

Fleecers tame Trojans Troopers

Southampton Trojans Troopers 1
Morlands Fleecers 3

A SOMEWHAT changed Fleecers XI took on the immensely skilful and experienced Troopers XI at Eastleigh, and after a hectic and, at times, hair-raising first 15 minutes came away victorious.

Despite the heavy pitch the Troopers for much of the first half stroked the ball around and made passes of pinpoint accuracy leaving the Fleecers bemused.

Gradually Fleecers by sheer grit and determination stemmed the flow, and by halftime had won a fair measure of control midfield.

While the Troopers had fired in several thunderous shots, Fleecers had had two very near

misses and squandered several opportunities. But neither side had scored by half time.

Troopers scored first through a brilliantly conceived goal from Ric Hawks, but Fleecers replied immediately by an equally brilliant goal from Peter Smith and from this point Fleecers took control with Colin Creees getting two well engineered and taken goals.

A great (if gritty) team performance from the Fleecers who have now won their last five games.

In such an outstanding team performance two individuals are worthy of special mention. Peter Bennett, at full back, who had an outstanding game and the skill and coolness of Chris Noonan, playing only his third game for Fleecers.

Taunton 1
Morlands Fleecers 0

For the return match against Taunton Vale Fleecers took a team showing only one change from the side which beat Southampton the week before. Peter Smith was back with Morlands XI and Mike Evans had recovered from flu.

The rivalry between the two clubs is such that the games are usually less than attractive and always closely contested and this game on Taunton's all-weather pitch was no exception.

Taunton took advantage of Fleecers rather slow start and for the first ten minutes had severely tested Fleecers' defence. It held out due largely to fine goal keeping by Mike England and resourceful tackling by full backs and wing halves.

Fleecers then took control of their game and for the last ten minutes of the first half pinned Taunton down around their goal and created several chances to score.

With no score at half time the pattern of play seemed to be settling for a no score draw but almost from nothing Taunton did score and although Fleecers fought back strongly their passing was not accurate and the finishing weak.

Not a good game though enjoyable and Fleecers winning run ended until next week against Blean.

Fleecers pay for lay-off

Morland Fleecers 1
Gloucester 2

The Fleecers, fielding a changed side from the losing team at Taunton in January, showed from the start how disastrous the extended lay-off has been.

The lack of match practice and particularly physical fitness was clearly evident from forwards through to full backs.

Gloucester scored first through a penalty stroke. Derek Deane equalised with a fine individually worked goal and Gloucester scored from a breakaway midway through the second half.

Fleecers knit together

Morlands Fleecers 1
Plymouth 0

Morlands Fleecers took on the strong Plymouth XI with the benefit of only one match after the enforced lay-off throughout February.

The game started in a scrappy manner with neither side getting control of the other but Plymouth did cause some anxious moments in Fleecers' defence.

Fleecers began to put their game together and almost immediately took control and put Plymouth defence under pressure going close to scoring several times before Jim Baker fought his way through a packed Plymouth defence to score.