

**Mid Somerset 2nd XI ... .. 2**  
**Old Bristolians 2nd XI ... .. 3**

A well contested game was played at Edgarley, with OB's narrow victory deserved by their superior teamwork and artificial-surface hockey skills.

Throughout the game, Mids pressed hard, and had countless penalty corner opportunities. However, Mids' defence could not contain the opposition forwards, and three goals resulted from open play, one in the first half and two in the second.

The 3-0 scoreline threatened to flatter

OB's, and when Mids were reduced to 10 men by injury, the position looked bad. Nevertheless, as often happens, the 10 men worked even harder, and as OB's defence became more desperate, Mids were rewarded with two penalty strokes, both competently converted by Toby Nicholls.

**Mid Somerset 3rd XI ... .. 0**  
**Shepton Mallets ... .. 2**

Shepton dominated the first half, but were thwarted by some excellent saves from teenager Martin McBlain before Richard Trott opened the scoring just before half-time.

The second half belonged to Mid Somerset, with Mark Hullah having two good efforts, while Jason Evans did find the net - but he shot from outside the D.

A single goal victory would probably have been a fair result, but David Oatley found the roof of the net with virtually the last hit of the game to give Shepton a 2-0 victory.

**Exeter University 3rd XI ... .. 5**  
**Mid Somerset 3rd XI ... .. 2**

On a shale pitch at Exeter University, the home side took the lead in the first half, but Mids equalised through Colin Crees following a right wing cross from Jim Bryson.

After this, the energetic students took hold of the game with some flowing hockey, and took full advantage of having an extra man for the last 25 minutes of the game.

They scored a further four goals before Pete Manley netted a consolation second for Mid Somerset, following a run from Daryl Livingstone.

**Mid Somerset 2nd XI ... .. 0**  
**Robinsons 2nd XI ... .. 2**

Mid Somerset entertained Robinsons of Bristol in a 2nd XI cup competition. In real-

ity, Mids fielded a combination side of 2nd and 3rd XI players, many of them playing out of their usual position, against a side who, on league form, could be expected to overwhelm even a full strength Mid Somerset 2nd XI.

The scoreline, however, reflects a different story. As Robinsons pressed forward with skilful play and passing movements, they continually foundered on a Mid Somerset defence determined that they should not be overrun. The forwards, too, played their part, as once the ball was cleared from defence, they ensured it did not come straight back.

As the pressure grew, Robinsons started

to accumulate penalty corners, but found their neat routine blocked by goalkeeper Martin McBain and a combination of defenders.

Mids were well satisfied at the half-time interval that the game was goalless, but during the second period the relentless pressure from Robinsons eventually brought its reward.

**Bath 4th XI ... .. 1**  
**Mid Somerset 3rd XI ... .. 2**

A mixed side of second and third team players left before breakfast for an early morning start on the Astroturf pitch at Monkton

Combe. Tom Medleycott scored his first goal for the club to give Mids a half-time lead, which they always looked capable of defending, until Bath equalised from a dubious penalty flick.

Undeterred, Mid Somerset pressed for the winning goal and were rewarded when centre half Dave Yelland converted a short corner to give the visitors a well-earned victory.

**Weston-super-Mare 3rd XI... .. 3**  
**Mid Somerset 3rd XI ... .. 1**

For the first half an hour, Mid Somerset 3rd XI played their most fluent hockey of the season, but they were unable to open the scoring despite efforts from Colin Crees and Gary Atyeo.

The home team scored just before half-time and added two more in the second half, before Andrew Alston scored from a short corner routine. This was one of 13 short corners awarded to Mid Somerset.

The performance of the Weston umpires was being assessed by a league umpire who, after the game, commented that two of the Weston goals should have been disallowed due to lifting into the D.

**Bristol YMCA 2nd XI ... .. 1**  
**Mid Somerset 3rd XI ... .. 2**

On the Astroturf at Golden Hill, Bristol, Mid Somerset were given a goal start in only the second minute when the YMCA goalkeeper made a terrible mistake and gave Jim Bryson the easiest goal of the season.

Mids dominated the rest of the game, creating numerous chances, which they were unable to convert into goals until, with 10 minutes of the game remaining, a run and cross from Ian Francis was converted by Daryl Livingstone.

YMCA immediately replied with a goal of their own, but Mids held on to win their third game of the season.

**Mid Somerset 2nd/3rd XI ... .. 3**  
**Grasshoppers ... .. 4**

With their usual Edgarley venue unavailable, a combined 2nd and 3rd XI from Mid Somerset travelled to Gillingham to entertain Grasshoppers, from Exeter.

However, the defence did not know where it was as Grasshoppers took an early lead with a well-worked goal. At this stage all the signs were that Mids were likely to be comprehensively beaten, but they grew in confidence, working particularly well down the left side through winger Pete Manley.

Mids were rewarded for their efforts

when the visiting goalkeeper illegally pushed away David Yelland's penalty corner, and John Sawyer coolly converted the resultant penalty flick.

A second goal for the home team followed great perseverance by Sawyer, leading to Andy Frampton, making a welcome return, scoring from close range.

Shortly into the second half, Mids increased their lead further as Frampton netted a second. The 3-1 lead always looked tenuous as a well-drilled Grasshoppers attack pushed forward time and time again.

**Mid Somerset 3rd XI ... .. 0**  
**Portishead 3rd XI ... .. 1**

On the Astroturf at Edgarley, Portishead's centre forward scored a goal that would have graced any game in only the second minute, and for the rest of the match, Mid Somerset pressed hard for an equaliser.

They came close on a number of occasions, the best effort bringing a fine one-handed stick stop by the Portishead goalkeeper.

Considering this was the first game of the season for the 3rd XI, it was a good team performance, a match in which a draw would have been a fair result.

**Mid Somerset 3rd XI ... .. 3**  
**Weston 4th XI ... .. 2**

Mid Somerset 3rd XI entertained Weston's

4th XI on the Astroturf at Edgarley, and took the lead three times in the game.

Andy Nurrish opened the scoring in the first five minutes, but Weston equalised, then just before half-time Howard Harrison appeared from full back to give Mids the lead again after some good work down the right.

Weston scored their second two minutes into the second half, before Harrison appeared in the D once again to score his second and give Mids their second victory of the season.

**Mid Somerset 3rd XI ... .. 1**  
**Plymouth 4th XI ... .. 0**

The visitors from Plymouth had to leave at 7.45am for an early start on the Astroturf at Edgarley, and they showed no signs of tiredness as they dominated the first 25 minutes. Their centre forward did hit the post, but the Mids defence held firm, and half-time was reached with no goals.

Within five minutes of the restart, Mids took the lead when Jim Bryson scored, and in an attempt to pull back the goal, Plymouth abandoned their man-to-man marking system. This gave the Mids forwards more room, but despite a number of near misses, they were unable to score again.

Mids still played their best hockey of the season, and deserved their win, achieved with only 10 players.

2nd XI South Division 2 East

East Devon	7	6	0	1	18	07	18
Taunton CS	7	5	1	1	19	07	16
Chard	8	5	0	3	12	14	15
North Devon	7	4	1	2	09	07	13
Exmouth	7	2	2	3	09	11	08
Mid Somerset	7	2	1	4	12	14	07
Chudleigh	7	1	3	3	08	12	06
Bridport Hawks	7	1	2	4	09	16	05
Minehead	7	0	2	5	07	15	02

Stand-in goalkeeper Nick Ivory made several good saves, but the makeshift defence was no match for Grasshoppers' set-pieces, as first they drew level and then, with three minutes to go, took the lead.

A final fling from Mid Somerset was not enough to get them back on terms.

2nd XI South Division 2 East

Taunton CS	8	6	1	1	22	07	19
East Devon	8	6	0	2	20	11	18
Chard	8	5	0	3	12	14	15
North Devon	8	4	1	3	09	10	13
Chudleigh	8	2	3	3	12	14	09
Bridport Hawks	8	2	2	4	15	18	08
Exmouth	8	2	2	4	11	17	08
Mid Somerset	7	2	1	4	12	14	07
Minehead	7	0	2	5	07	15	03