

2nd XI South Division 2 East

East Devon	10	08	0	2	26	11	24
Taunton CS	10	06	2	2	24	11	20
Chard	10	06	1	4	18	20	19
North Devon	10	04	2	4	11	15	14
Mid Somerset	10	03	3	4	18	16	12
Exmouth	10	03	3	4	17	19	12
Chudleigh	11	03	3	5	17	22	12
Bridport Hawks	10	03	2	5	19	23	11
Minehead	10	00	4	6	11	22	04

East Devon 2nd XI 2
Mid Somerset 2nd XI 1

Having comprehensively lost to the league leaders earlier in the season, Mid Somerset 2nd XI travelled to East Devon for the reverse fixture more in hope than expectation, but returned disappointed they had not got a draw from this game.

The game ended with Mids pressing for an equaliser but unable to further test the home side's goalkeeper.

2nd XI South Division 2 East

East Devon	11	9	0	2	28	12	27
Chard	12	7	1	4	20	20	22
Taunton CS	11	6	2	3	24	12	20
Exmouth	11	4	3	4	16	19	15
Bridport Hawks	11	4	2	5	22	24	14
North Devon	11	4	2	5	11	17	14
Mid Somerset	11	3	3	5	19	20	12
Chudleigh	11	3	3	5	17	22	12
Minehead	11	0	4	7	12	25	04

Taunton CS Vets 6
Mid Somerset Vets... .. 3

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From a closely fought Somerset Cup quarter-final, Taunton emerged with a deserved win after extra-time. In normal time, honours were even, Mids taking the lead from a Mike Evans strike following a quick free-hit from Mike Baker.

Taunton were in no mood to give up. Midway through the second half they pulled a goal back. They did so again just before the end after Mids thought they had sewn it up with a Mike Baker goal following up Clive Rockell's flick at a penalty corner.

Extra-time seemed to give Taunton a second wind, while Mids struggled to find theirs. Three Taunton goals could only be matched by a Howard Harrison reply as he raided into the opposing D from his left-back position.

2nd XI South Division 2 East

East Devon	14	11	0	3	31	13	33
Taunton CS	14	09	2	3	31	13	29
Chard	15	09	1	5	30	26	28
North Devon	14	06	2	6	20	23	20
Bridport Hawks	13	04	3	6	26	29	15
Mid Somerset	14	04	3	7	21	27	15
Chudleigh	14	03	4	7	18	28	13
Minehead	14	01	4	9	15	29	07

Mid Somerset 2nd XI 0
Bridport Hawks 3

The last league match of the season for

Mids was a visit to Bridport Hawks, where a win would lift them over their opponents in the league and so end a patchy season in a minor blaze of glory. As things turned out, Mids fielded a side without a regular goalkeeper and Hawks were stronger than usual, leading to more of a damp squib to finish the league programme.

All looked set for a 0-0 score at half-time until a short corner was converted neatly into the corner of the net by Hawks. Fifteen minutes into the second half, Hawks pulled further ahead with a well-struck goal from their right wing, and five minutes from time, their centre half carried the ball into the circle before slotting it home.

Mid Somerset 2nd XI 0
Taunton Civil Service 2nd XI 2

Earlier this year, Mid Somerset travelled to Taunton for a friendly fixture and came home with a 1-0 victory despite having the minority of possession and chances.

In this Sun Life League fixture, the boot was on the other foot, and Mid Somerset came away with nothing except a soaking from the incessant rain which rendered the pitch almost unplayable during the second half.

Both Taunton's goals came in the last 10 minutes of the game, which up to that point had all the makings of a goalless draw despite Mids' dominance.

The first goal perhaps contained a hint of offside as Mids pushed up from defence, and any one of three attackers were left with just the goalkeeper to beat.

The second goal was due to the individual talent of Taunton's centre-half who, picking the ball up on the halfway line, dribbled round and through the defence to shoot hard and low, giving Ben Taylor no chance in goal.

Despite having the balance of play, Mids never really tested the home side's goalkeeper, and they will need to get more shots on target in the coming weeks if they are to finish anything other than near the bottom of their division.

Mid Somerset 2nd XI 2
Exmouth 2nd XI 0

For the fourth time this season, Mid Somerset took the field without a recognised goalkeeper, but for the first time from these encounters, they came out with a victory. However, this was not due to heroics from a substitute keep. Rather it came from the competence of a veteran defence, which stopped the visitors from getting a single shot on target, and the enthusiasm of a youthful forward line which made sure any Exmouth player dwelling on the ball was harried into losing it.

Mids opened the scoring as Mike Davis swept the ball out to Ayston on the right wing, who returned it for Mark Johnson to control and score his first goal for the second team.

In the second half, Mids showed the same dominance, but perhaps without the fluidity of the first half, and it was late on before they sealed their victory, Tony Holland converting Davis's cross from the right.

Three much-needed league points were in the bag, but only two more victories in the coming weeks will see Mids achieve the mid-table position they deserve from overall performances this season.

BAC 2nd XI 9
Mid Somerset 2nd XI 0

The result of this friendly fixture showed the difference between a North division one side having a reasonable day and a South division two side having an indifferent day. BAC were not quite the best side Mids have faced this season, but on previous occasions Mids have risen to the challenge.

The Glastonbury side were never really in this game and some excellent finishing by BAC showed up every flaw in their play. The first half produced six goals for BAC but only one penalty corner, demonstrating that they looked at their most dangerous when Mids had the ball and gave it away

with a poor clearance or ill-judged pass.

Mids were more solid in the second half, and given that the last two of BAC's goals were in the last five minutes, Mids did actually salvage something from the game in terms of learning by experience.

Mid Somerset 2nd XI 0
Chard 2nd XI 5

For the entire first half and 30 seconds of the second half, this scoreline was a true reflection of the relative merits of the teams.

Mid Somerset, travelling with a relatively young and inexperienced side, were a goal down inside two minutes as Chard's centre forward pounced on a defensive hesitation and slammed the ball into the net.

Two more goals followed before half-time, both stemming from Mid Somerset attacks that were broken down, and quick, hard coming out of Chard's defence to be picked up by the forwards and clinically finished.

The half-time change around in Mids' playing positions looked futile as Chard

took the push back and their inside forward dribbled from the halfway line, straight through Mids' defence and round stand-in goalkeeper Paul Salvidge to make it 4-0.

From this, Mid Somerset's play was metamorphosed, and despite conceding a fifth goal near the end, they had the majority of possession and chances in the second half.

Steve Cox beat three defenders and rounded the goalkeeper only to shoot wide of the open net. John Sawyer similarly put his best chance wide and the goalkeeper was called on to make good saves from penalty corners.

The whole side looked more composed as Lance Baxter and Christy Tibrett, playing their first games for the club, and Ross Garfitt, playing his first game for the 2nd XI, settled into the pace of the game and their more experienced colleagues realised their capabilities.

Mid Somerset 2nd XI 4
Minehead 2nd XI 3

In their penultimate league game of the season, Mid Somerset 2nd XI entertained bottom of the table Minehead.

The first half saw the home side play

some of their best hockey of the season, as they swept into a three-goal half-time lead.

Wingers Malcolm Chorlton and Colin Crees scored a goal each, while Jon Sawyer added the third from a penalty flick after an offence by the Minehead goalkeeper.

Minehead came more into the game in the second half, but Mids made it four when Crees scored his second goal.

However, the last quarter was dominated by the youthful visitors, who pulled back three goals and gave Mids a frightening last three minutes before the final whistle blew.

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East Devon	16	12	1	02	35	13	37
Taunton CS	16	10	2	04	32	14	32
Chard	16	10	1	05	31	26	31
North Devon	16	07	2	07	16	20	23
Bridport Hawks	15	05	3	07	28	31	18
Mid Somerset	15	05	3	07	25	30	18
Exmouth	16	05	3	08	21	26	18
Chudleigh	16	04	4	08	19	32	16
Minehead	16	01	5	10	18	33	08