

# Pershore Hockey Club Match Reports

## Saturday 6 March 2010

## Sunday 7 March 2010

### **Bloxwich 1 - 1 Pershore**

Pershore and Bloxwich shared the spoils in this Bodykraft West Mids division 2 game. Pershore started the stronger of the two sides but received a set back when in form winger Paul Grummitt was forced from the field through injury. Peter Powell opened the scoring for Pershore after some good work down the right flank between Jamie Hughes, Joe Taylor and Toby Whiting.

The second half continued with Pershore in the ascendancy; however Bloxwich won a string of short corners which were dealt with manfully by Russell Scudamore running out, or by the redoubtable John Sharratt in the Pershore goal. The Bloxwich equaliser came from a Pershore mistake, captain Gareth Rushton failed to judge the pace of the ball, this allowed a quick Bloxwich forward to steal in, draw the keeper and square to his team mate for a tap in. Pershore still could have won the game with Whiting presented with two wonderful chances late on, but dragged his shot a few inches wide with the goal at his mercy, and then hit the cross bar with time running out. Pershore failed to earn the three points they so badly craved, and although they have only lost twice all season, must no rely on other results to go their way in order to gain promotion.

### **Old Halesonians Ladies 0 – 1 Pershore Ladies 1**

Pershore went into this match knowing it was going to be hard but a must win for them if they were to retain their solid fifth spot in the league.

As soon as the game started it was obvious that both teams were going out to win at all costs! A very aggressive first half saw players from each team carded and chances for both teams to take the lead. The Pershore defence of Jo and Kate Clark, Kate Green, Sue Sheppard and Amanda Barnes played very well picking up the Hales players and making it difficult for them to anything into the D. Pershore pushed forward and were awarded a penalty flick which Emma Gardner was unable to convert. This gave Hales some momentum but they were unable to break through before the half time whistle. However it was in the second half where Pershore shone and played some of the best hockey of the season. With Nicki Sheppard taking the pivot role in the centre, Sara Adams and Emma Gardner had time and space to pass the ball around and out to the wingers, Kate Adams and Ruth Darling. Both of these players make some fantastic runs to get the ball in to the D but the final touch was struggling to find the target. When Hales attacked they looked strong but the defence and some fantastic saves from Nat Cutler kept the ball out of the goal. In the final 2 minutes Pershore broke again and a melee in the D saw all Pershore players trying to get the ball past the keeper. It was a surreal moment when Pershore finally broke the deadlock as Mary Smalls slow motion cross along the back line and across the goal curled past the keeper to give the Plums the lead they deserved!

Although Hales tried to come back there was not enough time and Pershore celebrated a much needed win. Pershore have a tough match this weekend playing top of the table Bromsgrove away

### **Pershore II 4 - 5 Tamworth II**

Pershore's second string stumbled to defeat following a 'jekyll and hyde' performance against league high flyers Tamworth.

A superb start by Pershore totally blew Tamworth away with clinical finishes from both Mike Handley and Ali Sanderson from well taken short corner routines. As Tamworth rose from their slumber, a long ball took a lucky deflection which their striker put away with ease. With barely 15 minutes on the clock, Pershore regained their two goal advantage, when Mark Passmore slammed the ball home. With Pershore in total control of the game, they relaxed leading to some silly errors. Again Tamworth scored when striker ghosted clear of the defence and slotted home again. The goal scoring still wasn't finished in the first half ! Pershore rallied again, and after a fine mazy run by Steve Quantrell, Sanderson finished with style.

This should have set the tone for a thumping win for Pershore, however skipper Scott Attwood was yellow carded for blatantly kicking the ball and stopping a rapid Tamworth counter attack. With the one man advantage, Tamworth scored a third just before the half time break, and then straight after to leave the score at 4-4.

The second half was a complete contrast to the first, with Pershore unable to raise their game. The half was characterized by increased player frustrations and niggly challenges. Pershore lost all their discipline with Luke Dalley, Mark Passmore and Liam Ridings all being yellow carded, adding to their woes. Tamworth also had a player sin binned in an increasingly bad tempered half. With time running out, Tamworth were awarded a penalty flick following some more over zealous tacking from Pershore's defence. The flick was scored, although keeper Wickersham was unlucky not to smother the shot. There was still time for Pershore to equalize, and although they poured forwards, this vital goal eluded them.

Full time arrived with Pershore very frustrated and disillusioned. Their lack of discipline gave Tamworth an unlikely victory. Pershore face a tricky away game against Whitchurch at the weekend.

### **Pershore III 3- 0 Stafford III**

Pershore put in a polished performance against an experienced Stafford team. With a youthful side Pershore were able to dominate the game from the off. With prompting by Gavin Pugh and the tireless efforts of Liam Burtenshaw in midfield Pershore were able to control possession of the ball. Harry Jones at centre forward combined well throughout with Graham Handley and George Darling to create a number of half chances. Eventually Pershore were awarded a short corner, after last week's poor efforts a change of personnel was called for. Mike Doust injected to Phil Taylor who was expertly flicked the ball into the bottom corner.

After half time Pershore were again dominant but Stafford did mount a series of attacks and were awarded a number of short corners. Karl Lawson negated the majority of these with brave running. On the occasions when Stafford attacked Pete Moreby was able to snuff most of the chances out with Rob Curley in the Pershore goal maintaining his usual high standards.

Pershore's second goal arrived after Ed Barker and Andy Griffin combined to play in Handley who drifted across the D to unleash an unstoppable reverse stick shot into the top corner. Pershore now started playing there best hockey with Ash Griffin linking well with the forwards allowing Graham Handley another chance only to be denied by a Stafford foot on the line. The resulting flick was roofed into the goal by Phil Taylor. This was a much better performance by Pershore but they will have to improve again to beat local rivals Redditch next week.

### **Sunday Fixture**

#### **Dudley Knights 0 - 3 Pershore**

Pershore took all three points from this Bodykraft league game in unspectacular style. They began the game brightly with Harry Jones looking lively on debut. It was Jones who opened the scoring, from a textbook short corner Stephen Ridsdale squared for Jones to score at the far post. The second goal again came from a penalty flick, awarded following a goal line clearance using a foot, the flick duly was converted by Jamie Hughes. The third goal came from a short corner, a superb finish from Whiting, which would have graced a higher league.

The second half was a poor affair from a Pershore perspective, with Dudley testing the Vale team's defence on several occasions. Tired legs and a lack of ambition prevented Pershore from extending their lead, and in the end they were happy to settle for the win and a clean sheet.