

### Tunbridge Wells Mens I 1 Sutton Valence I 3

The record may show this as a 3-1 defeat, but the moral advantage lay with the home side who dominated the game for much of the match.

Once again, the autumn weather provided a boiler room of a day on which to play. The water based astro at Tonbridge School provided a lovely surface to play some fast hockey. It was going to be a stern test of both teams fitness.

TW had a nervous start - perhaps because the opposition had so many senior ex-TW players. 2-0 down in the first 10 minutes confirmed this. However, the team finally caught its collective breath and restored a calmer and more ordered stage upon which to build its own game. If the first 10 or so minutes was one of trying too hard to force the play and disregard basic skills and the Team Gameplan, the second half was marked by concentrating on keeping the ball by passing it around players in position and with time to play it onwards.

So, a solid middle and end to the 1st half was rewarded by a lovely set piece penalty corner - with Priestley finally netting the ball.

The half-time break probably needed to come for the home team to consolidate team orders and take stock. The break certainly paid off, with TW passing and running, threatening and performing, with attitude and determination, all with far more authority as the game progressed. At one time it really looked as if an equaliser and more were on the cards. However, another silly goal given away after 15 minutes went against the run of play and clearly disappointed the squad.

Nonetheless, it seemed to spur on the team and the last 15 minutes were - as last week - owned by TW. 8 penalty corners in the 2nd half failed to produce any goals and clearly this needs working on. But, this last 15 minutes was a period when the opposition got into the TW half only twice.

During this last quarter of the game the ball was moving more swiftly and accurately by TW than by the opposition, and with real tactical awareness. In the whole game, TW had 12 PCs and the opposition only 4. If only that ratio could be converted into goals.

A strong TEAM performance, TW finished the stronger and seemingly the fitter.

The league season starts next week.  
MOM Sam Clarke-Knowles

### Tunbridge Wells Mens V 10 Sutton Valence V 0

The 5th XI entertained Sutton Valence 5th XI at Hawkenbury on a hot Saturday afternoon. Comprising of spare veteran players and two new players to the club, Julian Hastings and Duncan Knox, Wells needed to gel quickly as from previous experience Valence can be tough to break down. Playing into the sun in the first half Valence started brightly with a couple of attempts on goal. This gave Wells defence an early wake up call and tightened the marking. With Giles in central midfield marshalling the attack Wells stepped up a gear and begun to exert pressure down the right wing with McNamara and Bailey linking an impressive string of passes and as a result forced the first of a series of short corners. On the third attempt Giles found the back board and Wells went one nil up. In reply Valence made changes quickly and began to harass on the left catching Hastings flat footed, however he recovered quickly to force the ball towards Holmes who managed a successful tackle only to pass the ball back to an on coming Valence player who then pushed the ball on to Templer's foot in the D and a short corner was awarded. Valence set piece was blocked by Hale in goal and cleared to Mason on the left who found young Mauduit on the left wing. His pace brought him to the Valence D in a few strides committing the defender to block him Mauduit simply passed to an unmarked Barnes who unfortunately mis-cued and hit the side netting.

Half time arrived and Wells felt that they should have scored more so Giles swapped positions with McNamara and Knox would provide more of an offensive role from right back supporting Bailey.

Starting the second half the changes suited Giles a lot more. Operating from right wing he easily passed his defender and sent an inviting ball across the goal where an eager Mauduit knocked it in. Wells began to exert more pressure, Knox made probing runs, Barnes and Mauduit split the defence and Mauduit got his second quickly. Valence did make some quick counter attacks but Hastings began to get the measure of his marker and made some good tackles. Templer from his centre back position started making runs up the left forcing Valence back and won a couple of free hits which due to the new self pass rules were taken quickly to keep the pressure up. McNamara doing a great job in the middle found Mauduit whose pace over committed the Valence defence. His shot was saved by the keeper who did clear it enough as Barnes pounced and won Wells forth goal. Clearly Wells were not finished and Mauduit scored his hat trick from a Giles pass in front of the keeper. Valence gave another short corner away by which time Wells had started experimenting with their routine. One such success allowed Bailey to add a sixth. Valence again attacked straight from the restart flooding the Wells half with players a tactic that may have been successful but for Hale in goal clearing a ball to Knox who drove the ball on to Giles and from a tight angle won Wells seventh. Valence again restarted with aggression their main striker winning a foul from Holmes. Valence drove into the Wells D causing a string of blocks and shots finally resulting in Templer blocking a shot bound for goal passing to a waiting Mason who found McNamara who made for the Valence goal during which Templer ran from his own D to the opposing D receiving Mac's pass and swept the ball between the keepers legs for eight goals to nil.

Wells lost Mauduit to an ankle problem and Valence too lost a defender who had slipped and landed on the ball hard to which we hope has not broken anything. The final ten minutes continued with both sides on ten men. With two goals to his name Giles collected a Bailey pass passed back to Knox who kindly gave the ball back to allow Giles to pick up his hat-trick. With nine goals and two minutes Wells decided that ten would be a good place to finish and with another improvised short corner Bailey added the last goal of the game. A great start for Wells banishing the memory of a poor last season in style.

Man of the Match: Duncan Knox

Tunbridge Wells V from: Hale (GK) Hastings, Knox, Templer©, Holmes, Mason, Bailey, McNamara, Mauduit, Barnes and Giles.

### Tunbridge Wells Grasshoppers 3 Oxted 3

Wells specialist grass pitch team travelled to Oxted for their first game of the season, without grass and without their legendary captain. Within two minutes Oxted had taken the lead. Wells regained their composure and equalized through Nicholson. However, Wells found themselves down 2-1 at half-time.

Wells fought back in the second half and Bannerman brought the teams level. The first notable injury of the season went to Rory Poulton whose bleeding nose had to be moved back into shape. Wells moved ahead with Nicholson scoring his second, but allowed Oxted to recover, letting in one of their traditional last minute goals.

### Tunbridge Wells Ladies II 0 Anchorians I 4

This was definitely a game of two halves. Anchorians scored an early goal after 3 minutes. Wells defence battled to hold off their attack. Anchorians scored another two goals from short corners. The first was from a direct hit. For the second, keeper Jenny Hopper went down to save the strike, but Anchorians then lifted it over the keeper. The fourth goal was from open play,

After a motivational team-talk at half-time, Wells came out far more determined and positive and held their own. This resulted in a 0 – 0 second half.

If Wells can ensure that they come out with this determination and with the passion to win from the starting whistle next week at home, they should demonstrate of what they are capable.

Player of the match: Sharon Giles

#### Tunbridge Wells Ladies III 2 Gravesend II 1

This was a tough match for Tunbridge Wells playing a team who had been in the league above last year. With several juniors making their first appearance for the 3s Wells tried to play a solid passing game. Carolyn Pollard was a force to be reckoned with in the midfield making several strong forays into the home team's circle. Pressure in attack eventually paid off for Wells when Georgia Nokes tapped the ball home for the first goal. Buoyed, Wells continued to attack opening several chances, but Gravesend played determined hockey and the Wells defence had to be strong and decisive. Player of the match Kate Bull made plenty of effective tackles to rob their right attacker of the ball. In the second half Pollard steamed into the circle and slotted the ball past the keeper for Wells second. Gravesend showed determination, eventually scoring from a short corner, but Wells held on with steely defence to seal the victory, maintaining their position at the top of the league

#### Tunbridge Wells Ladies V 5 Edenbridge 3

Wells took a strong squad to Edenbridge and this was soon evident on the pitch when Harriet Mills, having received the ball outside the circle, moved in and shot home. The lead was soon doubled when Lucy Lawson put away across from Elisabeth Floyd. Against the run of play Edenbridge were allowed to score before half-time, and indeed could have equalised if young goalie Megan Grist had not snaked out a left leg to defy them.

Tessa Harrison scored her first from left wing moving on to a pass from Lawson. Again, Edenbridge came back to close the gap. Hilary Breeze, back after having a baby, kept the team going forward and won a short corner. Lawson took the first strike which was well saved. Harriet Barker followed up with a shot from the left which deflected off a defender. Harrison ensured that that ball hit the back of the goal to make it 4 – 2. Lawson was rewarded for her consistently fine play with the fifth goal. At this point Edenbridge threw themselves forward and had several breaks on goal. Grist made a series of outstanding saves in goal, coming out to intercept several times. After finally being beaten, she thwarted Edenbridge at the last when their final short threatened to squeak in. Despite the five goals scored by the attack, Grist was deservedly player of the match.

Results: Mens II 4 Bexley 2, Mens III 3 Brombecks 0, Mens IV 2 Brombecks 3,

Ladies I 1 St Albans 1, Ladies III 2 Gravesend 1

