

## HAMPSTEAD HOCKEY CLUB

### PITCHES

The availability of pitches remains a serious problem at present and we are largely experiencing a "hand to mouth" existence. By way of explanation the present position appears as follows:-

#### Pavilion Pitch

Holding remarkably well but there has been no recent rainfall to speak of.

#### Far Pitch

The in-filling with sand has been completed but the surface is still thought too uneven and is probably dangerous. Ironically some rain is needed, but the pitch might be ready in a fortnight(?)

#### Creighton North

The long awaited goal posts were delivered to the London Borough of Haringey last week but were the wrong variety. Free standing goals are needed on the shale pitch and those supplied were designed for imbedding permanently in concrete. Alas, they could not be modified. They have been returned and new posts might arrive by the end of the month! The posts used for the 6th XI fixture against Maidenhead were only made available because of school half term and the use of the pitch on that day was very much a "one off" occasion.

#### New River

The hockey pitch marking has run into difficulty. There is an argument (which may develop into litigation) between the marking sub contractor and the Architect/Surveyor. Unfortunately the Sports Centre Director is therefore not permitted to offer the pitch for use, lest this is seen as an implied admission that the quality of the marking is adequate. It is hoped the pitch may be ready for use on 26th November.

#### Northumberland Park

This pitch was pressed into use last Saturday very much at the last minute. Its future availability is not known, although we anticipate that it would be awkward/impossible to reach when Spurs are playing at home. The pitch is next to Northumberland Park School, Worcester Avenue, London N17, beneath the Shadow of the East stand of Tottenham Hotspur FC. Change at the school. It is a shale surface (red-gra). Parking is permitted in the school grounds.

As a result of the shortages, we are bound to have to use Highgate Wood from time to time. Although its deficiencies are known to all, the only other possibility would probably be cancellation. Please also be patient if match venues have to be altered without much notice.

IAN SMITH.