

THIRTY GOALS FROM 15 GAMES

19/1/73

MORLANDS have passed the half-way mark of the present season, and as far as the men's 2nd XI hockey team is concerned it has been a moderately successful period. Fifteen games have been played, resulting in seven wins, six losses and two draws.

The team has scored thirty goals, with seventeen against. An average of two goals to one per match cannot be seen as very satisfactory but the fact is that in all but two of the games, Morlands has had more than its fair share of the play without capitalising it with more goals.

During the early part of the season the club had barely enough players to put out two elevens. There seemed an unprecedented number of weddings in September and October. Also in this period all hockey players were faced with two problems, a change to the offside rule and a long spell of hot dry weather and although Morlands pitches were superb, others were virtually unplayable. The latter part of the period has presented the club with a new problem, namely a surfeit of players. Both situations described have had and continue to give the selectors headaches.

The effect of these problems has undoubtedly contributed to the overall team performances where there has been limited opportunity to build up team spirit and cohesion between the players.

More particularly in the match situation, the forwards, when faced with goal scoring chances, are either too hasty or too slow and the chance, which has frequently been so well developed in midfield, is lost. The defence which has often dominated the open play has failed lamentably in the set piece situation. Their failure to get the ball to the forwards cleanly from the free hits has merely resulted in further pressure. They too, are alternately hasty or hesitant in their dealings with the opponents forwards.

The team has only twice met opponents significantly better and on both occasions Morlands lost heavily, but for the rest Morlands have at very least been equal to the opposition. The team's whole tempo, sustained effort and resolve to win well must be lifted. It is hoped to achieve this by selecting a more stabilised team based on merit and ability for the remainder of the season.

A number of players are showing marked improvement in their play and particular mention should be made of Parsons, Crees and more recently Pike. There is still room for improvement in the execution of the basic skills, the arts and the rules of the game by all members of the team.

Firebrands are still undefeated

13/1/73

Morlands 2nd XI	.....	1
Firebrands	.....	1

Rumour had it that Firebrands were undefeated up to meeting Morlands, and they returned to Bristol undefeated, holding Morlands to a one all draw.

Morlands had it well within their grasp to win this match by a handsome margin. It was the same old story, dominance in open play, excellent build up in mid field, but lost chances either through hesitancy or hastiness in front of goal.

In fairness to the forwards they were up against one of the best and most experienced goalkeepers in the area, and, in the first half particularly, the defence failed to get the ball to the forwards in a way that they could use it.

Firebrands scored first from one of a string of penalty corners. The Morlands goal, early in the second half, was superb, a flashing angled shot from the right by Malone.

Seconds lost their rhythm

Morlands 2nd XI	.....	1
Sherborne	.....	4

Morlands faced Sherborne at Glastonbury with five team changes and two positional changes from the previous week.

They found it difficult, as they nearly always do, to adjust to the hustle and bustle style of their opponents. The net result was that after getting off to a blistering start with a goal from Crees within ten minutes Sherborne gradually pulled themselves together and equalised through an own goal.

This was the score at half time but Morlands lost their rhythm and conceded three more goals. A draw would, on balance, have been hard on Sherborne but there was not three goals difference between the teams.

24/2/73

All weather hockey

21/1/73

Downside	.....	1
Morlands	.....	5

With the Saturday game against Portishead rained off, Morlands were glad of this match, on Downside's all-weather pitch.

Morlands took ten minutes to settle down, in which time their opponents had several scoring chances but these were not taken. Morlands, after 20 minutes, opened the scoring when Chris Tinnion netted from a short corner. Soon afterwards Chris Tinnion scored again from a short corner. Just before half time Danny Wittleton increased this lead from a very narrow angled shot.

After the interval Downside began to pressurise the Morlands defence and scored through David Owen. However, during the remainder of the match, Morlands scored two more goals, the first from H. W. Smith which was a very good solo effort, and the last from Danny Wittleton.

Revenge for Morlands

10/3/73

Morlands 2nd XI	.....	4
Westlands	.....	1

Morlands were able to field a full strength side for the return hockey match at Glastonbury against Westlands.

Morlands inside trio played the ball close, repeatedly running into Westlands defensive wall, but halfway through the first half Chandra scored the first goal. This was followed by a superb goal from Crees playing at right wing for the first time. Just before half time Westlands pulled back a goal.

This was to be Westlands only goal. Indeed, this was to be their only chance to shoot a goal because Morlands took a strangle hold on the game. Cole made it three to Morlands and Chandra scored his second and Morlands fourth.

The result was sweet revenge for the early season defeat at Yeovil.

Playing hockey in glue pot

27/1/73

Morlands 2nd XI	.....	2
Bath Civil Service	.....	1

Morlands Hockey 2nds travelled to Bath for their match against the Civil Service. Overnight rain turned a pitch, always difficult, into something close to a glue pot.

Despite the conditions both teams played fast open hockey with Morlands gaining control from the start. After five minutes and following intense pressure by Morlands, Malone smashed in a superb goal from a penalty corner.

Shortly afterwards Bath equalised by making use of an error in defence due largely to the sticky pitch. But now Morlands really turned on the heat with excellent team work. The Bath goal during this period led a charmed life, with close misses, woodwork getting in the way, and there was a dogged Bath defence.

The scoreline remained at 1-1 until just before half time when Clements hammered the ball home from a brilliant pass by Chandra.

As the pitch deteriorated so both sides became bogged down. Both goals had narrow escapes and Morlands captain made a complete hash of a penalty flick.

There were definite signs that the team, almost unchanged for four matches, is knitting together and good results are certain to follow not only for the rest of the winter season but for the summer league also.

Hockey on a bumpy pitch

17/3/73

Exeter	.....	1
Morlands 2nd XI	.....	3

For this match Morlands went to Exeter with one team change from the previous week's victorious side. The team came away having won 3-1 and dominated the game, but not the pitch, from start to finish.

The pitch was one of the worst played on this season making ball control virtually impossible. Exeter scored first midway through the first half after several defenders had missed the popping, jumping ball.

Immediately on the restart Chandra equalised, Cook made it 2-1 after a further ten minutes and soon afterwards Carter scored the third goal.

2nd XI

W-Smith	7
Chandra	5
R. Carter	4
Crees	4
Whittleton	3
Cook	2
Harrison	2
Clement	1
A. Carter	1
Malone	1
Wood	1

GOALSCORERS
To 20/1/73