

Tunbridge Wells Mens I 7 Lewes II 0

It was said earlier in the season that with all the goals that TW were failing to score, one opposition team at least would reap that whirlwind. Lewes was that team. Throughout the game, TW put together their hallmark sweeping and confident movement – from front to back and side to side; transferring with ease and even when under pressure. This time that style brought goals, goals and more goals.

The 1st half saw an early 8th minute conversion from Ed Norman, quickly followed by a Routy scrambled goal after the breakdown of a TW Penalty Corner. The TW attacking line was causing havoc with Billy Priestley in particular down the right. Once he and Rout and the tireless Callum Wood began to dance all across the top and middle, the oppo had nothing to cover their pace. Priestley goals in the 15th and 20th minutes were just reward for great effort.

The second half saw much the same. The oppo could not keep their shape against the TW waves from defence, through midfield and again and again into attack. Sure there were opportunities going begging for the oppo, but they could not convert. Rimmer in goal kept a few out, but more importantly, Pengelly, Hart, Norman and the rock-like Fox were picking tackles at will and mopping up. This pattern soon started to give Knight valuable time on the ball and he started to distribute – which he had not needed to do in the 1st half. As he came more into the game, so we saw more of the insides, Tom and Sam Clarke-Knowles. In the 45th minute Tom took the ball into the oppo half and just kept going – defenders fell away, marking the high posting attack and the ball was punched home from the top of the D.

Late into the game, cameo performances came from the senior section's James Barden and Vinny Holden and the pressure was maintained. Either side of a Knight missed P Flick (60th minute), he nonetheless scored 2 beauts in the 47th and 67th minutes to close out the game at 7-0. Effectively all goals coming from open play, with only 5 PCs in the game for both sides; testament to the speed and openness of the gameplay throughout.

TW did not have the stranglehold the score-line might suggest; Lewes must have thought it was going to be one of those games. But Lewes were always chasing the game and what might have been a high scoring game for each side was a shut-out. Much credit for that goes to Skip for the day, Rimmer. However, this was a day when everyone stepped up and gave their all. TW will hope that they can carry this form into their remaining matches, since their performance is certainly one that rewards all their effort over the last months. Injured and missing players now coming back for the rest of the season bodes well.

Tunbridge Wells Mens I 0 Maidstone I 7 Kent Cup Quarter final:

Wells travelled to Maidstone, currently three leagues above them, with a severely depleted side after last minute problems afflicted the squad. Playing with only nine players, Wells set out to deny their opposition space around the circle while protecting possession at all costs. Wells started brightly, forcing the home side to defend deep. However, their ambition led to Maidstone taking the lead through a swift counter attack that was finished in the bottom corner past stand-in keeper Chris Wilson. The defensive quartet of Guy Pengelly, Sam Hart, Vin Holden and Paul Harman restricted Maidstone's chances to snap shots from 'top d' and a string of short corners as Wells ended up on the back foot. Two of these corners resulted in goals and another strike on the break saw Wells four down at half time despite some fine defending.

With Alex Rout, Adam Woodcock and Sam Clarke-Knowles providing safe midfield outlets, Wells started the second half with a long period of possession. Callum Wood offered an outlet up high, forcing Maidstone onto the back foot and at times to lose their shape due to the on the ball strength of the

Wells mids. However, numbers were always against Wells and a further three goals went in despite some fine tackling and reaction saves from the Wells defence and keeper. The TW players can take great pride from their performance as they continue their league programme with a crucial match away at Mid Sussex this weekend.

Tunbridge Wells Mens III 3 Ashford VI 3

Wells started the match on the defensive with Ashford retaining possession of the ball and putting better passes together. The home side woke up and improved their play but Ashford maintained their command of the match to lead 2-1(Temple) at half time. On resumption of the second half, Wells were more determined and took control of the match. Goals from Paul Temple and Adam Woodcock put Wells in front. Ashford equalised with 10 mins to go.

Other Mens results: 2s won 2-1, 4s lost 3-1, Vets 2s drew 2-2, Grasshoppers won 7-2

TunbridgeWells Ladies I 0 Sevenoaks II 4

Tunbridge Wells entertained league champions Sevenoaks and immediately forced the visiting keeper into a smart far post save. While possession was evenly shared, mistakes in crucial areas allowed Sevenoaks, somewhat fortuitously, to build a three goal lead by half time. Wells, while entering the opposition circle a number of times were struggling to find a rhythm to their game and set out to change this in the second half.

A far better half of hockey saw Wells upping the pace of the game and forcing Sevenoaks onto the back foot. Again, Wells created numerous shooting opportunities but were lacking a cutting edge. Another day and the scoreline would have been closer, but the spirit that Wells showed to pick themselves up from a slow start to the game bodes well for the future.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies V 5 Faversham 1

Wells were able to take a strong team to Faversham and it was soon evident that they were the better team. However during the first half only one goal was scored, when Elisabeth Floyd pushed home the ball. At half-time the worry was that Faversham might take advantage of one of their sporadic breakaways.

However the start of the second half brought relief. Carolyn Pollard was able to finish one of her own mesmerizing runs and soon showed more of what she could do in scoring Wells third. Wells continued to attack, largely down the left with Lou Drew and Claire Bowler releasing Niamh Blackburn to assail the circle. From a short corner Denise Holme made the score four and a degree of relaxation allowed Faversham to score a consolation goal.

This spurred Wells to one last effort and Pollard was able to complete a well-deserved hat-trick.

Tunbridge Wells VI 5 Holcombe V 6

Despite two sides not playing, Wells contrived to arrive with only eight players, again. This is hugely frustrating for those who have made the effort. Stand-in captain, Emma Goff, held together the team, but by half-time the score was a 4-1 deficit. Luckily, at least for morale, three further players had raced

up from their previous match to make up numbers. This allowed Wells to become less “backs to the wall” and Alex Hadaway started to forage down the right wing, fed by new arrival, the indefatigable Sarah Martins. Holcombe only scored two more goals, very largely to the interventions of Martine Atkinson. Wells were able to score four more, one to Rebecca Law who had scored in the first half also anda hat-trick to Martins, cracking home two shots from the edge of the circle and a short corner. Wells poured forward in the last few minutes but were just unable to secure the draw. Wells can take heart in that it appears that 3 of the oppo goals were scored by their second team top scorer! Kent Premier.

Other Women’s results 2s lost 4-0

Tunbridge Wells U14 Girls B 2 Sevenoaks B 0

With a lot of trepidation Wells started their game with local rivals Sevenoaks. Having only 10 players, none of whom happened to be a goalie was just one problem. The oppo looked a lot taller, too. A game of chance selected two to play a half in goal.

However, they need not have worried. Almost the entire game was played in the Wells’ attacking half, most in the final quarter. Wells should have scored more, but were rather profligate. A ration of one goal per half sufficed and neither Wells goalie touched the ball.