

Tunbridge Wells Mens I 3 Eastbourne II 3

What a start! 1-0 up in the second minute! a swift move of 4 passes out of defence to Billy Priestley on the edge of the 23m line, barely into the D and clipped easily past the keeper.

That pattern of play continued for much of the first half, but sadly that was the highpoint of the scoreline for TW as on 3 occasions - during periods of TW dominance in possession and territory - the opposition turned lightning counters into a 3-1 lead.

The contrast between TW playmaking, structure and territorial domination and the scoreline was rather bizarre. But Wells were just very vulnerable to a shapeless Eastbourne that was nonetheless full of technically very able players. They were fast and fit too and on these attacks, they overwhelmed the defence. The balance probably shifted when first Priestley and then Newington both had to leave for the day after pulling calf muscles on a very very cold day. Finally the added pressure from TW brought a PC late in the first half and Knight converted it. 3-2 at the break. Not for the 1st time this season, the half time whistle went at just the right time. The talk could afford to be upbeat and made everyone aware of how to attack but with insurance - from depth.

Pretty much business as before in the 2nd half, but with that added depth in structure. The oppo became frustrated with the constant TW possession and the press really annoying them. No substitutions were available and so the team got on with coping with players in new roles. The defence was able to withstand this novelty despite renewed fast and furious attacks when they did come. Norman was notable in a defence that also saw Powis, Hart and Pengelly all pick-off the attacks.

In midfield, Knight was supreme and controlled much of the game. Up front, Wood and Rout caused constant problems.

So it was that the pressure told and 11 minutes into the 2nd half, TW equalized through a Rout in a goalmouth scramble.

It could have been a win too with several attacks getting into the D but not converted. A last gasp PC was also squandered.

But, a point away was still a good result.

MMoM Knight

Other Men's results 2s lost 4 – 0, 3s lost 2-1, 4s won 3 – 1

Ladies results 4s lost 3 – 2

Tunbridge Wells U14 Boys 0 BromBecks 8

On a cold but sunny morning the under 14 team faced an exceptionally strong opposition who were well drilled and disciplined in skills and positioning which resulted in a 6-0 lead by half time. Our team was somewhat over powered and confused by the strength and power of the Brombeck forwards resulting in our defence becoming muddled and outnumbered.

The second half resulted in a more structured play with better marking and reaction by our defence. We therefore managed to hold the score to 2-0 in the second half. One or two opportunities were created and we almost managed to score much to the frustration of the Brombeck coach.

The whole team played well and hard despite the cold and the progressively rising total against us. "Well played all", the competition is much stronger now in this different league but we can all learn a lot about the game from these teams and better our game as a result.

Tunbridge Wells U16 girls lost 7 -2 in National Cup to Teddington