

Mid Somerset win through to semis

Mid Somerset 1st XI 2
Yeovil 2nd XI 2
(Mids won 3-1 on pens)

This was without doubt the game and the result of the season for Mid Somerset as they booked their place in the semi-finals of the Somerset Plate Knockout Cup with victory over higher-league opposition.

Mids put the previous day's performance at Exeter behind them and took an early lead through Dave Lennard.

Mids were good value for this lead but they were caught out by a quick Yeovil break for their first equaliser.

Lennard restored Mids' lead in the second half and with five minutes remaining Yeovil were unfortunate to have a goal disallowed.

As the game reached its conclusion Yeovil were awarded a short corner and the final whistle blew, only leaving time for the short corner to be taken. A succession of five short corners were awarded before, with the final strike, Yeovil scored a dramatic equaliser which took the game into extra-time.

Neither side could fashion a goal after an extra 20 minutes so penalty strokes had to be taken to decide a winner. Yeovil put the first stroke wide while Andy Rogers scored for Mids. Keeper Mark Seward saved the second Yeovil stroke while Andy Berry converted Mids second. Both teams scored with their third strokes - skipper Roger Knife netting for Mids. Yeovil missed their fourth leaving Mids triumphant.

Mids have been drawn at home in the semi-final to be played on March 9.

Exeter University B 2
Mid Somerset 1st XI 1

Mids' chances of reaching the play-offs ended with another away defeat in Devon.

With closest rivals Bridport winning, Mids can finish no better than third place.

This is a disappointing finale to a league season that had offered so much up to the mid-season break.

Mids fell behind to the students in the first half and equalised through Dave Lennard. The students regained the lead in the second half as Mids were once again unable to convert scoring chances into goals.

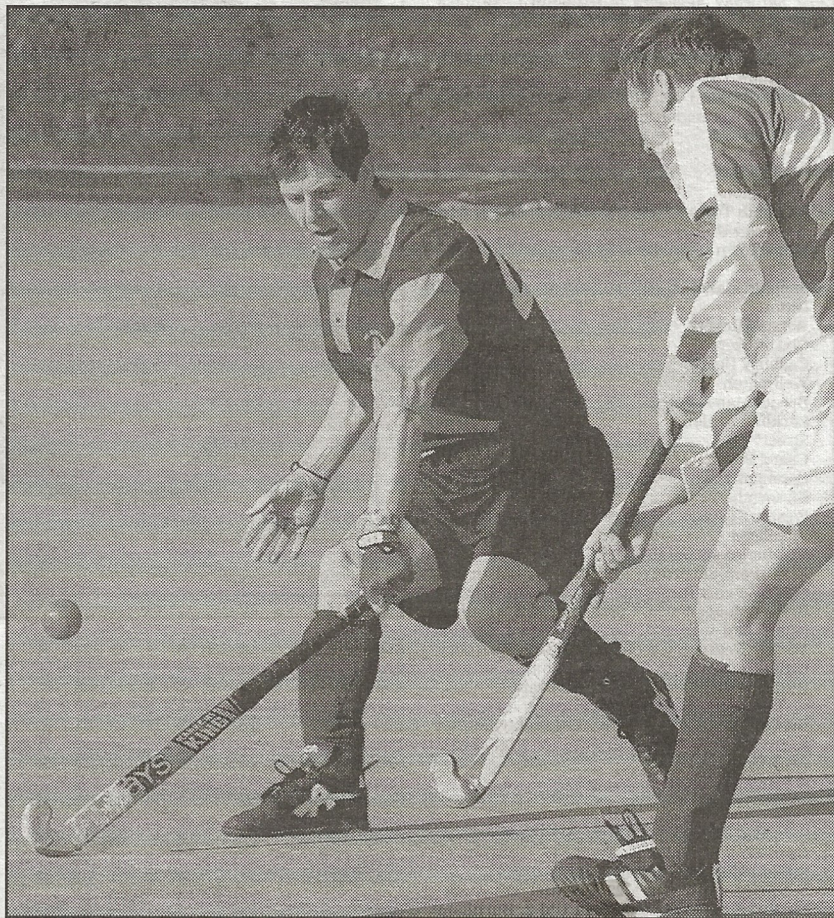
Mid Somerset 2nd XI 3
Chard 2nd XI 1

At the end of last winter Mids' seconds finished third from bottom in their league but still found themselves relegated as a result of a league re-organisation.

It was therefore a great achievement to gain promotion at the first attempt with two games remaining. Their home win over an in-form Chard secured one of the two promotion places, with next Saturday's game at Bridport deciding who finishes top.

Mids got off to a good start by opening up a two-goal lead inside the first 10 minutes. The first came when a free hit from Gareth Searey was deflected past the keeper by Martin White. The second was scored by Shaun Plenty. He received the ball in the circle and did a reverse turn which deceived the keeper and left him with an open goal.

Mids conceded their first league goal in four games, but had ample opportunities to increase their lead. The final goal came in the dying minutes when Dan Durston scored direct from a short corner.



Mid Somerset 2nd XI player John Sawyer keeps an eye on the ball during his side's 3-1 victory against Chard

Mid Somerset 1sts 1
Bridport 1sts 2

Third-placed Mid Somerset against second-placed Bridport should have been the game of the day, but from the Mids point of view it did not turn out that way.

This result confirmed Bridport in second place in the league and they now qualify for the end of season play-offs.

Bridport scored a goal in each half and were looking comfortable winners.

Acting skipper Steve Dowden received a yellow card in the second half which reduced Mids to 10 men.

However, the home side did pull a goal back in the final 10 minutes.

An Andy Berry shot was heading for goal, but as the defender took his stick away the umpire awarded a penalty stroke.

Defender Andy Rogers stepped up to convert the stroke, but it was too little too late, as the visitors held on to their one-goal lead until the final whistle.

The league season ends on Saturday (March 8) with an away fixture against Taunton Civil Service.

Bridport 2nds 1
Mid Somerset 2nds 1

Top-of-the-table Mids had a three point lead over second-placed Bridport before the start of this match, and it remained the same at the end of the game, as the teams battled out a draw.

With only one league game remaining, the result almost certainly gives Mids the title, as they have a far superior goal difference.

Mids had the best of the opening exchanges as the pace of Martin White and Matt Pope caused havoc in the Bridport defence.

It was against the run of play when the home time were awarded a fortuitous penalty stroke, for a stick tackle that was not deliberate.

Brian Miller put the ball wide but within minutes made up for his miss by scoring the opening goal.

The second half was frantic and physical, especially in the midfield areas with Mids once again having the better chances.

It was only a matter of time before they equalised and with 10 minutes remaining, the pressure told and White scored to level the scores.

A draw was probably a fair result and means Mids enter the last game of the season at home to Minehead, knowing that only a catastrophic defeat will deny them the title.

● Mid Somerset 3rds' match against Seale Hayne this week was cancelled as their opponents have withdrawn from the league.

The Mid Somerset 4ths also had their game cancelled, this time due to their opponents ISCA not being able to raise a side.