

## Hockey club dinner a success

Morlands Men's and Women's Hockey Club held their successful annual dinner at Stradlings Restaurant. Although it was only the second such occasion, the conviviality and entertaining speeches have ensured that the occasion becomes the highlight of the social calendar.

A culpable failure of communication between the social committee and the fixture secretary saw the Men's 1st XI travelling to Exeter next day to play Isca, last season's West champions, semi-finalists in the national knock-out cup, and one of the four or five strong clubs against whom good results must be gained in the next few years to firmly establish Morlands in the top echelons of West hockey.

Isca's victory by 5 goals to nil reflected their territorial advantage, but with their first three goals coming from penalty flicks, and their first goal in open play coming only five minutes from the end, Morland could well feel that the margin of victory flattered the home side.

Throughout a large part of the match the Morlands defence, which last season had been regarded as the weaker section of the team, held the skilful Isca forwards well enough to indicate that they are settling down into a strong cohesive unit. The penalties came because pressure was rarely relieved by effective counter-attacks.

The Morlands forwards were unable to bring Smith and Crees, their wingers, into the game and Baker at centre-forward lay far enough up for the Isca defence to cut off passes aimed for him.

Woodhead had a fine game at centre-half and in particular his powerful runs forward indicated that he could strengthen the forward line. Ratcliffe at full-back improves with every game.

During the last quarter of the game the defence seemed to lose concentration and allowed the home team to score the only good goals of the match.

The next two weeks give a chance to re-establish morale with two easier fixtures before some difficult tests after Christmas.

Despite the late inclusion of the Clubman of the Year the Rams went down 2-0 to Breaun at Weston. Apparently the well-drained pitch prevented him exploiting his deflection.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PC
Bristol	8	7	1	0	18	4	93.75
F'brands	9	7	2	0	34	5	88.89
Yeovil	8	5	2	1	10	3	75.00
Morlands	8	5	2	1	18	11	75.00
Breaun	11	7	2	2	22	5	72.73
W Wilts	9	5	3	1	27	8	72.22
W Glos	14	8	4	2	21	7	71.43
Bath CS	9	5	2	2	19	7	66.67
Long A.	13	7	3	3	26	12	65.38
Bsl Univ	6	3	0	3	13	6	50.00
Yatton	9	4	1	4	14	12	50.00
Weston	13	6	1	6	12	18	50.00
Taunton	14	6	1	7	22	17	46.43
Westby/B	9	4	0	5	10	13	44.44
P'head	10	2	5	3	15	19	45.00
Br YMCA	8	3	0	5	9	16	37.50
B'water	7	2	1	4	11	13	35.71
Imperial	11	3	1	7	10	11	31.82
Bath	10	3	0	7	10	30	30.00
Rob's	15	2	4	9	10	29	26.67
Norton	10	2	1	7	8	17	25.00
BAC	11	2	1	8	6	30	22.73
Bristol's	8	1	2	5	7	19	22.22
Henleaze	9	0	3	6	2	23	16.67

AS AT 26/2/77

## Morlands' close shave in the cup

A defensive error by Bath Civil Services' defence two minutes from the end of normal time allowed Morlands back into the Somerset Hockey Cup quarter final at Bath on Sunday, and gave them the chance to let justice take its course in extra time.

Despite a superb display from the Morlands defence and constant pressure from the forwards - the visitors won the corners 26 to two - it was Bath who took the lead in the first half. Against the run of play Bath continued to hold their lead until Cedric Wildblood scrambled in the equaliser in the dying minutes, and in the resulting extra time it was Wildblood again who was on hand to drive home a short corner to give Morlands a place in the semi final along with Firebrands and Breaun, and either Long Ashton or Old Bristolians.

This was a fine all round squad performance by Morlands with the 11 named on the team sheet and the substitutes all playing a full part.

The build up to the cup match had not augured well. Having missed last week's match through poor weather and with Tuesday's training session almost washed out by torrential rain, the team travelled on Saturday to Exeter to meet the University Athletic Union's champions and were comfortably beaten 3-1.

It was, however, a weakened side and obviously the team's thoughts were on the cup game. John Wright had an outstanding game against the University and Chris Tinnion scored Morland's consolation goal.

The Fleece's game was washed out on Saturday, but the Rams beat Westlands 1-0. Jim Bryson being the goal scorer.

The quarter finals of the Somerset Hockey K.O. competition will be played on Sunday. The draw is: Bath Civil Service v Morlands; Firebrands v Taunton Vale; Old Bristolians v Long Ashton; Yeovil v Breaun.

The quarter-finals of the Somerset KO Competition ran to form. Firebrands were 4-0 up at half-time against Taunton Vale and went on to win 5-0.

A short-corner goal by Cedric Wildblood in extra time gave Morlands a 2-1 win over Bath CS. Holders Breaun beat Yeovil 2-0, Richard Leonard making the first goal and scoring the second.

As from today, the experimental short corner rule is dropped in England and Wales. Players return to the standard rule which allows the ball to be hand- or stick-stopped inside the circle.

## Morlands' Wildblood on target

Morlands	.....	2
Weymouth	.....	1

Continuing their successful run of results, Morlands men's hockey team scored a comfortable win over Weymouth in their Saturday fixture played on the Sydenham all weather pitch at Bridgwater. A goal in each half from Cedric Wildblood, playing a very effective part in a confident looking forward line, was sufficient to put Weymouth down, but there should have been more goals for Morlands.

Starting with more urgency than usual, Morlands took the lead after a short corner when Wildblood picked up a loose ball on the edge of the circle and scored confidently. A series of short corners went unconverted and, against the run of play, Weymouth pushed forward, and when Dave Young was unceremoniously upended by Morlands goalkeeper Ian Wallace, Way made no mistake from the penalty spot to level the score at 1-1.

After the interval Morlands again went close to scoring - both from short corners and from crossfield passes, which first Wildblood, and then Colin Crees, just failed to steer home. In this period Morlands made good use of wings Crees and the fleet footed Peter Smith, and further goals could well have come their way. But they had to be content with just one, which Wildblood slammed home at a short corner midway through the second half.

The closeness of the scores was really brought home to Morlands five minutes from time when Weymouth were unlucky not to be awarded a short corner - a free hit being awarded just outside the circle. Perhaps it was the memory of this so close to full time which left Weymouth thinking they should have come away with a draw when in fact they were lucky not to have gone down by a greater margin.

Other result: Weymouth 0, Morlands Rams 1 (Davis).

## The Fleece's consolation

Morlands Fleece's	.....	1
Marlborough	.....	2

Two goals in the first half from a powerful Marlborough side gave the Fleece's too much of a deficit to make good on Saturday in the first game the 'home' side had played on its home ground since the early days of the season. Consolation came to the Fleece's with the best goal of the match scored when Malcolm Wood's free hit taken quickly to Barry Hooks was pushed forward for Simon Wood to lay it off for Andrew Liggatt.

Other result Marlborough 3rd XI 1, Rams 0.

## Below par performance by Morlands

Saturday's listed fixture against Cardiff Punjabis having been cancelled due to difficulties at the Cardiff end, Morlands men's hockey team played a replacement game against Old Nortonians on the Sydenham all weather pitch at Bridgwater.

Perhaps Morlands felt that as their second XI were due to play this Nortonians XI shortly, they did not need to exert themselves; perhaps the team felt disappointed at the cancellation of the Cardiff game - but whatever the excuse might be this was a distinctly off key performance.

The defence had moments when it looked very shaky and will have to stay a lot tighter in the forthcoming semi-final of the Somerset cup, while the attack, despite a good deal of possession, failed to score any goals from open play.

It took two goals from short corners - both scored by Cedric Wildblood and bringing his tally to four in the last two games - to secure a victory which should have been a lot more emphatic.

## Morlands share the honours

Morlands Men's Hockey Club travelled to Cardiff on Saturday and earned themselves a creditable draw against Whitchurch, the Welsh cup finalists. Injuries meant that Colin Crees and Barry Hooks were back in the side as last minute replacements, and both acquitted themselves very well, showing the depth of strength of the first team squad.

It was Hooks who was in the right place at the right time to clear a goal-bound shot from the line during a period of early pressure from Whitchurch, but the defence as a whole played well together to keep any danger at bay.

Then in a sustained effort before the half time whistle, Morlands pushed Whitchurch back, and after good work by Cedric Wildblood on the right wing, Chris Mantall helped himself to his third goal in two weeks.

Morlands should have extended their lead early in the second half but failed to convert a penalty for an infringement just in front of the Whitchurch goal. The Whitchurch equaliser came some 15 minutes from time after Morlands seemed to have relaxed a little.

The Rams travelled to South Wales with the 1st XI, and they too came away with a 1-1 draw after something of a dour struggle. Both goals were scrappy - the Ram's one coming from Ian Clement at a short corner.