

Mid Somerset 2nd XI.....0
Bridgwater 2nd XI.....1
 Mid Somerset started the new season with a gentle canter against a 10-man Bridgwater team. The mixture of old hands and new faces for

Mids could not shake off the problems of last year as Paul Salvidge yet again generously stood in as goalkeeper, and Mids failed to take their chances in the second half.

The first half demonstrated the visitors' superior hockey skills and the home side's inability to clear the ball from defence. Curiously, however, neither side created any real goal scoring chances with the exception of the visiting inside forward who, having taken the ball to the dead ball line, was then allowed to weave his way back in to the front of goal and hammer the ball home.

In the second half, Mids created half a dozen or more good chances, and certainly had more of the game than the visitors. A combination of Bridgwater's keeper, who made a fine head high save from Ben Malin's shot, bad luck when Simon Theyer's snap shot grazed the outside of the post and lack of skill as David Yelland nudged the ball with his toe shortly before putting it in the net, meant Mids failed to score and earn the draw that the whole atmosphere of the game deserved.

Mid Somerset 2nd XI.....2
Bristol 2nd XI.....1

Mids won this game because they made the most of limited chances, and Martin McBain in goal played a solid game to deny Bristol whenever they put a shot on target.

Mids scored twice in the first 15 minutes, the first from a penalty corner as Malcolm Chorlton pounced on the goalkeeper's parry from David Yelland's flick. The second resulted from Ben Malin's run down the right, crossing for Roger Knife to convert from five yards in his debut game.

Shortly afterwards, Chorlton was forced to leave the pitch with a muscle pull and Mids, with the benefit of having a rolling substitute, re-organised.

However, it was not until the last five minutes that Mids dominated again. In the meantime, Bristol mounted many attacks, only scoring with a converted penalty flick, awarded as a defender's foot stopped a goalbound shot.

Old Bristolians 2nd XI.....1
Mid Somerset 2nd XI.....0

Preparation for the league season continued with a game at Golden Hill, Bristol, against a team from the stronger northern section of the league and a league higher.

In the first 10 minutes, a slick OB's move resulted in a goal following a string of passes inside the Mids' D. After this a free-flowing game followed, with the home side dominating the first half.

However, the second half belonged to Mids, whose four-man front line of Sawyer, Malin, Knight and Chorlton all had opportunities to score, both from open play and a number of short corners.

No goals were forthcoming. With only two more friendlies before the first league game, Mids must start scoring goals if they are to improve on last year's league position.

Mid Somerset 2nd XI.....1
Millfield U16.....2

The game was evenly contested, with both goalkeepers being called into action on regular occasions.

Mids took the lead when John Sawyer's stick was knocked away from the ball as he bore down on goal, and he converted the subsequent penalty flick.

The half-time score of 1-0 to Mids reflected the run of play, but in the second half the tables were turned.

Millfield equalised from a penalty flick, and then scored the winner when a forward deftly flicked the ball into the top of the net from a narrow angle.

● Mid Somerset men's and ladies' sections are delighted to see more than 20 under 16 boys and girls consistently attending their regular coaching sessions on the Millfield School Astroturf on Tuesday evenings, from 6.45pm to 8pm. Anyone else interested in developing their skills and playing some games should contact Caroline or Clive Rockell. Tel: (01458) 832863.

Mid Somerset 2nd XI.....2
North Devon 3rd XI.....0

Mid Somerset achieved their second win in the Sun Life League with a comfortable victory over a 10-man North Devon side. Mids could have scored a hatful but for the vagaries of a bumpy shale pitch at Bideford, and some excellent goalkeeping.

Mids took the field with a reshaped defence, which resulted in Peter Manley, celebrating his birthday, reverting to full-back from his usual left wing position, and a debut for Greg Chambers.

However, the defence was never in trouble, and only once, late in the game, did the home side create a real chance, but teamwork and a fine save from Tom Medlicott denied the opposing centre forward's skilful run.

Mids scored once in each half with two contrasting goals. The first saw Mike Davis break out of defence, take the ball to the half way line, and slip it to Malcolm Chorlton. He took it down the right wing to cross, where Davis met the ball with a hard shot that gave the goalkeeper no chance. The second saw Mark Hulland shoot from close range, only to be denied by a diving goalkeeper. The rebound came to Hulland again, who twice flicked it against the goalkeeper's prostrate body before eventually placing it past him into the net.

Further chances fell to John Sawyer who, uncharacteristically, allowed the bumpy pitch to deny him, and Hulland, who was twice denied by superb reflex saves from the opposing keeper.

Mids 2nds hold on for opening

Deserters 365; Oak Leave 362, Bird in Hand 370, Floppers 341, Ashcot 358, Robins 366; Fiddlers 370, Kickhards 370

Mid Somerset 2nd XI.....1
Chudleigh 2nd XI.....0

Mid Somerset emerged with three points from this opening Sun Life League division 2b match with a deserved victory over a young and tenacious Chudleigh side.

The game was played in continuous rain but the enthusiasm of both sides never waned, even when Mids took the lead after 20 minutes. A free-hit taken from five yards outside the circle was collected by Steve Cox, who took it forward and played it under the advancing goalkeeper.

In the second half, Chudleigh's constant harassment caused Mids to lose some discipline. In the end it took a magnificent save from Tom Medlicott to deny the visitors a draw as a well struck shot sped towards the goal from close range.

Mid Somerset 2nd XI.....2
Portishead 2nd XI.....6

Following good league performances, Mid Somerset were taken apart in this Somerset Plate fixture. The visitors were the faster, fitter, individually more skilful and altogether better team.

For all that, the first half marginally belonged to Mids, who played well as a team, put good moves together and scored the opening goal as John Sawyer took the ball across the goal to reverse flick it into the net.

Portishead only really looked menacing at set pieces and it was from a short corner they gained, and converted, a penalty stroke awarded for feet on the line.

On the stroke of half-time luck was against Mids as a second goal went in from a short corner which on another day would have been ruled out for offside.

It was in the second half that things went badly wrong. Within minutes Mids had gifted Portishead a third goal, and then pulled another back as Steve Cox lifted the ball into the net. As Mids pressed, Portishead caught them with their speed and skill to score three more goals.

Mid Somerset 2nd XI.....1
Taunton Vale 2nd XI.....1

On a bright and sunny day at Edgarley, Mid Somerset were looking to continue their winning ways in the league against the toughest opposition so far. The first half saw honours shared as neither side looked totally convincing in front of goal.

Taunton Vale then applied the pace in the second half, but against the run of play, Mid Somerset broke into Vale's circle and Malcolm Chorlton stabbed the opening goal home. This heralded an onslaught from Vale, who equalised with 15 minutes to go, after which both sides pressed home attacks in each other's half, but without further success.

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

Shepton only had 10 players for this home league game against Mids. Shepton's goal came from loose play when Oliver Stevens put a cross in for Marcus Bowman, who is on his 11th goal for the season.

R Brisco had a good game on the left, and Andy Reed helped the play with the team's new formation.

In the last 20 minutes, there was lots of pressure from Shepton, while Michael Hares made a good one-to-one save to stop Malcolm Chorlton's solo run.

Mid Somerset equalised when David Yelland lobbed Hares from a penalty corner.

Yeovil & Sherborne 3rd XI beat third placed Mid-Somerset 3-0 in South East Division Two B, outplaying the Mid-Somerset side in every department.

Mark Cox got an early goal and Dave Paull added a second before half-time. Jim Bowden hit an excellent third goal, and although Yeovil then came under pressure, they held on to end the day top of the league. Chris Ashworth was voted man of the match.

Mid Somerset 2nd XI.....0
Yeovil and Sherborne 3rd XI.....3

Yeovil were deserving winners of this Sun Life League

division 2B match, which left them top of the league, with Mids in third position. The margin of victory flattered a little as Mids played far better hockey than they had done the previous week in drawing with Shepton, and could well have reduced the deficit.

Yeovil opened the scoring after 20 minutes when a free-hit awarded just outside the circle was collected by the centre forward, who dribbled it through the defence and flicked it reverse-stick over Tom Medlicott's prone form. Late in the first half Yeovil scored a second as they were quicker than the defence to a rebound from Medlicott's pads.

A third goal followed early in the second half as a blocked shot fell to an attacker on the top of the circle, who slammed it into the net. Despite these setbacks, Mids often looked like scoring, particularly when attacking down the right, where several good crosses went inches away from attacker's sticks.

On the left, Steve Cox put in a sterling effort with constant running and good tackling, and Simon Lane, having been asked to play deeper than usual, made some very effective tackles and passes.

Mids' best chances for scoring came from penalty corners when twice they felt aggrieved as illegal stops from lofted penalty corners were punished by further penalty corners rather than penalty flicks.