

## Imperial Vets Mid-Somerset

The new hockey season started for Mid-Somerset with an opening game on a traditional grass surface. It was a mixed club side who soon adapted to the rather long grass and played some attractive hockey.

All four goals came as a result of short corners. Mids took the lead within 10 minutes when Steve Plant's short corner shot was saved by the Imps keeper and Gareth Searey scored from the rebound. Shortly before half-time the same routine led to the second goal, this time from Jon Sawyer.

The second half was more even, with Mids keeper Jason Evans making two excellent saves. Mids' third goal came from a Paul Salvidge shot from the edge of the circle when Imperial failed to clear a short corner. In the last minute of the game the home team scored a consolation goal but Mids were worthy three goals to one winners. A stronger test awaits on Saturday when the first and second elevens play Millfield teams.

If anyone is interested in playing hockey for Mid-Somerset, please contact either Paul Salvidge, secretary, Tel: (01749) 673930, Steve Plant, 1st XI, tel: (01458) 835689 or Malcolm Chorlton, 2nd XI, tel: (01749) 860570.

### Mid Somerset 2nds

North Devon 2nds

North Devon arrived at Wells having won their previous league game by eight goals to nil, with a such stronger team than in previous years.

It was Mids who took the early initiative with Jon Sawyer and Mike Davis being prominent in moves down the right. However, the early pressure failed to bring a goal and North Devon responded with some direct approach work which led to a two goal lead. Mike Edmunds pulled a goal back before half-time and Mids entered the second period confident that they could come back into the game.

There was no further goal for 20 minutes until North increased their lead thanks to a lucky deflection off a defender's stick. Captain Malcolm Chorlton converted a penalty flick but the visitors had the last word with their fourth goal. The North Devon goalkeeper had a fine game making a number of good stops and once again Mids failed to score from their short corner opportunities. Mids will be hoping to break their league duck in next Saturday's game against Taunton Civil Service.

## Yeovil C Mid-Somerset A

Acting captain Paul Salvidge decided on a change of formation for the League game at Huish Park and with a flat back four, the system brought immediate dividends as Mids were able to record their first league point of the season.

The new defensive formation gave the team much stability as they were rarely troubled and the front three found plenty of space and opportunities to run at the Yeovil defence.

Dave Yelland made a welcome appearance for Mids, but was unable to score from his trade-mark short corner routine, while front runners John Price and Andy Frampton both had opportunities to score.

The best chance came shortly before half-time when Mids had three consecutive shots at goal, but Yeovil's defence managed to hold firm. Mids can take real encouragement from this result and hopefully build on this for the rest of the season.

South East Div I: Bridgwater A 1 Mid-Somerset 7, Bridport Hawks 1 Yeovil B 2, Exeter Hornets A 3 Ottery Crickets A 2, Taunton CS 8, Taunton Vale B 2, Torbay A 1 Exeter Univ A 5.

Div II: Chard A 2, Seale Hayne 1, East Devon A 1, Dawlish A 0, Exeter Hornets B 0 North Devon 5, Sidmouth a 4 Bridgwater B 0.

Div III: Exmouth A 3 Torbay B 1, Isca C 2 Yeovil C 1, Mid-Somerset A 1 Minehead A 3, North Devon a 4 Chudleigh A 2.

## Millfield Colts Mid-Somerset 2nds

The water-based astro turf pitch at Millfield provided an excellent surface for hockey. The young lads from the school were very anxious at the start of their first game of the season and quickly found themselves two goals in arrears. However, after 20 minutes they quickly settled down and pulled the two goals back to give Mids an anxious few minutes. Nick Edmunds' second goal of the game eventually restored Mids to a half-time lead.

Despite fielding six teenagers of their own, the greater experience of the Mids team took its toll in the second half. Two further goals from Edmunds and one from Robbie Branch gave Mids a six goals to three victory.

### North Somerset 2nd XI

Mid-Somerset 2nd XI

Mid-Somerset Seconds made it three wins out of four in the rain at Portishead on Saturday. This was the last friendly before the start of the League season and Mids gave debuts to three players. Mids were very much on top for the first 10 minutes of the game, until an unfortunate eye injury to Jon Sawyer stopped play for 10 minutes. He returned with his forehead heavily bandaged in time to see captain Malcolm Chorlton open the scoring when he deflected a Des Switzer cross into the goal. A second followed before half-time when Mark Hamlett scored on his debut.

North Somerset came more into the game in the second half and scored an excellent goal when the left winger deflected a cross into the net. Mids returned with the final goal of the game when Sawyer put Chorlton through and he rounded the goalkeeper before scoring his second of the game. No doubt the first league game against Exmouth will provide a much sterner test, but Mids have played well this season and enter the League season full of confidence.

### Taunton Civil Service 2nd XI

Mid Somerset Men's 2nd XI

This was not a good day for Mid Somerset 2nds.

Illness forced the late withdrawal of Matt Pope and Mids had to give a debut to 11-year-old Jonathan Cree. Andy Frampton made a welcome return from retirement and Richard Pottery returned after a three-year absence. Without a recognised goalkeeper, teenager Andy Marchant bravely opted to keep goal for only the second time in his career. Mids were not helped by two green cards in the first five minutes, shortly followed by a thigh strain to captain Malcolm Chorlton which put him out of the game.

Taunton took a two-goal lead thanks to two umpiring decisions that should have been given against the home team rather than for them. Mids responded well and at half-time were losing by three goals to two, thanks to goals from Jon Laurjson and Robbie Branch. Mids were overwhelmed in the second half as the experienced Taunton side took advantage of some wide gaps in the Mids defence to wrap up an easy victory.

## Mid Somerset A Minehead A

Despite the previous week's clean sheet Mids once again changed their line-up and reverted to the old system of five forwards and two defenders. This worked well, Jon Sawyer could have given Mids an early lead only to shoot wide.

Minehead opened the scoring, but Mids soon equalised with Andy Frampton scoring a simple tap in goal.

The second half soon showed up Mids' defensive frailties as Minehead attacked, their second goal saw four attackers against one defender. Goalkeeper Charlie Medleycott having no chance with either goals.

The club welcomed the return of Terry Petherbridge after a long injury and was unlucky not to score on a couple of occasions.

## Mid-Somerset 2nd Old Bristolians 2nd

On a very warm and sunny day Mid-Somerset entertained Old Bristolians at Wells Cathedral School. The visitors fielded a very experienced side while Mids once again played a number of teenagers. There was not much to choose between the two sides. Mids failed to convert a number of short corners while at the other end 14-year-old goalkeeper Charlie Medleycott made some very good saves. Old Bs took the lead before half-time and added a second early in the second half.

Mids continued to attack and just lacked the necessary edge in front of goal to convert their chances. At the back sweeper Brian Malone marshalled the back line well with both teenager Joe Branch and Colin Creeves giving good support. Mids pulled a goal back with one of the best moves of the game started by skipper Malcolm Chorlton down the right. The resultant penalty stroke was converted by Branch's elder brother Robbie. There was very little time to equalise and Mids lost an excellent game by the odd goal.

### Exmouth 2nd

Mid-Somerset 2nd

For the first time this season Mids seconds failed to score a goal and the five players new to league hockey were given a tough introduction in the opening match at Exmouth. The home team fielded a very experienced side and had a golden 10 minutes midway through the first half when they scored three goals, which virtually wrapped the game up.

The second half saw a determined Mids effort to come back into the game and the defence managed to hold out for a long period. During this time, Jon Sawyer, Mark Hamlett and Matt Pope all had opportunities to score. Mids also had more short corner opportunities than Exmouth but failed to convert with any of them. During the last five minutes of the game the home team showed Mids the way to do it, to give them a four goal victory.

## Mid-Somerset A Isca C

Promotion chasers Isca visited Mid-Somerset with a league record of only two defeats in 15 months and it did not take long to realise why they are such a good side.

They played controlled passing hockey in the torrential rain, which stretched the home defence and gave very little opportunity to Mids' attack.

Mids were unlucky to lose Malcolm Chorlton and Gary Squire to leg injuries early in the first half, and despite having a squad of 12 at the start, they played much of the game with only 10 players.

It took Isca 20 minutes to score, but by half-time they had a four goal lead.

The Mids defence played well despite the score line.

There was some excellent tackling from Paul Salvidge, some timely interceptions from Colin Creeves, some good saves from teenager Charlie Medleycott in goal and some good defensive support play from Jon Sawyer.

Mids had very few opportunities in front of goal, but managed to score a consolation when debutant Rob Frampton converted a penalty stroke.

On this evidence Isca and North Devon are the clear promotion favourites with only a third of the League campaign completed.

## Yeovil & Sherborne 4ths 0 Mid Somerset 0

A WEAKENED Yeovil side played very well against a strong Mid Somerset. Hunt was unlucky on a couple of occasions not to score. Thompson and Phillips were outstanding in defence but man of the match was Warren Hayes who worked his socks off in midfield.

South East Div I: Exeter Hornets A 3 Bridport Hawks 1, Exeter Univ A 2 Taunton CS 1, Mid-Somerset 3 Taunton Vale B 0, Torbay A 3 Bridgwater A 0, Yeovil B 0 Ottery Crickets A 0, Div II: Bridgwater B 1 East Devon A 2, Exeter Hornets B 0 Exeter Univ B 2, Seale Hayne 0 Dawlish A 3, Sidmouth A 1 Chard A 0, Div III: Chudleigh A 2 Isca C 5, Exmouth A 4 Mid-Somerset A 0, Minehead A 6 Torbay B 1, N Bridgwater C 1 Isca D 7, Dawlish B 1 Exeter Hornets C 0, Ottery Crickets C 3 Minehead B 0, Taunton CS B 0 Sidmth B 0.

South East Div I: Bridport Hawks 7 Torbay A 0, Ottery Crickets A 5 Bridgwater A 3, Taunton CS 3 Exeter Hornets A 2, Taunton Vale B 5 Exeter Univ A 3, Yeovil B 0 Mid-Somerset 3.

South East Div II: Dawlish A 2 Bridgwater B 1, East Devon A 5 Exeter Hornets B 2, Exeter Univ B 6 Sidmouth A 3, North Devon 7 Chard A 1, Ottery Crickets B 4 Seale Hayne 2.

South East Div III: Isca C 4 Exmouth A 1, Mid-Somerset A 2 North Devon A 4, Minehead A w/o 5 Bridport Hawks A 0, Torbay B 4 Taunton CS A 1, Yeovil C 4 Chudleigh A 1.

South East Div I: Bridgwater A 0 Bridport Hawks A 4, Exeter Hornets a 6 Taunton Vale B 1, Exeter Univ a 5 Yeovil B 0, Mid-Somerset 1 Ottery Crickets a 2, Torbay A 1 Taunton CS 8.

South East Div II: Bridgwater B 1 Ottery Crickets B 2, Chard A 1 Exeter Univ B 4, Sidmouth a 2 East Devon A 1.

South East Div III: Chudleigh A 3 Minehead A 0, Exmouth A 4 Yeovil C 0, North Devon A 5 Isca C 2, Taunton CS A 9 Mid-Somerset A 2.

South East Div IV: Dawlish 1 Isca D 1, East Devon B 17 Exeter Hornets C 0, Ottery Crickets C 3 Sidmouth B 1.

South East Div I: Mid-Somerset 3 Exeter Univ A 4, Ottery Crickets A 2 Bridport Hawks B 6, Taunton CS 4 Bridgwater A 1, Yeovil B 3 Exeter Hornets A 2.

South East Div II: East Devon A 1 Chard A 2, North Devon 1 Exeter Univ B 1, Ottery Crickets B 3 Exeter Hornets B 1, Seale Hayne 1 Bridgwater B 1.

Div III: Isca C 7 Taunton CS A 0, Minehead A 0 Exmouth A 2, Yeovil C 3 North Devon A 3.

Div IV: Bridgwater C 0 East Devon B 3, Exeter Hornets C 2 Ottery Crickets C 2.

South East Div I: Bridgwater A 1 Taunton Vale B 2, Exeter Univ A 6 Ottery Crickets A 1, Torbay A 3 Yeovil B 2.

South East Div II: Exeter Hornets B 1 Seale Hayne 0.

South East Div III: Mid-Somerset A 1 Isca C 7, North Devon A 5 Minehead 3.

South East Div IV: East Devon B 10 Dawlish B 2, Minehead B 1 Exeter Hornets C 2, Ottery Crickets C 4 Bridgwater C 0.

South East Division One: Exeter Univ A 3 Exeter Hornets A 0, Mid-Somerset 8 Torbay A 0, Ottery Crickets A 5 Taunton CS 2, Taunton Vale B 3 Bridport Hawks 3, Yeovil B 0 Bridgwater A 0.

South East Division Two: Bridgwater 0 Exeter Hornets B 2, Dawlish A 5 Exeter Univ B 5, North Devon 5 Eason Devon A 1, Ottery Crickets B 5 Chard A 2, Seale Hayne 0 Sidmouth A 2.

South East Division Three: Chudleigh A 0 Exmouth A 3, Minehead A 1 Taunton CS A 1, Torbay B 0 Isca C 3, Yeovil C 0 Mid-Somerset A 0.

South East Division Four: Bridgwater C 2 Minehead B 0, Dawlish B 3 Ottery Crickets C 2, Isca D 7 Sidmouth B 2, Taunton CS B 0 East Devon B 6.