

Mid Somerset XI 6
Bristol 0

The hockey season commenced on Saturday with a home game for Mid Somerset against Bristol.

Mid's opponents were struggling for a full team so in order for the game to be played the hosts supplied Bristol with two players, Ian Bloomfield and Tony Bown. The first half was a drab affair and remained goalless but came to life in the second as Mids found the net to win the game by six goals to nil. Scorers: Shaun

Plenty, Andy Berry, Gareth Searey, Mike Davis, Martin White and Roger Knife.

This Saturday, Mids First XI entertain Chard at home at 1.30pm, while the seconds and thirds travel to Chard.

Shepton Mallet Vets 1
Mid Somerset Vets 4

Shepton struggled to field a full veterans side for this opening fixture, but with some youngsters and Bev Squire, they gave Mid Somerset a good game.

The game was won in the first half as Mids raced into a four-goal lead, the opening goal scored from midfield by Steve Dowden who later added the third. The second was scored by Andy Rogers from a short corner, while the fourth was converted by Dave Lennard. There were chances for both teams in the second half, but the only goal came in the final five minutes with a consolation for Shepton.

Mid Somerset 1sts 8
Chard 1sts 1

The season started for Mids with a comprehensive friendly victory at home to Chard.

The visitors had been relegated at the end of last season and will now play in the same league as Mids this winter but Mids should now have the psychological advantage after their eight goals to one victory.

It all started well for Mids as they raced into a six-goal lead at half-time, four of which were scored by Dave Lennard.

At the start of the second half Chard played much better and pulled a goal back from a short corner, but Mids regained their superiority in the last quarter.

The other goal scorers were Martin White (2), Roger Knife and Andy Rogers. Mids play North Somerset away on Saturday.

Chard 2nds 0
Mid Somerset 2nds 2

The Mids side included a number of last year's successful third eleven who will have to travel to Chard later in the season for a league encounter.

Mids turned in a fine team performance in their first game of the season and kept a clean sheet.

They got off to a great start with a goal in

the first ten minutes as skipper Gareth Searey set up a goal for Jon Sawyer.

Midway through the second half they doubled their lead as Ian Witcombe found an unmarked Gavin Patey who opened his goal account for the season.

Two-nil was a fair score with the Chard attack being limited to a few half chances.

Chard 3rds 0
Mid Somerset 3rds 0

There was a big age difference in the Mids third side that travelled to Chard with seasoned campaigners Malcolm Chorlton and John Price at one end of the scale and youngsters Patrick Willis and Ed Manders at the other end.

The defences of both teams had the upper hand and the game ended in a goal-less draw.

North Somerset 1st 0
Mid Somerset 1st 4

With the league hockey season now only a week away, Mid Somerset turned in another encouraging performance at Portishead to defeat North Somerset.

The team played well and never looked back after they opened the scoring. The first goal was deflected into the net by Martin White after a Dave Lennard shot was going wide, while White then set up the second for captain Roger Knife, as he scored from the

top of the circle. Mids kept up their dominance in the second half and scored two more goals. Lennard ran down the right and rounded the North Somerset keeper to score Mids' third, and he then set up the fourth for Darren Wilson to score a rare goal.

The friendly on Saturday at Old Bristolians is the last before the league season commences.

Mid Somerset 2nds 10
North Somerset 2nds 1

The weather for this game was more suitable for cricket and Mids would have welcomed a cricket scoreboard to record the number of goals.

The final tally recorded by the umpires was 10 and it would have been more if not for the heroics of Mike Lilley in the North Somerset goal.

The game was effectively over within 10 minutes as Mids scored twice. The first from a Dan Durston short corner strike and the second from Mike Davis.

Durston completed a first-half hat-trick and Davis added his second by half-time. The second period was more of the same as Mids added a further five goals. Ben Dormer scored twice, while Jon Sawyer and Gavin Patey added a goal apiece.

North Somerset did have scoring chances. Jason Evans pulled off two fine saves but the visitors scored a consolation in the dying minutes, before Durston completed the scoring with his fourth.

Mid Somerset 3rds 4
North Somerset 3rds 0

No Mids team has lost in a friendly this season and the third eleven kept up the record to ensure that Mids defeated North Somerset in all three games on Saturday.

The first half was fairly even but the deadlock was eventually broken by centre forward Ian Bloomfield after 20 minutes when he scored from a seemingly impossible angle.

Mids had more opportunities in the second half despite losing a player for ten minutes to a yellow card.

Bloomfield completed his hat-trick while the fourth goal was scored by Shaun Plenty after a flowing move down the right.

Old Bristolians 1sts 0
Mid Somerset 1sts 7

Mids' captain, Roger Knife, described his team's performance as "exceptional" and said it was probably their best performance for a number of years.

By half-time the side had built up a five-goal lead with the first goal coming from a short corner, converted by Andy Rogers. The second goal came from Knife after Andy Berry had drawn out the goal keeper. A third soon followed, courtesy of Martin White who picked up a rebound off the keeper's pads.

Berry slotted home a fourth with a shot from the edge of the circle, while the fifth was scored by Darren Wilson with a reverse stick flick from an acute angle.

The second half saw two further goals. White scored his second after rounding the keeper, while in the dying seconds, Wilson had a short corner shot stopped on the line by a defender's hand. Rogers added his second of the game by converting the subsequent penalty stroke.

Mid Somerset 2nds 3
Old Bristolians 2nds 3

Mids seconds' record against Old Bristolians over the last few years has not been great, but the formbook was reversed on Saturday as Mids came away with a draw.

The game started off well as Ben Dormer gave Mids an early lead. His initial shot from the left of the circle was saved by the keeper, but Dormer picked up the rebound and scored on the second attempt. Old Bristolians attacked in numbers and by half-time had taken a two goals to one lead with some crisp passing. Mids pressurised the visitors' defence in the second half and drew level from a short corner strike from Dan Durston.

They regained the lead when Matt Pope scored his team's third. Jason Evans pulled off some good saves in the second half, but was unable to prevent the visitors from sharing the spoils as they equalised in the final five minutes.

Old Bristolians 3rds 4
Mid Somerset 3rds 3

There were seven goals in this game but unfortunately for Mids, they were always chasing.

The home side scored the first two goals before Martin White scored from a short corner. By the middle of the second half, Old Bristolians led by four goals to one, but Mids showed their character as they came back into the game. Skipper Gavin Patey reduced the arrears with a cracking shot from the edge of the circle, while the third goal was scored with the last hit of the match. Ed Manders followed up a short corner strike from Simon Davis to score.

Mid Somerset 4ths 1
Old Bristolians 4ths 3

For the first time this season Mids had four fixtures on a Saturday and managed to fulfil them all.

Old Bristolians fourths were by far the more experienced side and raced into a two-goal half-time lead. Skipper John Willis gave a stirring half-time talk and Mids came out more determined in the second period.

Shaun Plenty pulled a goal back and the team then pushed forward to try and draw level. Des Switzer had the best chance to equalise, but Mids left themselves exposed at the back and Old Bristolians scored their third with only seconds remaining.