

Welcome

This is the eleventh in our series of revamped Newsletters. It reviews elements of the 2013/14 season as it draws to a climax for some of our teams, some already having achieved early success. It is regrettably brief: fuller details of playing records will follow at the end of the season.

First, some older news to report, in an attempt to play “catch up”.

Memorial Match

This season's match was held on Sunday 8 September 2013 at Paddington Recreation Ground. It saw what was described as “a pulsating 5-2 win for the Supervets this time around”. It enabled the Supervets to take the Harry Watson memorial trophy.

This year's game sadly noted the addition of Richard Clarke, Geoff Turk and Jack Gahir to the absentees.

Having suffered a reverse in 2013, a significantly stiffened Supervets, thanks to Andy Brookes, Richard James and Rakesh Patel, played some good passing hockey. They also scored some splendidly well taken goals, from Peter Talboys and Chris Somes-Charlton in particular.

The Legends replied with two goals of their own but the feature of the game was the outstanding goalkeeping of Tim Forte and Steve Pennington whose play belied the fact that the Memorial Game is the only time in the year they put on the pads.

A number of supporters, including Harry Watson, direct from Alicante, were on the sidelines and players and supporters enjoyed the hospitality in the Carlton afterwards.

Thanks once again were directed to Jerry Stanyard for organising the Legends' team; to Arthur Soares and a young Pennington for umpiring and to Adam Gapper for making the chilli con carne.

Deaths

Sadly, in an extension of the news reported above, we need to record, in particular, the passing of four former Club members who put in great service to the club or to hockey at large.

Richard Clarke

Richard Clarke died in March 2013. Colin Greenhalgh recalled that Richard “was a splendid bloke, very loyal to the club, and one of the prime movers in the revival of our fortunes after the decline when, for circumstances beyond our control, we fetched up playing at Victoria Park, and then a less than satisfactory Hornsey Cricket Club”.

He remembered the 1st XI game immediately after Richard joined when “he turned out in a club shirt, but wearing brown-and-yellow hooped socks. Philip Conway (I think) sent him scurrying back into the pavilion to get properly dressed. I think that one gesture was the trigger that persuaded Richard this was a club worth playing for and, ultimately, of course, worth captaining towards better times”.

Richard had been diagnosed with probable pancreatic cancer at around the time of the World Cup but had shared this with very few. He was heavily involved with the LX Club and the World Grand Masters (for the over 60s). It was he who masterminded the wonderful WGMA European Cup last summer in his Oxford Hawks Club as, we believe, the Chairman of the Organising Committee. Morley Pecker mentioned that “Richard and his wife Sarah put an enormous amount

of time into the organisation - which produced a result that was greatly appreciated by everyone and declared our best-ever event”.

Richard Shaw

Richard died at home in Hampshire on 16 October 2013, having being diagnosed with a brain tumour in April. He took over as the Club Secretary from Colin Greenhalgh in 1970 at the time of the Club's 75th anniversary and proved equally resilient and hard working.

Richard continued the Club's weekly newsletters in the same vein. Latterly he became Club Captain in the early 1980's when the role was largely that of the President today (but being then part of the Hornsey Club, such a title was eschewed – and only reinstated in 1986 on Peter Boizot's "accession"). He was much admired as one of life's true gentlemen.

Richard was a leading maritime lawyer in the City of London and latterly, on retirement from private practice, devoted his energies to the Institute of Maritime Law, part of the University of Southampton Law School. He was involved in maintaining close connections with leading maritime lawyers, academics, maritime law associations and international organisation based all over the world.

Jon Roberts

Jon Roberts first appeared for the Men's 1st XI in the early 1980s on the grass pitches of Hornsey and regularly scored more than 20 goals per season in the London League, keeping Hampstead well placed in that League. Jon was a modest man, with silky skills. He was much respected and regarded as a great man to play alongside. It was rare at that time for a member of the 1's to be the Club's leading goalscorer but Jon achieved this in his first season with the club.

Jon later continued at Wimbledon HC in the very strong Wessex Vets League and more latterly as a South umpire. His cool demeanour will have stood him in good stead with the whistle. He returned in recent years to play in the Club's annual memorial match at the start of the season.

Dick Downard

As this letter went to print, we learned from Bill Perry that, sadly, Dick Downard had died in October 2013. Dick was captain of the Hampstead 1's (as it then was) in the late fifties. Bill Perry recollected that he was a very good and driven player and captain. He was also a fellow commuter and bridge player right up to the end.

President's Day

As already advertised,, the club is planning a President's Day at Paddington Recreation Ground on Saturday 12 April 2014. The event is now to be preceded by a Vice Presidents' and past players Dinner on the previous evening, Friday 11 April, at Brown's restaurant in St Martin's Lane.

The price of the Dinner will be at a similar level to previous events, which will be £65 per person, including some wine with the meal (and probably some sort of welcome drink upon arrival as well). The evening is scheduled to begin at 7.00pm, with dinner from 7.45pm.

Would the readership please confirm whether or not they are able to attend the dinner? The Club will then be seeking menu selections, together with payment for the dinner, to be made by the middle of March. Please respond to Lou Gelling at lgelling@deloitte.co.uk.

The newly invigorated President's Day will feature three matches on the show pitch at Paddington Recreation Ground. The aim is to provide a festival of hockey to which everyone is invited. In particular:

- At midday, an England invitation LX team will be playing against the current HWHC Supervets - a game to be held in honour of past President and long standing patron of the club and one of the founder members of the LX club, Peter Boizot;
- At 1.30pm a Ladies' invitation XI will be playing against a current Women's XI (including some of the current Women's 1's) - a game celebrating the 30th anniversary of the formation of the Women's section; and finally
- A President's select XI, captained by our past captain and current Great Britain star Dan Fox, will be playing the Men's 1's, starting at 3.00pm. Dan hopes to have a number of international players in his squad to provide a true test of our Men's team.

The Carlton Tavern will be open all day for refreshments. The day coincides with the London League finals that are to be held at Old Loughtonians Hockey Club. A social event will therefore be held that evening at the Carlton. It is likely to include a Hog Roast and (of course, they proclaim) plenty of beer for everyone involved in the day.

The event is open to any other current/past members, players and supporters from the London League finals and any other friends and family looking for a night out of high octane entertainment. All are encouraged, please, to extend an invitation to as many friends, family current and past members of the Club as possible. We look forward to seeing you there!

On the pitch

This season has been remarkable for four of our teams, the Women's 1's, the Men's 2's, Zak Hond and Veterans (but without any suggestion that this is to the exclusion of other successes).

Women's 1's

Narrowly pipped last year for the automatic promotion spot into the National League, the team has put a special marker down on the South League Division 1 this year. Once again it is *nip and tuck* for the League championship. The team currently sits top of the league on goal difference. It looks as if may all depend upon the final league game on Saturday 22 March, ironically against Maidenhead, the promotion rivals.

H&W are in top spot as this is written with a goal difference of 50 against 43 of Maidenhead. Both teams have the same number of wins and losses, 13 and 1 with no drawn games. In third spot is Staines, who are 19 points adrift. The team has managed some excellent wins without conceding a goal, recently to Teddington 2-0, Tulse Hill & Dulwich 7-0 and 5-0 against Havant, a team that in the past has proved difficult to beat.

The team's other success has been in the national Cup. On 18 February, H&W beat Sevenoaks of the National League 4-2, for a place in the semi-finals and a draw against University of Birmingham. This match will be held on Sunday 23 March once again at home at Paddington Recreation Ground, so please do come down and support.

Men's 2's

After last year's success in the London League Premiership and the League Cup competition, the 2's were expecting a more difficult task this season, facing retirements and the loss of evergreen Nigel Land, who emigrated to Perth, (Western Australian version). Jimmy Marsom was persuaded to try again, despite a move from London W9.

Soon the team found its groove and it took until 9 November before the first points were dropped, a 1-1 draw at Wimbledon. This was followed by a narrow loss at home to Southgate a fortnight later. However, things improved after that and into 2014, starting with an 8-2 drubbing of Canterbury at PRG. Then after a 5-0 defeat of Spencer, in what was described as their worst performance at home for ten years, the 2's lost 1-4 to Wimbledon. However, the most recent 4-0 defeat of Reading saw the team to the league title again, with 48 points from 20 games (that is with two more to play, on 1 March and 8 March). Southgate are in second place with 39 points and Surbiton third with 38.

Zak Hond XI

The Zaks sit atop London League Division Two, with 49 points from 18 games. This is another league in which there are two teams at the top and the rest far behind. Reading 2As are in second place with 44 points from the same 18 games and there are two to play. The Zaks were unbeaten until only last weekend when they lost to Reading by 2-5.

Veterans

The Vets may be in third place in the London League Vets Division 2 but have been scoring goals as few others. Their goal difference is 37, with 85 scored, the most in the League. This has followed wins of 11-4 against the current league leaders, East Grinstead and 10-0 against Old Cranleighans. Last week witnessed a 9-3 defeat of Wimbledon. Mind you, the craziest game was probably the win at PRG against Wimbledon in November in a score of 8-7.

EHL Premier League

Players

At the start of the season, Dan Fox joined Holcombe, to further his participation in the Great Britain Performance Squad, where he joined Barry Middleton, the GB skipper, with the Kent side, who narrowly missed out on promotion to the Premier League last season and evidently do not want to repeat the experience.

Before departure Dan was instrumental in encouraging Richard Smith to join Hampstead for the forthcoming season, a regular player and goal scorer for England and GB.

Richard returned from Malaysia with the England squad competing in the World Hockey League and finally obtained a satisfactory diagnosis of a recurring knee injury the treatment for which sadly put paid to his playing season from the start.

Coaching etc

Tom Kavanagh took over as player coach for the Men's 1's this season after Chris Rowohl's one year tenure. Sam Cobley has been assisting and looking after the team that remains under the sympathetic but efficient management of Thea Hitchcock, soon to become the longest holder of the post.

League standings

At the time of this newsletter the Men's 1s are in seventh spot

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|----------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Beeston | 14 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 45 | 29 | 16 | 34 |
| Reading | 14 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 51 | 28 | 23 | 30 |
| East Grinstead | 13 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 57 | 31 | 26 | 29 |
| Surbiton | 14 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 45 | 28 | 17 | 25 |
| Wimbledon | 14 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 32 | 29 | 3 | 23 |
| Canterbury | 14 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 48 | 51 | -3 | 19 |
| Hampstead and Westminster | 13 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 25 | 46 | -21 | 15 |
| Cannock | 14 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 35 | 45 | -10 | 10 |
| Loughborough Students | 14 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 23 | 46 | -23 | 7 |
| Sheffield Hallam | 14 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 19 | 47 | -28 | 7 |

League results

Surbiton 5 Hampstead 1

Hampstead 4 Loughborough Univ 1

Sheffield Hallam 0 Hampstead 2
Hampstead 2 East Grinstead 3
Hampstead 3 Cannock 2
Reading 11 Hampstead 1
Hampstead 3 Beeston 6
Wimbledon 4 Hampstead 0
Hampstead 2 Canterbury 1
Hampstead 0 Surbiton 2
Loughborough Univ 2 Hampstead 1
Hampstead 3 Sheffield Hallam 1
Cannock 8 Hampstead 3

Hampstead have five games still to play, the majority four. Owing to European indoor commitments, the East Grinstead game was postponed. That means there is another double header weekend imminent for the team, due to play East Grinstead before taking on Reading again.

This season the wins against teams below them in the League have been crucial and bucking the trend of past seasons. By all accounts the result at Reading was improbable to predict. On the day everything that they tried seem to work and it was readily admitted by them that it had been an exceptional day. The good wins against Cannock and Canterbury were highlights. The recent dogged win at Sheffield was a huge fillip. The game was due to be played at PRG but a combination of poor light and pitch markings that had dissolved in the extremely wet conditions, in circumstances where there had been insufficient continual days of dry weather to allow for repainting, led to a postponement and the venue being reversed. So, it was back to Abbeydale Park for the second time in the season.

National Cup

In the Cup this season the 1's had a tough early draw but beat Southgate and were then drawn against Marlow, who they defeated 6-2. They then met Fareham, the National League Conference team again, but this time at home, and won 3-1. In the quarter final they encountered Sevenoaks but lost 2-3, on a day when all the other Premier League teams were defeated too, including league leaders Beeston, who lost 4-3 to Brooklands. That left the way open for the Conference sides to dominate and secure a place in European hockey. They include Oxted, where former Hampstead player Andy Cornick is still firing in the goals. An opportunity lost for the H&W Cup specialists, sadly?

International Honours

Dave Cooper, the Men's 1's central defender and captain was selected to play for the England indoor team that competed in Austria on 17-19 January.

In Pool A England were joined by Germany Netherlands and Russia

Unfortunately in the final stages Dave suffered a serious injury to his patella that led to major surgery and has left him immobile, with his leg in a brace for at least three months.

We also salute former Men's 1's striker [Mark Crowley](#) on his call up to the England Masters over 40 team setting off for Holland. The squad will play in the World Cup in Rotterdam at the beginning of June 2014 and the home nations will meet to compete in Belfast

Mark was always renowned for his sheer pace up front and he enjoyed much success in the team that secured promotion to the National League in 1994/5 and then again in 1997 and for a few seasons after that. Mark now plays his hockey at Oxford Hawks but eagerly follows H&WHC exploits. We wish him every success. Hopefully perhaps Ian Hammond, until last season the Men's 2's striker, now playing for the Vets, might be released from teaching duties at Harrow School to join Mark in the forward line?

We also need to mention [Dave Dixon](#), who has been selected for England in the Masters over 60 squad for the same tournament in Rotterdam, where he may well encounter [Richard Chapman](#), who is still playing for Wales at the same level and who has the added burden of vice captaining the team.

We await news of the selection for the World Cup of the Women's 1's coach [Steven Menzies](#) and Vets' player [Raskesh Patel](#) as members of the Scotland over 50s squad.

From yesteryear

100 years ago

[From the Minute Book](#)

On 22 April 1914 Gerald Logan left England for the Malay States. He had been a playing member of the Club since October 1902 and played for England on many occasions during that period, S H Shoveller and C H Eiloart were present at Liverpool Street and wished him good luck on behalf of the Club.

90 years ago

FROM HOCKEY WORLD

[Oxford University 10 Hampstead 1](#)

The Oxonian side just now are going great guns with the forwards, a fine, fast, bit of attacking machinery. Hampstead lost at Oxford on Saturday by 10 – 1. Fore and aft, the Dark Blues gave an amazing display of hockey; their place and combination in attack revealed a fine understanding and they quite overplayed the strong Hampstead defence.

C. Kirkpatrick played well at outside right, scoring four goals; he has never been more effective, while other goals were hit by N. Kirkpatrick (2), Maturin (2), and Chilman (2). Hewetson, introduced at right-half for Oxford, played quite well.

Bennett and Wilkinson worked hard for Hampstead, but they were rather overwhelmed with work; Norton scored the goal for Hampstead. The Dark Blues will be at Wimbledon Park to-morrow, Saturday, but Wimbledon, on current form, will not be able to hold them

30 years ago

[AGM Minutes 16 April 1984](#)

The Resolution "That a Ladies Playing section be incorporated as part of the Hampstead Hockey Club" was proposed by Dirk Fleming and seconded by Rod Tippen and carried unanimously and with enthusiasm

By way of background, a few unofficial mixed games had started in the Spring of 1981 under the name *Badlosers* but as a Hampstead side, wearing Hampstead Club shirts and using Corams' Fields as our home pitch. In 1982 a Hampstead HC mixed side was officially started. Later an advertisement in *Time Out* produced 33 players. The team started playing with official backing in the 1982/83 season. Some fixtures were obtained through Sally Tippen, who was the fixture secretary for Ealing Ladies at the time. Sally provided spare players and others were picked up by the women's own efforts. Melinda Bennett became captain,

Next edition

This will feature playing records in greater detail at the end of the season. More immediate current news of the club and its fortunes can always be obtained via the website (with regular team reports) on Facebook or by following it on Twitter (@HandWHC),

If you have any news or views, please send by e-mail to mail@velwell.eclipse.co.uk.

[If it is fit to print, it will be!](#)