

Festive friendly rivalry as Mids battle it out

Mid Somerset 3
Mid Somerset 2nds 2

With South Gloucester calling off Saturday's fixtures at short notice, the second team took on the firsts in a friendly game at Wells.

The firsts played with the handicap of being a player short, but this had the effect of making the game even and a good contest ensued.

The first half was hard fought and remained goal-less going into half-time, but two minutes into the second half the firsts took the lead when Steve Dowden converted a short corner.

They held onto their advantage until the last quarter when the seconds equalised after Jar Payne set up Dave Lennard who scored.

Two further goals followed as Dowden scored his second after being set up by Luke Branley, while shortly after Branley broke away to score a fine individual goal.

The seconds reduced the arrears when a George Merchant shot was bundled in at the near post by Lennard.

Mid Somerset 4ths 1
Mendip 3

The newly-formed Mendip club came to Wells to play Mids' fourths in a friendly.

Mendip are top of their league while Mids gave some of their juniors the chance to make their debuts.

Mendip claimed two early goals in the first 12 minutes, but after this a good game ensued. Mids' best chance in the first half fell to captain John Willis after he had taken a short corner.

In the second period Mids pulled a goal back after Mendip had scored their third. Martin White's run and shot was partially saved by a defender's foot on the goal line, but before the umpire could award a penalty stroke, the ball trickled over the line and a goal was given.

Jonathan Crees volunteered to keep goal at short notice and pulled off some good saves to keep his side in the game.



Mids fourths' Joe Stansbridge on the ball against Mendip at the weekend

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Mid Somerset Vets 6
Shepton Mallet Vets 5

In the first round of the County Veterans Cup Competition, local rivals Mid Somerset and Shepton Mallet played out an 11-goal thriller with Mids earning a home tie against defending champions Taunton Vale in the next round.

An injury to Mids' Alan Wilton after 10 minutes gave Mids the disadvantage of playing with a man down, but they adapted well despite conceding the first goal of the game.

Mids equalised through captain Andy Rogers who converted a penalty stroke, but they fell behind soon after.

Mids' John Price then scored a hat-trick by snapping up three identical opportunities at the far post.

The first followed some good work by Dave Lennard, the second from an Andy Rogers short-corner strike and the third from a Terry Petherbridge shot.

Shepton scored again, but further goals in the last 10 minutes from Lennard and Petherbridge sealed Mids' victory.

The scoring was completed with the final hit of the game as Rich Harvey completed his hat-trick for Shepton, but as the final whistle had already blown there was no chance for the visitors to score an equaliser.

Dowden's trio clinches Mids' win

Mid Somerset 4
Old Bristolians 3
Old Bristolians 2nds 6
Mid Somerset 2nds 1

Mids can take heart from their performance at the weekend when they defeated a strong Old Bristolians team by the odd goal in seven.

Non-availabilities gave second team players Gareth Searey and Jonathan Crees an opportunity to step up to the firsts in defence.

Mids got off to a bright start as they opened up a two-goal lead through Steve Dowden and captain Roger Knife, but the visitors fought back and levelled the scores by half-time.

In the second period Mids pressed forward and Dowden completed his hat-trick before the visitors scored a consolation goal in the dying seconds.

Mids' seconds put in their worst performance of the season at Failand and found themselves five goals in arrears by half-time.

Steve Tinnion dropped back into defence for the second half and further changes had the desired effect as Mids took the game to Old Bs and belied their first-half efforts with an improved performance.

Mids had a number of shots on goal from Pope, Lennard and Branley, but the goalkeeper kept the shots at bay until midway through the half when Pope pulled a goal back.

The home side completed the scoring in the dying minutes, but the second half belonged to Mids.

Mid Somerset 3rds 0
Old Bristolians 3rds 6

Old Bristolians' third team have played together for a number of years and it was no surprise to see them dominate the game, especially in the second half, against an inexperienced Mids team.

Mids did well to hold the visitors in the first half and restricted them to only one goal, scored two minutes before half-time. However, Old Bristolians' experience told in the second period as they scored five further goals.

Mid Somerset Vets 3
Taunton Vale Vets 9

In the County Veterans Cup Mid Somerset faced a Taunton Vale side that

included a number of players with National League experience.

Mids drew Taunton in last season's competition and lost by double figures, but they fared better this year and for the first 25 minutes they held the upper hand.

Mids scored arguably the best goal of the game to take the lead in the first half when Will Steel started a move from the back. Dave Lennard's run and cross from the right was perfect for Terry Petherbridge to score.

Taunton came back strongly and having levelled the scores they raced ahead. Four-one at half-time became nine-three at the final whistle.

Mids' other two goals came from Lennard, the second from a short corner strike with the last hit of the game.