

Tunbridge Wells Mens I Mid Sussex 0

In prospect: A high pressure match between 2 teams both claiming not to have had the rub of the green in their results to date.

What we got was a thrilling battle, with TW the better team, Mid-Sussex, with some of the better skills, certainly up front. Those differences underpinned the game and the result.

1st half saw TW pressure with some superb organised play and routines with the play transferred regularly. But Mid Sussex saw off every attack where it really mattered - in the D. Still after so many attacks in open play, TW scored well through Callum Wood after another great attack which swung left and right and back again.

Harfoot and Knight were dominating space in the middle, Rout securing occasional possession up front and springing Ben Lang, Sam and Tom Clarke-Knowles and Wood into the D.

But, in the last 10 minutes Mid Sussex posed the greater threats on goal from frequent breakdowns of the TW attacks. Half time was still 1-0 up despite Mid Sussex having a PC for their efforts.

2nd half was a real attritional midfield battle for territory and attacking advantage. Like two Stags, both midfield units locked horns and as often is the case in such times, decision making under pressure produced the openings. Who could spring out of defence? Pelmore, Newington, Powis and Hart were all having to mop up more and more pressure and not always successfully - 6 PCs were awarded in quick succession but Mid Sussex could put none away, with Goalie Gav Rimmer pulling out all the stops with some great saves in open play too.

TW organised its defence and started to match up with good transitional play, but Mid Sussex broke through up both wings with the long ball.

TW's stoic defending really impressed however and with time ebbing away and the rain worsening TW saw out the game for 3 points having had no PCs in the game.

Tunbridge Wells III 3 Kings Alleyns III 5

Wells made a promising start and attacked the King's defence with excellent passing and movement of the ball around the pitch. However the good start was undone by poor passes which King's intercepted and marched up the pitch to score 2 goals in the space of 10 mins. Wells regained their composure with Andrew Elley pushing the ball into the back of the net at close range. With the score at 1-2 at half time, the game was not over for both sides. On the restart King's extended their lead with a penalty stroke and an open goal. Wells fought back with Duncan Fiskin scoring and Seve Britton missed just in front of the goal. King's consolidated with a further goal but once again Wells did not give up with Britton at full pace and stretch converting his second attempt at goal. Ultimately, Wells were punished for their mistakes but can take credit for getting back into the match.

Tunbridge Wells Vets II 1 Sevenoaks Old Oaks 2.

A depleted and under strength Wells side travelled to Sevenoaks for a top/bottom of the table local derby. With the previous game overrunning the umpires were anxious to start so Skipper Mitchell had little time to explain his devious tactics, namely to get as many people behind the ball, defend with fortitude & tenacity and catch Sevenoaks on the break and that is what came to pass.

Sevenoaks, always quicker and more skillful tried to break down the fortress that Wells constructed. Marshalled by the noble Knight with tremendous support and endeavour from Steve Akery, the venerable Mayes and the mercurial Holloway the defence ensured there was no way in and when breached man of the match Lawrie Digweed performed defiantly. Indeed, with Rob Harrison deftly foraging alone up front Wells started to take the game to Sevenoaks creating significant angst when Digger Barmes doggedly converted a shrewdly worked Mitchell short corner.

With Sevenoaks coming back strongly the Wells midfield comprising Digger Barnes, Murray Crosby, the excellent Jago and driven by Skipper Mitchell held the rampaging hordes but were unable to prevent the Sevenoaks equaliser through a goal mouth melee. Into the final quarter Sevenoaks played their last card introducing their late arriving playmaker galvanising the visibly tiring Wells to greater heroics but with all the left side players pulling muscles it was left to a rare defensive mistake that allowed Sevenoaks to clinch the winner in the dying embers.

A good game that did not reflect the league disparity between the sides and played in the right spirit.

Other Mens results: 2nds lost 4-1, 4ths lost 3-2, Vets1 won 8-0

Tunbridge Wells Grasshoppers 1 Chelmsford Evergreens 4

Hoppers prevented Chelmsford's previous scorers of hat-tricks and even more from putting the ball in the net - however their winger scored 4, mostly coming into the far post onto crosses, both long balls and passing movements in the circle. The key basis of Chelmsford's success was their midfield dominance, significantly aided by a greater efficiency at taking chances as well as creating them. In the second half Grasshoppers reduced Chelmsford's midfield control through Nick Ivory man marking Jerry Wilkinson (the oldest player on the pitch, as well as the classiest), and spent the last 15 minutes pressing hard, but without adding to Steve Martins' first half goal.

Kent Cup Tunbridge Wells Ladies 11 (eleven) Gravesend 1 1

Wells started well and dominated possession against a weak Gravesend side. Player of the match Lucy Turner cut through the defence early on and laid the ball off to Tanya Minns who opened the scoring with a clinical finish. Turner rapidly scored the second with an excellent shot. Wells continued to control the game and won a series of short corners in quick succession, Charlie Bowman converted one with a fine strike only to have the goal disallowed due to an off the ball infringement. Wells got the bit between their teeth at this point and Minns completed her hat-trick in the first half scoring two excellent goals; one being a fine individual effort cutting in from the left hand side and finishing powerfully. Jen Hunt then took the half time score to 5-0 with an impressive top D strike.

Wells coach, Chris Wilson, urged his team to keep their concentration and to continue to play their game in the second half; using the full width of the pitch and working the ball round the back. They did so despite Gravesend making more of an effort to compete in the second half, Jenny Hopper made a few superb saves only to avoid keeping a clean sheet by a cruel deflection from a short corner late on. Aside from this, the defensive unit of Hopper, Hannah Turner, Jess Foster Caz Jenkins & Ele Gee looked unbeatable. Wells scored a further six goals in this half, two for Minns, one for L. Turner and three further goals for Hunt including one spectacular strike in the top right corner of the net. The strike force were aided by influential performances from Lily Elliott, Harry Alexander, Kat Downes and Zoe Shepherd and it was a great team effort all round. Wells showed composure and all were determined to put as much effort as possible in ahead of an important league game next week which Wells must win to ensure they go into Christmas in the top half of the table. Well done girls!

Tunbridge Wells Ladies V 2 BromBecks V 0

It was with trepidation that Wells approached this away game as the same team had beaten Wells IVs earlier in the season. However it was obvious from the start that Wells might hold the upper hand. With

Chris Poth in goal marshalling the experienced defence, it was well into the second half before BromBecks began to marshal any serious challenges. Wells moved fluidly down both flanks and in an attack down the left involving Niamh Blackburn and Maria Watson, Elisabeth Floyd was able to move across goal to flick in a reverse stick shot through a narrow gap in the goalie's defences. Throughout the rest of the first half Wells swarmed forward with Sarah Martins racing up from the back to support Sasha Spink on the right. With such solidity, Tessa Harrison at centre mid was able to storm around the front line.

Early in the second half Wells were awarded a short when Denise Holme stopped one with her chin. Taking the strike herself the shot was intercepted by a defender, from whose stick the ball ballooned. Martine Atkinson, up from sweeper, watched the ball land then sweetly slapped it into the goal. Later in the half she was on hand at the other end to clear a BB shot which defiantly spun on the line. Wells should have scored more, but were content with this impressive away win.

Other Ladies results: 2nds lost 3-0, 3rds won 7-0, 6ths won 4-0