Kent Cup Tunbridge Wells I 2 Holcombe I 5

After a convincing victory against Gravesend in the 1st round, Tunbridge Wells travelled to Holcombe for the 2nd round of the Kent Cup. With Holcombe top of the league above, and with an impressive undefeated record this season, TW knew it would be a hard task to gain a result away from home. However, with a strong side, and ready to play hard, Wells started well. Pressure from the forwards lead to a break in which Captain Jen Hunt crossed a ball to Tanya Minns who had a superbly struck shot saved by the goalkeeper. Holcombe were quick to counter-attack and in a few moments they were two goals up. After a great shot at goal by Lily Elliot, with a deflection from Minns, Wells were 2-1 down. After some unfortunate incidents in defence, Holcombe scored a further two more goals. Never to go quietly, Wells commenced an attack created by Zoe Shepherd passing a perfectly timed pass to Harriet Alexander who beat the keeper to make the score 4-2. Holcombe managed to score another goal, and although it was a defeat, Wells can take great pride in their performance and work rate. Special mention goes to Player of the match, Hannah Turner, and to Jess Foster who held the centre of the pitch extremely well. Final mention to Ali Playle who made some superb saves in goal. Wells look forward to playing Broxbourne this Saturday.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies IV 2 Edenbridge 2

Despite a last minute change of venue, Tunbridge Wells Ladies 4ths started the game full of expectation and the will to win. This was going to be a tough match with Edenbridge lying 1st in the league group and Tunbridge Wells lying 3rd.

The first half was fast and the new players in the team settled down well. At the end of the first half Edenbridge were 1 goal ahead. After a tough team talk at half time, Tunbridge Wells were pumped up and keen to readdress the score line. Soon Sarah McClelland scored a goal and then man of the match Sasha Spinks scored a fantastic goal after a lone run to the opposition's end.

Both teams fought really hard to win the game but a draw was the end result.

Tunbridge Wells V 1 New Beccs III 4

Tunbridge Wells played with the minimum eleven players due to late cry-offs and a goalie's refusal to play. Thus was Fi Speed thrust into goal for only the second time and came out with credit. On paper the quality of the Wells team was good, but they came up against unfamiliar faces from the team they had beaten earlier in the season!

Wells attacked well, but tended to be caught out by long balls out of the Beccs defence on the counter attack. Several Wells chances were taken well, in particular Tracey Boorman seeing her strikes saved by an in-form keeper.

Having been 3-0 down at half-time, Wells finally broke through. Following a short corner move, Lara Lay fired the ball just inside the post for a goal of quality. Unfortunately this did not spur a come-back and Beccs scored again

Other Ladies results: 2s won 2-0

Mens results: 1st lost 2-1, 2s lost 1-0, 3s lost 2-0, 4s won 4-0, Vets 1 won 9-2, Vets 2 won 3-1

TW Vets 2s 3 Mid Sussex Vets 1

Skipper Mitchell was able to field probably his best balanced side of the season. Flowing hockey eminated from the defence, in unusually attacking mode, with strong runs from David Holloway, Steve Akery and the venerable Mayes who fed the ball to Mark Barker who, on his Vets 2s debut, provided the platform on the right flank for Wells to start with a fluency and passion seldom seen. With striker Alan 'Shearer' receiving quality ball it was no surprise when, as a result, Robin Holiday popped one in at the far post. Unfortunately this seemed to galvanise the Mid Sussex midfield who came back strongly putting Wells under some pressure and despite the efforts of the valiant Knight and keeper Laurie Digweed equalised through a penalty corner.

With all to play for at the break skipper Mitchell inroduced shrewd tactical changes intended to thwart the Mid Sussex midfield and exploit their 10 man weakness. As usual, the changes were inspirational and executed perfectly by the excellent Jago and Roger Morson, also on his 2010 debut. Wells now had the upper hand and with both flanks operating effectively coupled with stout defense took the game to Mid Susuex. Goals from Nicholson, via another well worked short corner by skipper Mitchell, and another from Robin Holliday allowed Wells to run deserved winners of a well umpired but shortened game..

Las Aventuras de los Tres Amigos

Three v The Spanish Armada

Our three brave Grasshoppers , Bannerman, Burton & Landolt joined Chelmsford Evergreens for their mini invasion of Andalusia last week end. They arrived at Stansted Airport, bolstered with a final ' full english' en route, hardly delayed by Burton forgetting to set his alarm clock, although Bill, his dog, missed out on a walk.

We flew Ryanair which meant that we were unable to sleep with the cacophony of announcements trying to sell us ' goodies' and thanking us for using their service(for the last time we hope). The flight was enlivened with the pilot deciding, at the last minute, not to land and applying full power, we were assured via yet another announcement that this was ' normal procedure'. We thought that it was to give the cabin crew more time to sell us 'stuff'.

And so we arrived at the charming town of Santiago de Compastello where we settled into our modest but comfortable hotel. We then toured the town and enjoyed beer, wine and free tapas until dinner time when we had a fabulous meal .

After breakfast the next day, taken rather late due to the condition of the Grasshoppers captain, we caught the train to the town of Orense where we were to play our matches. we were met at the hotel by the capitano of the host team and then hit the town more wine, tapas and a fine meal.
This left us fully refreshed for Saturday and our first two matches. Again Burton was late for breakfast as he had reprogrammed his watch during the night!

And so to the games. Our team had an average age of about 60 whereas our hosts and the other team were an average of about 40, and rather more skillful.

We were also some what confused by their octopussy formation. However the first game was 1 -1, and the second we lost 1 -0. We all played reasonably well. After the games our hosts had arranged a lunch in a typical restaurant, for all

the players, there was local food, more octopussy, wine and entertainment. The Spaniards seemed the better singers.
Then a tour of the town and a quiet evening in the hotel bar with one of the barmaids and her parrot.
And the next day more hockey, a 3-2 loss, again to a younger and more skillful side, but played in a good spirit. After another lunch. Richard Landolt, who was fines master,extracted them with good humour.
Then a drive to Porto Aeroporto, another sleepless flight, and back to Blighty.
I can still taste the octopussy.