

BLACKHEATH 2 GRASSHOPPERS 2

Not the usual drive through the sun dappled lanes of Kent and Sussex, but an urban trek to the "burbs" to take on Blackheath at their ground in Catford. So lock the doors, keep alert and don't talk to strangers.

The pitch was not in a good state, long grass, bumpy, and sloping in several directions at the same time. The opposition did assure us that it had been really good, some 25 years ago. Maybe our Groundsman, Dave Tankard, could give them some tips.

Anyway the pitch was the same for all of us. We got off to our usual start with all the pressure being exerted on their defence. But then a mistake in our defence, Greig Bannerman clearing the ball to one of their forwards who scored through our goalkeepers legs.

Then more pressure from us, several passes from Tim Revell and Julian Hastings to David Robinson on our right wing, who had the beating of their left back (who was at least 20 years younger) resulting in several crosses into their D, none converted. The David Holloway latched onto the ball and crashed it into the back of their net, 1-1.

Then a sloppy pass, by us, in midfield led to run and cracking shot by the opposition, 2-1. But we soon equalised, a shot on their goal from Revell, going past the post until the mercurial Robinson stuck out his stick and deftly flicked the ball over their goalkeepers head. In a post match interview Robinson stated that it was "the best goal I have ever scored". So 2-2 at half time. There were no orange segments!

We had the upper hand in the second half, they did not trouble Jamie Crawford, our goalie. We had several chances, but none were taken and the result was 2-2.

A very good tea, a sort of pasta bake, but no tea to drink. Just beer. And then back to the safety of Kent.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies IV 1 Folkestone III 3

The first game after the Christmas break was always going to be tough and not least because it was against No2 in the division. This hard fought friendly game was neck and neck well into the second half when Folkestone finally broke through and scored their first goal. TW answered back with a lone run by sweeper, Sam Barker, all the way up to the opposition's circle where she managed to get the ball to Clare Bowler who then struck the ball hard and equalised the score.

The game carried on, until the last ten minutes, with neither side giving way. Then CB, Jennie Bowler, went down injured and in the ensuing minutes Folkestone took advantage and scored two quick goals. TW fought on but didn't have the legs to equalise. The 4ths played a very hard game and should be proud of their play. The score does not reflect how close the game was until the last ten minutes. Clare Bowler rightly deserves the man of the match award.

Tunbridge Wells Ladies V 1 Dartford III 2

Ultimately, a very disappointing result, there were some positive aspects to the game. Wells had the bulk of the play but by half-time had failed to score, by dint of poor finishing and good keeping.

Apart from the keeper, Dartford fielded one very talented player. It should have been possible to circumvent her at all times, but Wells felt like walking on the wild side. Wells finally scored by an odd method. Izzy Harrison's mis-hit short corner injection span out to Olivia Lay who took a shot. The ball popped up and Harrison fired home.

Shortly afterwards it seemed she had scored again, but it was deemed outside the circle. She was in the thick of it again when she set up a chance that was missed from less than a foot.

Inevitably, Dartford equalized. With minutes to go they scored their winner. The ball moved down the pitch followed by the Dartford centre forward. Juliet Harrison intercepted, then was blatantly barged off the ball. Stunned by the lack of a whistle, the defence were once again breached