

HOCKEY Winning rally by Swindon II

SWINDON hockey club's 1st XI were without a match on Saturday as the Royal Military College of Science could not raise a side.

The 2nd XI visited Gloster Aircraft and won 3-1 on a wet pitch which cut up quickly.

Swindon held on to the ball too long at the start and were inexcusably caught out of position.

The Gloster XI took the lead from a move through the middle and Timbrell had no chance of saving.

Swindon would have equalised immediately had the ball been centred more quickly from the right. Just short of half-time, outside right M Tomkins ran in to score.

In the second half Swindon played much better but could not score until ten minutes from the end when W Harland scored a somewhat fortunate goal.

J Oliver put the issue beyond doubt with an excellent goal.

Towards the end the home forwards became rather rugged, and the umpiring was not firm enough.

O Ladyman and E Cochran were sound in defence and J Oliver played with dash.

Swindon team: G Timbrell; O Ladyman, L Baxter; S Parker, E Cockran, T Ferguson; M Tomkins, J Oliver, D Gladwin, W Harland, D Oliver.

In the evening the Swindon defenders played a skittles match against the forwards and won handsomely.

Swindon on top at Oxford

SWINDON Hockey Club's 1st XI beat City of Oxford 4-1 at Oxford on Saturday.

From the bully-off Swindon played with great determination and the Oxford goal survived several near misses in quick succession.

The inevitable first goal came after 25 minutes, when J. Oliver ran on to a cross from M. Tomkins to score.

This seemed to enliven the Oxford side and for the last ten minutes of the first half they pressed hard, but the Swindon defence held firm, with Daly, in goal, making several good clearances.

Oxford's most potentially dangerous forward, their right winger, was completely held in check by a sound display from left half Peter Edgington, ably supported by his brother, David, at left back.

RELENTLESS PRESSURE

With Oxford's main attacking spur thwarted, Swindon kept up relentless pressure, but Oxford drew level soon after the interval, a solo effort by their inside left giving them fresh hope.

Swindon did not allow this to spoil their attacking rhythm and J. Rainey scored from a narrow angle to regain the lead.

Soon afterwards M. Deacon and J. Oliver scored in quick succession after good work by R. Colborne and M. Tomkins.

In all, this was an encouraging display by the Swindon XI.

The forwards used the ball well and played with more purpose than has been seen for some time.

The defence, though not spectacular, was sound in all departments, and it is to be hoped that this type of determined and constructive hockey will continue throughout the season.

Team: S. Daly; W. Harland, D. Edgington; M. Casey, N. Tomkins, P. Edgington, M. Tomkins, M. Deacon, J. Oliver, J. Rainey, R. Colborne, Umpire: M. G. Roberts.

HOCKEY New Look team wins again

SWINDON Hockey Club's 1st XI beat Military College of Science (Shrivenham), who fielded a strong side 2-0 on Saturday.

Swindon, after their win at Cheltenham, continued with their rearranged team, Harland being at right-back, Tomkins and Baxter at centre and left half respectively, and Oliver and Len Phipps changing positions to centre-forward and inside right respectively.

These changes have brought much better results, but judgement is better deferred until after the Bournemouth match.

College took the lead against the run of play following a short corner. Harland almost stopping the ball on the goal line.

Oliver replied for Swindon when he followed in on a short corner. With better shooting Swindon would have taken the lead before half-time.

Mid-way through the second half Oliver scored the winning goal.

College tried hard to hit back, but Swindon's defence covered well and before the end their forward went close to getting another goal.

For Swindon Packer was an improvement on the left wing, and Oliver a most lively centre forward. For the College their centre-half and goalkeeper played excellently.

SWINDON 2nd XI WIN

Swindon II defeated Oxford III 4-1 at Oxford. They had much the better of the play in the first half in which they scored three times through Barnett, Gadsby and Cockram. In the second half, however, slack marking allowed Oxford more scope and the impression was that unless they tightened up they could well be defeated. However, after Oxford had scored, Swindon realised the danger, pulled themselves together and Cockram scored a fourth.

Swindon's defence played quite well with the veteran Clanchy prominent. The forwards must make more use of their chances especially as they cannot expect to meet so week. Barnett, who played centre forward, shows the right spirit and forward, shows the right spirit and is bound to make progress as he gains more experience. Team: Wood; Clanchy, Ladyman; Ferguson, Parker, Colborne; Cockram, Deacon, Barnett, Gadsby, Scott.

Hockey XIs are well matched

A DISJOINTED Swindon Hockey Club side were fortunate to draw 3-3 with RAC Cirencester in a scrappy game.

The first half produced only one goal, RAC going ahead a minute from half-time. Prior to that Colbourne and Baxter were prominent in the Swindon defence and Loader was again outstanding. Rainey and Scott had several good runs but RAC covered too well to allow any shots at goal.

Shortly after half-time Oliver opened Swindon's score and soon added another. RAC pressed hard and quickly scored causing Walker and Ferguson J. to fall back and help a harassed defence. However, RAC once more gained the lead scoring from a corner with the ball "taking Smith to the back of the net with it."

A pass from Ferguson T. to Oliver resulted in the equalising goal shortly before time. Swindon team: Daly; Loader, Smith; Colbourne, Baxter, Ferguson, T. Rainey, Walker, Oliver, Ferguson, J., Scott.

Swindon II and Garrards also drew 3-3. Swindon opened the score in five minutes through Willey, who got a second a few minutes later.

Swindon kept Garrards on the defensive for most of the first half but only managed to score one more goal through Tomkins.

In the second half Garrards quickly brought the scores level, and just before the final whistle Swindon were hanging on to draw a game which they should have won. Wood served them well in goal.

Chippenham beaten by Swindon

SWINDON HOCKEY CLUB'S 1st XI defeated Chippenham 3-0 at Swindon on Saturday.

For the first 20 minutes Chippenham held the initiative, but it was Swindon who took the lead, Phipps scoring following a long corner. Chippenham were overhitting. Had they used a little more thought and less strength they might have improved on some promising situations.

Oliver increased Swindon's lead with one of his typical follow-up goals, and the same player ran through to score the third goal, with the Chippenham defence standing off.

The game was rather scrappy with Chippenham playing too much on their right wing.

E. Butler, Swindon's left winger, was the best winger on the field. R. Colborne's stopping was excellent.

Swindon team: L. Daly; W. Harland, R. Loder; T. Ferguson, L. Baxter, R. Colborne; J. Read, L. Phipps, J. Oliver, G. Walker, E. Butler.

Swindon 2nd XI met with their first defeat of the season, losing 3-1 to Sanford Y.C.

Sanford were good value for their win. The Sanford forwards were on good form and Fernandes and Love-day were outstanding.

M. Smith, the Swindon right back, steadied the defence, but Swindon did not have the punch of previous weeks. M. Deacon scored Swindon's goal from a long corner when the Sanford goalkeeper was unsighted.

HOCKEY Craft beats the hard- hitters

SWINDON Hockey Club's 1st XI defeated Lansdown at Cheltenham 1-0.

Play opened at a brisk pace and both defences were kept busy dealing with hard cross passes.

Swindon, at this stage, played a more accurate type of hockey, the home side frequently over-hitting and making control of the ball too difficult on the fast but bumpy pitch.

The Swindon forwards launched many attacks but were unable to score in the opening period.

The second half was largely in Swindon's favour, as the Lansdown players increased the hard hitting they had used in the first half, frequently sending the ball to the Swindon defence, who were given plenty of time in which to pass.

The Swindon goal was scored after an elusive run by M. G. Roberts. His cross pass was y Roberts. His cross pass was picked up by Oliver who shot and hit the goalkeeper. Deacon followed up to score from the rebound.

Throughout the Swindon players refrained from being rattled by the bustling methods of the home team.

Roberts and Phipps had particularly good games at forward and for the defence Tomkins, Ferguson and Daly in goal, played soundly. Team: Daly; Harland, Loder; Ferguson, Tomkins, Baxter, Roberts, Phipps, Oliver, Deacon, Rainey.

HOCKEY Third win in row for Swindon

SWINDON Hockey Club 1st XI scored their third victory in a row when they beat Stroud 2-1 at Moredon on Saturday.

Overnight rain had made the pitch sticky on top but this did not slow down the game.

Swindon with a forward line which was more dangerous than at any time this season, opened the scoring, when Oliver netted following good work by Harland and M. Tomkins.

Although on top, Swindon did not hold their lead for long as a defensive error allowed the Stroud centre forward a perfect opportunity which he was quick to take. Swindon continued to attack well, with W. Harland conspicuous in the forward line and with a little more steadiness in front of goal more goals would have come. As it was, the Stroud defence, ably controlled by their Scottish International D. Macpherson at full back, held out.

DEFENCE SOUND

The Swindon defence was generally sound although Stroud had back luck 10 minutes from the end when their left wing hit an upright. It was immediately following this that a good clearance caught the Stroud defence too far upfield and J. Oliver scored the winning goal for Swindon with a grand shot high into the net.

Generally, this was a triumph for the Swindon forward line which is beginning to shape into an effective force, well backed up by a sound defence. Team: A. Wood; N. Tomkins, D. Edgington, T. Ferguson, L. Baxter, J. Ferguson; M. Tomkins, J. Knowles, J. Oliver, W. Harland, J. Barnett. Umpires: R. D. Colborne, O. Ladyman.

OWN GOAL DECIDES

Swindon II came unstuck in the mud at Stroud. In fact luck went against Swindon early in the first half when right back M. Smith put through his own goal.

Both teams went close in the first half and Swindon were well on top in the second.

For Swindon M. Scott had another good game in goal and the defence played well. The forwards lacked zest and determination against the experienced Stroud defenders who kept the Swindon forwards out of shooting distance, however M. Deacon on two occasions saw his angle drives well saved by the Stroud keeper.

Swindon when up against a good defence, must pass quicker and not signal to the opposition where the ball is going. Team: M. Scott; M. Smith, R. Loder; D. Oliver, S. Parker, R. Colborne; A. Davis, B. Collier, J. Sutton, M. Deacon, J. Rainey.

Early goals for hockey XI

Swindon Men's Hockey XI beat St. Edmund Hall, Oxford, 2-1 at Swindon. It was their fourth successive win.

The first half was generally dominated by Swindon. J. Oliver scored a brilliant goal midway through this half. Shortly afterwards J. Ferguson converted a penalty bully.

J. Oliver almost scored again before half-time. J. Barnett was showing up well on the left wing although his centring was not always decisive.

The second half soon deteriorated, mainly due to the churned up pitch, and St. Edmund Hall, revelling in the conditions, launched a series of attacks, and from one of their right wing centres, they reduced the arrears.

Swindon were awarded another penalty bully but this time J. Ferguson was not successful.

The game ended with Swindon defending stubbornly.

N. Tomkins had another outstanding game at right back, saving his side on many occasions and with R. Loder, playing well at left back, and hitting the ball exceptionally hard in such conditions, the Swindon full backs were the key to their side's victory. J. Nowell's play was more decisive than in the previous match and will no doubt do better in drier conditions. Team: A. Wood; N. Tomkins, R. Loder; J. Ferguson, L. Baxter, R. Colborne; M. Tomkins, J. Nowell, J. Oliver, W. Harland, J. Barnett. Umpire: Ben Colborne.

Hockey

SWINDON LOSE AN EXCITING TUSSLE

THE City of Oxford hockey team visited Swindon on Saturday and won a good game 5-4.

The City scored in the first minute, but Swindon soon equalised through J. Oliver and shortly afterwards J. Read gave the home side the lead.

Swindon led at half-time by 3-2. G. Walker being Swindon's scorer.

The Oxford XI began the second half in determined fashion, and Swindon were subjected to continuous pressure for 15 minutes. They scored twice during this period, only for L. Phipps to level the scores again with a good goal, following a fine run and centre from J. Read.

The City came again however, and added their fifth goal.

The ground was heavy after recent rain but the standard of hockey was high.

The City inside-forwards were a constant danger to the Swindon defence, but their two outsidest were not given enough to do. However when they were brought into the game they were well marked by the Swindon wing-halves, Casey and Harland, who both had good matches.

The covering of the Swindon defence was sound and on several occasions the ball was cleared off the goal-line by a half-back, with the goalkeeper, Little, somewhere else. Little had several long kicks but was generally somewhat unsafe.

The Swindon forward line was dangerous in spasms, but it never gave up, and J. Read had a fine game at outside right. It was good to see L. Phipps back after several weeks absence, and although the heavy conditions do not suit him, his goal was a splendid shot.

The City were the better all-round side, but the younger Swindon players gave a lively account of themselves in a game that was fast and interesting throughout. Swindon team: E. Little; N. Tomkins, R. Loder; M. Casey, L. Baxter, W. Harland; J. Read, J. Oliver, L. Phipps, M. Scott, G. Walker.

HOCKEY

Hat trick by Oliver for Swindon

THE strong Lansdown (Cheltenham) hockey XI held Swindon 1st XI to a 4-4 draw in Swindon on Saturday.

Lansdown did most of the attacking for the first 15 minutes, during which period Swindon surprisingly scored three times, all the goals being fine opportunist efforts by J. Oliver.

By half-time, however, the score was 3-3, although two of Lansdown's goals were deflected into goal by Swindon defenders.

Swindon were better together in the second half, and Roberts gave them the lead with a splendid shot from a narrow angle. Lansdown equalised just before the end.

The game at times was unnecessarily hard, and the ball spent a lot of time in the air. Lansdown had a powerful half-back line, but the backs were slow and uncertain, and the halves on several occasions came back to get them out of trouble. The approach work of their forwards was good, but in the circle they muddled and rushed about too much, thus spoiling many good chances.

The Swindon forwards had fewer opportunities, but they took those they had much more calmly.

All five forwards showed up well with J. Oliver especially in fine form.

The defence was sound generally, although Little, in goal, did not use his stick as well as he might in clearing the ball.

Swindon team: E. Little; O. P. Ladyman, R. Loder; M. Casey, N. Tomkins, W. Harland; L. C. Baxter, J. Oliver, D. Gladwin, E. Walker, G. Roberts.