

## Tunbridge Wells Mens III 3 Gore Court IV 1

Wells turn turn positives into opportunities and convert chances

Wells arrived at Gore Court as an organised side, in contrast to the opposition. Wells attacked from the start encamping themselves deep into Gore Court's defence. Wells started to settle into their formation. Saeed Malik fired a ball down the right inside channel to Roger Hynes who took it the D to drill it passed the keeper. Wells increased the pressure further with excellent switching of play on both sides of the pitch. Nick Higgs setup Jeremy Giles to take score to 2-0 at half time. On resumption of play, Wells took full control of the game. Nick Pelham in his debut for the 3rd XI passed on his reverse stick to Giles who at full stretch punted the ball into the back of the net. Gore Court counter attacked and ended up 1 on 1 with the keeper to get one goal back. A score line could have been higher through better passing and control of the ball. Wells take these objectives forward to their next match against Cliftonville.

## TW Grasshoppers 0 Addiscombe 3

It is some weeks since we have travelled away from the hallowed turf at the Nevill: we had to wait for our CRBs to come through, as this is now mandatory following a government directive on the transportation of young folk by their elders (we've acquired an under 50 player).

And so we travelled through the storm and rain to that squalid inner city area known as Addiscombe, one driver rightly enquiring if it was safe to leave anything in the car, as we parked in a street of £1 million plus homes. Maybe the residents would leave some cash under the wipers?

Following the lashing rain the pitch had some standing water, but this seemed to be cleared quickly with judicious umbrella prodding by our charming hosts. The pitch (surely the only grass one played on in Southern England last Saturday) looked very autumnal with its covering of variegated leaves.

Neither of our goalkeepers were available, but Tim Revell stepped up to the plate and took his place between the sticks.

We got off to a slow start with the opposition pegging us back in our own half, and they were 3 goals up in about 15 minutes. Gradually we got into our rhythm and mounted a few attacks, but we spent most of our time holding them back, never fully adapting to the problems posed by the opposition on a small pitch.

The second half was much better for us - Fitzwater was no longer conceding over 40 yards to his winger, and Landolt sat on the centre forward around whom their first half attacks revolved. We created several promising opportunities but the forwards failed to convert any of them, failing to distinguish between the white ball and the blowing leaves. The opposition had one thunderous shot against the bar. The only other event of any interest was the wind blowing our goal over.

The result was a 3-0 loss, which we felt was disappointing as we did play quite well in the second half. Addiscombe did provide us with a very nice tea, a choice of corned beef hash or sausages, both with baked beans.

And so back to the car, no cash had been left, the credit crunch also affects affluent Addiscombe!

Other Mens Scores 1<sup>st</sup> beat Old Bordenians 4-1, 4's lost 1-0, Vets 1's won 3-1, Vets 2's lost 3-1

### Tunbridge Wells Vets 2 1 Canterbury Vets 3

On a blustery day, Vets 2's took on Canterbury. Bolstered by James Bailey in the centre of the side, Tunbridge Wells competed well, and had they taken their chances, could have been rewarded with a better result. In the first half, Wells played too deep, but used Rob Harrison well as a link to the forwards and good pressure was created, but too often wasted as long balls into the D were easily picked off by Canterbury. At the other end, Canterbury clinically took a couple of well worked chances (one from a short corner), giving them a half time lead of 2-0. Half time saw changes with the defence pressing forward onto the Canterbury side giving Wells more control of midfield, rewarded by a stunning goal from Digger Barnes. Sadly 2 minutes later, Wells were carved apart and the 2 goal lead was restored. More chances came to both sides, but the highlight was a beautifully weighted pass into the D after a skilful run by Bailey, giving 3 Wells players the opportunity to touch the ball into the net. All three missed! A good summary of the afternoon, but overall an encouraging performance.

### Tunbridge Wells Ladies 1 4 Broxbourne 1 3

Tunbridge Wells travelled to Broxbourne on Saturday for their latest East League match, determined that they would break their pattern of draws and come away with all three points.

But it wasn't the best of starts when one car got lost on the way and another driver broke down, and Wells started the game with just 7 players. But Ali Playle in goal marshalled the defence brilliantly for the first 8 minutes and the team zone-marked effectively to keep Broxbourne out of the circle until the team was up to full strength.

Player of the match Jess Foster had an outstanding game in the midfield, contributing effectively to the defensive and attacking play.

Tanya Minns also had a fantastic game scoring 3 out of 4 of the away team's goals.

Broxbourne were strong in patches and were first to score.

Unfortunately Playle had sustained a knee injury which meant she was restricted in her movements in the goal. And with play swinging from team to team, at half time Wells were behind but confident that they could up the pace of play now that the team were settled.

Consequently the second half was dominated by Tunbridge Wells who were by far the better team in attack. Ele Gee, Caz Jenkins, Charlie Bowman and Jen Hunt combined really well in the centre and down the right to coordinate lots of attacks that ripped through Broxbourne's defence and Tanya Minns was in the middle to score.

Jen Hunt added to the scoreline to make it 3-all and Wells pushed for the winning goal. Harriet Alexander made some probing runs on the left and Charlie Bowman had so much room on the right that most of the attacks came through her.

A beautiful piece of play resulted in the final goal for Wells, again from Minns which was then followed by intense but committed defending from the whole team as they secured things at the back, still wary of Playle's injury.

Roberta Organ and Hannah Turner proved their worth at the back and Foster was fantastic in her tackling to break up Broxbourne's strong late attacks.

It was a well deserved victory for Wells who are now fifth in the league and looking forward to their double-header at the weekend against Southend and Brentwood (both at home).

### Tunbridge Wells Ladies III 1 New Beccs 1 2

Tunbridge Wells ladies 3s travelled to New Beccs in appalling weather conditions, but remarkably remained dry whilst on the pitch. This was the highlight of a disappointing game in which Wells dominated in the first half, but failed to take any more than one of their chances - a great slot in from Katie Donaldson who got on the end of a good cross from the right from Tracey Boorman.

New Beccs came out strongly in the second half and were determined to at least claim a draw, but the Wells defence worked hard with Saskia Booth and Deb Page making plenty of key tackles and keeper Emma Williamson saving a penalty flick. Continued pressure and the help of some bizarre umpiring decisions eventually paid off for New Beccs who managed to put the ball in the left corner to equalise, and then go on to score again. Wells fought hard to draw level to split the points, but time was against them and the game finished in an unsatisfactory loss.

### Tunbridge Wells Ladies IV 1 Blackheath IV 0

The Ladies 4<sup>th</sup> team played intelligently and with great tenacity on Saturday against a strong BlackHeath team. Playing in very adverse conditions they battled on to score a goal, courtesy of Sarai Howkins, 6 minutes into the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. Chris Poth had a very athletic time in the goal, ably backed by a strong defence. The ladies 4ths team have had a great season so far lying 4<sup>th</sup> in the league – 4 points behind the leaders. They play as a team which is showing by their results. MOM – Sarah Martins, Chris Poth

### Tunbridge Wells Ladies V 4 Gravesend IV 4

Having travelled in gales, the weather added rain into the mix as the game pushed off. In near farcical conditions Wells conceded two quick goals while blinded by near horizontal rain. The Wells protests about lack of visibility and standing water in places were rebuffed by the home umpire suggesting the conditions would even themselves out in the second half. Wrong, the rain stopped, the wind lessened.

Wells got their act more or less together and by half time should have scored, but only let one more in.

Not helped by the number of positional changes, Wells finally broke through when Lucy Harrington picked up the ball on the right and sped in to score. Poor keeping by Holme led to a 4-1 down score and some despondency. However the best was yet to come. New girl Maria Watson and seasoned campaigner Louise Drew began to combine together. Wells put together a series of chances, some of which were badly spurned, but Ellie Sands scored, Harrington doubled her tally and Niamh scored the equalizer. At the end Wells looked the more likely to grab the winner, with Hayley Dann and Ann Davis foraging down the right, and were certainly a deal happier than in the first half.

### Tunbridge Wells Girls U14a 8 Herne Bay 0

From the start we dominated possession with Sarah Martins , Alice Pavey and Maddy Godfrey controlling midfield spreading the ball wide to the wing mixed with great hits into the 'D'. Lucy Harrington was so sharp up front and her clever stick work put us 2-0 ahead after just 15 minutes. Rebecca Law and Claudia Lynham had several good chances, Rebecca deservedly scored our third from a loose ball saved by the keeper. Just before half time Lucy Harrington grabbed her hat trick , and our fourth, with another well taken goal.

The second half was a little scrappy, with Herne Bay flooding the defence to restrict the scoreline. But , it was not long before Lucy Harrington got her 4th quickly followed by a superb shot by Sarah Martins to make it 6 -0, rounding off superb matches by both of them. Herne Bay did manage a couple of attacks and one short corner , but our defence of Hattie Wood, Hannah Schofield and Alex Haddaway were solid. In fact Katie , in goal, did not touch the ball the whole game!! Saskia Coakley-Black and Lucy Milson rounded off an excellent team performance with a goal each, both set up by Josie Wilson on the wing. Sevenoaks next week which may be a little trickier!!

Other Ladies scores: 2's lost 2-1, Girls U16 bt Southgate 2-1 EH Cup