

Gerald Logan



Gerald Logan, standing fourth from the left in this Hampstead photograph of 1904, was regarded as one of the best inside-rights to have played for England. He scored in each of England's three games at the 1908 Olympic Games in London, including the first two of their three first half goals in the 8-1 demolition of Ireland in the final, in which he ended up with a hat-trick.

He was born on 29 December 1879 in Wimbledon and attended Kingston Grammar School, where he played hockey alongside Stanley Shoveller, who played at centre forward, with Logan at inside-right. He joined Hampstead in October 1902.

They soon developed a striking partnership that served Hampstead, Surrey, the South and eventually England very well. It culminated in the 1908 Games, in which they both won gold medals. Between them they scored one half of England's total of 24 goals in the tournament, Shoveller helping himself to seven and Logan managing five.



In an account of Hampstead's perceived status as a *cricket-hockey club* at the time of the photograph above, it was said that much of the playing success was attributable to the play and goals of Stanley Shoveller. "All this is by no means to say that the other 10 members of the team are only of ordinary merit. G Logan and R Manser, who play either side of Shoveller, are sound and skilful performers and both have earned the distinction of playing for the South".

Logan was in the Hampstead line up for the 1902 game against Bromley that ended in a 1-1 draw, when McMillin scored for Hampstead, from a penalty bully. Hampstead later had a "goal" overruled for sticks. Logan also played in the 1907 return match against Staines, held out as the most successful club of the time in the South, with an unsurpassed record, until Hampstead began to dent their success.

In the 1907 match, Hampstead won 4-2, in what was described as "a strenuously contested game". Hampstead were put under heavy early pressure and had backs Marsden and Sherwell to thank for holding firm and not conceding. Hampstead's forwards then exerted greater control for 15 minutes and Shoveller scored with what was described as a comparatively soft shot. At the start of the second half, Staines attacked hard and scored an equaliser through Pimm. But in less than a minute Hampstead had retaken the lead and then added another two more, to lead 4-1. Staines scored a late consolation goal from a short corner to leave the score at 4-2.

The reporter claimed that the Hampstead forwards combined well at times but the team's success was attributed to Shoveller's individual efforts. He did add that, "Logan got through an immense amount of defensive work".



The Hampstead Team.

R. A. Hill.
C. H. Eiloart, H. K. Hebert, F. W. Orr, E. L. Marsden, J. H. Gunner,
R. E. Eiloart, G. Logan, S. H. Shoveller, R. H. Preston, M. Sherwell.

Gerald Logan also played in the 1908 win against Wimbledon on their ground, when the score was 2-6. Hampstead started well and only fine goalkeeping kept them at bay. Shoveller then scored with what was described as a particularly fine shot. Another was added for a half time score of 0-2.

In the second half, Wimbledon sprang an immediate attack from the bully off. Buisman, a new Dutch recruit for the home side, scored to make it 2-1 "but Hampstead retaliated almost immediately, adding a third goal as a result of a very fine effort by Logan". For the rest of the match Hampstead continued to press and scored again, through Logan, Shoveller and Gresswell. At virtually the end of the game, Buisman got through again for Wimbledon to add their second. The reporter said that of the forwards, "Logan was by far the best, Shoveller not quite being at his best".

On 19 November 1910, Hampstead faced Cambridge University, who had won their preceding five matches. In the cold and rain, the University forwards were said to be out of sorts in the circle and could not initiate any attacks to outwit the Hampstead defence. With Freddy Orr and Jack Bennett holding out in defence, "S H Shoveller and Logan brought off several neat runs but they never neglected their wing men and it was quite in contrast to the Light Blues, to see these men giving hard passes out to their outside men."

After 10 minutes, an unmarked Bland opened the scoring for the University after a cross from the right. Hampstead immediately got on level terms again. "A free hit against Stevens near the circle being taken advantages of by Logan, who rushed the ball through at close quarters." Shoveller scored the winner a little later after working himself into a position to score neatly. The second half was scoreless and it ended 1-2 to Hampstead, who were reported to have packed their defence and frequently with their forwards retreated, to hold on for the win.



Logan was admitted to the Sticks Club in 1908, a secretive club for whom the qualifications for entry were to have played internationally and to be a good diner (according to Jack Bennett).

Gerald Logan went on to play nine times for England between 1906 and 1909. He also played for Surbiton and Canterbury, occasionally as a centre-forward. On 22 April 1914, he left England for the Malay States and S H Shoveller and C H Eiloart were present at Liverpool Street for his departure by train to Tilbury and to wish him good luck on behalf of Hampstead HC.

The Club had made a presentation to him on his departure, the nature of which is not known. According to the Club minutes, after a collection worth £5-0-0 (approximately £485 in today's terms) there was a shortfall of £1-4-3. The members present at the meeting agreed to meet the deficit, as the Club's retiring honorary secretary was out of pocket to that amount.

Logan was the son of a Wimbledon florist but became a junior bank clerk before developing an interest in the rubber trade that explains his leaving the country in 1914.

In the early 1900s, increased reliance on the car and the use of rubber in common products such as boots, were driving demand for rubber. Rubber was then made from naturally occurring latex extracted from certain plants requiring a tropical climate. Some 75% of rubber was controlled by British companies and led to efforts in Russia, Germany and the United States to reduce their dependence and develop methods of manufacturing synthetic rubber. However, synthetic rubber was not yet sufficiently practical.

Between 1914 and 1922, natural rubber prices fluctuated between \$0.115 and \$1.02 per pound for several reasons. First, blight affected rubber trees in Brazil and caused British and Dutch rubber producers to start new plantations in Malaya and in the Dutch East Indies. Secondly, after the 1917 October Revolution, Russia was renewing its effort to make synthetic rubber. Thirdly, during World War I, demand for rubber was high. New sources of rubber were being developed. But following the War, demand diminished and there was a resulting glut that led to very low prices.

In 1920, the British Rubber Growers Association turned to then Secretary of State for the Colonies, Winston Churchill, for help. A Rubber Investigation Committee, chaired by Sir James Stevenson, devised a plan to stabilise prices by limiting the tonnage of rubber exported. The so-called Stevenson Plan was enacted by the governments of Ceylon and British Malaya. A Restriction order was imposed on exported rubber that took effect on 1 November 1922.

At this time, British interests controlled about 75% of rubber production. The United States consumed about 75% of the rubber produced in the world. Britain was still paying its war debt to the United States following World War I. It needed a profitable rubber industry. The Dutch, who controlled virtually the rest of the market, refused to go along with the Plan. Their preference was not to regulate the industry (and they sought to profit from a unilateral action by Britain). US tyre maker, Harvey Firestone, reacted angrily to the Restriction order, as did Secretary of Commerce, Herbert Hoover.

By 1925, high prices resulting from the Restriction were beginning to threaten the American way of life. Hoover informed the British that if the Stevenson Plan stayed in effect, the United States would try to protect itself in any way it could. By 1928, the Restriction order was

repealed but not before the expanding Dutch rubber plantations had successfully captured most of the American rubber market.

Rubber producers returned control of prices to the free market. The Great Depression in the 1930s then lowered demand for rubber: again, rubber prices plunged. Rubber producers once again turned to regulation to maintain prices.

This time it was achieved under the auspices of the International Rubber Regulation Agreement that was signed by all major rubber producing countries. This succeeded in governing the price of rubber to the satisfaction of producers and most consumers. But by now Japan was a consumer, using rubber to support its war effort in Manchuria and China. Its leaders were not happy with the price of rubber. This is believed to have provoked the Japanese and is thought to have been one motive for their attack on Pearl Harbor and that precipitated entry by the US into World War II.

Against the earlier part of this backdrop, Gerald Logan was employed as a Restriction Officer in Ipoh. Coupons were issued under the Restriction to producers. In the early days of the scheme there were delays and difficulties. It was alleged that this led to Restriction Officers urging licensed rubber dealers to buy rubber without coupons in order to reduce hardship to small producers, on the basis that in due course a means would be found for the rubber in question to be exported by purchasing coupons.

However in May 1923, rules were published that required each registered dealer to submit a return setting down the quantity of rubber in excess of that for which coupons were held. No concessions were apparently given in respect of earlier volumes acquired without a coupon, leaving dealers with stock, said to be in the region of 7,000 tons in total that they were unable to sell or transfer. This naturally generated hardship and a Petition, signed by 211, was lodged by the Rubber Dealers and Growers Association with the Chief Secretary to the Government of the Federated Malay States (and reported in *The Straits Times* on 14 March 1924).

The role of a Rubber Restriction Officer was to inspect the books and records of rubber dealers and thereby monitor the efficacy of the Restriction order. It is not known if there was any requirement for the collection of payments or royalties for the coupons. It was considered a relatively important and well remunerated post. *The Straits Times* reported on 27 May 1927 the conviction, on his own admission, of a Chinese, who had impersonated a Rubber Restriction Officer by approaching dealers with requests to inspect their books. He was arrested when the proper Restriction Officer delayed his departure from a shop on being informed that the bogus officer was about to attend. He was then confronted and arrested on being unable to offer any adequate explanation for the requests he was making.

Gerald Logan left Ipoh in October 1928 for Seremban and is reported to have taken up a post with R A Bendixen & Co. His absence in Perak would be felt, it was reported, as he had helped the Perak hockey team remain unbeaten for two years. He had resigned as captain of the team in 1926. He had instead turned to golf and became the Secretary of the Ipoh Golf Club, now known as the Royal Perak Golf Club. The Ipoh Golf Club had started as a modest nine-hole course on the Race Course, before the turn of the last Century. In 1932, as a result of the growing membership,

180 acres of land were acquired to construct an 18-hole golf course and a new improved clubhouse was added.

In February 1930, *The Straits Times* noted that Mr and Mrs Gerald Logan who were “well known in Malaya” were on holiday in Buckinghamshire and were due to return to the Federated States towards the end of April.

In 1941 Gerald Logan returned to England with his wife, Alexandra, presumably in retirement. He died ten years later in Folkestone on 29 April 1951,

The gold medal won by Gerald Logan was left to his great nephew, Nigel Bates by Alexandra upon her death, as he was the only member of the family who followed in Gerald's footsteps and played hockey. The medal has been lent to the Hockey Museum in Woking.