

Tunbridge Wells Mens I 2 Mid Sussex 5

Customary control and great attacks saw TW eventually take the lead but only in the 27th minute. The whole period up to that time TW had possession but could not convert into a bigger lead when they should have. Then, a loss of concentration resulted in 2 last 1st half goals by the opposition. TW scored after the 12th minute of the 2nd half to draw level, but once again watched Mid Sussex score after only a 3 minute gap.

In fact the half saw a deterioration in 1st touch and poor passing giving the opposition more time on the ball than they were capable of creating for themselves. Even so, TW pressed hard, but could not develop the gaps. The game became scrappy with neither team able to take the initiative. For all TW pressure, the ball was taken into too much contact, poor passing and little transferring. TW was consequently vulnerable to the counter attack and that is precisely where the 4th (P flick) and 5th (PC) Mid Sussex goals came from in the last 6 minutes. TW has got to return to playing like they did against not just Lewes but as they have against some of the leagues better teams.

Tunbridge Wells Vintage 6 Sutton Coldfield 1

TW over 50's advanced to the EH Masters Over 50's Plate final with this comprehensive victory over Sutton Coldfield. Like previous rounds TW started well controlling the game and keeping play in their opponents half.

As in previous rounds TW seemed reluctant to put the ball in the net, and through their dominance began to force the ball rather than just wait for the opening. Sutton Coldfield's defensive formation allowed TW to operate with only 3 and sometimes 2 defenders in Mayes and Burton, allowing Lang and Jenner to join the midfield. After so much pressure it was inevitable that Sutton Coldfield raised the siege and won 2 short corners, but Digweed in goal coped comfortably.

Half time came and it was still goalless. Jenner again roused the troops emphasising possession and movement. Immediately a goal came at the start of the second half as Schweitzer hammered home a short corner. Play continued to be in the Sutton Coldfield half as Robertson, Grogan and Schweitzer ran the midfield. By now Nicholson and Macnamara were finding lots of space and putting more pressure on the overworked defence. The goals began to flood in, first Holliday got the final touch, then Macnamara. TW pushed attackers higher up the pitch with Bowden finding plenty of space, and Knight unable to find him in it. Nicholson finished a well crafted move involving Mitchell. Sutton Coldfield got a goal back, but with time running out Schweitzer hit a sweet short corner into the back boards and Grogan had time to atone for an earlier miss.

Finals day is at Bowdon Hockey Club in Altrincham, Cheshire on April 17th when TW take on New Beccs .

Photo is of 2-goal hero Adrian Schweitzer

Other Mens results: 2s won 3-1, 3s lost 8-2, 4s lost 5-3, Vets 1 won 4-2

Tunbridge Wells Ladies I 4 Brentwood 2

Occupying a safe mid-table position with three games remaining, Wells travelled to Brentwood looking for the win that would help their quest for a third place finish. The game started with Wells pushing

Brentwood onto the back foot. Looking to keep the tempo high at all times, Wells pressed the hosts into making several mistakes around the back - Tanya Minns profiting from two of these, each time creating her own space before firing home. While Wells missed several more similar openings, Brentwood were starting to find some space in the wide angles. Zoe Shephard, Jen Hunt and Lucy Turner worked tirelessly to secure the middle of the park and it was from their quick breaks that Wells earned a string of penalty corners with a crisp strike from Hunt putting Wells three up. While Brentwood pulled a scrappy goal back just before half time, Wells looked far the better side.

As the rain set in for the second half, the game became scrappier and Wells struggled to find the rhythm of the first half. The game was far more even in terms of territory and Brentwood drew to within one goal after finishing off a penalty corner. However, Wells always looked the more threatening, at times their confidence getting the better of them as they tried to pass the ball into the goal rather than finishing when the chance was there. With ten minutes remaining, Minns completed her hat-trick to snuff out any hopes that Brentwood had of gaining a point - her finish at the near post after some quick thinking from Shephard being typical of the ruthlessness that is needed to move beyond this league.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies I 3 Gore Court I 0

Tunbridge Wells made it two wins in a weekend with a convincing 3-0 win over Gore Court. Wells, again shuffling the pack due to several absences, started the game slowly as the changed lineup found its footing. While the early exchanges were fairly even, Wells knew that they could play far better as they created chances but the final link up wasn't there. As the half went on, Wells started to find better space and several short corners were awarded, Issy Miller converting to make it 1-0 at half time.

After a blunt appraisal from their coach, Wells started the second half looking to make better use of their passing options. The link up play that followed repeatedly created space in and around the Gore Court circle, Ele Gee, Jen Hunt and Harriett Alexander all having chances that were repelled by some committed last ditch defending from the visitors. While Gore Court were able to win a number of short corners, these were covered by a strong Wells backline who quickly turned these into swift counter-attacking opportunities. As the half wore on, the play ended up condensed in the Gore Court half and it took a special finish from Alexander to give Wells breathing space; from another short corner, Hunt's strike was blocked, Alexander picking up the loose ball to turn her player and finish in the top right corner.

With the game still based up the other end, Wells' defence kept their shape and it was their quick ball into the wide angles that lead to several goal mouth scrambles, Alexander eventually poaching her second and Wells' third to end the contest.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies IV 5 Remnants II 2

This was a near top of the table clash which Wells had to win to keep their hopes of a top-two finish alive. Going in at half time at 3-1 down the second half was do-or-die. Luckily it was the former and Wells pegged back Remnants with 4 goals. In the game Sasha Spink scored twice as did Uschi Moore with Izzy Millar adding to her season's total. In the race for promotion Wells appear to have cemented third place and could still hope for better. With league dropouts emerging, there is still hope that Wells will have done enough to go up.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies V 0 Meopham 1

A week-long search for players left Wells with a team distinctly at the lower end of the range and possibly rather over-burdened with forwards. Thus the opposition who had won the previous encounter 4-0 were faced with trepidation. As it happened all rose to the occasion. Player of the match Georgia Nokes stepped into the pivotal role of centre mid and was able to provide great running and distribution. On the left Alex Hadaway, Becky Law and regular Niamh Blackburn combined beautifully and moved the ball quickly amongst themselves. At the back, Sam Barker was able to intercept and pass to the ever available Xanthe Stebbing. Meanwhile, on the right Katy Fraser was proving a revelation. Coming from

the rather different word of the U14s, she man-marked her opponent out of the game, combining this with interceptions and clearances. At the front Michelle Donnachie moved around fluidly on her debut.

Although they had made and spurned several chances it was very disappointing when Meopham made there breakthrough. Despite having been warned several times about encroachment at free-hits they were given the chance to retake when the hit should have been reversed. Combining this with the dangerous hit into the circle leading to the goal, Wells felt robbed.

Other Ladies results: 2s lost 2-0, 3s lost 2-1, 6s lost 1-0

Tunbridge Wells U 14 Boys 2 Burnt Ash 4

An early start in Dartford with a new team for Tunbridge Wells resulted in some early confusion with positioning and understanding of the pressure the defence would be under. Burnt Ash went 2-0 up until a good run from Freddie Hoare and a neat pass to Pete Moore resulted in pulling the score back to 2-1 at half time. Early in the second half the Moore Hoare combination resulted in an effective short corner resounding home with a satisfactory thump on the backboard. Despite our positioning and marking improving during the second half the Burnt Ash team proved to be too strong and overwhelmed some of our smaller players resulting in a 2-4 loss. Well done to all those who took part and remember the result does not reflect the improvement you have all made through the season. See you all next weekend for the final session. John Moore

Kent U12 Minis

Tunbridge Wells U12 Boys were drawn in a strong pool which included Canterbury A and Bromley. The boys made a good start in their Pool with a 8-0 win against BBHC. Their match against Ashford was tighter but Wells defended well and took their chances to win 2-0. Comfortable wins against Herne Bay(3-0) and Gore Court(4-0) took them to their penultimate pool game against last year's national champions - Canterbury A. Wells started well but the well drilled Canterbury side put passes together to win 5-0. In their final pool match against Bromley, Wells knew that they had to win guarantee a place in the semi-finals. The boys bounced back their earlier defeat and confidently won 4-0. The semi final match against Canterbury B proved an epic. Wells took the lead and kept in front until the last minute with the home side equalising with a reverse sweep hit. Sudden death play which ended with an impasse, leading to 2 rounds of penalty strokes and eventually after the 10th stroke - Will Bench scored to leave Sam Sherry to save a penalty putting the boys through to final. In the final the boys squared up against Canterbury A once more. In this match Wells, were more determined and marked Canterbury out of much of the game. Canterbury eventually overwhelmed the Wells defence to Win 2-0. This was a fine performance by all the Wells's players and their 2nd place puts them through to the regional finals.

Squad in picture Left to Right

John Leadsom, Will Bench, Matthew Barker, Jack Binns, Sam Sherry, Fox Parker, Jamie Strong, Sam Street, Marcus O'Riordan

Kent U10 Minis

Tunbridge Wells came third out of a field of eight. Losing only 1-0 to Canterbury, Wells came 2nd in their round-robins, beating Herne Bay 3-1 and Burnt Ash 3-0. This meant a semi-final berth.

In the semi against Sevenoaks, Wells played really well but went down 1-0, having 3 or 4 good chances to score and should have won.

This meant that the team were pitched in the 3/4th place play off against local rivals Marden Russets. Again, Well created enough chances to win well but drew 1-1 The teams played a 5mins golden goal

period which remained goalless - and then won 3rd place on penalty flicks (which themselves went to sudden death after we were level after 3 flicks each!)

This was great matchplay experience for the boys and we have the core of a strong squad - especially as we played probably 90% of our boys membership in this age group.

Overall winners were Sevenoaks who beat Canterbury in the final.