

## Tunbridge Wells Mens I 2 Mid Sussex 0

Tunbridge Wells stretch ahead.

The men's first team are now five points clear at the top of Kent and Sussex division 2. They travelled to Mid-Sussex and were faced with a resolute opposition that was up for the challenge.

The performance was a controlled one. The conditions were very cold and the ground was slippery under foot which meant that the Wells attack struggled to reach it's more dynamic levels. Mid-Sussex repelled the attacks of Barber and Clarke but Hemsley at centre half made sure that the pressure remained in Tunbridge Wells favour.

By half time the score line had ticked over... Brandt meandered into the circle, rounded the keeper and passed in to an empty goal. With 20 minutes to go it was Norman's turn. Pouncing on a broken down short corner, he opened the stick face like a seasoned golf pro and chipped the floored keeper. Not the most inspired performance but it was certainly a case of job done. Old Bordenians got beaten 4-0 by Burnt Ash and Tunbridge Wells go into the Christmas break with a 5 point lead and a very healthy goal difference. They unfortunately have had to say goodbye to David Christoff who leaves the club to live in Australia.

The message from Coach Turner was that their destiny is in their own hands!

### Kent/Sussex Regional 2

1	➔	Tunbridge Wells 1	11	10	0	1	51	15	36	30
2	➔	Old Bordenians 1	11	8	1	2	45	24	21	25
3	➔	Lewes 2	11	7	3	1	33	14	19	24
4	➔	Burnt Ash 1	11	6	3	2	39	17	22	21
5	➔	Canterbury Pilgrims	11	5	1	5	47	31	16	16
6	➔	Canterbury 3	11	4	3	4	31	31	0	15
7	➔	Crawley 1	11	5	0	6	34	36	-2	15
8	➔	Mid-Sussex 1	11	3	5	3	23	17	6	14
9	➔	Blackheath 1	11	2	2	7	24	38	-14	8
10	➔	Worthing 2	11	2	1	8	9	70	-61	7
11	➔	Holcombe 2a	11	1	3	7	18	46	-28	6
12	➔	HSBC 1	11	1	2	8	23	38	-15	5

## Tunbridge Wells Mens II 2 Anchorians 1 Kent Area Div 2

It was an early start on the cold winter morning and it was a change of venue for us, for the first time this season we were due to play at Tonbridge School on their 3g pitch, but due to adverse weather conditions we got switched to the rapidly defrosting water based pitch.

Despite Old Anchorians being lower in the table than us we knew it would be a tough game against a team who have got points over the top two teams in the league.

Pete Turner came and have us guidance over how to press this game and we applied it straight from the off, immediately gaining control of the game. Despite numerous opportunities and multiple missed

short corners three quarters of the way through the first half the scores were still level: changes were made. Darren Pulman, Aaron Leadbitter and Chris Wilson were brought on to try to break down the opposition. At half time there was still no change to the score.

The second half continued in much the same way with the opposition struggling to push us back into our own half. The forward line of Priestley, Graystone, Barber, Clarke and Murdoch continued to work hard creating opportunities and finally they got a break through from a short corner. The ball was pushed out to Phil Newington, Alex Williams collected and it came to nothing, rebounding back to Phil who collected the ball outside of the 'D' before firing it back in for Ali Clarke to deflect goal wards. 1-0.

Tunbridge Wells continued to work hard off the ball as the opposition started to push for a way back into this evenly contested game. The game was starting to have a bit of grit about it as determination from both teams started to kick in. Anchorians won a free hit outside the Tunbridge Wells 'D' It was dribbled across the top before being reversed towards goal, taking a deflection and beating the wrong footed Leo Garwood in goal who had kept the opposition at bay with some sure footed keeping.

Tunbridge Wells knew that they had to keep trying, working hard on and off the ball and with 9 minutes to go we won another short corner. Murdoch pushed the ball out to receive it straight back from Alex Williams for a free shot at goal. 2-1!

The game started to get a little feisty over the last few minutes with the opposition receiving a yellow card, but Tunbridge Wells held on for a deserved victory.

#### Kent Area Div 2

1	➔	Herne Bay 2	11	9	2	0	37	15	22	29
2	➔	Old Bordenians 2	10	8	2	0	29	11	18	26
3	➔	Old Williamsons 2	11	8	0	3	34	18	16	24
4	➔	Tunbridge Wells 2	11	7	2	2	35	13	22	23
5	➔	Gore Court 3	11	5	1	5	23	25	-2	16
6	➔	Ashford 3	11	5	0	6	24	28	-4	15
7	➔	Blackheath 2	11	4	1	6	25	35	-10	13
8	➔	Burnt Ash 2	10	3	2	5	23	25	-2	11
9	➔	Gillingham Anchorians 1	11	3	1	7	22	25	-3	10
10	➔	Sevenoaks 4	11	3	1	7	18	34	-16	10
11	➔	Canterbury Millers	11	3	0	8	27	40	-13	9
12		Gravesham 1	11	1	0	10	16	44	-28	3

#### CANTERBURY 0 GRASSHOPPERS 1

Another glorious day for a drive down to see our friends in Canterbury, reminded some of the team of their trips with Chaucer:

" A cheery hopper there he rode,

His paunch was large and his cheeks glowed,

To Canterbury he made his way,

The game of hockey there to play."

The winter fields were frosted, resting , so that once again, next year , they can bestow on us their bounty. Ah nature, what a wonder!

We were a happy bunch as we wended our way through pretty Kentish villages, waving to the yokels and dispensing largess.

And to the game, but a change from usual. We only had 10 men to their 11. They got off to the fast start, a couple of shots whistling past Jamie Crawford, our goalie, but, thankfully, also the post. Maybe we should call him Jammie?

Then disaster. John Burton, our erstwhile leader, received a pass, turned to play the ball and collapsed with a twisted knee. So a positional change, John moved to the right wing. So we were 9 against 11, the odds we relish.

But we gradually built up the pressure, the midfield of Richard Landolt, Neil Ghosley, Alec Pelmore and Greig Bannerman spraying passes to Rory Poulton and Nick Ivory who created several chances. They continued to attack but our defence of Dave Holloway and Julian Hastings, supported by the midfield , held out without many alarms.

Injured John went off at half time and Canterbury very kindly lent us Chris, so it became 10 v 10.

We went on to control the whole game, a beautiful pass from Richard Landolt to Chris, who crossed from the right, the shot saved by their goalie, the ball put back in , again by Chris, and smashed into the roof of the net by Rory Poulton.

We continued to create chances, they had few.

Our first win of the season. Why? Because we played as a team, passed the ball, to our players rather than theirs, supported each other, tackled back.

And we saw a sign post to Sandwich.

#### Tunbridge Wells Ladies I 2 Folkestone 0

Facing top four opponents for the third week running, Wells approached this game prepared and knowing that a win would secure first place going into the Christmas break. Folkestone were one of two sides to beat Wells in the league since last Christmas and the hosts were determined to make up for their unlucky defeat earlier in the season. The pace of the game was fast and structured from the outset as both sides looked to strike an early blow. Folkestone caused some uncertainty in the Wells defence with some pacy and direct running, Ali Playle making several good saves in the opening ten minutes. Wells found themselves playing Folkestone's counter attacking game and while this made for crisp end to end hockey, all too often the support was not available for Wells to capitalise on some excellent forward moves.

Just as Wells were taking control of the game Folkestone struck - break up the right was blocked by the Wells defence, but a moment of inattention left a Folkestone player free at the top of the circle, her sweep finish into the bottom right leaving Playle wrong footed. Wells struck back immediately, two phases of recycled possession up the left hand side between Holly Baldwin and Oli Gerrett allowed space for Emma Allington and Jen Hunt to exploit on the right, the ball moving crisply round before Baldwin appeared on the goal line to equalise. From there Wells took a firm grip on the game, moving 2-1 up shortly afterwards as Bex Ross followed up on her own penalty corner strike to lift beyond the keeper. Holly Turner deflected narrowly wide from another penalty corner and Hunt hit the post as Wells kept creating chances that just failed to go in.

Facing a full press, Folkestone began the second half struggling to get the ball into the attacking third and when they did they encountered the defensive quartet of Roberta Organ, Lisa Fiddimore, Boo Tooze and Ele Cairns in combative form. With Folkestone lacking the time and space to use their pacy midfielders Wells were able to break down play and regain their own shape quickly. Several counters of their own lead to gilt edged chances, the first seeing Amanda Tyburski eliminate four players before rounding the keeper only for a back-tracking defender to get a slight touch to deflect the ball away from Holly Turner at the far post. Turner was again involved as she set Ross free down the left, the final ball into the circle catching a defenders foot just when it seemed Hunt was about to secure the win.

As it was, the last ten minutes saw Wells' nerves begin to show and the game was played out in the Wells defensive third. However, the meanest defence in the East Leagues refused to drop back into their circle and Folkestone found it impossible to find the space to create and equalising chance, Wells running out winners and buying some breathing space over the chasing pack.

**East**

**DIVISION 2SE**

Tunbridge Wells 1	13	11	1	1	36	7	29	34
Canterbury 3	13	10	2	1	47	15	32	32
Thurrock 1	13	10	0	3	43	15	28	30
Folkestone 1	13	9	0	4	38	25	13	27
Blackheath 1	13	8	1	4	29	19	10	25
Holcombe 2	13	7	1	5	26	27	-1	22
BBHC 1	12	4	3	5	35	27	8	15
Brentwood 1	13	3	3	7	11	26	-15	12
Gore Court 1	13	3	0	10	20	33	-13	9
Basildon 1	13	2	2	9	14	38	-24	8
Sevenoaks 4	12	2	1	9	9	31	-22	7
Gillingham Anchorians 1	13	0	2	11	2	47	-45	2

Tunbridge Wells Ladies V 0 Kings Alleyns II 9

Wells found themselves with a full team as just as well really. Kings are on the up, jam packed with students and athletic twenty year olds. Since the opening league game they obviously have been working on slick teamwork and could cope in a much higher league. From the start they poured forward. It was all hands on deck for the defence and they performed stunningly well and with bravery. Special mention should be made of Juliet Harrison at right back and goalie Chloe Lambert. Tessa Harrison provided a link to the forward line with her dispersal, but midway through the first half was stricken with a leg injury leading to a reorganization.

Kings scored steadily throughout the game, but were prevented from reaching double figures by spirited Wells play who were further hampered when Jess Begg came off with a finger injury. The juniors did well to ignore the crowd's banter.