

Tunbridge Wells Men's 1st X1 1 Lewes Men's 2nds 1

On a really good pitch and with a 14 man squad which was regularly rotated, the team once again opened with pace and confidence. Moving the ball well and with options off the ball in areas that threatened the opposition. Small surprise then that we had several early chances in front of goal in open play. The only pity was that the shots were either not on target or too weak against a goalie who was to prove the Lewes MoM.

Yet, despite dominating the first quarter hour, it was the opposition who scored after 18 minutes – at that point their only attack.

TW pressure persisted though and if only more open opportunities and 4 PCs in the first half could have been taken, they should have been going into the break in the lead. There was even a spell of play when Lewes were down to 10 men. But the first half also saw the departure of injured skipper, Harfoot, who was beginning to control the midfield.

The half time talk had concentrated on tightening up the press in defence and creativity in the opposition D. Yet, more domination in midfield still failed to result in a goal – open play shots were saved and PCs squandered. A yellow for Newington ironically saw adjustments made which provided a consistent period of pressure up front. Rout and Sam Clarke-Knowles were the source of some edge and bite to the attack and although some PCs were conceded, this was set against more PCs for TW (6). At last one provided a goal for Jamie Knight.

The game entered a stalemate deep into the 2nd half; the TW defence showed sustained stamina evidenced by better decision making when under pressure, but some errors were creeping in and non more so than when TW was attacking and pressing. The opposition managed time and again to leak the ball out of defensive set pieces – when this was finally addressed, it all fell into place. Too late. Once again from recent form, a game that TW dominated, but failed to pull off all 3 points. Still, 1 point is to be cheered.

MoM – Fox.

Tunbridge Wells III 1 Ashford IV 1

Wells soaked up the pressure by from Ashford's early attacks. Sam Spence in his debut slotted into the defence and performed well. Wells attacked Ashford with Jeremy Giles winning a short corner. The first strike on goal was mis-hit leaving Richard Hitchell to score from the right. The team continued in their good play until half time. On the resumption of the second half Ashford pushed another player up front which put a strain on the Wells defence. Through this the team lost their shape and Ashford gained more possession. Wells still attacked and had two golden opportunities with Paul Bear in front of goal and Will Reynolds skimming the ball across the goal. Towards the end of the match, Ashford broke through the Wells defence and equalised. A tough battle in which it could have gone either way.

Grasshoppers 2 Purley 3

Version 1

A game of two halves. Lost the first half 0 – 2 with HDL advising all and sundry (another run (?) across the pitch to give me special treatment and advice) and then not picking up his man at all who went on to score a cracking goal. Lots of advice from all and sundry. Yours truly missed

two interceptions that were vital to the result, but it was that sort of a game. Martin offered and was accepted as substitute goalie as Jamie couldn't travel with us and did well despite losing his kicker during one period of frantic goalmouth activity (which was more fun than motormouth activity).

Two lots of oranges at half time as Jon had already done ours. Much refreshed we had a very good second half. The stick of God scored a magnificent reverse stick goal after a solo run through the crowded defence and Neil (I think) scored another only to be followed by a Purley goal to finish 2 – 3 down but a good result and a very active second half. I felt hard done by when a powerful lifted hit across our 'D' was considered a shot at goal despite nearly removing all my fingers which were protecting my face at the time. Tea with chips were up to standard so a good days sport overall.

Version 2

A game of two halves. The first half was lost 0 – 2. With their captain away again the team were not short of advice givers stepping into the breach. However this lack of concentration on the game led to an unmarked being allowed to score a cracking goal. Lots of advice from all and sundry. Cackett missed two interceptions that were vital to the result, but it was that sort of a game. MartinAthey offered and was accepted as substitute goalie as Crawford couldn't travel to the game and did well despite losing his kicker during one period of frantic goalmouth activity.

With two lots of oranges at half time as the venue was changed, the team were much refreshed and had a very good second half. Mark Barker scored a magnificent reverse stick goal after a solo run through the crowded defence and Neil Ghosley scored another to equalise only to be followed by a Purley goal to finish 2 – 3 down. However a good result and a very active second half.

Tunbridge Wells Over 50's 6 Letchworth Over 50's 2 EH Masters Over 50 Plate Round 1

A comfortable victory in the end for the young TW team, although failure to convert numerous early chances had given Letchworth a glimmer of hope. Once TW equalised early in the second half there was only one winner. Three goals from Nicholson, and one each for Harrison, Schweitzer and Macnamara provided the final scoreline. Other positives for TW were the re-emergence of Robertson, solid defending from Jago, and a match turning cameo from Dr Bowden.

In the first half despite having the majority of possession TW allowed Letchworth several sights of goal. Two good goals and two goal line saves were the result, one surprisingly from Knight, leaving TW 2-1 down at half time. While a re-organisation of man power provided some focus to TW's second half effort, mainly it was greater clarity of purpose and control when shooting that made the game the formality it became.

A third home tie beckons on Valentines day in 2011 and the possibility of a last eight place is there for the taking.

Other Mens results: 2s Lost 4-2, 3's drew 1-1, 4's lost 3-2

Tunbridge Wells Ladies I 1 Sevenoaks II 3

It was a tough match this Saturday for the Tunbridge Wells Ladies 1st team who came up against a challenging Sevenoaks opposition. Both teams looked dangerous from the start, but it was Sevenoaks who scored the first goal. At half time, Wells were 2-0 down, but were very unlucky not to score early in the second half, as they were in control of the game; they looked positive on the attack, and were dictating the play. Despite some excellent defence by Ele Gee, who was voted player of the match, and some brilliant saves by Ali Playle, Sevenoaks went 3-0 up. Eventually Tunbridge Wells won a well earned penalty flick due to some impressive stick skills by captain Jen Hunt. Charlie Bowman converted this to leave the final score at 3-1. Both teams played a very high standard of hockey, and it was some of the best hockey Wells have played this season, with every single player giving 110 %. The girls came off the pitch with their heads held high and with a great sense of positivity ahead of their next game against St Albans.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies V 0 Meopham II 4

This turned out to be a depressing match for Wells. Fielding a strong team in all departments, Meopham somehow scored four goals. The turning point came when at only 2 nil down and playing well, Wells were denied a short corner goal when to the surprise of both teams the ball was deemed outside the circle. The Meopham goalie made several excellent saves and as the rain fell yet again there was an air of inevitable defeat.

Other Ladies results: 2's lost 3-2, 3's lost 2-1, 4s drew 2-2

Tunbridge Wells Girls U16 A 2 Chelmsford 1

A gripping game of end to end hockey with the rain holding out, (on an already well soaked waterpitch) gave us some interesting challenges. Whilst we certainly had a lot of possession and had numerous short corners, we didn't manage to convert any in the first half. Half time score was 0-0. The game was always going to be close, we had beaten Chelmsford last year 1-0 so we knew they could play a good standard of hockey. In the first 10 minutes of the second half, Chelmsford managed to score, and we went down 1-0. T Wells needed to come back quickly from this as it was definitely against the passage of play so we needed to demonstrate that we were the better side. Within 2 minutes we were again pressurising their goalie and looking menacing. We managed to get a goal to draw level. We had more shorts and even a flick but our numerous opportunities were still not being converted into goals. Finally, with a variation on a short, we managed to score a second goal. We defended this lead until the final whistle, (which I understand was somewhat delayed). We have quite a lot to work on for the next round, especially our set plays. Free hits around the D and short corners obviously spring to mind as prime items which we need to work on. A big thank you girls for all the hard work on the pitch. You worked hard throughout the game and kept the momentum going, kept on trying to find a way though. We were a little unlucky not to be a couple of more goals ahead, but the final result is the one that matters and if we don't score, we won't win!

Captain was Boo Tooze and Man of the Match I have awarded to Kate Holden. Her forays deep into the D and driving up the line as a winger were dangerous and she was unlucky not to score a couple of times at least. Her constant pressure also meant that she created gaps and opportunities for other members of our team to exploit.

We have had 3 great games of hockey to get this far into the competition and now into the final 16, we can expect to come across sides that are even better than the ones we have already played. We need to

ensure that we fully utilise everyone on the pitch. Everyone in the team has earned their place, but we need to move the ball early and preferably wide. I think that in the last two games, Southgate and Chelmsford, we have tended to use the middle channel too much, through Lily and Lucy. A little bit of variation will keep our opponents not knowing what we are going to do next, whereas right now, we're a little predictable. Well done to you all, another great game!