

MORLANDS VICTORY

Morlands Hockey Club made an encouraging start to the season when they defeated Gore Court, one of the better sides in the Truman's South Regional League, by 3-1. Scorers were Riste (2) and Crees. Wallace, recently selected for Dorset, had an excellent game in the Morlands goal.

Morlands get goal each half

Morlands	2
Yeovil	0

Morlands first hockey team made heavy weather of beating Yeovil at Glastonbury on Saturday, but finally won comfortably with a goal in each half.

Following overnight rain, both sides had difficulty in controlling the ball on a sticky pitch, but ten minutes before half time, Mantell produced a snaking run through the Yeovil defence and sent Smith clear to score his first goal for Morlands from a narrow angle on the left.

The second half saw powerful shots from both Riste and Wildblood saved by the Yeovil goalkeeper before Wildblood completed a characteristic dribble to the goal line and pulled back a centre for Crees to score powerfully with a reverse stick shot.

Morlands have started the new season well with three victories and one defeat in the first four games.

Morlands best win of season

Morlands	4
Llandaff City	0

An all-round team performance enabled Morlands Hockey Club to record their highest win of the season against Llandaff City, a Welsh Premier League side. The game started with Morlands scoring twice through Baker in the first 10 minutes. Llandaff stemmed the flow of goals by cutting out Morlands' attack on the 25 line.

Morlands opened the second half promisingly and scored through the lively P. Smith after good play by C. Mantell. Late in the game they scored again through R. Woodhead.

This was a fine performance and team effort by Morlands who recorded their sixth win of the season. Other results: Morlands II 0, Weymouth II 0; Morlands III 2, Landaff City II 1.

Four season bogey laid by Morlands

Taunton	0
Morlands	2

Morlands won this thrilling hockey encounter at Queens College all-weather pitch and laid a four season bogey in the process.

The game started in a torrential storm and would never have been completed except for the exceptionally porous surface of the pitch.

Morlands opened the scoring in the fifth minute with a penalty flick by P. Lukins after a shot from the same player had been kicked off the line by County back J. Bartlett.

The Morlands side completely dominated all the early play and went further ahead after 12 minutes with a shot from Clayton after good play by Hughes.

Taunton should have pulled one back three minutes later when G. Pitt missed an open goal after R. Jowett had drawn Wallace, the Morlands Keeper, out of position.

The second half started without the rain which seemed to encourage the Taunton side into more positive hockey. After the opening exchanges the game settled into the dour midfield play that is all too familiar in the Morlands v Taunton games.

Towards the end Morlands released their grip on the game and were thankful that Lukins and Wallace stopped four goalward shots from Jowett, Britt, Debenham and the former Morlands player Barker.

At the end of 70 minutes Morlands had finally overcome their local rivals since knocking them out of the Cup four seasons ago.

With the forming of the West League on this season's results, Morlands have started competently and should be placed in the first Division if they can continue with this form.

Solo run

Another unbeaten side are Long Ashton. They took the lead against Morlands after a fifty-yard solo run by John Royce, but had to settle for a 1-1 draw as Peter Smith equalised from a short corner.

Long Ashton took the lead against Morlands with a brilliant, solo goal by, inevitably, John Royce. But Peter Smith equalised from a short corner and a 1-1 draw was a fair result, though both sides missed chances.

Results: Bath 1 (P Keen), Cardiff 1 (Sparkes); Bath CS 0, Yeovil 0; Bream 5 (Leonard), Webb 0; Exeter Hornets 1; Henleaze 0; Taunton Vale 4; Kidderminster 0; Gloucester City 2; Long Ashton 1 (Montgomery), Imperial 1 (Riches); Minehead 1 (Adams); Frome 0; Morlands 6 (Baker); Wildblood 2, Riste, Creese); Portishead 3 (Hedges 2, Wright); Pirates 3 (Webb 2, Leonard); Bluebottles 0.

Wellenslans 1, Nortonians 1 (Dando); West Gloucestershire 1 (Webb); Whitchurch 0; West Hants 1; Weymouth 0; West-super-Mare 5 (Sherwood 2, McPherson); Old Bristolians 2 (Pearce p.f., Clewett); Yatton 1, Clevedon 1;

Morlands had boost they needed

This was an important weekend for Morlands Hockey Club. After the previous week's defeat, a confidence-boosting victory was required against Millfield on Saturday, in order to have the preparation for the second round of the Somerset K.O. Cup against Bath on Sunday.

In the first half against Millfield the play was inconclusive, and Morlands had a slender 1-0 lead at half-time through right winger Crees. A great improvement in the second half saw Morlands score three goals from attacking play (Wildblood (2) and Baker), and gain a 4-1 victory, which was just what the doctor ordered for Sunday.

Against Bath Morlands had the majority of the play in the first twenty minutes, and were rewarded with two fine goals inside a minute, from captain Riste (who, along with Smith, was playing against his former club), and Wildblood. Bath immediately pulled a goal back, but the score remained at 2-1 until midway through the second when Wildblood scored his second goal and Morlands' third.

Despite scoring a second, Bath never looked like drawing level, so that the game would have to go into extra time, and Morlands advanced into the last-eight with a thoroughly deserved 3-2 victory, from a good all round team performance.

Two hockey draws for Morlands

Morlands 1	Swansea 1
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Morlands Hockey Club entertained the strong and successful Swansea side on Saturday and despite creating the better chances and taking the lead through Lukins just before half time, they had to settle for a 1-1 draw. Swansea's equaliser came half way through the second half following good work on the right wing.

Wildblood was unlucky to have a goal disallowed shortly after the Swansea equaliser; he slammed the ball into the net but Rist had strayed into an offside position. This chance apart, Morlands' nearest scoring chance fell to Baker who, having beaten two defenders in a powerful run, just failed to beat the Swansea goalkeeper.

A draw was probably a fair result, allowing Swansea to keep their unbeaten record this season.

Morlands go down to old rivals

Firebrands 1st XI	5
Morlands 1st XI	1

Morlands hockey team travelled to Bristol on Saturday to play arch rivals Firebrands on the Downend all-weather pitch. During the first half a man to man marking system was used on the Firebrands centre forward, which threw the Morlands defence into disarray, with a 3-0 deficit by half time.

The second half saw Morlands revert to a conventional formation, and they came back into the game and matched the thinking and pace of their opponents. It resulted in Morlands reducing the deficit by one goal, a fine shot from Wildblood. However, the last ten minutes saw Firebrands score twice, with Armstrong completing a hat-trick. The other scorers were Breton and Ewert.

All weather pitch was too icy

Morlands Hockey Club were defeated 0-1 by Plymouth. A three hour coach journey to Plymouth ended as it had begun—in confusion.

On arrival at the all weather pitch at Brickfields, it was discovered that the pitch was unfit due to ice. An alternative grass pitch was found, which far from being frozen was muddy and very heavy. It was therefore a game for defences, and with both sides strong in this respect, one goal seemed likely to win the game.

The first half found Morlands soaking up constant pressure as Plymouth built their attacks with accurate passing in midfield. Morlands had a lucky escape just before half time when the opposing right wing shot wide of an open goal.

The visitors were unlucky not to be awarded a penalty stroke just after the restart when the Plymouth goalkeeper was seen to be sitting on the ball in a goalmouth melee. As Morlands gained the upper hand, Baker broke through the middle, rounded the keeper only to see his shot go over the bar.

It was against the run of play when 15 minutes from the end, Plymouth attacked down the left flank, and a superb passing movement was finished well by the Plymouth left wing, giving Wallace no chance in goal. Despite tireless performances from Hughes and Wright, who supported well in attack, Morlands were unable to grab the equaliser.