

### Tunbridge Wells Mens 1<sup>st</sup> XI 3, Wootton Bassett 1

Tunbridge Wells took a fairly young team to this first match in the England Hockey Vase. They played well to their system, retaining possession for long periods in mid-field and use some excellent skills going forward. Jamie Harfoot was particularly solid in midfield. While they dominated the play throughout the match, however, they struggled to convert this into goals, with Rout putting their defence under great pressure but firing over the cross bar six times. Wootton were only ever likely to score on the counterattack. Gav Rimmer had a good game in goal while Chris Pelmore and Guy Pengelley both saved chances on the line, but Wootton did finally score on the break in the first half.

Tunbridge Wells kept to their system and maintained their dominance in midfield; and were rewarded in the last ten minutes with good goals from Tom Clarke-Knowles, Calum Wood and Ed Norman.

### Tunbridge Wells Mens III 2 Wellcome I 8

Wells faced a strong and well organised Wellcome 1st XI side. From the start Wellcome put pressure on the Wells defence to open their scoring. Wellcome continued to score. Wells fought back with goals from Paul Temple at a short corner and from Saeed Malik at a Penalty Stroke. With the score at 2-5 at half time, Wells had a chance to get back in the match and started to attack the Wellcome defence but were unable to convert their chances. Wellcome scored 3 further goals including one which hit an attackers foot before the shot was taken. Once again Wells fielded a youthful side and all players deserve credit for keeping in the game against a well drilled Wellcome team who took their chances.

Other Mens: Mens 1<sup>st</sup> 1 Old Williamsons 5, 2nds 2 Herne Bay 2 3, 4ths 4 Folkestone 5 2, Grasshoppers 4 Sutton Valence 0, Vets 1 7 St Albans 2, Vets 2 1 Mid Sussex 2

### Tunbridge Wells Ladies I 0 Sudbury I 3

After a tough week of changes within the team set up and with lots of regular players missing, it was with trepidation that the Wells women's first team entertained top-of-the-table Sudbury on Saturday.

But Wells fired themselves up for the game and with the opposition arriving late due to traffic, the homeside took advantage by attacking hard from the first whistle.

Good positive play meant that the team held their own for the first 10 minutes but it wasn't long before Zoe Shepherd took a bad knock to the ankle and had to retire, leaving the team with just 10 players. And 10 minutes later Oliver Rendall who was playing well at right midfield also took a knock and Wells were suddenly down to 9.

Having lost their composure it wasn't long before Sudbury were 3-0 up and Wells were facing a potential whitewash.

But as is the way with the team, they came out fighting in the second half and were far tougher both on and off the ball as they began to match Sudbury's tenacity.

Although Wells were unable to put together many attacks, on occasions they did find themselves in the Sudbury half but were unable to convert from their short corners.

Player of the match Charlie Bowman had a fantastic game at centre midfield neutralising Sudbury's most dangerous forward.

And awesome last ditch defending from Liz Joseph, Hannah Turner and Kat Downes, with Ali Playle in goal, meant that the second half ended 0-0 and Wells were justly proud of the fight they put up.

### Tunbridge Wells V 5 Remnants II 5

This was a story of a point very much gained. Starting with the bare eleven team members, Wells quickly found themselves up against a strong mature team able to move the ball amongst themselves. This was well illustrated when Remnants raced away from a Wells short corner to open the scoring. Several more chances were scorned before Wells found the secret to their own attack. Bringing the ball out of defence, Hannah Humphrey-Baker hit a long ball down the right. Ellie Sands moved onto it ran into the circle and opened her account.

Early in the second half Wells found themselves 2-1 down, but on the attack. Racing on to a rebound Hilary Breeze pulled a hamstring and had to be taken from the field. The team was rearranged with Tessa Harrison moving to the pivotal centre-mid position. A short ball from her found Sands unmarked on the right and the ball was again slotted home. Once again Remnants responded to take the lead again. Forced to play deeper, Denise Holme cleared a ball quickly upfield to Sands who rounded to goalie for her hat-trick. By this time Harrison had been hit hard on the foot and lost much mobility. With her staying upfield the defence fought gallantly to fill the gaps, but despite their best efforts Remnants moved 5-3 up with five minutes to play.

However the best was yet to come. Niamh Blackburn, playing deeper, hit a hard ball up to Harrison hovering in the circle. She controlled it and moved it on to the ubiquitous Sands who unfailingly drove it home. Wells gained the ball from the restart and were soon outside the Remnants circle. With her excellent eye for a pass, Blackburn squeezed the ball into the D for Holme to put it away with 37 seconds to spare. This was an enjoyable match, not least for the sporting attitude of Remnants who must have been very disappointed

Other Womens 2nds 0 Maidstone 2 2, 3rds 0 Canterbury 3 7, 4ths 0 BromBecks 5 3