



Tunbridge Wells Mens I 2 Old Bordenians 2

Tunbridge wells played a potential league decider on Saturday in the top of the table clash away at Old Bordenians. A win for Bordenians would have put them to within 2 points of leaders Tunbridge Wells. A Tunbridge Wells victory would have made the gap 8points.

It was Bordenians that seized the early moments. The Tunbridge Wells midfield struggled to get any sort of rhythm and eventually the Bordenians pressure turned into a penalty stroke after Harfoot bravely stopped the ball with his body before it crossed over the line. The stroke was converted and Wells were behind.

After a blasting from coach Turner Tunbridge Wells found some form in the shape of Jamie Shaw. Shaw's form in training had been promising this sort of performance. After a spell of threatening carries and penetrating passes he broke into the D and crunched a superb back hand shot past the keepers near side. The back board thudded loudly as the scores equalised and Wells were back in it.

The momentum stayed with Wells. Early in the second half Ed Norman broke through the Bordenians defence and slammed a reverse stick shot at the goal... A packed and confused D helped the path of the ball and Turner made sure the ball crossed the goal line. 2-1 up Wells were in Control. The umpires worked hard to keep the game under control as the tensions grew. 12 minutes before the end a quick free hit was taken by Bordenians and a penalty Corner was conceded. Bodinians converted and the score was levelled. The remainder of the game was a midfield stalemate. Wells realised that a draw was a much better result for them than it was for Bordenians and kept things tight at the back. Full time was blown and the 5 point gap remains. Three massive weeks ahead

Tunbridge Well Mens II 0 Old Bordenians II 1

Tunbridge Wells set out for this game knowing that a win would take us equal to Old Bordenians on points but above on goal difference. This would have put us into 2nd place and in a promotion spot, a lose on the other hand would make the challenge for promotion a lot harder.

Tunbridge Wells controlled the game from the off, unfortunately the final cutting pass in to the 'D' just was off. The opposition rarely threatened the Tunbridge Wells goal apart from the odd break away chance. Unfortunately for Tunbridge Wells they managed to upgrade and win short corners from most of these breaks. Tunbridge Wells kept pushing until giving the ball away outside their own 25, the opposition swiftly took advantage and the lead against the run of play. Tunbridge Wells continued to press forward, with the excellent Phil Newington and Alex Summersgill keeping things tight at the back. Paul Harman had a solid first game back after a knee ligament injury at right back, slipping through some penetrating balls down the right flank.

Half time came with the umpire blowing the whistle with Tunbridge Wells about to shoot at goal. The opposition were lucky to hold on, and getting away with some dubious tackling at the back. The second half continued in the same vein as the first with Tunbridge Wells on top. Old Bordenians got nowhere near the home team's goal. Tunbridge Wells thought they had scored a short corner after Alex Williams dragged the ball towards the top corner but their player swatted the ball away off the line.

Tunbridge Wells took more risks and continued to push forward with Kash the new South African player coming close but deflected the ball just wide. The tireless captain Will Graystone continued to work hard on and off the ball. The game finished 1-0 to Old Bordenians, and left Tunbridge Wells 6 points adrift of second place and huge task ahead to gain promotion. 7 games left and it is all still doable.

Other results : Men III 0 Sutton Valence 1, Men IV 3 BromBecks 0, Vets 5 Ashford 2, Grasshoppers 1, Masonian 0

MASONIANS 0 GRASSHOPPERS 1

Another away game and more travel to those northern lands, where rumour says there are dragons, trolls and witches.

What a pleasant surprise, they were located at a fabulous sportsplex adjacent to the All England Tennis Club, in Wimbledon. A great setting and great facilities. but the question on all of our lips:

What would the tea be like?

We had 12 players and, they, only 8. And so in a magnanimous and tactical ploy our captain, Jamie Crawford, gave them, arguably(well the rest of the team would), our two best players Roger Fitzwater, recently returned from a tour of Australia, and Greig Bannerman. So the game started at 10 -10.

It is hard for me to give an unbiased report as I was one of the two, so playing for Masonians. When I write ' we ' who do I mean? I will attempt to write this as if I was playing for the "hoppers".

Masonians got off to a very good start, lots of pressure up the wings and down the middle. A few chances but all missed. They had two younger and more skillful players in the middle. We(hoppers) had a few break aways but the defence dealt with them. Then Peter Mills hurt his leg and had to go off. He was replaced by Fitzwater who had been playing for Masonians. no score at half time.

Crawford pulled off a blinding save, at the start of the second half, diving full length to his left and turning the ball round the post with his glove.

Then a pass from Dave Robinson, yes he recovered from his cold, to Mark Barker who went past their goalie and slotted the ball home.

More pressure from the opposition but they did not create any chances or trouble our goalie.

So a great victory, our first in the Surrey Grass Conference.

The showering facilities were super and, I know, that you are waiting to hear about the tea. Sausage and chips, as much as you wanted, tea and beer.

Then a drive home, with a local guide who pointed out the sights to us.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies I 1 Blackheath I 0

After a disappointing result the week before, Tunbridge Wells Ladies 1st XI dug out their Astros, pulled up their socks and travelled to Blackheath determined to walk away victorious.

In the cold and windy conditions in the middle of some London suburb, it took Wells the first 10 or so minutes to settle into their rhythm and a few shaky moments at the start kicked Wells into action. Blackheath looked threatening and put immediate pressure on our defence, but some epic saves from Ali Playle and some rock-solid defending from the back 4 saw the Blackheath players' scrappy attack quickly fade.

Wells finally got into their stride and with some cracking breaks from the midfield; Wells were back to their old tricks. Brilliant passing around the back saw Wells attack down the lines and some good running from our forwards saw some good chances. However, the goals just weren't coming like they used to and Wells started to get a little frustrated when the whistle went for half time.

Wells composed themselves, reflected on what needed to be done and went out determined not to settle for second best. Wells needed to make a point that this was not their usual hockey and that last week's disaster was just a blip; and the point was most certainly made! Wells' passion, dynamism and sheer strength shone through and with some excellent play from Amanda Jacobs in the middle, Wells kept pushing forwards. Finally, a ball straight through from

defence into Bex Ross at the top of the D who chipped it into the path of a speedy Jen Hunt saw wells convert. Wells had breathing space at last. We stormed through the second half with some fantastic play and perfect control and there were glimpses of the pre-Christmas side that had previously dominated the league.

As play continued, Blackheath got more and more frustrated and Wells managed to hold the ball and kept their patience. Apart from a dodgy Blackheath shortcorner at the very end, no one was going to get in the way of Wells' hunger for the win they so thoroughly deserved. Despite only 1 goal being scored, Wells should be proud of themselves. Encouragement, support and a little bit of individual responsibility from each player is the key to Wells' success in the next part of the season. The hard work done in training will eventually pay off and Wells will get the results they need to be back on top. Finally, after a rocky start, Tunbridge Wells 1st XI are back!!

MOM: Amanda Jacobs

Tunbridge Wells Ladies III 2 Holcombe III 1

Wells needed a win to ward off the threat of relegation and soon had the ball in the net only to be overruled as too high. They worked hard, but by half-time there was still no score.

Finally the stalemate was broken. Wells made a sustained attack in the circle and the goalie was forced into several saves. The ball spun out to Amanda Wren hovering on the right and she drove it home from a narrow angle.

Holcombe redoubled their efforts and Wells let in a disappointing goal. Faced with the loss of points, Wells continued to attack. A beautifully hit long ball was neatly deflected in by Nat Arkle, naturally accompanied by Holcombe complaints. The umpire was decisive and Wells gained the win.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies IV 1 Gravesend 1

This was a great friendly game played by two arch rivals both vying for 3rd place in the division.

The pace was quick and the hockey was played hard. Tun Wells let in an easy goal just before half time in a moment of madness.

After half time, Tun Wells were determined to assert themselves and Michelle Donnachie scored after a cross from Sarai Howkins. Both Michelle and Jess Begg played a great duo hassling the goalie and either one could have scored.

Tun Wells kept on pushing and finally after a number of close misses they scored just before the end again with Michelle Donnachie being in the right place on the goal post. Unfortunately the goal was disallowed much to the great disappointment of the team. Exhausted they failed to right the score.

The second half was a much better game for Tun Wells with everyone playing out of their socks. Jess Begg well deserves her man of the match

Other results: Ladies I 1 Blackheath I 0, LII 1 Gravesend 2, LV W.O. Won 4-0