

### Tunbridge Wells Vintage 3 Holcombe 4

Tonbridge School recently hosted the England Hockey National Senior Finals weekend. Teams from as far afield as Cumbria and Guernsey came to battle for the various cups, trophies and vases.

For the second year running Wells Over 50s reached the Plate final and for the second year contested it against a fellow Kent team, albeit on home soil. Wells had reached the final on the back of the speed and skills of Adrian Schweitzer, MacNamara and Nicholson and it was disappointing that only one of the Musketeers was available as a very different match might have ensued.

Initially, Wells were using the long ball up to John Mitchell and Robin Holliday, with Steve Grogan and Jerry Jago following up from mid-field. Schweizer opened the scoring, the ball looping in, only for Holcombe to hit back immediately, capitalising on a loose ball. The Wells defence of Andrew Jenner, John Burton, David Robertson and James Wattenbach marshalled the sporadic Holcombe attacks for the rest of the half.

After half-time Holcombe took the lead and Wells were up against it. Again, Schweitzer replied to bring the scores level. The Wells right began to find the secret to unlocking the defence. Peter Mills and Wattenbach combined again and again to create openings. From one of these Wells appeared to have moved ahead. From a free hit outside the circle, Schweitzer self-passed and shot home. As no one else appeared to be involved it is difficult to see how it was disallowed at this level. Premier League level it has been suggested. Not dismayed Schweitzer chased a ball into the right of the circle and cracked it away from an acute angle while falling backwards. With nine minutes to go Wells should have held on, but somehow contrived to let in two goals, despite several saves from Lawrie Digweed. This was probably due to tiredness as the same eleven players contested all 70 minutes, whereas Holcombe had a stream of subs.

Again Wells were rueing what might have been.

Tunbridge Wells 1st team keeper Ali Playle found success with Horsham, beating Carlisle in the Women's Over 35 Plate final

Other results: Women's Vase Alderley Edge 2 Guernsey 1, Women's Trophy Tulse Hill & Dulwich 1 Wimbledon 2, Men's Trophy TH & D 1 West Hampstead 5, Men's Vase Tameside 2 Burnt Ash 4, Men's O40s Cup Ipswich 2 Stourport 2 Ipswich won on penalties, Men's O50 Cup Indian Gymkhana 1 Richmond 0, Womens O35 Cup Exe 2 Ipswich 2 Ipswich won on penalties, Men's O40s Plate Worcester 1 Peterborough 2, Womens's O40 Woking 0 Wimbledon 1

## Girls Regional Hockey Finals

Tunbridge Wells went to these finals as unbeaten Kent U14 Champions

### Woking 0 Tunbridge Wells Girls U14 Girls 3

In the first match of the round robin Regional finals at Reading, TWells faced the unknown Woking team. However, it was clear early on that Wells were the dominant team and it would only be a matter of time before we scored. With 5 minutes on the clock, a well worked move down the right with Niamh Blackburn and Giggi Barker for Niamh to score at the far post. Wells continued to dominate the game and had several more chances and increased their lead just before half time with another good move down the right for the ball to be crossed hard and Emma Gull was there with the final touch.

After half time Woking came back into the game and had a couple of half chances. But any potential comeback was stopped when Hattie Montgomery fed the ball to Rose Down who fired the ball in from the edge of the D. Wells had several good chances to increase the lead but the final score was a well deserved 3-0 win

### Surbiton 3 U 14 Girls 0

In the second and final game of the Regionals Wells had to win to get into the final. We started strong and had a couple of good chances from Michelle Donnachie but a quick counter attack and a rash tackle in the D gave away a short corner from which Surbiton scored. For the rest of the first half the game was played in Surbiton's half , with Wells having several good chances and four short corners in quick succession, but this was not going to be their day.

After half time Surbiton came back strongly and dominated the first 10 minutes. Their second came from a shot well saved by Megan Grist but only to knock it in the path of a Surbiton forward.. Great defending by Sarah Martins, Alice Weare and Alice Kidd kept the score to 2-0 until the last few minutes when Surbiton squeezed the ball in. This was Wells first defeat of the season against a very strong team who went on to win the tournament