

Tunbridge Wells Mens I 1 Canterbury III 3

A result that flew in the face of the control and possession exerted by a TW team on a mission as the season end draws in.

In both halves TW had the better of the ball and the tactical control. Once again TW played with rhythm and calm, transferring when needed. When all out effort and gutsy determination were needed, those qualities too were on display.

TW went 1-0 up in the 18th minute with Rout sliding a ball past the goalie in a melee and deserved the lead after most of the territory and ball.

A maddening few minutes at the end of the 1st half saw 2 goals conceded after a number of PCs were given.

The 2nd half started badly with the oppo converting a PC in only the 5th minute. But heads did not lower, nor effort diminish. TW showed real character and kept to the plan. Passing was crisp and accurate. Patience was rewarded with an oppo losing shape and attitude.

TW won 5 PCs in the half (4 in the 1st) but could not convert. Open play chances too were being squandered, but throughout TW were the better TEAM - shape and core skills kept til the final whistle. 15 open play shots on target.

In the end, the teams were separated by a few touches of Canterbury brilliance and their Goalkeeper.

Despite the result, a really encouraging performance against top table opposition, to take into the next 3 games..

MMoM - tie - Wood in attack, Pengelly in midfield.

EH Plate Cityof York over 50's 1 Tunbridge Wells over 50's 2

TW entered the semi finals of the EH National Plate competion with this impressive victory at York last Sunday.

Once again the midfield of Grogan, Robertson, Schweitzer and Mills proved too strong, dominating the game for long periods.

The defence of Burton, Mayes, Jago and Knight were rarely put under pressure, with Digweed in goal only having short corners to save.

However goals proved hard to come by. The first 20 minutes saw TW push York back into their 25, but despite all of their control, especially down the right, only a few hopeful crosses was the result.

As ever in such circumstances York found a way back into the game as TW lost some shape, winning two short corners which were dealt with comfortably. The half ended with a short corner to TW which went exactly as planned but the final touch was missing to put the ball into the net.

At half time captain Jenner roused the troops urging a fresh outlook in the second half, making use of Nicholson's pace on the left, and freeing Schweitzer to play behind the front 2 strikers.

From the whistle Schweitzer ran the show creating opportunities around the circle if nothing inside it. Finally the ball broke well and Schweitzer found Mitchell at the left hand post and he unerringly hit the back board to put TW 1-0 up. The pressure on York continued with Nicholson finding plenty of space and from a strong run he entered the circle and went around the goalkeeper to make it 2-0. Grogan and Robertson were working hard to deny the York midfield any space or time and by now Lang was working tirelessly as right striker seeing plenty of the ball.

York could not exert any sustained pressure, and although they received a few more short corners Digweed was up to the challenge, sometimes with help from Jenner.

On the final whistle York managed to get a shot in from the top of the circle which went in at the far corner, but there was no time to restart and TW were through, worthy winners.

In the semi-final they face Sutton Coldfield on 21st March

TW Grasshoppers 0 Purley 1

On a cold, bright and invigorating Saturday afternoon it was a captainless 14 man Grasshopper team that strolled onto the hallowed turf that is the Nevill Ground. Although captainless we had an 'administrator' in Alec Pelmore who sorted us all out in record time, despite the language problem with Los Dos Amigos who seem to have gone native and no longer count English as their mother tongue.

As is apparent from Vets 2s teams seem to do much better without a captain, even one of tactical 'genius' status as Vets 2 have, according to their match reports(does he write them?).

We were facing a strong Purley side who were laced with a sprinkling of young players. We always struggle against these inner city teams who are obviously used to street fighting and take a robust attitude to the game.

The first half was one way traffic, with our defence under seige and finding it difficult to clear the ball, we had few opportunities to test their keeper. However we turned round at 0-0 and had more of the play in the second half. Jamie Crawford pulled off several excellent saves aided by two goal-line clearances from Chris Stebbing and Tim Revell.

But they did score the only goal of the match a simple tap in at the near post.

However we did nearly equalise with Roger Morson letting a blistering shot go. But although the ball sped through a sea of legs their goalie saved brilliantly.

Fortunately the umpire did not hear the torrent of swearing, on the touchline, from Neil Ghostley. He would surely have been carded, and rightly so.

We play Purley for an annual plate awarded to the team that scores the most goals in our matches, over the season. Unfortunately we have never won this and so it fell to the Club Chairman, Robert Lancaster, to present Purley, yet again, with the plate. We hope that they will get round to having it engraved this year!

Other Mens results: 2s lost 9-1, 3s lost 8-0, 4s lost 3-1, Vets 1s lost 4-0

Tunbridge Wells Ladies 1 Southend 1

Tunbridge Wells travelled to Southend with the bare eleven players, again suffering from the injuries and lack of availability that have hampered their progress this season. To their credit, Wells have proven themselves to be the hardest side to beat in the division, this despite the apparent inexperience of a very young squad facing more experienced oppositions on a weekly basis. However, it was still surprising that the home side started the game in a tight defensive press, obviously wary of Wells' ability to counter attack with pace. With the Wells defence once again remodelled due to missing players, they set out to nullify Southend's main threat on the right wing and provide a stable base from which to build their forward play. This they did with some very composed possession, waiting for the opposition to make mistakes before looking to profit from the space in behind. While the Wells attacking unit struggled to find a rhythm and penetration to their attacks, the team's defensive work in their own half meant that Southend never really looked like scoring. It was therefore no surprise that Wells' forwards' energy in the press eventually forced a Southend mistake that led to Jen Hunt slotting a reverse stick strike inside the left hand post.

Leading one-nil at half time, Wells resolved to shutting their opponents out of the game while trying to secure more possession in and around the opposition circle. What followed was a half of hockey that promised much but did not quite deliver, some particularly poor decision making by the umpire leaving Wells frustrated at the cynicism with which the improving attacks were being broken down and left unpunished. In such situations Wells must learn to adapt their game and explore other options, something that could well have lead to the all important second goal.

However, mention must go to the home keeper who pulled off several fine saves to deny Wells in last ditch situations. With only ten minutes left, one moment of indiscipline in Wells' circle lead to Southend earning their third penalty corner of the game. Having not managed a single shot on target during the match, the sucker punch was landed as the ensuing effort found

the bottom left corner of the goal. Wells continued to push forward and their rushed press forced many mistakes from a home side that continued to benefit from a lack of decisiveness from the officials, the game ultimately finishing as it had started with Wells in control but the scores level.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies V 1 Blackheath 2

A sad loss for Wells who had the potential to win the game. Unnervingly, at one point Wells had three umpires, veritable riches one might think, but not conducive to the start of a game. However one was converted to a valued supporter, making two.

Wells started with most of the possession, but always looked susceptible to the long hit out from the powerful Blackheath central defender. Tessa Harrison has been on a rich vein of form and in keeping with recent weeks was on hand to crack in the opening goal following a neat build up. As of other recent games Wells were thwarted by an oppo goalie playing well and failed to get on the scoresheet again.

As suspected, the breakaway caused the first Blackheath goal, but not without help from the umpire. A Wells player fouled, the umpire raised his arm indicating a foul, but not whistling. The Wells defenders moved the requisite 5 metres but were caught on the hop when advantage was played.

The second goal was also suspect. Diminutive Niamh Blackburn was crushed between two hefty defenders, having her hand mangled in the encounter. Somehow she was deemed to have fouled and as per expectation, Blackheath took advantage to race down and score

Other Ladies scores: 2s lost 4-0 Saturday, won 1-0 Sunday, 3s drew 1-1, 4s won 2-0

Tunbridge Wells U16 Boys 4 Ashford 0

T Wells U16 Boys round off a strong season.

The T Wells U16 boys squad, playing in the Kent boys league, have won 6, drawn 2 and lost 1 match. The success can be attributed to inspiring coaching from Alex Rout who instilled in them early in the season the discipline and confidence to play as a team with lots of passing and possession and the matches have been a pleasure to watch. The key anchors for the squad have been Sam Clarke at centre half, Dan Barnaby and Felix Wisby in defence, and Adam Woodcock and Aaron Leadbeater in attack with Mike Pelmore playing a strong supporting role in left midfield.

Their season finished on Sunday with a fine 4-0 win over Ashford with Adam Woodcock scoring a hat-trick. Squad: Leo Garwood, Dan Barnaby, Felix Wisby, Frazer Coakley-Black, Sam Kemp, Drew Todd, Sam Clarke, Mike Pelmore, Douggie Weare, Nick Pelham, Bertie Horne, Ed Fyson, Adam Woodcock, Aaron Leadbeater

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