

Tunbridge Wells Men's 1 1 Canterbury Pilgrims 3

The Men's 1st XI were unable to continue their splendid recent form, against a Canterbury team that just about did enough to win, but where the real problem for TW lay in a game littered with personal error. Whether it was the quick start once given access to the pitch, or just one of those aberration games, everyone seemed rushed and impatient pretty much throughout the first half and into the second. The first 10 minutes were ours in fact, but without a goal to show for it. The ball was moving around purposefully enough - but 2-0 down was the scoreline after 20 minutes during which the drive and speed of passing gave way to indecision, much slower distribution and getting into far too much contact. Despite this, 5 Penalty Corners were won - none was converted.

The 2nd half started a little better, but another silly goal put TW 3-0 down early on. Strangely, that seemed to be the spur. During a spell which saw a Canterbury player sent off for 6 minutes for dissent (with a colleague lucky not to join him), TW took more control. In this period, a goal followed from a textbook touch in from Sam Clarke-Knowles. 2 more Penalty Corners were not converted.

When we were good in this period, it did come together. When defending and recycling, Phil Newington was particularly impressive. But the game was always breaking down before anything significant developed and the game just fizzled out as did the team really.

Overall, a very disappointing contrast to the previous weeks. The team was left to regret a want of fitness, core skills, attitude on the day and, with 7 PC's for and only 2 against, scoring when the chances came. A rather off-day for all.

On the plus side, we should all know what went wrong and look to change back up a gear or even 2 to where we were not long ago.

PMOM - Sam Clarke-Knowles

MMOM - Gav Rimmer

T Wells 3rd XI 1 New Becs 2 XI 2

With a youthful and much changed side, Wells travelled to Beckenham. Wells started well with good positive passing creating a number of scoring opportunities. New Becs with their experienced side took advantage of the new self pass rule to move the ball quickly. From an attack down the right they scored a soft goal which Wells should have not conceded so easily. Wells continued to pass the ball through to the forwards with Jack Mauduit and Elliot McCarthy getting into good positions in open space. Towards the end of the first half, New Becs won a short corner which they duly converted.

At half time, Wells knew that they were playing well and would score. On the resumption, Steve Tagg come on to strengthen the centre defence. Wells started to dominate the match winning a short corner at which McCarthy shot with Richard Hitchell following up to score for the Wells. The Harrison brothers and Reynolds kept up their excellent work rate to keep New Becs in their own half. Nick Pelham moved up forward and Wells became encamped in the New Bec's defence. Despite constant pressure Wells were unable to level the score by the end of the match. The team can take many positives forward to their next match.

TW Vets 2s 3 Reigate Vets 0

For the opening salvo of the newly formed South East Counties over 50s league Wells entertained their counterparts from Reigate for an encounter that historically is evenly matched. And so the first half proved with both sides slow to come to terms with the water based Astro at Tonbridge school. Despite much endeavour from David Goodwin and the excellent Jago, Wells were unable to finish the chances that came their way. Reigate endeavoured to claim the first half honours but were denied through the solidity of Steve Akery, the venerable Robin Mayes and the mercurial David Holloway ably marshalled by Club director of Hockey Andrew Jenner.

Skipper Mitchell is renowned for his half time 'chats' and tactical innovation and so this proved. Wells came out fired up and it was no surprise that they soon went 1 up through Jago converting a short corner shrewdly set up by the skipper and the profligate Crosby. Reigate rallied strongly but the wandering Knight now energised in his holding position ensured that any chances were few and those that did

happen were superbly denied by keeper Lawrie Digweed. With Reigate starting to tire Wells found more space and went 2 up through John Mitchell firing one from the top and Robin Holliday very kindly ensuring that it went in. With the game safe Wells took control and again enjoyed success from another well worked short corner through Jerry Jago.

An enjoyable game that was played in the right spirit, helped by the umpiring of Alec Pelmore.

Tunbridge Wells Grasshoppers 1- Masonians 5

The TW Grasshoppers playing their first home game of the season on a beautifully prepared pitch, thanks to groundsman Tankard and team, at the Nevill ground welcomed Masonians, pitchless from Wimbledon, for their first ever visit to TW. This was a hockey match of the best order, played and celebrated in excellent spirit with the Masonians fielding a significantly younger side than Grasshoppers giving a serious early season challenge under blue skies at the Nevill.

A fast paced game testing the early season fitness of both sides under the bright sunshine led to an open game with Masonians taking the lead through skillful passing moves and a great shot past keeper Crawford, who spent the game making a series of splendid saves to keep the Grasshoppers in touch. The finesse and youth of the Masonians told and further scores followed before the Grasshoppers re-focused with Alec Pelmore covering acres of ground on a switch to inside forward to combat the migrating Masonians.

Great defending of home territory by Athey and Stebbing with sterling work by Landolt led to an early second half resurgence by the Grasshoppers and long pass by Gray led to a Poulton score. Tom Holme, lent to the opposition, saved many Grasshoppers shots and kept Masonians in the game. The benefit of younger legs, in the case of Fitzwater giving 51 years to his opponent told, and Masonians played well to score 4 more goals during the game.

The Grasshoppers were delighted to attract Ali Holme to Umpire to add colour and conviction to the day. The post match engagement was one of the best in recent matches and the Grasshoppers look forward to meeting Masonians again on equal terms.

The Nevill remains probably the best venue for Grass Hockey in the country and a great season beckons. The Savanna had been the focus for the pre match build up with Poulton's recently re-arranged nose none the worse for his photographic inputs which were too much for the Masonian community who begged to be deleted from the dialogue.

The Grasshoppers look forward to the return of many players, from their longest injury list for some years, to develop the side for the season. Looking to restore some pride the Grasshoppers look forward to next weeks meeting with Kenley.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies 1 2 Crostyx 2

It was another well deserved draw for the ladies first team on Saturday in their latest East League Division one South match.

It was a slow start in the first half and Crostyx were certainly the team in control for the most part. Tunbridge Wells were still effective in patches putting together some nice patches of play.

However the lateral movement up front was not as good as in previous weeks and the defence and midfield found it harder than usual to pick out the forwards.

Croestyx' first goal came from a short corner that was deflected in and their second goal was a goalmouth melee that ended in the ball creeping across the line painfully slowly!

A good half time team talk from coach Martin Rohan helped Wells to re-focus and the team took to the pitch with faith that they could get back into this match.

A more decisive and determined team emerged and some great concentrated pressure on the Croestyx 25 yard area resulted in a short corner that was converted by Jen Hunt.

Soon after another short corner was won and this time player of the match Lisa Fiddimore was able to convert to make it 2-all.

Other players who stood out this week were Harriet Alexander who has really found her feet in the senior team, Lizzie Price up front, Roberta Organ and Hannah Turner who stuck like glue to their players and Jess Foster who had great game breaking down the play on the opposition's right.

New player Charlie Bowman was very effective in the centre of the pitch too.

With the whistle blowing just as another Wells attack took shape, the home side were again unlucky not to have nicked all three points towards the end of the game but should be rightfully proud of their fightback.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies III 1 Cliftonville 11 5

Tunbridge Wells ladies 3rd X1 faced joint league leaders Cliftonville in this Kent Division 1 game. With several new players in the team Wells knew that this would be a tough encounter and so it proved. Cliftonville played with pace and determination from the off and scored an early opener. Wells began to settle and hard work from the midfield four and back three kept the home side in the game. Wells managed to string together some good passing moves and several short corners were gained, which unfortunately weren't converted.

In the second half Cliftonville again struck early and this un-nerved Wells who had worked so hard in the first period. Despite stalwart effort in goal from player of the match Emma Williamson Cliftonville managed to slot home another 3 leading to the Ladies 3s first defeat of the season.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies V 0 Anchorians III 3

A week of horrendous availability further up the club led to regulars being sucked out of the team and Wells taking to the field with only 9 players. So it was with great trepidation we band of sisters took the pitch. Our fears of a thrashing were unfounded. Within minutes Wells were on the attack through Ali Holme and Niamh Blackburn. Anchorians were shocked and their coached urged them on. They began to exploit the space, but by half-time were only two up. At the back Lorna Akers Douglas was doubling up sweeper and centre back and Lynne Robertson on the left was channelling players away from goal.

Showing no real signs of tiring Wells attacked more in the second half and might have scored several times. Amy Stables swept forward on the right whilst Elisabeth Floyd covered back. In an unfamiliar role on the left new girl Hannah Humphrey –Baker forged an excellent understanding with the diminutive Blackburn to create chances.

Anchorians managed to beat goalie Charlie de Burgh Marsh only once in the second half and Wells were able to feel proud of their contribution to a very enjoyable game. MOM: Ali Holme

Other Ladies results: Ladies II L 2-0, Ladies IV W 5-0 (Howkins 2, Harrison 2, Davies)