

**Mid Somerset 2nd XI ... .. 3**  
**Minehead 2nd XI ... .. 3**

Mid Somerset were pleased to come home with one point from this Sun Life League division two match.

With Minehead's 1st XI having no fixture, their bottom of the table 2nd XI seized the opportunity to strengthen its forward line by judicious selection.

After 20 minutes Minehead were two goals up, the first from a penalty corner, the second courtesy of the individual talents of their inside left and the less than positive tackling of the Mid Somerset defence.

Up to this point Mids attacks had lacked bite, but shortly before half-time good work down the right-hand side allowed a cross that fell for Malcolm Chorlton to convert from eight yards.

The goal gave Mid Somerset the confidence to believe that all was not lost, despite the individual skills of the opposition forward line.

A penalty corner awarded shortly after the break led to a repeat of one of last week's goals.

Yelland's flicked shot was illegally stopped by the goalkeeper and Sawyer converted the resultant penalty flick.

Minehead continued to create the majority of chances, and three-quarters of the way through the game Minehead again took the lead, as again the Minehead forward play was too clever for the Mid Somerset defence.

To their credit, Mid Somerset heads did not drop and they continued to attack when possible, with Mike Davis putting in his best performance of the season with good ball control coupled with intelligent running and passing.

However, it was John Sawyer who created and scored the equaliser, as he took the ball to the goal line wide on the left and then worked his way along the line, past two defenders, before pushing the ball home from the narrowest of angles.

**Frome 3rd XI ... .. 0**  
**Mid Somerset 3rd XI ... .. 1**  
 With the Christmas and New Year break ap-

proaching, Mid Somerset signed off with a victory on the shale pitch at Frome Leisure Centre, and now have a break of three Saturdays before their next game.

Frome had the better of the first half, but the full-backs, Wych and Butler, cleared their attacks.

The second half was more positive, and Pete Marley (twice) and Colin Crees both forced good saves from the Frome goalkeeper before Mids scored.

A feature of the game was the long ball out of defence to centre forward Jim Bryson on the 25.

And from one such move that Andrew Alston scored the only goal of the game to give Mids their fifth victory of the season.

**Mid Somerset 2nd XI ... .. 1**  
**Shepton Mallet 2nd XI ... .. 0**

Mid Somerset, of Sun Life 2nd XI division two, secured a 1-0 victory in a friendly fixture over local rivals Shepton Mallet, of 2nd XI division one. Neither team, however, could

have been proud of their first half performances, which were lacklustre and peppered with simple errors as both sides failed to master the basics of stopping and passing the ball.

It took a goal from Mid Somerset early in the second half to spark the game into life. A half-time change brought Jason Smith into the centre forward position, and as he took the ball at the top of the circle he slipped it under the advancing goalkeeper to give Mids the lead.

From then on Shepton Mallet pressed hard for an equaliser, with right winger Nigel Lee and centre-half Richard Connock creating plenty of chances. The Mid Somerset defence stood up well for the second week running, with goalkeeper Martin McBlain making a number of good saves.

Even when Shepton skipper Keith Errington did manage to beat the goalkeeper, he was denied by his opposite number, who was on the line to clear the ball away.

Mids continued to create opportunities on the break with right winger Malcolm Chorlton easily able to round the left side defence. However, Mids' penalty corner tally of just one in the last two matches, gives a good indication of how they have achieved their last two victories.

**Portishead 3rd XI ... .. 5**  
**Mid Somerset 3rd XI ... .. 3**

A strong Portishead team which included a number of 2nd XI players gave Mid Somerset a lesson in scoring goals despite having far less chances than the visiting team.

Portishead had a two-goal half-time lead

before Jim Bryson reduced the arrears from a short corner routine. The home side scored again, but Mids at last accepted some of the chances they created and drew level at 3-3 with a second goal from Bryson and an equalising goal from Pete Marley, following a right wing cross from Robin Maddocks.

However, Portishead scored two more goals in the last 10 minutes to give the final score a rather flattering look.

## Mids find that rain stops play

**All three sides from Mid Somerset found the term all-weather pitch to be something of a misnomer last week.**

**The rain of Saturday morning left both home teams and visitors alike looking at flooded pitches.**

**Long Ashton travelled in vain to Glastonbury, and Mids' 2nd and 3rd teams went to Taunton and Bath respectively, only to find the pitches unplayable.**

**Taunton Vale 4th XI ... 6**  
**Mid Somerset 3rd XI ... 0**

Taunton changed the fixtures so that, instead of facing the normal 4th XI, Mids played an experienced veterans' side of considerable skills.

In the first half, they ran rings around Mid Somerset's defence and, with the help of one or two dubious umpiring decisions, they built a 4-0 half-time lead.

Mids made some positional changes at half-time and despite conceding two further goals in the first five minutes of the second half, they played well for the remainder of the game, and conceded no more goals.

# Veterans take centre stage

**Mid Somerset Vets ... .. 3**  
**Frome Vets ... .. 0**

With the weather having put paid to Saturday's hockey, even with the advent of all-weather surfaces, this Veterans' Cup match took centre stage at Edgarley Hall on Sunday afternoon, and in difficult conditions, Mids secured a sound victory over local rivals Frome.

This game was close to postponement, too, with the pitch covered in puddles at the start.

Inevitably, this led to a game in which the pace of the ball could rarely be judged with any accuracy.

With conditions not suited to ball-playing skills, it was only the combined experience of both sides which enabled any benefit to be taken from the fixture.

In an otherwise even game, it was the pace of Mids' attacking players which made the difference, and midway through the first half, it was from a swift Mids counter-attack down the right that Malcolm Chorlton's cross found Mark Smith unmarked.

The former Frome player slipped the ball past the keeper with obvious delight, and Mids were in the lead.

Two minutes later, a similar move brought a similar result, this time club president Mike Evans being on hand to find the net in his first game of the season.

Shortly before half-time, a Mids victory seemed assured when, direct from a penalty corner, Terry Petherbridge slammed the ball home at top speed.

Frome fought hard to get back into the match for the first 20 minutes of the second half.

Left midfielder Graham Lock was a constant threat with his close control and imaginative distribution.

Mids' defence withstood the pressure, though, with goalkeeper Mike England showing that experience and positional sense can match youth and athleticism.

Mids gradually regained the territorial advantage, and came close to adding to their tally in the closing minutes.

**Mid Somerset team:** Mike England, Colin Crees, Mark Smith, Howard Harrison, Dave Yelland, Chris Tinnion, Daryl Livingstone, Malcolm Chorlton, Clive Rockell, Terry Petherbridge, Mike Evans, Nick Ivory.