

Minehead 2nd XI 3
Mid Somerset 2nd XI 1

Mids travelled to Minehead with some expectation of a win over a side they had previously had the better of earlier in the season.

However, they came up against a youthful side whose pace and enthusiasm was too much for the more experienced visitors.

The hot conditions showed up the difference in fit-

ness between the two sides as Mids struggled towards the end of an enjoyable game.

In terms of possession the match was evenly balanced, but Minehead took their chances far better than Mids, despite goalkeeper Simon Davies's best efforts.

Mids had the best of the opening period, with Mark Johnson's first shot narrowly missing the far post and two penalty corner opportunities producing saves from the goalkeeper.

Minehead then broke away to score with a finish that Mids could only envy.

Both goalkeepers had to make head-high saves in quick succession with Mid's Steve Cox being particularly unlucky to produce such a high-class save from the Minehead keeper.

A second goal for Minehead followed before John Sawyer pulled one back for the visitors, pushing the ball through the goalkeeper's legs after a save from a flicked penalty corner.

The second half followed a similar pattern, with Mids always believing they could win the game, but their hopes were dashed by two consecutive defensive errors which allowed Minehead's centre-forward to score from an unlikely situation.

Mid Somerset 2nd XI 1
Portishead 2nd XI 5

Mids finished their season with a disap-

pointing scoreline but a first half performance to be proud of. Having drawn with Portishead earlier in the season, Mids were surprised by a strong Portishead side that showed plenty of individual talent.

The half time score of 1-0 to the visitors reflected an even game, with Mids' attack looking more inventive than it had for most of the season.

Only one major defensive error led to a well-taken Portishead goal.

Statistically the second half brought five goals, three sendings off and two penalty flicks, but it did not detract from a well-tempered and spirited end to the season. In truth, the better side wore down the weaker Mids team, who seemed to flag in the sunshine.

An early second goal came as Portishead attacked in force. Simon Davies in Mids goal then both conceded and saved a penalty flick, but could do nothing as a second flick awarded for an injudicious tackle flew high into the net.

Goals four and five were interspersed with a temporary suspension for the Portishead centre forward, who crudely body-checked Mids' Mark Smith, who also found himself off the pitch for his verbal response.

John Sawyer pulled one goal back for Mids as he persisted in a goalmouth scramble, which resulted in the Portishead goalkeeper being dismissed from the pitch for dissent.

Playing against 10 men for the last five minutes, Mids tried hard but could not get any further shots on target.