

RESULTS	1stXI	2ndXI	3rdXI	4thXI	5thXI	6thXI	Vets XI	Spaniards
Tulse Hill	3-1	1-3	4-1	3-0		3-5	0-3	
Southgate					5-1			
Accidentals								canc
National Indoor.....	Hampstead 8 Trojans 7							

REPORTS

The 1stXI (Dave Dixon 2, Richard Chapman 1) gained a most welcome league win. We went ahead early on through a hotly disputed goal, were soon pulled back to level terms, but went ahead again when Richard scored with a brilliant one-handed, reverse stick shot. Dave scored a superb open-play goal midway through the second half. The team then tended to lose concentration and it was thanks to Arthur Scores for preventing Tulse Hill scoring again.

The 2ndXI (Hugh Smith 1) got off to a great start with a short corner goal. The scores were level at half-time, and despite having much of the play afterwards the team went down to two brilliant breakaway goals by the opposition.

The 3rdXI (Abe Hallett 2, Doug Nicholson 1, Red Tippen 1) were too strong for the opposition who had only ten men. Despite this it was a good game, though rather too much arguing on both sides with the umpires, and Abe took his goals well. Outstanding for us were Doug Nicholson and Dave Walker.

The 4thXI (Leon Flack 1) had a fine win against a previously unbeaten side. Leon, an Australian, playing his first game for the club, gave the team an early lead. Tulse Hill exerted much pressure and missed a penalty flick. Outstanding for Hampstead was Sean Starr in goal, and Guy Stobert gave a good performance at the back.

After a shaky start the 5thXI (Andy Gregory 2, Peter Hornsby 2, Richard Ball 1) showed the opposition how to take chances. With a much changed side and a completely re-organised defence the side played some fine hockey very rarely allowing the Southgate team to settle. A good performance all-round with special praise to John Butcher and John Grierson, the latter on his unique method of goal-line clearances (over the bar).

The 6thXI at last had better opposition. Three times we equalised (Andy Gallaway 1, Tony Baxby 1, Martin Garrett 1), and it was only in the last five minutes that the opposition scored the two last vital goals.

The Vets, missing many of their 'stars' gave their poorest performance of the season against the Albyn's school team, who represent Tulse Hill.

Congratulations to the Indoor team on reaching the last thirty-two of the National. The match against the Trojans was quite remarkable. Shortly after half-time we were 2-0 down, and the margin would have been greater but for fine goalkeeping by Arthur. Two penalty flicks by Richard Chapman (although he did miss one in the first half) brought us back into the game. You can imagine the delight of the team and supporters when with fifteen seconds to go, and the score level at 7-7, Damian Khoo scored the winner after a fine movement.

AVAILABILITY...CHRISTMAS...NEW YEAR

Selection for matches on the 25th and 30th December will take place on Monday, 18th December. Will you please make sure your captain knows of your availability. Although there are not full programmes for these two weeks, experience has told us that availability tends to be poor and so it is an ideal opportunity for players to play in a higher team.

Will you also please bear in mind that captains do not want to spend the Christmas period on the phone because of any offs.

Selection for January 6th will take place on Monday 1st January. Here again please make sure your availability is known.

ALL WEATHER PITCHES

With the weather now seemingly turning against us I would like to remind, especially new members, the procedure on Saturday mornings.

You should phone answerings 584 1001 after 11.30 on Saturday mornings. Please make sure you say that you are enquiring into Hampstead Hockey club fixtures, as they deal with numerous other clubs.

We are fortunate in that if the grass pitches are unfit, we have the two all-weather pitches next door at Highgate Wood School. It will be necessary for players to move a set of goalposts from a grass pitch and of course return them afterwards.

I have heard a rumour (to be confirmed) that the Creighton North School all-weather pitch may soon be available again.

I'm sure our Quiz Cricket star Groundsman will tell me I am being too pessimistic.