

# Two points lost in draw

**Mid Somerset 2**  
**Taunton Civil Service 2**

Mids were disappointed to only take a point on Saturday as they will be the first to admit they should have done better, but were unable to turn their superiority into goals.

During the first 15 minutes of the game Mids played their best hockey and were permanently encamped in the Taunton half.

Their pressure caused Taunton to concede half a dozen short corners which, despite Mids' varying routines, failed to produce a goal and the shots on target were well saved by the in-form visiting goalkeeper.

Half-time arrived with the game goalless and against the run of play Taunton took the lead early in the second half.

The home team thought the goal should have been disallowed, but as neither umpire saw the alleged offence the goal stood.

Taunton clinched their second and the game looked over, until captain Roger Knife scored 12 minutes from time with a cracking shot from the edge of the circle.

Mids' pressure resulted in further short corners and from one, with three minutes remaining, defender Andy Rogers scored with a first-time shot that deflected off a defender's stick into the roof of

the net to earn his team a draw.

**North Devon 2nds 5**  
**Mid Somerset 2nds 2**

When the two teams met earlier in the season at Wells, North Devon were so incensed at losing by six goals to nil they said they promised revenge in the return game at Barnstaple.

True to their word they put in a competitive performance and got off to a tremendous start with an early goal from a reverse-stick shot into the roof of the net inside the first five minutes.

The visitors' best spell came early in the second half as Dave Lennard scored from a short corner routine.

Not to be outdone, North Devon broke away to score three goals inside five minutes and take control of the game.

Lennard scored a second for Mids before the home side completed the scoring with their fifth and final of the game.

The game was umpired by former Mids' second team captain Dave Yelland who has moved to North Devon.

Although the team has changed from his playing days, Yelland has many fond memories of playing in Somerset and enjoyed meeting with his old adversaries.

**Mid Somerset 3rds 2**  
**Chard 2nds 2**

Following last week's encouraging performance, Mids' thirds were unlucky to concede a late goal against Chard.

Chard started well and pounded the Mids defence for the first 10 minutes, but they only had one goal to show for their endeavours.

An equalising goal from George Merchant with a great shot from the back of the circle and a short corner conversion from Gavin Patey gave Mids the lead.

The second half remained goalless, but Chard gained a number of short corners in the dying minutes and, with seconds remaining, they converted one to deny the home side a deserved victory.

**Taunton Vale D 3**  
**Mid Somerset 4ths 1**

Two goals in the last three minutes of the game denied the fourth team a share of the points, but the end result was a fair reflection of the match.

Taunton had a one-goal lead at half-time through a short corner, but Mids' equaliser came in the second half through a goalmouth scramble, with Ian Bloomfield getting the final touch.

Taunton clinched the game with an excellent second goal,

while the third came from a lifted ball into the circle, which many umpires would have interpreted as dangerous play.

Teenager James Perkins at full back had an excellent debut.

**Torbay A 0**  
**Mid Somerset 6**

Although Mid Somerset led the table from Exeter Hornets on goal difference, Saturday's result helped Mids increase their lead from one goal to three after they thrashed Torbay.

On Saturday Mids got off to a flying start with a four-goal half-time lead and after this the result was never in doubt.

Mids played some of their best hockey of the season with Martin White scoring the opening two goals. The first came from a pass by captain Roger Knife and the second resulted from a shot from the top of the circle after a Torbay defender made a poor attempt at a clearance.

Goal three was set up by Andy Berry which enabled Knife to score from a narrow angle, while the fourth was scored by Darren Wilson who picked up a rebound off the Torbay keeper's pads.

Mids continued to pressurise the home side's goal in the second half and number five came from an Andy Rogers' short corner strike.

The final goal came from Steve Dowden who nutmegged the keeper from his position at the near post.

Contrary to much speculation, Dan Durston (the hockey player) had not broken his leg and played an important part in this victory while Gareth Searey and Chris Ashworth deserve

special praise for travelling to Torquay as substitutes.

With only three league games remaining Mids' hopes of automatic promotion, by finishing first, rest in their own hands, starting with Hornets at Wells on Saturday (1.30pm start).

Man of the match: Martin White.

# Mids step back up to the top spot

**Exeter Hornets B 1**  
**Mid Somerset 4**

Following last week's disappointing result Mid Somerset returned to form with a great performance at Cullompton, against Exeter Hornets which sees them return to the top of the league as the previous leaders Hornets lost to Exeter University.

The game was played in appalling conditions, but Mids got off to the best of starts with an early goal. Mike Davis's run-and-cross from the right was met by Andy Berry whose reverse-stick shot found the back of the net.

The second goal resulted from a short corner strike by Andy Rogers whose shot was deflected in at the far post by Davis.

Hornets reduced the deficit to 2-1 early in the second half, but Davis's pace caused havoc in the home defence and the Hornet's goalkeeper took Davis out which resulted in Rogers converting the penalty stroke.

The game was held up for 10 minutes when one of their players under-cut the ball into the face of one of his team mates and the player needed five stitches to a head wound.

Mids took advantage of having an extra man to complete the scoring in the dying minutes when Martin White set up Knife for the fourth and final goal.

**Mid Somerset 2nds 1**  
**Taunton CS 2nds 5**

The visitors completed the double over Mids and the home side never recovered from conceding three goals in the first quarter of an hour.

The makeshift defence was unable to cope with the experienced Taunton forward line who were clinical in front of goal.

Mids' forwards were not so accurate, with Dan Durston and Luke Branley both shooting wide, while Taunton added a fourth before Branley pulled a goal back on the stroke of half-time.

The second half was even with Mids having the better chances in front of goal. Branley, Dave Lennard and Matt Pope all missed opportunities before Taunton lost two players at different times to yellow card offences.

Mids' final chance fell to a Durston short-corner strike, but this went wide. The visitors completed the scoring in the final minute to wrap up victory.

**Bridport 2nds 3**  
**Mid Somerset 3rds 2**

This was another good team effort from Mids who, having found themselves 3-0 down at half-time, put in a sterling second-half performance.

Upset at some of the umpiring

decisions in the first half, they lost Lee Richards to a yellow card offence.

With a full complement of players in the second half, Mids reduced the deficit from a short corner routine. The ball eventually returned to Ben Underdown, who had taken the original push out, to score.

The second goal was also set up by an Underdown pass when he found Findlay Rarity on the right wing whose cross was swept into the top corner of the net by captain Gavin Patey.

Mids deserved a draw from the game, but were unable to score the vital third goal.

**Mid Somerset 4ths 5**  
**Bridgwater 5ths 0**

This was the fourth team's best win of the season as they comprehensively beat bottom of the table Bridgwater.

The result was never in doubt once veteran John Price had netted the first goal and with Ian Bloomfield's hat-trick of goals from short corner strikes, the tally was completed by teenager Joe Stansbridge who scored the fifth in the final 10 minutes following a flowing move down the right.