

HAMPSTEAD HOCKEY CLUB

(AFFILIATED TO THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY HOCKEY ASSOCIATION)

PRESIDENT

T. B. STAFFORD, ESQ.

Rosemary House,
Church Street,
Hampton - on - Thames
Middlesex TW12 2EG

15th February 1974

Dear Vice President/Hon. Member,

What a pity I didn't write to you five days ago! I would have begun by telling you the very gratifying news that the 1st XI had gone since the second Saturday of the season without defeat - 14 games in a row. But, alas, that record went last Saturday when they fell 1 - 2 to Reading in a game played in appalling conditions on a school shale pitch.

Nevertheless, it is still very good news to be able to give you - after several years a bit in the dumps. The 1st XI's record at this point in the season is 10 wins, 5 draws, 2 losses, and they lie about 7th in the London League (a dramatic improvement on previous seasons). Indeed the added strength - we have a Kenyan international and a German Under 22 player in the team at present - permeates down the Club, so that all the XI's are turning in good results. The total record for the season, over all six XI's, is now 49 wins, 17 draws, 21 losses - which gives one quite a warm feeling.

I want to take this opportunity, as usual, to tell you about 2 or 3 functions we'd certainly welcome seeing you at. The first, and most imminent is that, on the morning of Saturday 23rd February we are due to act again as hosts, at our ground, to the annual Occasionals v. Wanderers match (11.00 a.m. bully-off) followed by a buffet lunch in the Clubhouse and you'd be more than welcome at both. But I say "we are due to" because it will be no news to you that we have had an incredibly wet couple of months and there is very little hockey being played anywhere in London. Being realistic, unless there is a modicum of sun and wind in the next 10 days the chance of Hornsey being playable cannot be very good. If it is not, then we shall co-operate with the universities to see if we can switch their game to one of our lower XI pitches away from Hornsey. So, if you do aim to come up and spectate, then please ring the Answering Service (01-584-1001) before you leave home to check on the match and whether it has been switched elsewhere.

On that afternoon there is the free 'Varsity match at Lord's and then, in the evening (7.00 p.m.) we would like to welcome you back at the Hornsey Clubhouse, with your good lady, for an informal wine-and-cheese party. Don't bother to reply to this invitation, but do come along because we would like to entertain our Vice Presidents and Hon. Members as the Club's guests for the evening. I do hope you'll make it.

And then, again, on Friday evening, 29th March, I look forward to seeing you once more. This is an advance warning but the A.G.M will be held that evening somewhere in central-ish London and, this year, we are trying the innovation of closing the A.G.M at 9.00 p.m. to move into our annual 'stag' Club Supper. Make a note now: details with your formal notice of the A.G.M .

Yours sincerely,

Colin Greenhalgh