

HAMPSTEAD HOCKEY CLUB

DRAINAGE OF PITCHES AT TIVOLI ROAD

1. The two quotations we have had suggest that the cost of making one pitch playable during the winter months is about £12,500 excluding VAT. The cost is at April 1980 prices and may be broken down as follows:
 - a) Basic pipe drainage (to take the water away)(£6,000)
 - b) Slit drainage (to get the water down to the pipes)(£5,000)
 - c) Oversowing and Topdressing (£1,500)

2. Whereas most clubs could get away with just pipe drainage we have been advised that because of the exceptionally heavy clay topsoil at Tivoli Road slit drainage is also necessary. The alternative to slit drainage is to plough the field up, mix in a generous helping of sand and re-lay.

3. The options open to us are:

- a) to lay only pipe drainage in September and to see what effect that had
- b) to do the whole job and find the cash by whatever means
- c) to have the pipe drainage done by a contractor and to do the slit drainage, oversowing and topdressing ourselves.

Option c) is feasible and would save about 40% of the cost of 1 b) and 20% of the cost in 1 c), say £2,300 in all. In my view, however, we should adopt option b) if at all possible,

4. Now that a definite date is set for the work, and some modifications in the specification to make life easier for the contractors have been agreed by Bingley's, I am confident that we can obtain further quotations. That is not to say that the costs will be far different from those already quoted. However, it will give us the opportunity to select from amongst a number of contractors. My view is that we should be prepared to pay more to go to a contractor who

- a) has a reputation to lose if he does a bad job
- b) has enough backing to be able to afford to rectify any errors.

5. I would propose that

- a) we confirm a target date for the end of September
- b) we obtain quotations from contractors for that date on the basis that pipe drainage is definite but slit drainage will depend on sufficient funds being available
- c) the AGM authorises the general committee to take a decision on slit drainage if sufficient funds are available.