

Mid Somerset 2nd XI.....1
Yeovil & Shepton 3rd XI.....3

Despite the scoreline, Mids had good reason to be pleased with this result.

Fielding their least experienced side of the season against top of the table Yeovil, Mids thought they were in for a thrashing as for the first 10 minutes, Yeovil were all over them.

Yet, with Mids first attack, they were one goal ahead as Malcolm Chorlton put away the rebound

after the goalkeeper parried David Yelland's penalty corner. The lead was, however, short lived as the Yeovil centre forward caught on to a deflection from a defender's foot and slipped the ball into the net. Five minutes later a superbly hit shot on the turn gave Yeovil a 2-1 lead and the signs looked bad for Mids.

However, with the second half, Mids surprised themselves as they created chances to equalise with the home defence all at sea. Yeovil still had the bulk of the play and the chances, but the defence held out, with Neil Kidner and Tom Medicott in goal having outstanding games.

Seven minutes from the end the pressure told and Yeovil got a third.

Mid Somerset 2nd XI.....1
Chard 2nd XI.....2

Mid-Somerset have only themselves to blame as they lost to bottom of the table Chard. Playing with a relatively strong side, Mids had the majority of possession and chances, but failed to turn superiority into goals.

Chard opened the scoring after the only period of the game where possession could have been said to be equal. A blistering cross from the right wing was put away at the second attempt after Tom Medicott had saved the first shot from Chard's centre forward. From then on Mids dominated the game, but a combination of poor finishing, the goal post and excellent goalkeeping kept them at bay.

Chard played with 10 men behind the ball, and the only way to goal was either over the top or through them. Mids tried both these routes with Mike Davis consistently getting through or around the defence, but found his crosses either unconverted or beaten away by the resolute defence. Shortly before half-time John Sawyer broke through the middle and around the goalkeeper to equalise.

In the second half it was more of the same, with Simon Lane being particularly effective on the left. But Mids were hit with the sucker punch as Chard broke away and retook the lead. Further tough defence followed and Mids were left to rue their missed opportunities.

Yeovil 3rds, in South East Two B, provided the brightest note among the men. They beat Mid-Somerset at Huish Park by 3-1.

Yeovil started superbly and for the first 20 minutes did everything but score. Perhaps inevitably Mid-Somerset broke away to take the lead.

Yeovil continued to dominate and an inspirational run by skipper Sharp, followed by a defence splitting pass, gave Jamie Dike a simple tap in.

Martin Woods, with his outstanding pace, then took control and converted an excellent goal from the top of the D.

In the second half a stubborn defence restricted Yeovil to a single goal, scored by John Townley from a penalty flick. Townley and Dike both hit the post in the closing stages, but the result was never in doubt and Yeovil stay top of the table.

Fine flank play by wingers Davidson and Venner inspired a 3-0 win for the Plunderers against Mid Somerset seconds. Davidson scored and he was joined on the scoresheet by Tyley and Rowland.

In Division One of the Sun Life West and South Wales Mens League Mid-Somerset lost 3-1 at home to East Devon. Mid-Somerset A had a crushing 8-0 defeat away to Taunton Vale in South East Division Two B.

Mid-Somerset Vets.....2
Farnham Common Vets.....2

In the penultimate game of the season, Mid Somerset entertained Malcolm Charlton's old club side from Hampshire in a veterans' game which saw the reappearance of Clive Rockell, Andy Frampton and Mike Evans in the maroon and gold shirts.

Mids had the best of the first half and Chris Tinnion twice went close to scoring, but the visitors took the lead shortly before half-time when they converted a short corner, and added a second at the start of the second half.

Mids continued to attack, often leaving the defence exposed, but were rewarded in the last quarter when John Sawyer converted a penalty flick and Rockell scored from a well-worked short corner to give Mids a deserved draw.

Exeter Hornets 2nd XI.....3
Mid Somerset 2nd XI.....0

Having taken three points off Exeter Hornets earlier in the season, Mid Somerset travelled to Exeter with expectations of taking another victory, and thereby reversing the trend of recent weeks.

However, these hopes were soon dispelled as Hornets quickly got into their stride, putting Mids under pressure from the start through good ball control and an extra yard in pace.

Mids seemed to up their game after going one goal down, with Chris Tinnion and Malcolm Charlton linking well down the right-hand side but failing to convert these attacks into goals through lack of forwards in the Hornets circle.

Just after the start of the second half, Tinnion limped off with a torn hamstring, and was soon followed by Malcolm Charlton, who took a knock on the ankle with a bad tackle.

Down to nine men, Mids fought and ran tirelessly, but ended up giving away a penalty flick, the fourth in as many weeks, and an unfortunate goal from a short corner which was kicked over the line by a Hornets forward.

This weekend sees Mids with a friendly fixture against Yeovil and Sherborne and a chance to recharge their batteries before resuming the last three league fixtures.

Hockey

Mid Somerset Hockey Club

The club's AGM was a surprisingly positive and upbeat affair, considering the dreary season which had just finished. Relegation for the men's 1st XI, from South division one to South-East division one, has its compensations apparently: trips to Plymouth and Bridport rather than Penzance and Bodmin.

More seriously, enterprising moves to recruit new members were announced. Full membership next season is set at £15, a reduction of £25, and junior/student membership £10, a reduction of £5. The aim is obviously to attract a large new membership, as well as attracting present or former members who wish to play or involve themselves at a variety of levels of commitment.

Disappointingly, few boys of school age took the opportunity offered by the club via Champion Coaching this winter. However, the club is more than willing to offer games and coaching to any teenage boys who might like to give hockey a try. This summer there will be a Summer League side playing at Yeovil. Next season there will be two Saturday league sides, and a Mystics XI - mixing youth with experience - playing friendlies whenever there is a demand. The Mixed XI will continue to operate on Sundays. It is hoped, too, that there will continue to be a demand for Tuesday night training and coaching under the floodlights on the Millfield astroturf.

The AGM offered a good opportunity to sincerely thank the outgoing committee for sterling efforts in a season when things did not go as well as had been hoped. Jon Sawyer ended two hard but successful years as match secretary and deservedly gained the clubman of the year tankard. Similar levels of commitment were recognised in the award of player of the year to the 2nd XI's Colin Crees, a near ever-present in the side. As his skipper, Dave Yelland, so eloquently put it when making the award: "Colin was entirely reliable week in, week out, and showed, when necessary, that he was capable of making crucial tackles with either side of the stick!"

The club looks forward to the Summer League programme, and any prospective players, whether current Mid Somerset members or not, should contact Clive Rockell now on (01458) 832863 for the fixture list; games start on May 30.

September, too, should be an exciting one for the club as they start to repay the hospitality they regularly receive at Gravenchon. The French club have accepted an invitation to spend a long weekend in Glastonbury on September 7, testing the local hockey and undoubtedly the local ale.

Rivals enjoy draw

Mid Somerset 2nd XI.....3
Shepton Mallet 2nd XI.....3

This friendly local derby was an enjoyable end to the season for Mids, who did not have the majority of possession or chances but still played well to gain the draw. Both sides were strengthened by students returning from university, and in terms of individual skills, Craig Smith, for Shepton, was a class above the rest of the players and the main difference between the sides.

Surprisingly, the game was goalless at half-time, although this owed a lot to Jason Evans' fine goalkeeping for Mids and a high percentage of Shepton's shots being off target, with Marcus Bowman the main culprit.

The second half opened with Smith showing some exuberant skills and cutting through Mids' defence to open the scoring. Shortly afterwards Andy Rogers was given the chance to test Evans from close range, but his complete mis-hit trickled sideways for Smith to put home his second goal. Mids were soon back in the game as they changed their penalty corner routine for John Laurijssen to score. Shepton went two ahead again as this time Bowman really couldn't miss an open goal from three yards.

Mids' second goal came as Toby Southgate charged down the inside-right channel to shoot from the top of the circle. The draw was settled after another penalty corner from which the ball was played back into the circle for Malcolm Chorlton to apply the final touch.

● Mid Somerset 2nd XI were disappointed on Saturday when, fielding a strong side in a fixture to be played on a traditional grass surface, their opponents, Exeter University 3rd XI, failed to turn up without notice. This was a repeat of the students' performance when due to play Shepton earlier in the year, and Mids' only solace was to claim the three points that secured fifth position in their Sun Life League Division.