

Tunbridge Wells Mens 1 2 Old Williamsons 4

With all of 70% Possession, but only 2 goals to show for it, TW were left to regret a mad 2nd half 5 minute period when they conceded 3 goals through lapses in concentration in defence.

It all looked so different most of the 1st half, with the defensive back 4 and the midfield once with its trademark control and patience in building up. But although the attack unit did plenty of running, their below par controlling the ball allowed the scoring opportunities to slip away unrewarded. It is difficult to convey the sheer presence and possession that TW exerted on this 1st half. All to no avail. Then in the 28th minute, the opposition scored in one of its few forays into the TW half of the pitch.

The team seems to have 2 games for each half and this occasion was no different – sadly, on this occasion, it was a poorer team that came out for the 2nd half ; slower, more ponderous and less controlled. The opposition had changed too of course and the break had given them more structure. As TW faltered in possession and purpose, the opposition hunted down and capitalised on every TW error. In the 17th, 19th and 20th minutes goals came from TW lapses.

In fact the 2nd half was to have 2 halves too, as TW dragged themselves together and put on a final display of effort and application which was very gratifying to see. A simply stupendous effort to get a long range ball by Callum Wood, enabled him to drive along the byeline and into a 1-2 with Sam Clarke-Knowles and then convert his own drive. 1-4. It proved something of a talismanic effort as it galvanised the team into playing as it had at the start. Owing ball, possession and territory, once again the rhythm of the game was dictated by TW and another Wood goal was the reward. 2-4. It was too late to avoid the result. If the attack had played with that purpose and effect in the first half the game would have been beyond the opposition very early on. As it was, a game was lost by a clearer margin than any of the statistics suggested was fair.

MMoM – Wood

TW Grasshoppers 3 King's/Alleyns 4's 1

It was with some trepidation that the aged Grasshoppers took the field against the King's and Allewyns' under 14s.

The only points in our favour seemed to be that they had never played on grass before, we were older and therefore wiser, and we had some studs in our team (on the soles of our boots). Also they seemed to think that 10 was the number in a team, whereas we had 15.

So on our marvellous pitch, prepared with such loving care by David Tankard, we got off to a flying start with a cracking goal by Peter Mills.

Jamie Crawford, our goalie, pulled off some great saves, often from a prone position. As usual, our rhythm, was disrupted by the judicious use of our subs, who were straining at their leashes on the touchline.

Neil Ghostley was rampaging down the right wing, being fed by the mid-field who were in total command (sometimes). He topped his performance with a long run into their D, following an overhead through ball from Burton, and finished with a blistering shot into the top right or left corner, depending which way you were facing, of their goal.

But wait, there is more! A collectors item! A shot from Hugh Dyson-Laurie, on the edge of their D , that evaded both attackers and defenders and their goalie, and nestled in the back of the net. Vintage indeed, the first time that Hugh has scored in 15 years!!

Soon after our opening goal our charming visitors pulled one back and might have scored more. Our forwards were profligate (and their keeper was not) missing a hatfull of chances, but we ran out 3-1 victors.

Other Mens results: 2s lost 3-2, 3s won w/o, 4s lost 6-4, Vets 1 lost 11-2, Vets 2s lost 6-2

Tunbridge Wells Ladies I 3 Sudbury I 3

With a limited number of players, and a long journey, TW ladies travelled to Sudbury this weekend for a very important game in the season. With Sudbury sitting in second place, and with TW having 2 games in hand, a result was crucial. Tunbridge Wells started strong, with numerous attacks by Tanya Minns down the right, however TW were unlucky to convert these into goals. TW held the game at their pace for most of the 1st half with some fantastic defending from Chris Reed, Roberta Organ, Hannah Turner and Jess Foster, until Sudbury counter-attacked, and scored on the break. Tunbridge Wells were quick to come back, and after some excellent play down the right by Jess Foster, the ball reached Captain Jen Hunt, who scored a goal from a nearly impossible angle. After half time, Sudbury, with the luxury of substitutions came out strong, and caught TW on their heels. They were quick to score two goals, leaving a lead of 3-1, despite some excellent keeping by Ali Playle. Tunbridge Wells, never to be out for the count, got straight back into the game, and after a superb short corner conversion by the winning combination of Lucy Turner and Charlie Bowman, TW were right back in it.

Five minutes before the end, Roberta Organ switched the ball crisply and effectively to Charlie Bowman, who played a superb ball to Tanya Minns running in on the right. A cross fell for Harriet Alexander, who calmly but magically placed the ball in the top right corner of the goal. Final score was 3-3, a great result for TW, who look forward to playing Waltham Forest next week.

The team would like to wish Charlie Bowman luck on her next adventure, as she leaves the team this week. She will be sorely missed.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies III 1 Canterbury III 1

Wells fielded a strong team for this mid - table clash and were determined to balance the account after a heavy defeat early in the season. Both teams started strongly with Canterbury making penetrating attacks up the centre of the pitch. Canterbury were first to score from a short corner with a shot that just went under diving keeper Jenny Hopper.

Undeterred Wells continued to make good use of their young forwards with great runs from Isabel Millar and Kate Holden. Eventually Millar won a short corner which she converted with a cracking shot hard and low into the bottom left corner. In the second half play was fairly even; Wells defence held off the determined efforts of the Canterbury attack and Wells created several chances which they were unable to convert. Honours even was probably a fair reflection of the game.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies V 0 Remnants II 2

This was a very disappointing result for Wells. Although under the cosh for much of the game Wells spurned several chances including a penalty flick. The Remnants formation meant quality through balls would have opened them up completely. However play was concentrated around the centre. Uschi Moore, playing at the pivotal position of centre mid for the first time, performed bravely and tirelessly to be MoM and Charlie de Burgh Marsh in goal pulled off several cracking saves.

Other Ladies results: 2s won 3-0, 4s won 3-0

Tunbridge Wells Mixed U10

TW U10's sent 40 children onto the hockey pitch this weekend at two tournaments. The aim at this level is to select mixed ability sides giving everyone the chance to play for fun.

15 went to Ashford to play the hosts and Sutton Valance. Several u8's were performing for the first time and acquitted themselves well. T.W teams finished 2nd and 4th overall which was very encouraging, Lord's Leopards losing by the odd goal to the much older winners from Sutton Valance. Shaw's Sharks also only lost 1 game.

All sides were commended by the Ashford Chairman on the high quality shown.

Meanwhile at Hawkenbury more than 50 players in 8 teams played in a Tournament between TW, Sevenoaks and Holcombe.

Honours were even between the hosts and their local rivals after several close fought encounters.

Tapp's Typhoons shared top honours with Sevenoaks Antelopes, with Holder's Hurricanes only losing once and having a great game against the Barracudas.

There was also a chance for the younger girls to play against opposition of similar ability and experience. Here Maywood's Magic and TW Spartans had several exciting encounters with Sevenoaks Cobras with encouraging signs from all involved as the day wore on.

It takes time at this level to have the confidence to move into space and wait for a pass but as the day progressed several passing moves were completed as the skill level rose.

Among the senior players the energy levels of the TW teams was high and there were some stand out defensive plays.

Goal of the tournament though came in the final girls match where an astonishingly mazy dribble from Honor Morel went from half way to the goal.

Well done all.