Tunbridge Wells travelled to Cambridge with trepidation. But the spirit was good and a positive mood throughout the team ensured that Wells did not continue their flaky form away from home in the East Premier League.

Having identified the key opposition players to mark out of the game, Wells started aggressively taking the game to Cambridge. Great forward running from Jen Hunt meant that whenever Wells gained possession in midfield, she was a dangerous outlet. The away team enjoyed plenty of possession early on and maintained a good pace of play for the entire half.

Great running from Jen Rohan in the high midfield position put pressure on the Cambridge defence and a well-won short corner resulted in a stonking goal from Amanda Tyburski pounding it straight past the stranded keeper into the back of the net.

Wells consolidated their lead with a well-taken goal from player-of-the-match Rohan who, with her back to the goal, calmly reversed it over the keeper.

As Tunbridge Wells began to tire so Cambridge took a stranglehold on the game finding lots of space in midfield. However, with the defence well marshalled by Ali Playle in goal who made some key clearances in both halves, Cambridge found it difficult to capitalise on their midfield possession.

Baldwin, Fiddimore, Turner and Gee marked the high players extremely tightly, effectively removing the potency from the bulk of the Cambridge attacks. Kim Wolff had a great game mopping up the loose balls after the initial defensive tackles and also making some key blocks at the top of the D.

Wells dug deep towards the end of the second half and absorbed the pressure from Cambridge. The 0-2 final score was well-deserved and a fantastic start for the second half of the season. The team move up into sixth position in the league.

### **Ashford 0 – 5 Tunbridge Wells 2nd XI**

Being the first game back after a six-week break, it showed in Tunbridge Wells' rusty play for the first 20 minutes but a breakaway goal scored by Miller just before half time seemed to focus the team as a whole.

Two quick goals after half-time from Rachel Fox and Rachael Parker seemed to spur Wells on. Defensively Wells had to work hard leading to Read being named player of the match for her stoic efforts at the back.

Two late short corners scored by Parker and Di Dunmall secured a fine 5-0 victory away from home.

### **Tunbridge Wells 5<sup>th</sup> XI 1 – 0 Meopham**

From the start, Wells were out to make up for the away leg which was dogged by injury. In the opening quarter most of the pressure came in the Wells attacking quarter but little came of it in the circle.

The Meopham keeper had to make one excellent save, but mostly the defence cleared.

As Meopham came more into the game they began to put together breaks. These were usually thwarted by the defence, with especially good work put in by Hannah Rowe. However, they managed several goalward shots which had to be well saved by goalie Lucy Risebrow.

In the second half Wells began to build attacks in a more measured way, using the Amanda Newington/Harriet Alexander midfield axis constructively on the right. While on the left, juniors Rachel McLennan and Louise Robinson provided backup.

With moments left and a draw looking fair, centre back Lorna Akers Douglas popped up near the circle. Her surge was stopped but the ball fell to Ann Davis in her first game of the season. She fed the ball into Elisabeth Floyd who shot from the right.

The ball was stopped, but Alexander squeezed it in from an acute angle. Seconds after the restart the whistle blew and Wells had secured their second last-minute win of the season.

## **JUNIOR REPORTS**

### **Tunbridge Wells Girls U16B 2 – 0 Sevenoaks B**

In previous seasons when these two teams have met honours have invariably been shared, so the pressure was on to break the deadlock in this local derby. The early morning start favoured Wells in the initial forays, but they failed to build on their advantage. As the game progressed Sevenoaks found their stride and Wells found themselves pressed back in to their own half for increasingly long periods of time. However a sound defence saw half time arriving without either side scoring. In the second half the visitors stepped up the pressure and the Wells were saved from conceding by excellent goalkeeping by Emma Williamson, some tight defence and the woodwork on two occasions. As the game moved into the final quarter Wells broke out, Sasha Spink chasing a long speculative ball half the length of the pitch to set Louise Robinson up for a goal against the flow of play. Knocking the visitors back on their heels, Wells increased their lead through Sarah McClelland.

### **Tunbridge Wells Boys U16A 7 – 2 Canterbury**

Every area of the game was dominated by team performances because, by and large, we passed the ball to each other. Short, quick passing embarrassed a Canterbury team full of County talent. When we did not pass the ball, we were punished; so the message got through very swiftly, that we needed to do more of what worked - and we did just that. We scored early on and although there was an equalizer after even TW dominance, we followed that up to make it 2-1 almost immediately. 3-1 and 4-1 soon after that. It was 5-2 at the break. The pace was really quick and legs tired in the 2nd half on both sides - so room for some stamina training! The scoring slowed too, but not the chances, with narrow misses coming aplenty. There will be some games where we regret not converting, so again room for training. No MotM as the team was truly operating on all cylinders.

### **Tunbridge Wells Girls U14A 7 – 2 Canterbury**

A fantastic result against Canterbury has put us in a strong position in the table with only two crucial games left to play. It looks as though this could easily come down to a goal difference decision for the league title and it is really important that we maintain our focus right through to the end of the season.

T Wells started strongly, taking the game straight to Canterbury. We quickly put a couple of goals on the score sheet and then started to relax a little into the game. Always dangerous with Canterbury who have 5 Kent players in their squad and they clawed one back in no time. However we maintained our superiority and went into half-time 5-2 ahead. The second half saw another couple of goals from our forwards, and a clean sheet for the half from our strong defensive back line. A couple of great saves from Lily Richards in goal as we spent a period of at least 5 minutes defending continuously.

Some fantastic well worked short corners, we hit the post 3 times, great forward play from Lucy Lawson, Becky Lennon and Georgia Nokes kept Canterbury under pressure. Some tired legs in the mid-field which at times put our defence under pressure, please remember to tackle back!

### **Tunbridge Wells Girls U14B 6 – 0 Burnt Ash**

A very convincing win by the TW Under 14 B team, although it was admittedly a game of two halves with TW scoring 5 goals in the first and a solitary goal in the second. The key to our

success in the first half was the mid field of Daisy, Hannah Gilliland , Saskia and Lucy who by working very hard dominated the proceedings and linked up well with forwards. The forwards scored all their goals in the first half by some very neat interplay in the circle allowing Daisy (1) Hattie (1) and Maddie (1) and Ellie (2) all to score from close range.

In the second half Burnt Ash were a lot better organized and managed to successfully cut off the link between our midfield and forwards. Once we were in the D our close passing skills of the first half were not as good and easily defended. I would say our overall play in the second half was definitely effected by tiredness . Burnt Ash did manage several break aways but these were very ably dealt with by Hannah Schofield and Amy despite often being outnumbered. Amy in particular was very commanding at the back and passed well to the wings Hattie W and Josie W who despite a lack of service kept their positions well. Occasionally when our defence was breached Goalkeeper Alex made some telling saves , and it was good to see her gain in confidence and come out and close down the forwards when they were bearing down on her. Finally the game ended with a great goal from Lucy H who cut in from the left into the D and 'undercut the ball' into the right hand corner of the goal.