

Welcome

This will be brief and is an attempt to record the events of last weekend rather than wait until the autumn and the next Newsletter. There are a few other items of news that can usefully be added now.

MEN'S HOCKEY LEAGUE FINALS

For probably the best summary of Saturday's match, we are indebted to the *Ham & High*

Hampstead & Westminster saw their hopes of glory at the Hockey League finals weekend ended by Premier Division champions Wimbledon after a slender loss at Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre. A pair of short corner goals in the first half proved decisive, despite Richard Alexander's fourth-quarter reply, as Hampstead were to reflect upon a history-making campaign and their first appearance at the sport's showpiece event.

Hampstead made a bright start, with Michael Watt forcing a kick save from James Bailey inside the first 90 seconds, but Simon Mantell fired into the side netting at the other end for Wimbledon and saw Phil Ball's reverse-stick effort deflected behind by David Kettle.

The deadlock was broken on eight minutes, though, when the Premier Division champions won the first penalty corner of the match and Mantell drilled a low shot into the bottom left corner of the goal. Kwan Browne tried to respond for Hampstead with a run from deep, but Wimbledon's defence held firm to deny entry into the D with a good stick tackle and a long pass then found Chris Gregg on the left, with his reverse-stick drive parried by the pads of Kettle.

Hampstead ended the first quarter well, however, as Matt Botha saw a reverse-stick shot from the left side of the D kicked out by Bailey, before Watt was also denied at close range by the keeper's pads. Wimbledon were on the front foot at the start of the second quarter as Mantell fizzed a hard cross in from the right, across the face of goal, and Ben Arnold did the same on his reverse from the left, without finding the stick of a team-mate in front of Kettle.

Hampstead were growing slightly frustrated, with Will Calnan clashing off the ball with Steven Ebbers, and Wimbledon doubled their advantage on 27 minutes from their second short corner, as Borja Llorens saw his drag flick squirm under Kettle and over the line.

There was late hope for Hampstead shortly before half time when Llorens was shown a green card and they won their first corner of the match, but Matt Guise-Brown's drag flick was knocked behind by the stick of a diving Bailey and Stevie Dowds sent another effort from the top of the D whistling wide before the hooter.

Hampstead's Richard Alexander was shown a green card early in the second half and it proved the first of five cards shown in the third quarter, as captain Toby Roche was banished along with Gregg following two clashes in quick succession.

Wimbledon's Ian Sloan saw a reverse-stick shot kicked out by Kettle, before a stick tackle on Watt saw Hampstead awarded a corner, which was saved by Bailey, before Wimbledon countered and flashed a left-wing effort across the face of goal.

Kettle dashed from his line to sweep the ball clear soon after, before McCabe was shown a yellow card for a push on Johnny Kinder as he looked to break through midfield and Wimbledon's Ben Arnold was also handed a temporary suspension as tensions continued to rise.

The final quarter was only two minutes old, though, when Rupert Shipperley produced a strong run into the D and the ball broke for Alexander to send a reverse-stick shot into the roof of the net to halve the deficit and give Hampstead hope.

Llorens saw a short corner drag flick saved by Kettle, before falling to the turf seemingly injured, but the umpires took no further action and Browne almost put Peter Makin into the D, only for a whistle to sound for an earlier Wimbledon indiscretion.

Kinder deflected a pass just past the post, before Hampstead removed Kettle for the last three minutes and sent Stuart Loughrey on as a kicking-back substitute.

But Wimbledon controlled the ball well to run down the clock and book their place in Sunday's final against Holcombe or Surbiton, leaving Hampstead to reflect on their first-ever trip to finals weekend at the end of a fine campaign.

Squad: Kettle (GK) Ratcliffe (GK); Alexander Edwards Roche (c) Calnan French Guise-Brown Watt Browne Jakeman Mccabe Botha Codling Dowds Shipperley Loughrey



We trust that Mark Clews will allow us to repeat his photograph that followed Richard Alexander's goal on Saturday that ought to stand as the **Goal of the Tournament**

Results

Wimbledon 2 Hampstead 1¹

Holcombe 2 Surbiton 3

3-4 Play Off

Holcombe 7 Hampstead 3

Final

Wimbledon 3 Surbiton 3 (3-2 to Surbiton on penalties)

PREMIER DIVISION PROMOTION PLAY OFFS

Sevenoaks 2 Bath Buccaneers 2

Canterbury 4 University of Durham 1

Canterbury 2 Bath Buccaneers 2

University of Durham 2 Sevenoaks 4

Sevenoaks 3 Canterbury 7

Bath Buccaneers 3 University of Durham 3

Table

Canterbury	3	2	1	0	13	6	7pts
Sevenoaks	3	2	0	1	9	11	6

¹ For the Stattos amongst you, a copy of the Official Match Report is appended.

Bath Buccaneers	3	0	2	1	7	8	2
University of Durham	3	0	1	2	6	10	1

Promoted: Sevenoaks; Canterbury retain their place (for the third successive year)



Some hockey skills are always in need of refreshment: here is H&W's Chris Cargo in training



And the 1's squad in good form too despite the disappointment, along with Emi, their youngest supporter (Matt Botha on baby minding duty)

WOMEN'S INVESTEC HOCKEY LEAGUE FINALS

Surbiton 3 University of Birmingham 1

Holcombe 2 East Grinstead 1

Final

Surbiton 3 Holcombe 1

INVESTEC PREMIER DIVISION PROMOTION PLAY OFFS

Bowdon Hightown 2 Buckingham 1

Brooklands 1 Wimbledon 2

Buckingham 1 Brooklands 0

Wimbledon 2 Bowdon Hightown 3

Wimbledon 3 Buckingham 4

Buckingham 2 Bowdon Hightown 2

Table

Bowdon Hightown	3	2	1	0	7	5	7pts
Buckingham	3	2	0	1	6	5	6
Wimbledon	3	1	0	2	7	8	3
Brooklands	3	0	1	2	3	5	1

Promoted: Buckingham; Bowdon Hightown retain their place

CONFERENCE TEAM of the YEAR

Congratulations to Annebeth Wijtenburg, the captain of the H&W 1st XI on her selection for the East Conference team of the year, selected by her peers



NATIONAL AWARDS

We also congratulate Alex Smart, leader of the H&W Youth Programme, upon her nomination in the *Unsung Club Hero* of the Year Award.

The Club has also been nominated for the Notts Sport *Club of the Year* award.

The awards will be made on 20 May 2017 during the England Hockey Awards Dinner at the Athena Leicester. A total of 13 awards will be made, including four performance player awards.

LEADING GOALSCORERS

In the Premier League this season they were Alan Forsyth (Surbiton) 20; Matt Guise-Brown (Hampstead) 15; Mark Gleghorne (Beeston) 14; Sam Ward (Holcombe) 13; Simon Mantell (Wimbledon) 13

REBECCA HOLDEN

Rebecca is recovering from her bone cancer operation and enjoyed a day out on Saturday spent at Lee Valley at the Play Offs. We have a photograph from her proud father.



CONFERENCE RELEGATION PLAY OFFS

Fareham retained their National League placing on Saturday, after two wins. The other Conference teams sadly revert to the regional leagues, including Indian Gym, for so long a part of the National League

Results

Indian Gymkhana 3 Oxton 4

Oxton 1 Fareham 3

Fareham 3 Indian Gymkhana 1

Joining the Men's Conferences next September will be Havant (who pipped Bromley & Beckenham), Leeds, Robinsons (of Bristol, who won their league by 14 points), Nottingham University, who won the Midlands League by 12 points and Old Loughtonians, who just managed to hold off St Albans.

LATE NEWS

The weekend also brought very sad news. Those who remember Peter Keep, a skilled goalkeeper who played in the 90's and early 2000's (and a pioneer of internet information gathering websites) will be saddened to learn that his wife, Charlotte, a former Bureau chief at Reuters in Mumbai, who also had foreign assignments to Bonn, Milan, Frankfurt and latterly Tokyo, died suddenly on Saturday following a series of aneurisms. She was just 50 years of age. We send sincere commiserations to Peter, now living back in London and not so far from PRG, where we shall hope to see him soon.

FOOTNOTE

With news of this weekend's Play Offs, Brian Beaumont Owles remembered with irony how in the early years of the London League, it tended to be Hampstead and Wimbledon who (with Mid Surrey from time to time) battled for the award of the *Wooden Spoon*. In the 1973-4 season Wimbledon had a League percentage of 3.70%, with two just draws and 16 losses! (Rather exceptionally Hampstead were twelfth that year, falling back at the end, after seventh place for most of the season).

Men's Hockey League Finals
22 - 23 Apr 2017
Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre, London E20 3AD



Match Report

Match #	Date	Time	Pool / Class	Pitch
1	22 Apr	11:00:00	Semi Final 1	Le-Va-Ho--Te-Ce - Pitch 1

Wimbledon	Official	1	2	3	4	T	Hampstead & Westminster
	Wimbledon	1	1	0	0	2	
	Hamp&West	0	0	0	1	1	

Minute	Shirt #	Name	Green	Yellow	Red
	1	MEYER-BOTHLING Oliver (GK)			
X	2	BAILEY James (GK)			
X	3	ARNOLD Ben	40		
X	5	FRIEND Peter			
X	6	WEIR Henry			
	7	CONLON Chad			
X	8	SLOAN Ian			
X	9	MANTELL Simon			
6	10	EBBERS Steven			
X	11	ROPER Phil			
X	12	HOARE Michael			
6	17	BALL Phil			
4	20	GREGG Chris	39		
X	21	LLORENS Borja	29		
12	22	STEWART Nathanael			
X	24	TIBBLE Ben			
6	28	MCINTYRE Gordon			
X	32	KINDER Johnny (C)			

Coach	HAWES Ben
Team Manager	RICHES Matt
Umpire	WALKER Paul (ENG)
Judge	MASON Stephen (ENG)
Technical Officer	ELLSOCK David (ENG)

Minute	Shirt #	Name	Green	Yellow	Red
X	1	KETTLE David (GK)			
	2	RATCLIFFE George (GK)			
	4	SMITH Richard			
X	5	ALEXANDER Richard		37	
X	6	EDWARDS Marc			
X	7	ROCHE Toby (C)	39		
X	8	CALNAN Will			
10	9	BOTHA Matthew			
19	11	CODLING Jonny			
X	12	FRENCH Sam			
X	13	GUISE-BROWN Matthew			
X	14	WATT Michael			
6	16	DOWDS Stephen			
X	17	BROWNE Kwan			
X	18	JAKEMAN Alex			
5	19	SHIPPERLEY Rupert			
10	23	LOUGHREY Stuart			
X	24	MCCABE Geoff		44	

Coach	STEVENS Huw
Team Manager	HITCHCOCK Thea
Umpire	HARRISON Matt (ENG)
Judge	KELSEY-FOREMAN Lewis (ENG)
Reserve Umpire	EDWARDS Sean (ENG)

Team	Minute	Number	Action	Score
Wimbledon	9	9	PC	1 - 0
Wimbledon	28	21	PC	2 - 0
Hamp&West	47	5	FG	2 - 1

Team	Minute	Number	Action	Score

Team	Minute	Number	Action	Score

FG - Field Goal, PC - Penalty Corner, PS - Penalty Stroke