

### Tunbridge Wells Ladies I 1 St Albans II 0

Tunbridge Wells Ladies 1s finished the first half of the season in the away leg to St Albans. Having drawn against them at the beginning of the season, and on the back of a good win last weekend, Tunbridge Wells were keen for a win. The girls came out strong and in within 10 minutes, a strong short corner strike by Charlie Bowman rebounded off for Captain Jen Hunt to pick up and strike at goal to give Tunbridge Wells the lead. Whilst St Albans took a strong stand, and made some powerful attacks, Goal keeper Ali Playle and the defence force of Ele Gee, Roberta Organ, Caz Jenkins and Hannah Turner, prevented them from bringing the score level. A strong midfield led by Vice Captain Charlie Bowman, counteracted their attacks, and an all round committed team performance gave Tunbridge Wells the win they deserved. The Ladies will go into Christmas with a positive half of the season behind them and looking forward to the next half of the season in the New Year. Player of the match, Roberta Organ.

### Tunbridge Wells Ladies V 3 Faversham 0

An excellent win for Wells to conclude the first half of the season and to maintain a central spot in the league into which they were newly promoted. Throughout the match Wells dominated possession and should have been well up by half-time. However one goal had to suffice with Lou Drew cracking home the ball.

The second half followed the pattern of the first. The Wells attack was very mobile with Sarah Martins and Saskia Coakley-Black surging forward on the right, and centre mid Tessa Harrison popping up everywhere. The only danger appeared to be from a breakaway, so it was a relief when Drew put away a short corner. Youngsters Martin and Coakley –Black were encouraged to shoot whenever possible and they saw the benefit from this when a hard-struck shot from Martins, on the right, hit the far post. Fellow junior Niamh Blackburn speedily followed up and placed the ball in the back of the net. This match was a great advertisement for the blend of youth and experience. Players of match: Harrison and Martins

Other Ladies score: 2s lost 2-1

### Tunbridge Wells Mens IV 1 Cobdown I 1

Wells started in confusion with captain Nyren having to undertake umpiring duties and Cobdown opened the scoring. However with Nyren restored to the left the team had a better shape. Before half-time Ed Fyson scored the equalizer and the midfield began to take control. In the second half Nyren and Aaron Leadbeater skilled the opposition down the left, but the team was unable to pass the enormous sweeper. To everyone's surprise one of Wells best chances came when Tom Holme had a shot saved after a long run.

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### Tunbridge Wells Grasshoppers 0 Burnt Ash 4

Once again the Hoppers found themselves overpopulated. Lured by the winter sunshine seventeen emerged from the grass, two of whom enlisted with the opposition. As expected the Ash scoring was opened by Poulton, showing scant Christmas spirit to his usual fellows. Two

further goals followed in the first half, before the team regrouped over oranges and a possible Wenger-like half-time talk from the Captain. However Wells were unable to score in the second half, but the staunchish defence let in only one further goal

Other Mens results 1's lost 8-0 , 2s lost 3-2, lost 3-1, Vets 2 lost 3-2

#### Tunbridge Wells U18 4 Boys Holcombe 4

A TW 12 man squad took off to a flying start, only to find that some sloppy play gave away possession and we were 1-0 down after 3 minutes. The team seemed shaken and this turned into a 2-0 deficit after 19 minutes. The storm passed as we strove to keep possession through intelligent play to each other - not afraid to go back to get forward; this was all the better when we transferred from side to side to expose the opposition flanks. This also saw the middle open up. Soon Sam Clarke-Knowles and Ben Lang had midfield control. Able now to release the right wing through Thys Harrison and Hugh Shields, the up front pairing of Mark Harrison and Ben Fowler caused all manner of problems in the opposition defence. The pressure had to give and 3 PCs followed. The last went out of the immediate area only to get re injected to Sam who took it back in on the reverse side and smashed it into the top right corner (28th minute). 2-1 down at half time.

Nonetheless, TW clearly felt the better team from the start of the 2nd half, with swaggering left and right play. This produced an equaliser through another great reverse side belter from a narrow angle by Ben Lang after 40 minutes. Then 2 more in 2 minutes (46th and 48th). First Mitch Hawksbee seemed by sheer will to force a goal mouth scramble into a TW goal; then another sweeping movement with superb passing fell to Mark Harrison. 4-2 up with 20 minutes left.

From the collective confidence on and off the ball, it seemed too early to revert to defensive play. So, again and again TW drove up the field left right and centre. But too much in the centre and tiredness seemed infectious, and we were taking the ball into contact too often and coming up with nothing. Losing possession in dangerous zones. The oppo pulled one back after the 52nd minute. Then they drew level after the 63rd. This was against the run of play, but we were placing ourselves under unnecessary pressure.

Some lovely free flowing inventive play would break down and we would be back in our half.

Still, Gareth Coombes and Tom Holme always got their man with the ball. Ben Fowler dropped back in to defence and covered really well.

The switch to right wing clearly suited Chris Pelham as he and Mark frequently broke through at pace, bringing in both Ivo Shields and Hugh to hold and give the ball really constructively.

The game seemed to be first in one goal mouth and then the other. Brandon Begg had to be athletic and sharp eyed in goal. He saved some beauties throughout the match, but looked extra sure footed in the last minutes.

TW kept their shape until the end and were narrowly denied a win - with a thrilling final PC in extra time.

A superb match to watch, boding well for the future; fast and adventurous in attack, aware and tactical in midfield and sure footed and confident in defence. This team is gelling really well.

MoM - Mitch Hawksbee.

#### Tunbridge Wells GirlsU16 B2 3 Sevenoaks B 0

Wells started off having to defend our goal immediately following some good attacking play by Sevenoaks, but shortly afterwards, we managed a break and to move into their D putting them under pressure. Gradually through the passages of play in the first half we were attacking their goal and putting them under pressure much more often than they were doing to us. We had a number of short corners which we were unlucky not to convert. We went into the end of first half nil nil, although by then we had missed a number of opportunities and it was a little disappointing that we had not managed to convert any of them.

The second half was a different story, we came out strongly and immediately put them under pressure. A few minor positional changes had taken place which meant that we managed to isolate and mark a couple of their strong players. With these players very constrained, Sevenoaks started to play up the

main channel of the pitch. Whenever they were dispossessed, we then had our players wide and could use the width to get down into their D. We scored 3 great goals that were all well worked and had numerous passes between players Sarah McClelland scored one goal and Ellie Sands two goals.

Captain was Ellie Sands and MOM is given to Lily Richards who worked very hard all game.

### Tunbridge Wells Boys U14 A 5 Folkstone 3

On a cold damp Sunday morning the boys faced a mixed team from Folkstone who played well resulting in 2-2 just after half time. Our team was jumping early into tackles enabling the Folkstone forwards to penetrate the line of defence and give our goalkeeper David Parker some action. Our marking was not tight enough and our "reaction" was too slow when we had lost the ball. The other problem we faced was passing the ball directly to the opposition rather than taking our time and looking for a fellow teammate to pass to. None the less the team rallied to create some good chances which were taken advantage of resulting in a 5-3 victory. Man of the match goes to Alex Hastings who keenly volunteered to play for Folkstone. Most improved player goes to Jack de Carl for excellent tackling. A good victory but three learning points to think about for next week's game against Canterbury which will be the toughest one yet.