

Herne Bay United Veterans retained the National 'Peter Wimble' Trophy this weekend at the Pier Pavilion.

Having won the cup for the 1st time last year, United went into the tournament as favourites. With 3 games on Saturday and 2 on Sunday it was always going to be a tiring weekend. Their first game on Saturday afternoon was against Sheffield, although starting slowly United were soon on top and they ran out comfortable 10-0 winners. The 2nd game of their campaign was against Houghton Regis, this was a bigger test for them, at the end of the first half United were winning 2-0, the second half saw the reigning champions up their game scoring 3 more unanswered goals to run out 5-0 winners.

The 3rd game of the day was against Grimsby, this match was extremely physical affair, Grimsby were trying to put United off their game by roughing them up. The tactic failed as United won the game 4-1.

The following morning United started the day with a comfortable 10-0 win over Norwich, the win set up a winner takes all match against local rivals Herne Bay. Whoever won the game would win the tournament. Both sides were moving the ball around well, but it was United who created the early chances, Herne Bay then started to get their own team game going and came close to going in front. However with 8 minutes left in the 1st half United's Chris Espejo beat 2 players before coolly slotting the ball home past a helpless keeper to put United 1-0 up, scoring the only goal of the 1st half.

Herne Bay knew they had to re-double their efforts in attack, this they did and despite creating 3 or 4 clear cut chances they could not find a way past United keeper Garret Priestly. With the game in the balance it was United who scored to go 2-0 ahead, Nigel Mills won the ball on the half way line, passed to Phil McVey who rounded the defender and fired an un-stoppable shot into the top right hand corner of the goal. With a 2 goal cushion United could now afford to shut up shop and close the game out. Despite a valiant effort the Bay could not break through United's solid defence and at the final whistle it was United who ran out 2-0 winners.

United captain Phil McVey said: "Having won the cup last year we were determined to do it again. We played some good hockey and our defence was excellent. We only conceded one goal in the whole tournament. We only reformed this side last year, and in the last 12 months we have won the Veteran's Cup twice and the Kent League, winning every game along the way. Our next challenge is a tough 12 team Veteran's tournament in Germany in a month's time. We will be playing against some of the best teams in Europe, all the lads are looking forward to it."

HBU Team: Garrett Priestley (GK), Phil McVey ©, Chris Espejo, Matt Barton, Nick, Barton, Nigel Mills, Clive Bassom, Joe Wheatley

