

Tunbridge Wells Mens 1st XI 2 Canterbury 3rd XI, 3.

A more experienced TW team only very late in the game, came unstuck against a more junior Canterbury team (albeit, as one might expect, a few of their Old Lags were present to stiffen the organisation). From the start TW moved the ball with confidence and precision. In the first 20 minutes, the real difficulty lay not with the movement with and off the ball, nor with transfer from either side, but with converting the chances. Several very good chances went begging and at any level, that will always hurt you eventually. So it did. Although we did take the lead through a well worked goal by Billy Priestley, the opposition had just the one to score to equalise which they did before half time and by that stage, we were also beginning to lose shape when attacked on the break; more worrying was that lack of team-thought spent on switching – threatening, peeling out and recycling.

This and the failure of the press effectively were highlighted at the end of the first half. We had 3 PCs in the first half and converted none. We could well have been 3 goals up at half time.

The 2nd half did start off brighter and better for all the same reasons as had the 1st half. We were in control. Putting the goals away again though proved a real problem. Attacking was developing a pattern:- We marched up the pitch, but we would give the ball away in the final third of the pitch. We applied the press, but all too often with partial effect. Some tremendous defending followed, particularly from Newington, Fox and Pelmore. But on and off the ball decision making out of defence in particular was forcing more errors on the ball.

More attacking gave us a couple of really good scoring chances midway through and we converted one through Ben Lang at 20 minutes still to go. We simply had to look at this period and see the game out. Long period though it was, we simply weren't ruling the game enough to adopt some of the adventurous play that several times caught us out. Only some goal mouth scrambles and saves from Rimmer prevented leaking opposition goals. That should have been the sign for cooler heads on and off the ball – pass it round, recycle and switch; threaten and pivot etc. It was, after all, the oppo down 2-1. Down to them to panic and chase the game – maybe then we could have nicked a 3rd for good measure.

As it was, we conceded an equaliser at about 7 minutes to go – with the game being equally contested; but as they became camped more in our half and with a series of PCs conceded, we eventually conceded another goal; a winner for them with no more than a minute left.

MMom - Newington

Mens EH Vase – TW 1st XI, 0 – Addiscombe 1st XI, 4.

The Sunday game was a disappointing result. Despite a young team, we fell short of some of the stronger physical game the older opposition team were able to deploy. 2-0 down in the first half and 4-0 at full time, we were always chasing the game after it seemed again that we were not going to be able to convert the chances created in the first 10 minutes. We showed some real sparks of course – we are still a league above the oppo – just not on the day. Individual superior technical ability on and off the ball, we pressed more and more into their half and they just sprung out and pretty much scored a goal each time. Sadly that heralded some of the current problems when getting tired; we lose shape and discipline, we became one dimensional up and down; we ran the ball into the oppo. We conceded PCs and failed to convert our own.

MMoM - Guy Pengelly.

Grasshoppers 2 - Sutton Valence 2

Grasshoppers took an early lead through two well constructed goals, both following passing movements going the length and breadth of the pitch, leaving the SV defence and goalkeeper out of position, so that the final pass from Crosby left Ghosley with an open goal, and then a few minutes later their roles were reversed for Crosby to score. The omens for good flowing attacking hockey on a once again outstanding

surface were good.

As the game progressed, however, the cohesion of the Grasshoppers attacks declined, so that the pressure exerted faded and the chances created were far less clear cut. Over the same period SV's attack pressed more frequently and occasionally exposed slack marking by the Grasshoppers. By half time SV had pulled the score back to 2-1, and Grasshoppers had cause to regret not making more of their early opportunities.

In the second half SV's defence was much more solid, Grasshoppers did not quite recover the earlier accuracy of their passing, and the SV attack created more pressure, eventually leading to an equaliser. The outcome could have been worse, since SV failed to convert a penalty stroke, following a save on the line by Andy Cackett with his stick. A draw was probably a fair overall reflection of the game, but following the opening quarter it felt like a victory was allowed to slip away.

TW Vets 2s 0 Reigate Vets 3.

Having listened to Learned Opinion Skipper Mitchell devised a tactical formation intended to rectify recent weaknesses and hopefully more fully reflect players' abilities. The theory worked well but in practice a couple found it confusing with the outcome being that only 1 side of the field achieved the expected benefits. A worthwhile experiment that will with more practice become effective.

There were notable performances from Digger Barnes, Richard Landolt, Jerry Jago and David Holloway, the latter having a rare foray upfront, and a memorable one from Dudley Knight. James Bailey strove to take the game to Reigate but had weak support from the rest of midfield, possibly because the severely delayed start allowed the pre-match libation to take hold or maybe it was the rain.

Reigate chose this match to put out their strongest side (Wells had won the first encounter 3-0) and their midfield were always a handful creating the opportunities for their forwards to score some simple goals despite the valiant efforts of Steve Akery, Robin Mayes and the injury prone Richard Holmes in protecting keeper Nichols.

As has been the case all season the game was played in a good spirit and on this occasion Reigate were the better side however with players returning from injury Wells will soon resume their winning ways.

Other Mens results: 2s lost 5 -1, 3's lost 8 – 1, 4s won 5 – 3, Vets 1s won 5 - 0

Tunbridge Wells Ladies 1 4 Southend 1 4

Tunbridge Wells got off to a great start with a well-worked goal down the right hand side in the first minute of the game. The goal scorer was captain Jen hunt. Unfortunately this did not last long as Southend's pacy right-winger went round the back and slipped left for their centre forward to tap in. Southend's second goal came from a Penalty Corner, Ali Playle made two fine saves before the ball was pushed in from the left. Jen Hunt intercepted a pass on the right of the pitch which she slipped to Zoe Shephard who coolly slipped it past the keeper to make it 2-2. In the second half Southend scored a quick goal before Tunbridge Wells again responded with a Short Corner goal, which was well worked with an excellent deflection from Jen Hunt. The tricky right-winger from Southend made another run around the back and shot but was prevented from scoring by Ali Playle's fantastic diving stick save, to her right hand side. Tunbridge Wells took the lead for the first time through Harriet Alexander with three minutes to go but unfortunately it was Southend's winger who got the draw with a reverse stick looping shot.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies I 2 Brentwood I 1

It's been a weekend of hockey for Tunbridge Wells, and day two started with torrential rain and a driving wind. After a hard-fought draw against Southend on Saturday, the home team were determined to table a win on Sunday. Within the opening minutes Tunbridge Wells' forwards Jen Hunt, Lily Elliot and Harriet Alexander were challenging the Brentwood goal, and after ten minutes, a short corner won was tucked away – player of the match Lisa Fiddimore's strike hitting the backboard. Brentwood failed to capitalise on a number of short corners, and just before half time, Tunbridge Wells extended their lead – Charlie Bowman breaking out of the midfield along the right wing. Her strike from the back of the circle put the home team 2 nil ahead.

A watery sunshine broke through after half time, and it took a while for both teams to settle back into the game. The deadlock was broken when Brentwood had a player sent off – a yellow card that was upgraded to red. The visiting team were determined to fight the disadvantage, and a scrap in the mouth of the Tunbridge Wells goal ended with the ball creeping over the line. Tunbridge Wells had a few more chances to score – Tanya Minns was denied by the Brentwood goalkeeper, while the home keeper Ali Playle was forced to make some acrobatic saves at the other end of the pitch. After another flurry of icy rain, the full time whistle blew. The 2-1 win puts Tunbridge Wells in a confident mood ahead of next week's game against Sevenoaks.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies III 2 Herne Bay I 2

Wells were determined to end a run of defeats in Kent Div 1 matches, but faced tough opposition. Wells started strongly playing good flowing hockey and took an early lead through Carolyn Pollard who skillfully took on players in the circle and placed the ball in the corner. Wells continued to press with great passing and good vision creating several more chances which were thwarted by good keeping. The defence of Lay, Page, Bull and Ivory soaked up building pressure in the Wells D and cleared the ball effectively to begin attacking moves.

Wells found themselves in the assendency again and a Herne Bay foot prevented a certain goal. The resulting penalty flick was put away by player of the match Louise Bateman leaving Wells 2-0 up at half-time.

The second half saw a more aggressive display from Herne Bay who began to pass more effectively and attack the Wells D more regularly. They scored through a penalty corner. Play was even, but Bay earned another short which was again dispatched with precision. Wells were unable to counter attack to take the lead and faced another penalty corner in the dying seconds. Fortunately for Wells the shot came before the ball had left the circle and the resulting goal was dis-allowed gaining them a valuable point.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies IV 3 Anchorians III 0

The Ladies 4th team played well once again. We started off well, working hard as individuals with great team work. Sarai Howkins scored our first goal during the first half. We worked harder in the second half with two more goals being scored by Tess McClelland and Sarah Martins. Once again the defence did a great job keeping the opposition away from our goal. Pushing for a top 3 finish for the first half of the season. MOM – Sarah Martins

Tunbridge Wells Ladies V 1 Blackheath IV 3

Wells were on the back foot from the start. Within the first few minutes Hayley Dann was oddly adjudged to have kicked the ball in the circle and Blackheath scored from the resulting short. Heath scored two more goals over the course of the game and could have added a few more but for astute keeping by Charlie de Burgh Marsh and good general defence. The mids did a good job dropping back to help out. Later in the game Wells put together some excellent attacking moves and one in particular was finished off with a cracking shot by Tessa Harrison. The team played at a good level but were beaten by a better team on the day.

Also: Ladies II 1 Sevenoaks III 5

Tunbridge Wells Boys U14 A 4 Gore Court 0

As we drove down the M20 the rain was pouring down on arrival the astro was under 3-4 inches of water, the decision was taken to wait until pushback time to decide on whether to proceed with the game. Luckily the wind blew hard and the sky turned blue and the water drained off the pitch with a little help from some industrial brushes.

The team was captained by James Lunshoff and got off to a great start with Pete Moore raming home the first goal. There was further excellent play by Tom Williams down the right wing supported by Freddy Hoare and Alex Hastings . Solid defending by Henry Murdoch and Jack de Carle ensured the score remained at 1-0 for half time. The half time chat involved some discussion around working together in the middle calling for square passes and holding positions well rather than being drawn by the opposition.

The second half saw some fantastic roll outs and v drags which produced some constructive passes and created fantastic chances resulting in Ollie Kemp scoring the second and third goals. James Meddings worked well with good dribbling and early releases and Alex Hollingsworth managed to drive the last goal in making the final score 4 - 0 .

David Parker managed to stave off several attempts from Gore Court to score while man of the match goes to James Lunshoff for excellent defending and always getting to the ball first at the numerous short corners blocking any chance of a goal.

Tunbridge Wells Girls U 14 A 1 Sevenoaks Girls U 14 A 1

A top of the table clash between probably the two best under 14 girls sides in Kent...this was always going to be exciting and we were not disappointed. It was truly a game of two halves with lots of goalmouth action.

Tunbridge Wells dominated the the first half, with constant pressure in the Sevenoaks 'D'. Lucy Harrington and Rebecca Law had great chances but we had to wait until the 15th minute for our pressure to tell. A great tackle by Sarah Martins set up Maddy Godfrey who took on three defenders and slipped the ball to Claudia Lynam who slotted the ball home. Tunbridge Wells continued the pressure but were not able to increase the scoreline before half time.

The second half belonged to Sevenoaks. They had many attacks down the left and put Alex Haddaway under a lot of pressure which the defence soaked up...but a lack of concentration at the back finally gave Sevenoaks the chance to equalise. Tunbridge Wells had a number of chances to take the lead again but strong Sevenoaks defending kept us out until the final whistle.

A fair result in an end to end game.

