

Hockey player is sent off...

TAUNTON Vale gained a goalless draw against Morlands, the Somerset Hockey Cup holders, on the all-weather pitch at Moorfields last Saturday.

The match was marred by an incident in the last ten minutes when one of the Morlands' players was sent off.

The game was fairly evenly balanced in the first half, both teams constructing scoring chances but unable to convert them, primarily due to fine saves from both Taunton and Moorland keepers.

In the second half Vale began to dominate in mid-field through a sound half-back line.

In the 2nd XI encounter, Vale managed to achieve a one goal advantage at half time through Greenshields. In the second half Vale began to fade, losing possession in midfield and Morlands equalised. Vale came back however, but were unable to convert a penalty flick after a spirited attack.

Other results: 3rd XI v. Morlands w. 2-1 (Russell, Reed), 4th XI v. Westlands w. 2-0 (Madge, Parkin).

Morlands fight for top spot

Debenhams West Hockey League (Central Area) positions:—

DIV. I									
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.	S.	
Firebrands	6	6	0	0	35	5	18		
Morlands	6	4	1	1	13	7	11		
Long Ashton	6	4	1	0	13	6	12		
Brean	5	4	0	1	3	8	11	7	
Taunton Vale	6	2	1	3	5	11	7		
Weston-s.-Mare	5	1	0	4	5	8		5	5
Bath	5	1	0	4	5	11			
Yeovil	5	1	0	4	3	25			
Old Bristolians	1	1	0	4	3	25			
Bath Buccaneers	1	0	5	3	24	5			

DIV. II									
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.	S.	
West Wilts	6	4	2	0	16	8	14		
Frome	5	4	0	1	19	7	12		
Clevedon	5	4	0	1	9	5	12		
Bath Univ.	5	4	0	2	12	9	12		
Minehead	5	3	3	2	14	7	11		
Old Nortonians	5	3	3	1	8	5	10		
Robinsons	5	3	3	0	9	9	9		
West Dorset	6	3	3	0	15	15	9		
Yatton	5	2	3	1	10	7	8		
Sampford Pev.	5	2	0	3	12	18	6		
Bridgewater	5	1	2	3	7	7			
Portishead	5	1	2	3	11	20			
Chard	5	1	0	4	8	14			
Taunton C.S.	5	0	2	3	4	14			
Blandford	6	0	1	5	4	19			

First they've conceded

Doug Stewart, of the Yeovil and Sherborne club, became the first player to score this season against Morlands in the Debenhams West Hockey League. But his goal was the only one Yeovil scored and Morlands won 6-1.

Yeovil 2nds beat Salisbury 3-2 with goals from Dave Finlayson, Jeremy Barker and Geoff Sparrow.

Fleecers' revenge

Morlands Fleecers XI (the hockey second XI) have now played three games in the 1977/78 season and have won two and drawn one.

Fleecers beat Newport 1-0 in the first fixture and held Taunton Vale to a very creditable draw last week. This week they resoundingly beat Clevedon first XI four goals to one.

It was sweet revenge for the corresponding fixture last season, when Fleecers lost 3-4. Fleecers were leading 2-1 at half-time through fine goals by Colin Crees and Mike Gooden.

The second half was all Fleecers and they scored two goals from Mike Evans and new recruit Derek Deane.

Strange side lets down Fleecers

Fleecers 2 Isca 5

For this match against one of the strongest clubs on the fixture list, Fleecers fielded their strongest side. Sadly it was to no avail losing by five goals to two.

Isca had two purple patches, the first and last 10 minutes of the game. In between these periods the match was even with both sides putting the other's defence under pressure.

Fleecers were a goal down within five minutes, but not before the Isca goalkeeper had made a desperate save.

Isca went into a two-goal lead very soon after, and Fleecers showed signs of raggedness. But by plugging away, and much good hockey, Fleecers gained the upper hand but could not score.

The second half started with Fleecers on the attack and a fine goal by Mike Gooden and a penalty flick by M. Wood really set the game alight, but in their desire to score a third goal Fleecers left their defence exposed and Isca scored their third.

There then followed two disappointing offside goals before the final whistle.

Unbeaten run ends

Morlands Fleecers 1
Firebrands 4

After the previous week's win over Clevedon the Fleecers' unbeaten run came to an abrupt end when they lost 1-4 to Firebrands.

Some crumbs of comfort can be gathered from this result. Firebrands were strengthened by the inclusion of two current 1st XI players and outstanding performances by three of Fleecers players.

The game started with Firebrands in control and going into a one goal lead early on. Fleecers then started to put their game together and equalised just before half-time through a penalty taken by M. Wood.

Much of the second half saw Fleecers slightly on top but always vulnerable to Firebrands quick breaks. It was three such breaks in the last ten minutes of the game that led to this disappointing result.

Second half rally by Morlands

West Gloucester 1
Morlands 2

Another tremendous second-half performance by Morlands men's hockey side, reduced to 10 by injury brought two goals and avenged their defeat in the National Knock-out Cup.

The first-half was largely contested in mid-field, the home side having slightly the edge, but with neither team creating many scoring chances.

Just before half-time West Gloucester took the lead when Borman rounded off a swift move from defence when he evaded a tackle on the left and scored with a crisp shot.

With goalkeeper Wallace leaving the field at half-time with a back strain Morlands lined-up for the re-start with full-back Ratcliffe in goal.

The equaliser was not long in coming as Baker seized on some defensive hesitancy and lashed a fierce shot into the corner of the net. The pattern of play changed noticeably with the visitors quicker on the tackle and continuously harrassing the West Gloucester defence.

At the back Lukins, Featherstone and Wright overcame the home side's numerical advantage by aggressive tackling and good covering.

With more good ball from defence Morlands created more scoring opportunities and the winner came five minutes from time when Tinnion picked up a pass from Riste and threaded a good shot through the defence and past the approaching goalkeeper.

A hard game

Morlands Fleecers 1
Millfield School 0

Although Morlands Fleecers (2nd XI) won this match by one goal to nil, they were made to work very hard and at times looked quite ordinary by a very talented school 2nd XI. The only score was a well taken goal by Mike Evans.

Justice was done when Weston equalised in the game with Morlands Fleecers, Mike Gooden was the Fleecers scorer in a game of patchy hockey, not all the fault of the players.

Fleecers lucky to win

Morland Fleecers 2
Brean 1

On New Years Eve Fleecers played West Gloucester and pulled off a rather fortunate victory without playing particularly well.

This last week they played local arch rivals Brean and won with an even worse performance.

Brean held almost complete control in all aspect of the game for the first half and had Fleecers pinned to their own half for long periods, but still failed to score by half-time.

Brean continued to control the game for the first few minutes of the second half and quickly scored a fine opportunist goal from a free hit.

However Fleecers did start to combine better and put the Brean defence under pressure.

A penalty was awarded to Fleecers and M. Wood scored with a well placed shot.

From this point Fleecers took control and Andy Liggott scored after Colin Crees had split the Brean defence.

Morlands 0, Long Ashton 0, Morlands II 5 (Greese 2, Wood), Trojans II 1, Old Bristolians II 3 (Fletcher 2, Crichard), Bristol Univ II 2, Portishead III 1 (Stanford), Westbury/UB IV 3 (Wakefield, Lloyd, Damen).

Morlands second

With two more matches to be played, Morlands are lying second in the Debenhams West Hockey League, division one (central area), three points behind Firebrands.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	S
Firebrands	7	7	0	0	37	6	21	
Morlands	7	6	1	24	3	18		
Long Ashton	7	5	1	14	7	16		
Brean	6	5	0	15	7	15		
Taunton Vale	7	3	1	3	10	11	10	
Weston-super-Mare	7	2	0	5	9	12	6	
Bath	6	1	1	4	5	11	4	
Bath Buccaneers	7	1	1	5	3	24	4	
Yeovil	8	1	0	7	8	23	3	
Old Bristolians	6	1	0	5	5	26	3	