

### Tunbridge Wells Mens I 3 BBHC II 0

Having secured 2nd place in the league and a play off match for promotion, Tunbridge Wells went to BBHC for their last league game of the season, which presented a great opportunity to practice for the play off game.

Wells started very confidently, and passed the ball round with ease, keeping a lot of possession and creating good chances, but BBHC soaked up the pressure, and Wells went into half time 0-0.

In the 2nd half wells adopted a change in formation, and started to really squeeze the opposition, with more and more chances starting to appear, until Chris Barbers speedy shot deceived the goalkeeper and 3 defenders and flew over the line. After that it was pretty much all T wells with James Barber out sprinting BBHC's quickest player and firing home from the top of the D, and Sam Clarke Knowles showing international skill and poise for a great individual goal. BBHC didnt give up and in the last 5 minutes bombarded wells with 12 short corners one after the other, with Rimmer pulling of national league saves, as usual to keep a clean sheet. The game finished a comfortable 3-0 to T Wells, who now play in the play off game on Saturday 9th @ East Grinstead with a 13.30 pushback, so please come and support!

### Tunbridge Wells Monarchs 4 Folkestone V 2

TW Monarchs were crowned king of Kent Open Division 2 after beating Folkestone 5th XI 4-2. As per their game against the same opponents a few weeks ago, Folkestone were keen to press forward leaving their defence unprotected. This enabled Jenner's long hits out of defence to find the TW forwards at will, and from one such opportunity Fiskin timed his pass well and skipper Nyren opened the scoring.

Folkestone's press sometimes worked and from one success the ball found a free man who put the ball past Hale to score.

Before half time a TW short corner put Bailey in space and he finished decisively into the back of the goal.

The second half saw TW move more experience into midfield, and gradually the game was controlled through Grogan, Taylor and Malik. The flanks were free and Heritage, Spence, Holme and Murdoch made good use of the space to put the wings away, with Elley particularly effective.

Mid way through the half Fiskin stuck twice, a miraculous reverse stick scoop and a near post shot both went in to put TW 4-1 up and safe.

Folkestone managed a goal from a short corner but it was too little too late as the Monarchs reined supreme. Special mention should be made of Jack Mauduit and Orville Fyson who ducked out of the final game and weren't missed.

### Southgate 1 Grasshoppers 1

Once again we were forced, by circumstances, to travel from our spiritual home, having been let down by the pre- arranged opposition, who shall remain nameless but were \*\*\*\*\* .

This was a momentous day for our team, as we had never travelled so far for a match. And also for the occasion of the first 70 year old to play for us, or, for that matter, any TW team. Congratulations to David Robinson on reaching this millstone. " Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you etc." " For he's a jolly good Grasshopper etc.."

Anyway, we travelled to Southgate, which is situated near Cockfosters ( cue for ribald jokes about chickens) and met a very charming bunch, who happened to be our opposition.

The game got off to a cracking start with the ball moving from end to end, and our team having the majority of the possession , this finally paid dividends when we scored.

We suffered two injuries. One to the right back when he received the ball on his foot, and in the second half when our left half pulled a thigh muscle. As these were one and the same players , who was/were injured, we were not greatly inconvenienced as we had a sub..

We kept pressing but could not convert the chances, their keeper playing very well. Then a break away, they scored, the game ended 1-1, which seemed fair as we would not have liked to beat such charming hosts.

### The Food

Yikes, quelle horeur!!

We started with warm foie gras, with a choice of a fine sauterne, or a Canadian Ice wine.

The fillet of beef in a duck and mascarpone sauce was delectable and cooked to perfection. With a rather nice Mersault.

And that was only the middle course( we had been expecting fish, but this was the north country). And so a huge deer came galloping in, shot down and butchered in front of our eyes. The last time I saw anything like this was at Lancaster's house.

I know, you will say, that venison must be hung for a few weeks after death, but those willey Cockfoster's folk had a solution.

They had " lightly " hung the beast for a couple of weeks previously, making him perfect. Served with some frotted peas, pommes oriental and a warm blood jus, it was fab..

### The Journey Home

Not only did we travel so far to a match, but it also took the longest time to get back from a match with my car breaking down on the motorway. The engine was misfiring and the manifold was red hot - we could have roasted a chicken on it if we had one - sadly by this time Cockfosters was 10 miles away!! Two tow trucks and one car mechanic later the lads who travelled with me, Robin, Rory and Richard, having had a Malay meal and a bottle of whisky en route, arrived back at the Nevill at about 2300 hrs. Robin, who had missed one of his own dinner parties, had always had a desire to ride in a recovery vehicle - the view was great, but being night time one could not see much. We were lulled to sleep by the chatter of African politics played out between Rory and the Zambian driver. I reached home at 2330 !!

That is what happens when one becomes '70' !! Dvid Robinson

## **HOCKEY: TUNBRIDGE WELLS U10 BOYS ARE CHAMPIONS OF SOUTHERN ENGLAND**

**On Sunday 3 April, Tunbridge Wells U10 boys were crowned champions of Southern England when they travelled to Surbiton to take on the best junior teams from the eight counties of Middlesex, Oxford, Bucks, Berks, Hants, Sussex, Surrey and of course Kent. This followed on from their winning the Kent championships two weeks ago and means that they have won a competition which included around 80 clubs throughout the South of England.**

**While they faced tough opposition, Tunbridge Wells boys showed their skills and silky teamwork throughout, and played good, constructive hockey to win five and draw one of the**

seven group games; this meant that they qualified for the semi-finals as winners of their group; and in the semis they beat Aylesbury 1-0 (scorer – Strong). In a tense final, with tiring legs, the boys gave their all to pip Guildford 1-0 (Priestley) and take the title for the first time. In nine matches, the boys scored 12 goals and conceded just one. All credit to this talented group of boys, who have now been training together as part of Tunbridge Wells youth policy for the last three years or so.

The squad on the day was: Oliver Bateman, Oliver Strong, Benjy Lord, Dexter Wisby, George Priestley, Julian O’Riordan, Daniel Taylor (GK), Alexander Britton and Henry Moore.