

South East Div I: Chudleigh 4 Bridport Hawks 0, Mid-Somerset 4 Torbay A 5, Okehampton 1 Taunton Vale B 2, PGSOB 6 East Devon A 2, Taunton CS 4 Ottery Crickets B 0.

South East Div II: Dawlish A 3 Mid-Somerset A 0, Exeter Hornets A 5 Minehead A 0, Exeter Univ B 3 Taunton CS A 1, North Devon 1 Exmouth 4, Shepton Mallet A 0 Chard 4.

South West Div I: East Devon 1 Mid-Somerset 2, Ottery Crickets B 1 Okehampton 7, PGSOB 4 Chudleigh 3, Taunton Vale B 1 Bridport Hawks 3, Torbay A 2 Taunton CS 1.

South East Div II: Chard 6 Minehead A 0, Exmouth 3 Exeter Univ B 1, Mid-Somerset A 0 Shepton Mallet A 6, North Devon 3 Exeter Hornets A 3, Taunton CSA 1 Dawlish A 3.

5 Bristol Aero B 0. South East Div I: Chudleigh 3 Taunton Vale B 2, East Devon A 0 Taunton CS 3, Ottery Crickets B 2 Bridport Hawks 2, PGSOB 0 Mid-Somerset 0, Torbay A 2 Okehampton 2.

Div II: Exeter Hornets A 1 Chard 3, Exmouth 7 Dawlish A 1, Mid-Somerset A 0 Minehead A 7, North Devon 3 Exeter Univ B 0, Taunton CSA 3 Shepton Mallet A 3.

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Mid Somerset 2nd XI.....0
Shepton Mallet 2nd XI.....6

Carnival brought Shepton Mallet their shortest away trip of the season, some truly charitable playing by Mids and plenty of goals for the visitors.

Shepton recorded their second win in the league while Mids continue to struggle. Mids unfortunately chose this match to turn in one of their worst performances of the season, with some of their experienced players being guilty of giving the ball away far too many times for the score to reflect the endeavour of the younger team members.

Mids started at a disadvantage, with two players having to drop out on the morning of the game, leaving them only able to muster 10 and asking Andy Cameron to play in goal in place of a regular keeper. The game was perhaps not as one-sided as the score suggests but with Marcus Bowman, particularly, using his speed and stick work to pounce on Mids' errors, the result was never in doubt.

Shepton were two up at the interval but with Mids sensing they had a real chance of getting back in the game they threw too much forward and were instantly punished for their optimism as they conceded two more goals in as many minutes at the start of the second half. As Mids reverted to their more conventional defensive style, they conceded two more goals in the remaining period, Shepton's goal tally being completed by Bowman, with four, and Andy Boyce and Nick James, with one each.

Mids did extend the visiting defence on a number of occasions, with notably

two Peter Manley shots being well saved. All in all this was Shepton's day although both sides and the umpires combined to make it an enjoyable but still competitive game.

Mid Somerset 2nd XI.....0
Minehead 2nd XI.....7

Another Saturday, another resounding defeat, but once again another good-spirited game, and this week it was only skipper David Yelland's inaccuracy that stopped Mids actually scoring.

Minehead's first goal had a touch of fortune about it as a shot was deflected into the net off a defender's stick, but from then on it was quality finishing all the way to seven. Mids had conceded three more by the time 20 minutes had passed, but for the next 35 minutes the match ebbed and flowed as Mids put more men forward and created plenty of chances. The best chance, a penalty flick, was crashed against the post by Yelland, thus summing up Mids' game.

Having less men at the back took its toll, and in the last period Mids conceded three more despite keeper Martin McBain and full-backs Colin Crees and Bill Wych's best efforts to stem the tide.

This week's game against table-topping Chard 1st XI is hardly likely to bring any respite, but eventually Mids will score their second league goal and bring at least some cheer to their experienced and inexperienced players alike.

Mid Somerset 2nd XI.....0
Chard 1st XI.....6

A trip to table topping Chard was never likely to bring any joy for Mids but at least the score was kept to respectable levels.

The situation looked bleak as within seven minutes Chard had put away one penalty corner and scored another goal from open play. However, Mids began to time their tackles well as Chard tried to run through them rather than pass around the defence. An additional bonus to Mids was, that Chard's penalty corner routine broke down so much they failed to score again from countless opportunities.

In the second half, Chard learned to go round Mids stubborn defence and all four remaining goals came from open play as Mids were unable to stop good hard crosses being converted by the central forwards.

The game was not all one way traffic however, and with Jason Smith returning from Australia the Chard defence had to be alert on a number of occasions as Mids broke out of defence.

Results: Bath Buccaneers 1 Westbury/UB 2, Bath Buccs AM 5 Gloster Gladiators 1, Bath Buccs Sabres 5 Clevedon III 3, Bath III 5 Mid-Somerset II 2, Bath 8 Long Ashton 0, Bournemouth II 2 Southampton 3, Bournemouth III 1

Mid Somerset 2nd XI.....2
Bath 3rd XI.....5

Brand new year, same old result, but yet again more optimism. Mids travelled to Bath seeking perhaps weaker opposition, but found a Bath side who, while more on a par with Mids, had been sweeping all before them in their own league.

The match had to be shortened due to a late start after some of the Mids side were left to wander around a building site on the Bath University Campus, trying to locate temporary changing rooms in a fog that would have rendered the match unplayable had it been a league fixture. Mids were adrift again within the opening minutes as an unlikely snap-shot, through a crowd of players, hit both posts before going in to the net. A second soon followed as stand-in keeper Andy Cameron was defeated by a shot that was so badly mishit it turned into a perfect cross for the left wing to put into the net.

With John Sawyer and Malcolm Chorlton returning to the side, Mids now began to look better. A Chorlton long corner developed into a serious chance which could only be denied by a foul, David Yelland duly converting the penalty flick.

Good play by Bath rewarded them with two more goals by half-time, but Mids then put together their best play with an excellent five-man move out of defence, leading John Sawyer to convert Chorlton's cross and give Mids hope of a result. An injury to Chorlton hardly seemed to slow Mids' momentum, but the good chances were no longer created and a fifth goal for Bath followed a number of penalty corners.

The fact that this game went ahead at all and was played in such good spirit, with relatively little deference to the weather, was of great credit to the umpires, who performed magnificently in difficult conditions.

Mid Somerset 2nd XI.....0
ECV Hornets 2nd XI.....4

The start of the second half of the Sun Life League season was no easier for Mids than the close of the first half.

Taking probably their strongest side of the season to Tiverton, Mids were still well beaten by probably the best team performance they have witnessed this year. The game was of a higher class than most and was not all one sided.

Hornets opened the scoring in the 18th minute with an open goal.

Two minutes later a penalty flick was awarded against Mids as a penalty corner was virtually stopped by the stick of Clive Crees, but still had enough impetus to cross the goal line had it not hit the full-back's foot.

However, with Martin McBain in goal the save was never in doubt and was one of a series of fine saves made throughout the game.

Mids mounted a number of well-constructed attacks, one of which saw Ashley Spearing hit the crossbar with a deflected free-hit.

It was not until the penultimate hit of the half that Hornets scored a second goal from open play.

The second half saw the game ebb and flow, although Hornets had the majority of the possession.

A third goal saw acting captain Paul Salvidge temporarily suspended, although claims of mistaken identity seem to have had some foundation.

Hornet's fourth came with the final hit of the game and gave Mids a poor reward for a good effort.

More misery for Mid Somerset

Mid Somerset 2nd XI.....0
Taunton CS 2nd XI.....3

Mid Somerset anticipated that this game would be a good chance of securing their first league points of the season, as an earlier fixture had resulted in a narrow win for Taunton.

As an added bonus, Mids were able to field a stronger side than in the previous match.

The reality was, however, that Taunton were also able to produce a stronger side and Mids turned in their most disappointing performance of the season.

Taunton soon started to push forward and scored midway through the first half. With all still to play for, Mids were set back further at the start of the second half by a fine individual effort from the Taunton centre-forward.

Near the close, Taunton's pressure saw them score a third and Mids' chances of breaking their Sun Life League duck evaporated.

South East Div I: Bridport Hawks 3 PGSOB 1, Okehampton 4 Mid-Somerset 4, Ottery Crickets B 0 Torbay A 4, Taunton CS 0 Chudleigh 1, Taunton Vale B 5 East Devon A 2.

South East Div II: Chard 0 Exmouth 2, Dawlish A 0 Exeter Hornets A 6, Mid-Somerset A 0 Taunton CS A 3, Minehead A 0 North Devon 8, Shepton Mallet A 3 Exeter Univ B 6.

Mid Somerset 2nd XI.....0
Exmouth 1st XI.....10

Once again the league has thrown up a mismatch of sides, having Mids 2nd XI playing away to a strong Exmouth 1st XI, currently leading the league and sweeping all before them. Mids were further handicapped by only having 10 players, and subsequently suffered their worst defeat of the season.

In the end, had it not been for some strong and versatile keeping by Tom Meddicott and several goal-line clearances by Colin Crees, the final score could have been doubled. The spirit of Mids still

flies on with the hope that a goal, a draw or a win awaits around the corner.

Anyone interested in playing hockey should ring Dave Yelland. Tel: (01985) 844092.

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Mid Somerset 2nd XI.....0
Portishead.....8

Seeking respite from their torrid league season to date, Mids travelled to Portishead to fulfil what had been advertised as a 3rd XI fixture. To their surprise they found themselves pitted against Portishead's one and only team, who were once again playing at a level well beyond that of Mid Somerset.

However, Mids put up a reasonable performance and although they conceded five in the first half, one of these was due to a fatal error of judgement by full-back Andy Cameron and another barely crossed the line as an attempted cross took a cruel deflection and then agonisingly spun over the line despite Martin McBain's best attempts to save the goal.

Through the second half Mids played better, with Cameron making amends with some crucial tackles. Portishead added three more goals, one of which was another that barely crossed the line after the initial shot had been blocked, but two more, added to one in the first half, were of the highest quality as Portishead played the experimental no-offside rules to their full advantage.

Mids did create some chances, with Ashley Spearing again showing great promise with his ability to beat experienced defences.

To Mids' great credit, despite this result and with their goals against tally now reaching 10 for every goal they have scored, they did not let their heads drop and continue to try to play to the best of their ability.

Their attitude to the game and general approach brought praise from both the independent association umpires who had been appointed to the fixture.