

## Tunbridge Wells Ladies 1 2 Holcombe 4

The Kent plate final saw Tunbridge Wells face Holcombe in an early morning push back in hot and humid conditions. Both sides found it hard to settle into a rhythm, a theme that was due as much to not having played a competitive match for five weeks as it was to the stifling conditions and long coach journey to Canterbury. While both sides had phases of possession in the opening encounters, the desire not to concede an early goal saw most of the attacking play breaking up around the top of each circle as both sides worked hard to stifle any space. Holcombe began with a high press that compressed the Wells defence and drew the Wells midfield deeper and deeper, meaning that too often possession was turned over in Wells' own half due to the lack of space. However, Wells have scored countless goals from fast counter-attacking play this season and once their defence were able to find their outlets several promising attacks arrived but were not capitalised on. After 20 minutes Holcombe's ambitious press was finally exposed as Wells broke quickly through Cairns and Hunt on the right, the latter calmly drawing Holcombe's covering defence away from the circle before squaring for Holly Turner to slot in 5 yards out from the left post.

While Holcombe had several penalty corners, Ali Playle in goal was equal to these. However, Holcombe continued to press hard and a goalmouth scramble saw the equaliser scored with less than a minute to half time.

Wells resolved to start the second half by negating Holcombe's high press. Hard work by Tyburski, Downes, Allington and Lucy Turner saw Wells create bring height to the midfield, this in turn leading to numerous sharp interchanges that only just failed to unlock the Holcombe defence at the key moment. Holcombe struggled with the pace and control with which Wells were working their patterns and conceded several penalty corners which Wells failed to test the keeper from. As the half progressed Wells were confidently moving the ball around the pitch and eventually they scored a carbon copy of the first goal having broken up a Holcombe attack, this time Downes releasing Hunt to set up Brolley man of the match Holly Turner at the far post.

Unfortunately Wells went to sleep for the next 30 seconds and Holcombe converted another goalmouth scramble when Wells should have been first to the ball. Wells' reacted positively to this setback and increased pressure created numerous several half chances for Minns and Rendall. Wells' positive play did however leave space behind their midfield and a Holcombe counter attack lead to a penalty corner from which Holcs made it 3-2. As Wells pushed forward looking for the equaliser, gaps continued to show at the back and the sucker punch came with another scrambled goal in the final minute after a misplaced pass from Wells.