

WBHC Mens Match Reports 2006/07 Season

Bassett sign off in style: City of Bath C 0 - 5 Wootton Bassett 1st XI

(17 March 2007)

Wootton Bassett finished off this season's league campaign in style with a 5 – 0 away win at City of Bath. They dominated the match throughout, creating dozens of chances in the first half alone. However, it took until five minutes before half time for Kyle Barnes to finally break the deadlock. A Grant Kirkup shot was saved but Barnes dived to his right to fire the rebound into the goal.

In the second half Bassett raised the tempo of the game and quickly found themselves two goals up when a Dale Titcombe pass was spectacularly deflected into the roof of the net by Dan Stanley. From the restart Bassett quickly regained possession and Stanley scored his second of the match when he burst into the D, rounded the keeper and slotted the ball home. Not to be outdone Barnes then converted his second of the contest to give Bassett a four goal lead going into the final twenty minutes. Bassett's new look strike force of Jeffery, Snell and Cook produced chance after chance. Eventually the pressure paid off when a loose ball found in-form centre forward Sam Snell at the back post to slot the ball home.

There were some encouraging debuts from youngster Dan McCarthy and goalkeeper Ian Wood who kept a clean sheet in his first appearance for the first eleven. The win rounds off a good league season and sees Bassett finishing third in Wilts & NE Somerset Division 1.

Scorers: K.Barnes (2), D.Stanley (2), S.Snell **Man of the Match:** R.Cook.

Wootton Bassett 1st XI: I.Wood, S.Snell, D.Jeffery, R.Cook, M.Tolley, M.Skivington (c), D.Titcombe, G.Kirkup, D.Stanley, S.Lawrence, K.Barnes, C.Black, A.Sammon, D.McCarthy

Kirkup hat-trick secures third place: Wootton Bassett 1sts 10 – 2 Shepton Mallett A

(10 March 2007)

A Grant Kirkup hat-trick helped Bassett 1st XI to their largest win of the season. A win that guarantees Bassett third place in Wilts & NE Somerset 1 in only their second season in the division.

Bassett started on the back foot with a quick Shepton side attacking straight from the whistle. The visitors could have taken an early lead but for a fine save from Paul Warren to keep the score line level. Once this early spell was over Bassett took control of the match and quickly found themselves 1 – 0 up through a Dan Jeffery strike. Within minutes it was 2 – 0 when a well worked short corner found Grant Kirkup at the far post to sweep the ball home. Two more goals followed from Stuart Lawrence and Kirkup before half time to give the home side a deserved 4 – 0 lead.

Bassett started the second half with a Mark Skivington goal from a short corner to take a five goal lead before conceding one from a Shepton short corner. Three further Bassett goals followed when Kyle Barnes set up Callum Black and Dan Stanley before scoring himself. Eventually Shepton managed to build a period of attack, scoring a second and having another shot saved off line by Dale Titcombe. Titcombe then used his pace to race up the pitch and score Bassett's ninth of the match. A further goal then followed from Grant Kirkup to round off his hat-trick and give Bassett a 10 – 2 victory.

Scorers: G.Kirkup (3), D.Jeffery, D.Stanley, S.Lawrence, M.Skivington, K.Barnes, C.Black, D.Titcombe **Man of the Match:** M.Tolley
Wootton Bassett: P.Warren, S.Snell, S.Bell, D.Jeffery, M.Tolley, A.Sammon, M.Skivington (c), G.Kirkup, D.Stanley, S.Lawrence, K.Barnes, C.Black, D.Titcombe

Wootton Bassett 2nd XI 6 - 0 Chippenham C

Meanwhile in the Wilts Development league, Bassett 2nd XI powered their way to an emphatic win over Chippenham. Four goals from Curt Postill and a goal apiece from Dan McCarthy and Matt Jakubiec, saw the home side overwhelm the team in second place. This win augurs well for the 2nd XI's entry into the Wilts & NE Somerset league next season.

Scorers: C.Postill (4), D.McCarthy, M.Jakubiec **Man of the Match:** D.McCarthy

Bassett 2nd XI: I.Wood, R.Pearce, D.Gardner, N.Sharp, J.Wright, M.Davies, A.Wood, J.Sharp, D.McCarthy, M.Brennan, M.Jakubiec, K.Mansfield, C.Postill, T.Ponting.

Wootton Bassett 1 - 3 RAF Under 23's

(4 March 2007)

On Sunday Bassett faced a tough "friendly" match against the current national inter-service under 23 champions. A slightly depleted Bassett side came out strong and produced wave after wave of attack, but as clinical as Bassett's passing and movement was it was equally matched by the speed and stamina of the RAF. The first half was played at a ferocious pace with balls whizzing past the posts at both ends of the pitch and both 'keepers pulling off crucial saves to keep the scores level. Towards the end of the first half Bassett had a string of chances in front of the RAF goal but could not find the finishing touch.

The second half started at the same pace but it didn't take long for the RAF's fitness to pay off as they took an early second half lead. Bassett took the game straight back to them winning a series of penalty corners, but again to no avail. The RAF then broke away from the pressure and quickly hit Bassett with a second. As the end of the game approached Bassett committed the whole team forward in search of a goal and inevitably got hit on the break through a superb individual goal. Still Bassett didn't drop their heads and finally the pressure paid off when a penalty stroke was awarded on the final whistle. Callum Black stepped up and coolly converted the flick to give Bassett the goal they deserved.

The standard of hockey in this game was very high and it is good to see that Bassett can compete at this level. There were some very encouraging performances from youngsters Ali Sammon, Max Brennan, Sam Snell and Callum Black which should bode well for next seasons push for promotion. A special mention must go to Dan Stanley who played one of his best games of the season, for the opposition.

Scorer: C.Black **Men of Match:** M.Tolley & M.Skivington

Wootton Bassett: P.Warren, S.Snell, P.Vines, J.Showering, M.Tolley, M.Skivington (c), A.Sammon, G.Kirkup, M.Chivers, S.Lawrence, C.Black, M.Brennan.

Bassett slip in race for second place: Swindon A 2 – 2 Wootton Bassett 1st XI (3 March 2007)

Wootton Bassett dropped an important two points in their push for second place in Wilts & NE Somerset Division 1 against a stubborn Swindon side on Saturday.

This was very open contest straight from the whistle. Both teams had early chances to take the lead, but the deteriorating Greendown pitch played its part and the scores remained level. Swindon then started to increase the pressure and scored the opening goal to take a 1 – 0 lead into half time.

The second half was all Bassett. Powerful runs from man of the match Dan Stanley gave Bassett numerous chances to draw level. Eventually Stanley and Kyle Barnes combined to score the equaliser but Swindon came straight back and regained the lead. Bassett continued to attack and with only five minutes remaining Dan Stanley finally drew the scores to 2 – 2 when he slotted the ball home past the in form Swindon 'keeper. Bassett continued to push for the remaining five minutes but could not find the winner they deserved.

Scorers: K.Barnes, D.Stanley **Man of Match:** D.Stanley

Wootton Bassett 1st XI: P.Warren, S.Snell, S.Bell, D.Jeffery, M.Tolley, D.Titcombe, M.Skivington (c), S.Lawrence, D.Stanley, G.Kirkup, K.Barnes, M.Davies, M.Bray, P.Vines

Bassett keep pressure on leaders: Wootton Bassett 1sts 3 – 1 West Wilts C (24 February 2007)

Bassett picked up an important three points on Saturday to close the gap on second placed Marlborough to 4 points in Wilts & NE Somerset Division 1

Bassett struggled to find their feet for the first five minutes against an experienced West Wilts side. Having absorbed the early pressure the home side then increased the pace of the game and spent the rest of the half attacking the West Wilts D. Surging runs from Stuart Bell and Stuart Lawrence created numerous chances. However, sloppy passing and poor finishing meant that the scores stayed level until 20 minutes into the game.

Eventually the pressure paid off when a foul in the D gave Bassett a short corner. The corner was taken short and the early shot found Dale Titcombe on the near post to divert the ball home. Two minutes later Callum Black burst through the Wilts defence and lifted the ball over the 'keeper from a tight angle to give the home side a two goal lead. However, just before half time Wilts pulled a goal back through a quick counter attack.

Following the break neither team played well. Both teams tried to win back control of the game, but the sloppy passing continued. There were some positives in the second half, including the performance of 1st XI debutant Max Brennan and the running of Dan Stanley on the left wing. In fact it was Stanley who put the game beyond doubt with a cool finish under pressure from the Wilts 'keeper. The win keeps Bassett in third place in Wilts & NE Somerset 1 and closes the gap on second placed Marlborough as the end of the season approaches.

Scorers: D.Titcombe, C.Black, D.Stanley. **Men of the Match:** S.Bell, S.Snell

Wootton Bassett 1st XI: P.Warren, S.Snell, S.Bell, P.Vines, D.Jeffery, M.Skivington (c), D.Titcombe, M.Davies, D.Stanley, S.Lawrence, G.Kirkup, C.Black, M.Brennan.

Early bath for Bassett: Bath Buccs G 4 – 1 Wootton Bassett 1st XI (10 February 2007)

Wootton Bassett lost valuable points on Saturday to a Bath Buccs team who, despite their lowly position, over the last few weeks have now beaten the top three sides in Wilts & NE Somerset 1.

Bassett started well despite the driving rain and abnormally slow pitch. Both wingers settled into the game quickly and produced early chances. Bassett then took the lead through Grant Kirkup's free hit and a quality finish from Stuart Lawrence. After the goal Buccs came into the match and Bassett started to have more and more trouble with the sticky surface on the Bath pitch. The first half turned into an end to end affair with both teams creating chances but neither managing to capitalise. The much changed Buccs team then broke into the D and a deflected pass found their striker at the top of the D to power the ball home and level the scores. Just before the break Buccs scored a second give them a narrow half time lead.

Soon after the break Buccs broke down the left and scored a third goal. Bassett then went on the attack and created numerous chances in front of goal only to see Buccs score a fourth. An inspired second half performance from Stuart Lawrence saw Bassett sending shots either side of the post but, on a day when nothing seemed to go their way, Bassett could not convert a single one of

their numerous second half opportunities. In fact, despite the number of chances they created, Bassett did not win a single short corner throughout the entire match. The match finished with Bassett pushing for a late goal but they could not prevent a 4 – 1 defeat.

Scorer: S.Lawrence **Men of Match:** S.Lawrence, P.Vines

Wootton Bassett: P.Warren, S.Snell, S.Bell, P.Vines, D.Jeffery, M.Skivington (c), G.Kirkup, M.Davies, S.Lawrence, M.Jakubiec, P.Sammon, A.Sammon

Bassett stay in touch: Wootton Bassett 1st XI 2 - 1 North Wilts A

(3 February 2007)

Wootton Bassett picked up an important three points in a tough home match against local rivals North Wilts on Saturday. The win keeps Bassett in third place in Wilts & NE Somerset 1, only three points behind league leaders Marlborough.

Bassett played attacking hockey from the start and had numerous chances to take an early lead, the young front line of Kyle Barnes, Grant Kirkup and Callum Black combining well to put the Wilts defence under constant pressure. Bassett won a series of short corners in the run up to half time with Ali Sammon and Dan Stanley both going close but to no avail.

The second half was an entirely different affair with Bassett finally finding their goal scoring form when a deflected clearance found Mike Davies at the back post to slot the ball home. Bassett looked like maintaining their lead until completely against the run of play Wilts won a short corner and found an equaliser with 20 minutes still to play. The game was much more even after that, with the visitors growing in confidence, although neither team looking like scoring until Kyle Barnes' run and cross gave Callum Black a simple tap in for Bassett to take the important three points with a 2 - 1 win.

Scorers: M.Davies, C.Black **Men of the Match:** C.Black, M.Davies, S.Snell

Wootton Bassett 1st XI: P.Warren, S.Snell, P.Vines, D.Jeffery, M.Tolley, D.Titcombe, M.Skivington (c), M.Davies, S.Lawrence, G.Kirkup, K.Barnes, A.Sammon, D.Stanley, C.Black

Battling Bassett: West Wilts B 3 – 4 Wootton Bassett 1st XI

(27 January 2007)

Wootton Bassett came away with an excellent result in a hard-fought match at West Wilts on Saturday. Following on from last week's impressive 6-1 win over local rivals Chippenham, this consolidates Bassett's third place position in Wilts & NE Somerset Division 1.

The match started at a ferocious pace, the first five minutes were end to end with both teams producing chances on an unusually bouncy pitch. West Wilts broke the deadlock early on when they won a short corner through skilful play down the Bassett left. The short corner was converted with ease. Bassett then pushed forward and went for the equaliser but the strong West Wilts defence held firm until Grant Kirkup beat two players and skilfully lifted the ball over the keeper from a tight angle. Joint man of the match Paul Warren kept the scores level, saving shots from three short corners in row before Bassett finally took the lead. Left back Paul Vines ran into the D and crossed to Stuart Lawrence on the back post. Lawrence then fired the ball home with a "reverse stick" sweep to give Bassett a 2 - 1 lead going into half time.

Bassett came out much stronger in the second half and soon looked like going further ahead when joint man of the match Callum Black struck from close range only to see his shot kicked off the line by a Wilts defender. However, a penalty stroke was awarded and Paul Vines stepped up to give Bassett a 3 - 1 lead. The increasingly physical encounter then became scrappy and West Wilts soon pulled the scores back to 3 - 3 with two quick short corners. Aware that they had to win to keep up the pressure on the top of the league Bassett then moved up a gear and reverted to strength and speed to overcome the Wilts defence. The breakthrough came 5 minutes from the end when Grant Kirkup was fouled on the edge of the D. Dale Titcombe quickly took the free hit while the Wilts defenders were still arguing and Dan Jeffery diverted the ball home to give Bassett a well deserved 4 - 3 win. The victory keeps them in third place, 4 points from the top of the table.

Scorers: G.Kirkup, S.Lawrence, P.Vines, D.Jeffery. **Man of the Match:** P.Warren & C.Black

Wootton Bassett 1st XI: P.Warren, S.Bell, S.Snell, P.Vines, D.Jeffery, M.Skivington (c), D.Titcombe, M.Davies, S.Lawrence, G.Kirkup, M.Jakubiec, D.Stanley, A.Sammon, C.Black

Bassett return to winning ways: Wootton Bassett 1st XI 6 - 1 Chippenham A

(20 January 2007)

The home team pushed forward straight from the start of the match producing wave after wave of attacking hockey. It wasn't long before Bassett took an early lead through a Dale Titcombe goal. The game then evened out with both teams winning numerous short corners. Paul Warren pulled off a series a crucial diving saves to keep Bassett in the lead, however, it was Chippenham who scored next with a well worked goal converted by the captain. Two minutes later Bassett pushed up the pitch a regained the lead through a Grant Kirkup strike into the corner of the goal. Bassett then continued to push and finally converted a short corner when Matt Jakubiec fired home from close range to give Bassett a 3 – 1 lead going into half time.

The second half started as the first had finished with Bassett scoring their 4th of the match when Stuart Lawrence burst into D, composed himself and fired the ball past the keeper. Four minutes later a well worked move on the right between Mike Davies and Mark Skivington gave Matt Jakubiec his 16th goal of the season. The game then became scrappy with neither team producing many chances until the final five minutes when Matt Jukubiec was bundled to the ground in front of goal and won a penalty stroke. Mark Tolley stepped up and converted with a hard flick to give Bassett a 6 – 1 win.

Scorers: D.Titcombe, G.Kirkup, M.Jakubiec (2), S.Lawrence, M.Tolley **Man of the Match:** P.Warren
Wootton Bassett 1st XI: P.Warren, S.Bell, S.Snell, J.Showering, M.Davies, M.Skivington (c), M.Tolley, D.Titcombe, A.Sammon, D.Jeffery, G.Kirkup, S.Lawrence, M.Jakubiec.

Better Passing But Still They Fail! Marlborough 3-2 Wootton Bassett A

This Saturday, the inaugural Badgers League pitted together two teams at the top of their games. The more youthful Bassett squad went into the fixture unbeaten and well aware that this would be their sturtest test yet. As the outcome proved, they only just failed to outwit their opponents.

The opening salvos were dominated by Marlborough and a lack of close marking by Bassett's more senior defensive line led to the home team going 1-0 up inside the first 10 minutes. Despite valiant efforts by Pete Sammon in the Bassett goal, Marlborough's slicker and more incisive passing created a relatively simple opportunity for the team in green to double their advantage well before the half-time interval. Indeed, it was not until the away team began to stare down the barrel of a significant defeat that they began to rediscover their own passing game and force Marlborough onto the back foot.

The middle third of the match saw Bassett regain the initiative and begin to take a strong hold on the game. The left wing was utilised with greater efficiency and the increased possession led to a firm shot by Man-of-the-Match James Wright thumping the ball firmly into the home team goal.

With their tails up and spirits likewise, the Bassett team sent many probing attacks deep into the opposing half. On one such occasion Ian Martin was able to tease the ball across the line and level the scores at two apiece. At this point the balance of power was so even and the contest so tightly fought that anyone of three outcomes was possible. Nonetheless, the home team came away with the spoils following the successful conversion of a penalty flick with 10 minutes to go. Even the best efforts of the Bassett team could not claw back this deficit and Marlborough wound up 3-2 winners.

Scorers: J.Wright, I.Martin **Man of the Match:** J.Wright
Wootton Bassett A: P.Sammon, R.Pearce, D.Gardner, N.Sharp, R.Cook (c), A.Wood, M.Breennan, J.Sharp, I.Martin, M.Turner, T.Ponting, J.Wright, C.Postill, D.McCarthy

Bassett slip up: Mendip 2 – 2 Wootton Bassett 1st XI

(13 January 2007)

Wootton Bassett maintain the pressure on the top of the league despite dropping points away to Mendip. Both Wootton Bassett and Mendip had early chances in an end to end first half. Bassett's best opportunities came from well worked moves down both wings. However, it was Mendip who broke the deadlock to take a 1 – 0 lead. Bassett came back hard and eventually levelled the scores through a Kyle Barnes reverse sweep at the far post.

The second half started where the first had left off with both teams playing attacking hockey. Again it was Mendip who scored first to bring the score to 2 – 1 as the end of the match approached. Bassett then turned up the tempo, going close on numerous occasions. Ben Snell was at the centre of a wave of attacks, culminating in Bassett hitting the post from close range. A foul in the Mendip D gave Bassett a penalty corner and a chance to level the scores. Grant Kirkup struck the ball well only to see his shot bounce back off the post. Kyle Barnes picked up the rebound and calmly slotted the ball home to give Bassett a hard fought 2 – 2 draw. The result means that Wootton Bassett can maintain their push for promotion with results elsewhere going in their favour.

Scorers: K.Barnes (2) **Man of the Match:** B.Snell
Wootton Bassett 1st XI: P.Warren, S.Bell, S.Snell, J.Showering, M.Tolley (c), A.Sammon, G.Kirkup, P.Vines, C.Black, K.Barnes, B.Snell, S.Lawrence.

Jakubiec ends goal drought with a torrent of goals ! West Wilts F 1 – 8 Wootton Bassett A

Bassett were entertained at Warminster by West Wilts and Matt Jakubiec entertained the spectators by providing a feast of five goals. The match was delayed by floodlight problems but, once under way, Bassett soon stamped their authority with a well taken shot by Ali Wood after only 2 minutes.

The right side pairing of Wood and winger Tom Ponting combined well to provide numerous high quality passes across the face of the West Wilts goal and it wasn't long before Jakubiec connected with one of these to score his first. Despite having all the pressure Bassett were constantly thwarted by some excellent goalkeeping until shortly before half time Curt Postill flicked a shot through the static Wilts defence.

Clearly rejuvenated by their half time oranges the Wilts attack made a rare sortie into the Bassett 'D' and their young striker did well to fire a shot over the approaching Bassett keeper. Normal service was resumed shortly afterwards and Jakubiec dazzled the opposition defence scoring 3 more in close succession. Dan McCarthy gathered the ball in the Bassett 25 and out-sprinting the hapless Wilts team slotted the ball past the keeper in an excellent solo effort. Bassett was by now camped in the Wilts half and it wasn't long before the pressure told and Jakubiec scored number five to seal an emphatic victory.

Scorers: M Jakubiec (5), A Wood, C Postill, D McCarthy **Man of the Match:** D McCarthy
Wootton Bassett A: I Wood, R Pearce (c), D Gardner, N Sharp, J Wright, M Brennan, A Wood, J Sharp, D McCarthy, C Postill, M Jakubiec, T Ponting

Bassett rampant: Wootton Bassett 1st XI 7 – 1 Marlborough B

(9 December 2006)

Wootton Bassett climb back to third in Wilts and NE Somerset 1 with a stunning 7 - 1 defeat of second-placed Marlborough.

Wootton Bassett pressurised Marlborough from the start of the match and soon found themselves one up through a Grant Kirkup strike from a short corner. Minutes later Kirkup converted his second of the match with a close range strike through the keeper's legs. Martyn Chivers then had several chances at the back post before Callum Black finally made it 3 – 0 with a tap in from a Kirkup cross. A fine first half performance was rounded off when Callum Black slotted the ball through for Kyle Barnes to beat his marker and chip the keeper with a reverse flick.

Marlborough started the second half stronger than the first and strung two or three attacks together, forcing Bassett keeper Paul Warren to make some fine saves. However, it was Bassett who scored next, increasing their lead to 5 – 0 when Paul Vines set up Dan Stanley. Bassett then pushed forward and soon made it six when Mark Tolley combined with Callum Black to gift Martyn Chivers a simple strike into an open goal. Marlborough then went on the attack and finally pulled one back with a spectacular reverse stick strike over the Bassett keeper. However, it was Bassett who had the final say when Vines won the ball, ran into the Marlborough D and laid it off for Black to sweep home.

The final score, a 7-1 Bassett win, takes them to within one point of Marlborough in the league.

Scorers: G.Kirkup (2), C.Black (2), K.Barnes, D.Stanley, M.Chivers. **Man o' Match:** G.Kirkup & S.Bell.

Bassett 1st XI: P.Warren, S.Bell, S.Snell, J.Showering, M.Tolley, M.Skivington, G.Kirkup, M.Chivers, D.Stanley, C.Black, K.Barnes, I.Glynne-Jones, C.Postil, P.Vines.

Bassett keep pressure on leaders: Wootton Bassett 1st XI 2 - 1 City of Bath C

(2 December 2006)

Bassett carved out a solid win against City of Bath in Wilts & NE Somerset Division 1.

The home side took an early lead after good interplay between Martin Bray and Martyn Chivers down the left, with Chivers finishing sharply from close range. Bassett should have consolidated their lead following further attacking moves and shots from Grant Kirkup went close, but it was Bath who scored next on the stroke of half time from a short corner.

After the break, Bassett continued to press and eventually Stuart Lawrence broke through to slot the ball past the advancing keeper to regain the lead. In defence, man of the match Sam Snell alongside Stuart Bell countered everything that Bath threw against them, and the Bassett midfield became increasingly dominant. However Bassett failed to increase their lead and the score remained 2-1 at the final whistle.

Scorers: M.Chivers, S.Lawrence **Man of the Match:** S.Snell

Bassett 1st XI: P.Warren, S.Bell, S.Snell, J.Showering, D.Jeffery, M.Tolley, M.Skivington, M.Davies, S.Lawrence, G.Kirkup, M.Bray, D.Stanley, I.Glynne-Jones, M.Chivers.

Wootton Bassett 2nd XI 7 - 4 Chippenham

Four goal hero Curt Postil did much to spoil the afternoon for the visitors in this local derby at Lime Kiln. His performance and that of his team mates did much to warm the spirits on a cold late autumn afternoon. With a distinctly more committed and high tempo approach to this fixture, Bassett had wrapped up the game as a meaningful contest with a quarter of the game remaining.

Despite being a regular in goal for Bassett, Tom Ponting opened the scoring for the home team with a well taken shot over the prostrate Chippenham keeper. The intensity of the pressure the visitors were under culminated in a goal from a short corner by Curt Postil. He opened up his account for the day with a cleanly hit shot into the bottom corner. This second strike rocked Chippenham. As a result, they finally entered the contest and with minutes to go before the break they scored a goal.

Nonetheless, this offensive was smothered by a wave of attacking flair and a carpet of passing hockey. Bassett clicked into another gear and forced the game into their opponents half. Within a period of 15 minutes the home team had elevated the score to 7-2. At this stage Chippenham had little in the way of opportunity to answer the sophisticated questions they were being set by the well organised ranks of the Bassett team. During this period, Postill was able to add 3 more to his tally; man-of-the-match Mark Turner (who worked tirelessly and intelligently down the Bassett left) scored his second of the league campaign; and Ali Sammon furthered his claims for a first team berth with a rare goal for the blues.

Yet the action was not over and the neutral was not to be left to freeze on the sidelines. A successfully converted penalty flick (after Rupert Pearce prevented a definite goal) led to a renewed determination by the visitors. Indeed, they still had time to show much promise and add a fourth and take some of the gloss off a very pleasing performance by Bassett.

Scorers: C.Postill (4), T.Ponting, M.Turner, A.Sammon. **Man of the Match:** M.Turner

Wootton Bassett A XI: I.Wood, D.Gardner, R.Pearce, J.Martin, R.Cook (c), N.Sharp, D.White, J.Wright, A.Sammon, M.Turner, T.Ponting, M.Jakubiec, M.Brennan, A.Wood.

Bassett Lose Out: Shepton Mallet 7 - 4 Wootton Bassett 1st XI

(25 November 2006)

Wootton Bassett lost their third game of the season in an end to end thriller in Wilts and NE Somerset Division 1 at Shepton Mallet on Saturday.

The home side attacked straight from the start and with some crisp passing moves through the Bassett midfield they quickly found themselves 2 - 0 up. Bassett got themselves back into the game and started creating chances for Dan Stanley to make some strong runs on the right wing, but were unfortunately hit on the break for Shepton Mallet to take a 3 - 0 lead. On the stroke of half time, however, Bassett won a series of free hits around the Shepton D and the ball eventually found Mike Davies at the far post to tap the ball home.

Bassett came out much stronger in the second half and pulled the score back to 3 - 2 when Grant Kirkup fired home from a short corner. Shepton replied with two more quick goals, the second a hard shot into the top corner of the goal giving keeper Paul Warren no chance. Bassett then won a free hit on the edge of the D and a Mark Skivington drag found Davies at the far post for his second of the game. The visitors managed to pull the score back to 5 - 4 when Stuart Lawrence converted a Dan Stanley cross but, as they continued to push in the last five minutes of the match, over-committed and conceded two breakaway goals to give Shepton Mallet a 7 - 4 win at the close.

Scorers: M.Davies (2), G.Kirkup, S.Lawrence. **Man of the Match:** M.Bray, S.Lawrence, M.Skivington, D.Titcombe
Wootton Bassett 1st XI: P.Warren, S.Snell, M.Bray, J.Showering, M.Davies, D.Titcombe, M.Skivington, D.Stanley, C.Black, G.Kirkup, S.Lawrence, I.Glynne-Jones

Team Bath Buccs 1 – 4 Wootton Bassett A

Bassett A continued unbeaten in the Wilts Badger League after their 4-1 victory away to Bath Buccs on Sunday.

Bath started the stronger but the more experienced Bassett defence countered the home side's early attacks. Gradually the visitors increased the pace in attack, with Callum Black and Max Brennan combining well to set up Matt Jakubiec for the first goal. The second followed shortly afterwards when a through ball from Robin Cook again found Jakubiec to run in his second before half time.

Bassett resumed after the break with Jakubiec scoring his hat trick from a pass from Ali Sammon before, against the run of play, Bath scored from a deflection past Ian Wood in goal. The visitors hit straight back with several probing runs that eventually led to Jakubiec's fourth goal of the game as Bassett ran out easy winners.

Scorers: M.Jakubiec (4). **Man of the Match:** C.Black
Wootton Bassett A: I.Wood, D.Gardner, R.Cook (c), N.Sharp, J.Wright, A.Sammon, M.Turner, T.Ponting, M.Jakubiec, M.Brennan, C.Black, P.Sammon.

Local Rivals Stalemate: Wootton Bassett 1st XI 2 – 2 Swindon A

(18 November 2006)

Wootton Bassett fought out a tough draw against local rivals Swindon on Saturday.

Both teams attacked from the start of the match with Bassett having the better of the early chances. The visitors looked dangerous on the counter attack and some sloppy Bassett defending led to a Swindon goal. Bassett then came back into the match with fast attacking hockey producing chance after chance up front. Martin Bray burst into the Swindon D and won a short corner which was struck home by Grant Kirkup to draw the scores level. Soon afterwards, an attack down the right found Dan Stanley at the far post to score his debut goal and give Bassett a 2-1 lead. This spurred Swindon to press forward and they drew the scores level with a powerful shot from a short corner right on the stroke of half time.

The second half was all Bassett. Dan Jeffery and Mark Skivington linked up in midfield to produce numerous chances but the Bassett strikers just couldn't find the back of the net. They had two more clear cut chances at the end of the match, including a flick from Grant Kirkup that spun back of the post, but some last-ditch defending by Swindon prevented Bassett scoring a third.

The 2-2 draw leaves Wootton Bassett third in the Wilts & North East Somerset Division 1 with a match against the fourth-placed Shepton Mallett to come next week.

Scorers: G.Kirkup, D.Stanley. **Man of the Match:** D.Stanley.
Wootton Bassett 1st XI: P.Warren, M.Mumford, J.Showering, S.Bell, D.Jeffery, D.Titcombe, M.Tolley, M.Davies, M.Skivington (c), S.Lawrence, M.Bray, G.Kirkup, D.Stanley

Wootton Bassett A 2 – 2 Marlborough

Bassett A played host to a strong Marlborough side on Saturday in the Wilts Badger League and acquitted themselves well to come away with a draw.

Bassett's experienced defence withstood the initial period of Marlborough pressure and, against the run of play, their attack line of Ian Martin and Mark Turner capitalised on a Marlborough mistake to allow Matt Jakubiec to put the home side ahead after 15 minutes.

Further Marlborough pressure ensued and despite some excellent goalkeeping by Tom Ponting, the visitors eventually drew level

and, shortly into the second half, took the lead with an opportunistic shot. It was left to captain Robin Cook to re-energise the Bassett attack and, with Max Brennan and Ali Sammon working hard in midfield, Jakubiec scored the equaliser to provide Bassett with the satisfaction of a hard fought draw.

Scorers: M.Jakubiec (2). **Man of the Match:** M.Jakubiec

Wootton Bassett A: T.Ponting, R.Pearce, D.Gardner, R.Cook (c), N.Sharp, P.Vines, D.White, A.Sammon, A.Wood, I.Martin, M.Turner, C.Postill, M.Jakubiec, M.Brennan, I.Glynne-Jones.

Bassett up to Fourth Place: West Wilts C 1 – 3 Wootton Bassett 1st XI (11 November 2006)

Wootton Bassett 1st XI returned to their winning ways and climbed back to fourth place in Wilts & NE Somerset Division 1 with a 3-1 away win over West Wilts.

Bassett came out the stronger from the start of the match and produced wave after wave of attacking hockey. It didn't take long before Grant Kirkup converted a penalty corner with a sweetly struck shot from the edge of the D to give the away team a 1 – 0 lead. Bassett then went straight back on the attack and quickly found themselves two up when a Stuart Lawrence strike was turned in by Mike Davies at the far post. West Wilts then started to find their feet and won a series of penalty corners. A number of shots resulted, but Bassett keeper Paul Warren was once again in fine form.

After the break Bassett went all out on attack but it was West Wilts who scored next, when a series of penalty corners eventually resulted in a goal. Bassett were temporarily reduced to ten men following a tussle up front between a Bassett striker and a West Wilts defender. However, they clung to their lead and a man of the match winning performance from Stuart Bell regularly turned defence into attack. Once back to eleven men, Bassett finally extended their lead when Pete Sammon beat his marker, rounded the keeper and slotted the ball home to give Bassett a hard fought 3 – 1 victory.

Scorers: G.Kirkup, M.Davies, P.Sammon. **Man of the match:** S.Bell

Wootton Bassett 1st XI: P.Warren, M.Mumford, S.Bell, S.Snell, M.Tolley, D.Jeffery, C.Black, M.Davies, G.Kirkup, S.Lawrence, M.Bray, M.Skivington (c), J.Showering, P.Sammon

Wootton Bassett A 11 – 1 West Wilts

Meanwhile, Bassett A XI had an emphatic 11-1 victory over a young West Wilts side in the Wilts Badgers league.

A totally one-sided game saw Bassett take an early lead and then totally dominate their opponents, with man of the match Matt Jakubiec scoring four goals and Curt Postill and Ian Martin each getting a hat trick. The rout was completed by Max Brennan who scored his first goal for the club.

Wootton Bassett A: T.Ponting, R.Pearce, D.Gardner, R.Cook (c), P.Vines, J.Wright, A.Sammon, A.Wood, I.Martin, M.Turner, C.Postill, M.Jakubiec, M.Brennan, J.Sharp, N.Sharp.

Bassett Edged Out by Leaders: Team Bath Buccs F 4 - 3 Wootton Bassett 1st XI (4 Nov 2006)

Bassett fought back against top of the table Bath University but just lost out 4 - 3 in this Wilts & Somerset Division 1 thriller on Saturday.

Bath started with wave after wave of attacking hockey and Bassett, perhaps overawed by the home side's goal scoring reputation, spent most of the first half absorbing the pressure. Keeper Paul Warren was on spectacular form and made a series of diving saves to earn himself the man of the match award. The defence held out until a well crafted Bath attack found the back of the net and, shortly afterwards, Bath won a short corner and converted with a strike from the edge of the D to take a 2-0 lead into half time.

Bassett came out the stronger after the break but quickly found themselves three down when Bath were awarded a penalty stroke. Bassett then went on the attack and quickly pulled two goals back. The first was a swift move from the right finished by Dan Jeffery. Then Martin Bray and Stuart Lawrence combined for Lawrence to convert from a one-on-one with the keeper.

Bassett went close on numerous occasions but could not find the equaliser. But it was Bath who scored next when, against the run of play, a bouncing ball deceived the Bassett defence and spun off the post into the goal. Bassett eventually found their third goal when Martin Bray converted to send the match into a tense final few minutes. However, they could not find the equaliser and the result keeps Bath at the top of the table.

Scorers: D.Jeffery, S.Lawrence, M.Bray. **Man of the match:** P.Warren.

Wootton Bassett 1st XI: P.Warren, M.Mumford, S.Snell, S.Bell, D.Jeffery, M.Tolley, D.Titcombe, C.Black, M.Skivington (c), G.Kirkup, S.Lawrence, M.Bray, M.Davies, J.Showering

Curt Bags a Set: Devizes 4 – 7 Wootton Bassett A

Their first Wilts Badgers league game of the season was really a game of two halves for Bassett's A team. The first ended with Devizes 3-2 up, the second concluded with a total reversal of fortune and a fairly comprehensive win for Wootton Bassett.

Devizes opened the scoring with a well struck shot and were two goals to the good before Bassett converted one of their numerous chances through Curt Postill who began a successful afternoon by following up a reverse stick shot by Dan Stanley that had been

saved bravely by the young Devizes keeper. The home side then went 3-1 ahead before Dan Stanley, on his debut, scored his first goal for the club just before the end of the first half.

After a stern half time team talk, the Bassett team came out with a more positive approach to this new competition. Nonetheless, they went 4-2 down before they stepped up their performance. They redoubled their efforts and the man of the match, Dan McCarthy, personified the ethic of the whole team. His ball control and tackling paved the way for a far more expansive and attacking brand of hockey.

With this approach came an increased number of opportunities for Postill and his strike partner Matt Jakubiec. Bassett were now on fire and Postill bagged three further goals in quick succession, with Matt Jakubiec and a fine strike by Mark Turner both scoring, to leave Devizes stunned and on the wrong end of a 7-4 defeat.

Scorers: C.Postill (4), M.Jakubiec, D.Stanley, M.Turner. **Man of the match:** D.McCarthy.

Wootton Bassett A: T.Ponting, R.Pearce, N.Sharp, R.Cook (c), D.McCarthy, J.Wright, A.Sammon, M.Jakubiec, M.Brennan, C.Postill, D.Stanley, J.Sharp, D.McCarthy, M.Turner, I.Martin.

Five in a row for in-form Bassett: Wootton Bassett 1st XI 4 – 1 Team Bath Buccs G (28 Oct 2006)

Wootton Bassett made it five wins in a row with victory over Team Bath Buccs G in Wilts & NE Somerset Division 1 on Saturday.

Bassett looked the stronger from the start and quickly took the lead when a series of crisp passes found Stuart Lawrence at the back post to divert the ball into the goal. The home side continued to attack and went close on numerous occasions before a slick move down the right led a shot from Grant Kirkup that was saved but rebounded out for Mark Skivington to lift it over the keeper and take the score to 2 - 0.

Shortly afterwards Dan Jeffery found himself in front of goal and converted his strike to score his third goal in two weeks. Bassett then made it 4 – 0 before half time when Stuart Lawrence scored his second of the game.

The second half was an entirely different affair with Wootton Bassett sitting back on their lead. Bath had numerous attacks but the Bassett defence held firm until a cross from the left found a Bath striker at the back post to make the score 4 – 1. The goal woke Bassett up and the last ten minutes of the game was end to end with both teams going close but neither scoring. The end result was Bassett's fifth victory in a row to take them to within 1 point of the top of the table.

Scorers: S.Lawrence (2), M.Skivington, D.Jeffery. **Man of the Match:** Sam Snell

Wootton Bassett 1st XI: P.Warren, S.Snell, M.Mumford, S.Bell, D.Jeffery, J.Showering, M.Davies, D.Titcombe, S.Lawrence, M.Skivington (c), G.Kirkup, P.Vines, C.Postill.

Bassett move up to third: North Wilts A 2 - 4 Wootton Bassett 1st XI (21 October 2006)

Wootton Bassett mens 1st XI moved up to third place in Wilts & NE Somerset Division 1, with four wins out of five, after a 4-2 win against local rivals North Wilts at Dorcan on Saturday.

Wootton Bassett started the stronger but found themselves a goal down within ten minutes following some sloppy defending. A series of spectacular saves from Bassett keeper Paul Warren followed, before Grant Kirkup drew the scores level with a skilful chip into the net.

Following half time the game shifted up a gear, with both teams going close to taking the lead. Bassett were then reduced to 10 men for the remainder of the game following a yellow card offence by one of their defenders in the D. The resulting North Wilts penalty stroke was converted with low flick into the corner for 2-1.

This only spurred the visitors on and the rest of the match was all Wootton Bassett. First, some strong interplay between Dale Titcombe and Mark Skivington in the midfield led to a penalty corner which was duly converted by Titcombe. Then shortly afterwards Dan Jeffery burst out of defence to score his first of the season with a powerful strike. Bassett attacked again straight from the restart but couldn't find a fourth until Dan Jeffery was sent through for his second of the match.

With ten minutes to go Bassett were reduced to nine men when another yellow card was shown for a stick tackle, but despite this handicap they managed to play out the end of the match and chalk up an impressive 4-2 victory.

Scorers: G.Kirkup, D.Titcombe, D.Jeffery (2). **Man of the Match:** D.Jeffery

Wootton Bassett 1st XI: P.Warren, S.Snell, M.Mumford, S.Bell, D.Jeffery, J.Showering, M.Skivington (c), D.Titcombe, C.Black, S.Lawrence, G.Kirkup, P.Vines, M.Tolley.

Three in a row for Bassett: Wootton Bassett 1st XI 4 - 1 West Wilts B (14 October 2006)

Wootton Bassett 1st XI made it three in a row with a home win against West Wilts B in Wilts & NE Somerset Division 1 this weekend.

Bassett started on the back foot against a strong looking West Wilts side. Goalkeeper Lee Baldry was on excellent form, pulling off a series of early saves. Bassett then began to find their feet with slick passing moves around the midfield. Soon after, a skilful run and

pass from Stuart Lawrence found Grant Kirkup who managed to slot the ball between the keeper and near post for a Bassett lead. West Wilts then went on the attack and found an equaliser when a cross from the right penetrated the Bassett defence and was swept home to send the scores level at half time.

After the break Bassett came out the stronger and quickly found a second goal when Paul Vines lobbed the keeper with a powerful scoop from a short corner. The lead was then increased to 3-1 when Mark Tolley burst into the D and shot hard to the keeper's right for Stuart Lawrence to expertly deflect the ball into the goal. The icing was then put on the result when Grant Kirkup fired home his 4th goal of the season to give Bassett an impressive 4 - 1 win.

Scorers: 1st Half: G.Kirkup. 2nd Half: P.Vines, S.Lawrence, G.Kirkup. **Man of the Match:** L.Baldry
Wootton Bassett 1st XI: L.Baldry, M.Mumford, D.Jeffery, S.Snell, M.Skivington (c), M.Tolley, P.Vines, D.Titcombe, S.Lawrence, M.Davies, G.Kirkup, J.Showering, S.Bell.

Bassett beat local rivals: Chippenham A 2 – 3 Wootton Bassett 1st XI (7 October 2006)

After their disappointment against Marlborough in the opening game of the season, Wootton Bassett have now won two in a row with victory over their other local rivals Chippenham in Wilts & NE Somerset Division 1 on Saturday.

Bassett were on the attack from the start but, despite numerous well-worked moves, could not find the finishing touch. Continued pressure during the first half produced no end result and it was Chippenham who scored first from a short corner flicked high into the roof of the net to lead 1-0 at half time.

It was Chippenham who started the stronger in the second half, forcing a series of key saves from keeper Paul Warren. Bassett then broke away with a well-worked move starting from the back that allowed Stuart Lawrence to cross the ball into the circle, for Grant Kirkup to dummy the shot and Callum Black to score his third goal of the season. A few minutes later Bassett took the lead, from a short corner which Grant Kirkup converted with a shot fired low into the corner of the Chippenham goal.

Bassett were now in full control but could not find a third goal until the final 10 minutes when Dale Titcombe set up a Mark Tolley drag flick that gave the keeper no chance. The remainder of the match however was all Chippenham, forcing Paul Warren to make a couple of spectacular saves to keep them at bay. Then, in the dying seconds following a bouncing ball that crossed the D, Chippenham were awarded a penalty stroke that they duly converted to make the final score to 3-2 to Wootton Bassett.

Goal Scorers: C.Black, G.Kirkup, M.Tolley. **Man of the Match:** M.Tolley
W.Bassett 1st XI: P.Warren, S.Bell, C.Black, M.Davies, D.Jeffery, G.Kirkup, S.Lawrence, M.Mumford, J.Showering, M.Skivington (c), S.Snell, D.Titcombe, M.Tolley, P.Vines

Wootton Bassett 2nd XI 3 - 3 Cardiff (30 September 2006)

Wootton Bassett's Mens 2 XI continued their impressive start to the season with a pulsating 3 all draw against a well organised Cardiff side.

The visitors started brightly, dominating possession in the midfield, resulting in a swift move for the opening goal. Bassett started to shine as the half wore on, equalising through a penalty flick, converted by Pete Sammon, quickly followed by a 2nd also from Sammon with a deft touch past the goalkeeper for 2-1 at the break.

The second half began as the first, as Cardiff upped the tempo, putting pressure on the Bassett defence. Despite them having the majority of possession, Bassett scored a 3rd from following a break away from Curt Postill, steering the ball into P.Sammon's path who duly completed his hatrick. Undeterred Cardiff continued to pressurise the home side, deservedly scoring two late goals to share the spoils.

Goal scorer: P.Sammon (3)
Wootton Bassett 2nd XI: P.Warren, R.Pearce, D.Gardner, N.Sharp, R.Cook, M.Brennan, J.Sharp, I.Martin, P.Sammon, J.Wright, A.Shaw, M.Jakubiec, J.Lee,

Wootton Bassett 2nd XI 9 - 0 West Wilts E (23 September 2006)

Wootton Bassett 2nd team played host to a young and inexperienced West Wilts side on Saturday and made the most of the fact.

At first the game seemed relatively evenly matched with good attacking play from both sides. After 20 minutes the more skilful Bassett side began to press home the advantage and Curt Postill make the most of sloppy defending to slot the first goal home. This signalled the start of a goal-fest as, in quick succession, Curt scored another two to score his first hat-trick for the club and justifiably earn his man-of-the-match accolade, with Ian Martin also joining the fun to make it 4-0 at half time.

The second half saw many substitutions as Bassett took advantage of their superiority to try out a number of newcomers who all acquitted themselves well. The Bassett defence were able to take it easy as Ian Martin also completed his first club hat-trick, Pete Sammon added two and Dan Stanley made it nine to provide Bassett with a satisfying performance before the start of their league season.
