

### Tunbridge Wells Mens1 2 Burnt Ash 1 1

This was the top of the table clash in Kent Area Div1. From the outset it looked like Wells would run out easy winners. In defence Chris Pelmore and Toby Siggery were sweeping up the the ball, with the former using the arial to launch attacks. Soon after the start one of the counterattacks led to Ben Brandt bringing out a save from the Ash keeper. Dan Barnaby bravely followed up and pushed the ball into the goal as the goalie was about to scythe him down.

Before half-time the inevitable second was scored. Another surge by Pelmore, interplay down the right and the ball fell to the unmarked Mike Pelmore who made no mistake. Sensing that they were being outplayed, Ash became markedly more physical and half-time gave Wells the chance to patch themselves up.

In the second half Wells were unable to add to their score, whereas Ash broke their duck. This led to much nail-biting for the crowd and coach before the final whistle.

### Tunbridge Wells Monarchs 1 Cliftonville 0

TW Monarchs kept up their winning run in wet conditions at Ramsgate. In a well contested game a first half goal from Elley proved enough. Both sides made light of the conditions and play flowed from end to end. TW played more controlled hockey working well down the right flank where new boy Alex Hollingsworth stepped up well, and Sam Spence played his best game yet.

The left side functioned well defensively with new boy Henry Murdoch and John Taylor forming an impregnable barrier. Unsurprisingly Mallard Fyson had fewest problems with the pitch's puddles and came close to increasing the score on the stroke of half time. Nick Hale made an excellent penalty corner save in the second half and as ever cleared his lines whenever Cliftonville threatened. A determined performance from the Monarchs, in an excellent game, played in good spirits.

### Under 12 Girls' Triangular

The U12s event at East Grinstead was a triangular competition between EG, Worthing and Wells. Wells' first match versus EG proved to be the toughest challenge, EG had three strong players who immediately caused problems such that Wells conceded a goal in the first 5 minutes of the game. After this initial pressure the girls picked up the pace of the game and started to build a number of penetrative attacks that lead to a series of short corners and shots on goal none of which got past the keeper's pads.

The end of the first half saw us down one nil but on resumption of the second half Wells continued to press having a couple of short corners both of which lead to good saves by the keeper. In the meantime EG made a few breaks from defence that lead us to be quite stretched at the back but there was some strong individual defensive tackles made by our backs, Isobel Furminger and Sophie Gull which ensured that there were no meaningful shots on Wells' goal. Towards the end of the second half our midfield, Lizzie Holder and Lucy Fyson, made some good penetrative passes to the forwards one of which lead to a clear break by Anna Smith which she converted unfortunately it was disallowed as the ball touched her foot in a tackle.

With a few minutes to go, Wells had a break down the right which lead to Mhairi Fenton breaking into the circle and with a strong strike she finally knocked one past the keeper. The remaining

few minutes were spent with Wells camped in, or just outside the EG circle but unfortunately no further shots could be converted. So all in all from a weak start Wells finished somewhat disappointedly with a draw that could have been a win if the EG keeper had not played such a blinder.

Wells' second match against Worthing found the opposition a little ragged as one of their players had to be sent to hospital with a nasty gash on the head from their previous game with EG. Her replacement was one of the Worthing U12 boys. This game proved to be a much easier affair for Wells, the ball was rarely in the Wells half and numerous attacks from Wells were unconvincingly defended by Worthing. Midway through the first half the Worthing keeper had to go off as she was feeling faint - a consequence of wearing too many layers! Wells took advantage of this with Mhairi Fenton scoring two quick goals from attacks down the right with a third from agoal line scrap by Anna Smith. The second half continued the theme of relentless attacks from Wells that lead to a number of short corners and on target strikes which were parried by the Worthing Keeper who did remarkably well given that throughout the game she looked as though she was about to collapse. The game finished as a three nil victory to Wells.

Positives from the game were some strong interplay between the players when Wells were in possession, some good (if not a little infrequent) plays down the right and an encouraging number of shots on goal by a number of players - they could have been a little better struck but were mainly on target. Both opposition keepers were the best players in their respective teams who made numerous good saves, these tended to lead to short corners with hit ins from Lizzie Holder to Lucy Fyson who got shots on target from most of them albeit onto the keepers pads.

Both matches were longer, 30 minute games in which the girls stamina levels were somewhat exposed, when Wells attacks broke up the defence at times looked very exposed with players not chasing back as fast as they should have.

As ever learning points mixed with some very good passages of play, finally it was pleasing to see the level of enthusiasm and camaraderie within the Wells' team.

#### U12 Boys' Triangular

Won 5-0 v East Grinstead Won v 12-1 Worthing.

The lads did only one thing wrong which was a complete inability to convert anything from the numerous short corners they were awarded.

The skills were sublime, they talked to each other, the passing was swift and effective and the shooting effective. These were however for me not the highlights. Every single player in the team wanted the ball and when not in possession were incredibly determined to recover the ball which left the opposition with little space and time and resulted in the ball being won back very quickly. (The goal against was a complete freak of an own goal).

Kyle and Jamie in particular playing on our left flank were cutting out everything the opposition tried down their right flank, which meant lots of possession for Zack, Toby and Matthew to rip through their defence.

The real highlight personally was James playing at the back, he played with a quiet assurance and he distributed the ball down the flanks rather than relying on power.

