

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 09

Tunbridge Wells Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI 4 Gore Court 2<sup>nd</sup> XI 2

A result that flattered the opposition was a great opening to the season, albeit a friendly.

The squad had arrived, prepared and had a team talk before the opposition arrived. Key features of what we needed to exhibit were drilled home in the prep and warm up and we took the game to the opposition from the off. Structure, performance and attitude were all evident as we pressed from strength and reacted on the break down. Attacking with intent, was rewarded throughout the game with plenty of shots on target and upgrades to Penalty Corners. One move early in the first half brought a goal in open play, followed quickly by another from a PC. A rare first half tangle in defence left the 1<sup>st</sup> half at 2-1 up. But even when we did things badly, it served to illustrate what needed to be done.

On what might prove the hottest day of the season the squad fitness was tested. Rapid use of replacements by Coach Turner meant we were seldom exposed for fitness even though all will acknowledge that fitness levels still need to go up. The tactical changes demanded at half time break were all pretty much delivered and this too augurs well for the future when the opposition asks more questions. As it was, the slow pitch and inert opposition required more and different thought as the game progressed. On the occasional break from the opposition, they were handled relatively comfortably, but again a defensive muddle led to an equaliser. 2 – 2. But, more pressure down the wings brought more shots on target and an inevitable string of PCs. One converted made it 3-2 up. We had a mid half lull in mental fitness with concentration straying. An 8 minute period when it looked like we might soon be drawing again was dispelled however – it was the opposition's turn to waiver; cometh the hour, cometh the man – Rout took the game to the opposition and others – notably Fox – did so all over the field. The final 10 minutes were owned by TW. Tearing down both wings and executing near textbook finishing, the opposition were left ragged and a 4<sup>th</sup> goal was added in free play.

We shall have to see what that result inspires in the opposition when we play them in the league soon. For now, that winning feeling needs to be enjoyed and remembered. Hard work so far has paid off. More of the same should serve the squad well. MOM - Rout.

TWHC Men's 2<sup>nd</sup> XI 1 Gore Court 3<sup>rd</sup> XI 0

Having had an opening season 8-3 victory against BBHC Tunbridge Wells 2<sup>nd</sup> XI approached the Saturday match up with Gore Court in high spirits. With a number of the older players still not available the side had a youthful look with most players under 20.

Starting the game Tunbridge Wells passed the ball well and limited the opposition to a minimal possession but couldn't quite get that final ball through to the front. 15 minutes in and a fine move down the right flank had the ball finding Duncan Friskin in the circle only for him to miss the goal by inches. Another move down the left ended when a slide rule pass from Chris Pelham found Callum Wood which he buried with aplomb to make it 1-0.

The half time talk was about not forcing the play and being patient which the boys took on board. The team again dominated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half however couldn't quite get the second goal to finish the game off. Duncan Friskin is still wondering have the keeper got his fingers to the only real shot on goal! Another great win and all is well with 1 more friendly before the league season starts.

### Tunbridge Wells Mens III 2 Gore Court IV 2

Wells arrived at the venue far too early due to false rumours of traffic problems. Therefore by the start they were mentally jaded. Consequently Court were allowed to move into a 2 goal lead. Luckily Wells regained their composure and came back to equalize with goals from Giles and Hitchell.

### Tunbridge Wells Mens IV 5 Gore Court V 0

Wells romped away to their second win of the season. The goalscorers were Tinworth, getting his fourth of the season, Ed Fyson, off the mark with a penalty flick, Nyren, Kemp and Crosby.

Tunbridge Wells Mens Vets I beat BromBecks Vets 4-3

### Tunbridge Wells Ladies I 4 Folkestone I 1

Tunbridge Wells went into their first South Div One league game of the season against Folkestone with a certain amount of trepidation.

Not knowing what to expect of the opposition is going to be a common feature for the first half of the season as Wells get familiar in the new league.

On a hot day the home side started really brightly and with the focus on movement off the ball and lateral runs. It wasn't long before the chances came for Wells in the D and the team were unlucky not to have at least two goals in the first 15 minutes.

Lucy Turner played brilliantly at right midfield and was voted player of the match for her efforts. She cut through the opposition's defence like a hot knife through butter and was equally effective laying the ball off to the right wing and Ele Gee coming up as a wing back on occasions.

Jen Hunt showed her usual class at lateral movement opening up the gaps for Turner to attack into. Tanya Minns was also classy up front but unfortunately couldn't quite capitalise on her chances in the D.

The Folkestone goalie played a blinder which didn't help!

On the left side of the pitch Sinead Topliss was solid at left back and able to release Jess Foster, Emma Richards and Caz Jenkins who in turn linked up nicely with Zoe Shepherd and Lizzie Price up front.

Jenkins, at centre midfield, is a really welcome addition to the squad and is fitting in well.

A new look defence with Hannah Turner at centre back and Lisa Fiddimore at sweeper worked effectively and Wells were able to switch player more effectively than they have done in the past, which in turn stretched Folkestone, opening up gaps in the midfield and up front.

Wells scored eventually through Lizzie Price and it was hoped that this would open up the floodgates and would realistically reflect the control Wells were exerting over the game.

However, Folkestone were able to draw level just before half time when a top D strike deflected off Fiddimore's stick and looped up and over Ali Playle in goal.

Wells regrouped at the break and went into the second half confident that they could work hard enough to get the result they deserved and three goals later – one from Lucy Turner, one from Minns and a short corner conversion from Fiddimore – they had sealed their first win.

It was a great team effort and bodes really well for the coming months as the new look side gel more and more.

They entertain St Albans at home on Saturday at Hawkenbury at 1pm.

Squad: Ali Playle, Sinead Topliss, Lisa Fiddimore, Ele Gee, Hannah Turner, Jess Foster, Caz Jenkins, Lucy Turner, Emma Richards, Tanya Minns, Zoe Shepherd, Jen Hunt, Lizzie Price.

#### Tunbridge Wells Ladies II 1 Basildon 1 2

The Ladies second team travelled to Basildon for their first ever match in East Division 2 South following promotion last year. Wells stated well at this higher level and put some good passing together in the first 10 minutes. However Basildon's experience showed and they scored with a breakaway goal. Wells kept their heads and Rachel Fox replied with a fine individual goal to take the teams in level at half-time.

Fitness levels told in the second half and Basildon were allowed to score another goal. Player of the match was Holly Turner with some hard work in the left midfield.

#### Tunbridge Wells Ladies III 5 BromBecks IV 0

This was a great start to the league season for the Ladies 3rd X1. Wells dominated from the off with attacking midfield play from Carolyn Pollard opening up several chances for the forwards which were well saved by an on form keeper. Wells first goal came from Uschi Moore following in a deflected shot. Wells won several short corners and Tracey Boorman clattered her shot into the corner out of reach of the keeper. Wells defence was fairly untroubled during the first half and Emily Buckland slipped a good shot past the keeper to make it 3 – 0 at half time.

After half time Wells began to feel the effects of the hot, humid weather, slowing the pace of the game and allowing BromBecks an occasional foray into their circle; but the defence were well in control and again Wells dominated play with great runs and solid passing. Two more goals from Buckland sealed her hat-trick and a well earned victory for Wells. Pollard was voted man of the match.

#### Tunbridge Wells Ladies IV 1 New Beccs III 1

Wells travelled to this match with only ten players following a late withdrawal. The team played well and would probably have won at full strength. Sasha Spink, who will hopefully become a regular, scored the goal. Jennie Bowler was player of the match for her excellent defensive work.

#### Tunbridge Wells Ladies VI 1 Dartford III 1

The fixture, having been hauled out of the trash bin to which it had been prematurely discarded, was the first in which Tunbridge Wells had fielded a 6<sup>th</sup> team. Following a traumatic week of team shuffling it was a relief to step onto the pitch to encounter a traditionally friendly opposition. The Wells team consisted of four adults and eight juniors from the u14's and u15's and from the start it was obvious that these young and quite small girls will almost certainly make a huge impact as they move up the club.

During the first quarter most of the pressure came from Wells with Lucy Woodward making a series of runs into the circle. These led to several good shots on goal which their goalie, who had just played for their first team, had to be alert to save. Finally the breakthrough came when Jess Begg moved onto the ball to place it past the keeper. It seemed only a matter of time before Wells increased their lead. Each time Dartford cleared the ball it only reached a Wells player, often Sam Barker playing high up the field.

The moves progressed often through Sarah Martin and Niamh Blackburn who both had shots saved or cleared by the massed defence.

However, a mistimed interception by stand-in captain Denise Holme led to the ball flying over the midfield and Dartford broke away to score.

During the second half both teams wilted in the sun. The mids, all juniors, having covered a huge amount of ground, began to slow down and chances decreased. However with less running ability the ball was made to do the work. For some the size of pitch and length of game was a new experience; one from which they will learn. Chloe Jones stepped up to the midfield and earned herself player of the match. Goalie, Megan Grist and defenders Amy Stables and Alex Hadaway all made good contributions in a largely attacking match. So, well done ,girls. A good start.