

HAMPSTEAD HOCKEY CLUB

Rosemary House,
16 Church St.,
Hampton,
Middx.,
TW12 2EG

23rd April 1988

Dear Old Member,

The time has come around for my end-of-season Newsletter. (Don't the seasons fly past so quickly nowadays?) Before I up-date you with the season's happenings (insofar as I am in touch with them myself), let me immediately give you a couple of dates for your diary:

Wednesday, 4th May The Annual General Meeting at Hornsey (8.00 p.m.)

Let me explain that, since the merger with the Hornsey Club, the major financial business is now dealt with at their A.G.M. (a couple of days ago). Our own A.G.M. deals with the more interesting hockey business - election of officers, the ground etc. 'Old members' are welcome though, of course, they cannot vote.

Friday, 27th May A 'Veterans and Old Members' Dinner

An interesting one this - not to be missed. As you may know, the Club's Annual Dinner is a very different function from the one you and I remember: ladies present, no speeches, disco dancing (!) etc. Some of us have thought that a good old-fashioned dinner would be very welcome - and this is it. Men only, toasts and speeches. For various reasons, we have decided to restrict it to the Veterans XI and Old Members - though some of the current officers of the Club may also be present.

Venue: Jack Straw's Castle (at the top of Hampstead Hill)
Time: 7.30 for 8.00 p.m.
Dress: Lounge suits (or blazers etc.)
Price: £16 a head (to include a modest amount of wine at table - additional quantities to be paid for individually)
Guests: Yes, but....(see below)

The Guest of Honour will be Phil Appleyard (Chairman of the H.A.) - who will respond to the toast of the H.A. - and I am pleased to say that our old chum (and 'Honorary Old Member') Dick Cheston has agreed to respond to the toast of the guests. He will presumably take up where he left off 20 years ago at that infamous dinner with the gate-crasher at the City Pride ('As I was saying when I was interrupted....').

Stan Elgar is organising this function, so please return the tear-off slip to him - or 'phone him with your cheque to follow A.S.A.P. By the way, Stan has thoughtfully arranged for a vegetarian main course for anybody who would prefer that to steak, kidney and oyster pie, and cheese for those who would prefer that to apple pie: please indicate on your slip if you have either of those preferences.

Finally, private guests: we shall have about a dozen official guests, and we'd love to have private guests, too. But the dining-room has limited

capacity and we'd like to accommodate all the veterans and old members who want to attend. So: (a) please return your tear-off slip (or 'phone) early, so that Stan has a firm guide to numbers; (b) if you'd like to bring a guest, please indicate that - but don't firm up your invitation yet awhile; (c) Stan will then ring you when he has a clear idea (no later than 20th May) and tell you whether to firm up your invitation or not. (Ring him earlier than that if you're anxious to know.) Sorry if this sounds messy, but it's the neatest way we can think of to accommodate guests without risking disappointment to members.

Look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on this auspicious day - the start of another new tradition, we hope.

What other news do I have for you?

Our 'Old Members' Day' at Hornsey, on the 28th November - the date of the 'John Haynes Match' against the Veterans - was very succesful again. The following attended: Bill Fletcher, Andrew Alexander, Tony Swing, Donald Meacock, Brian Westhead, Berry Bermingham, Morley Pecker, Bob Tom, Hugh Wickham and Dick Cheston - as well as David Lowden, Peter Bell, Simon Jamieson, Mike Sadler-Forster (and myself!) playing for John's team. I had to leave fairly soon after tea (the better half insisting that I be on time for a dinner date), but the Cockburn's and Stilton was just beginning to go down a treat. The match? I think the Veterans won 1 - 0 this year.

I also had a long chatty letter (and a generous cheque!) from Brian Owles (Secretary in the 1960's) from Wahroonga, New South Wales. He meets up quite often with another old member - Stephen Oliver - who, in turn, sends regards from our 1960's New Zealand contingent - Murray Spicer, Des Cowperthwaite etc. It's a small world! Brian would welcome anyone who is visiting Australia: if you are, contact me and I'll give you his address/telephone number.

And I (very kindly) had a 'phone call from John Sankey's daughter in Melton Mowbray. John (who is now 89 - not 90, as I thought, last November) is as well as can be expected and very cheerful - as he always was. She sent regards, on his behalf: anybody in that part of the world would, I am sure, be very welcome to look him up: again, let me know if you'd like the address/telephone number.

The 1st XI had a very ropey season - least said, the better. But there were signs of a revival at the very end: a walkover against Guildford (who scratched), then real wins against Blackheath and Mid-Surrey (6-0). So we didn't quite prop up the London League. As usual, there are hopes of better fortune next year, with a Zimbabwean international player joining at the end of the season, and professional coaching for the team (through the usual good offices of our very generous President, I believe).

As usual these days, the other XI's had much better results. Up until the end of February (come to the A.G.M. if you want the full story), the other XI's combined (including the three ladies' XI's) had won 72 games against 42 losses - not bad going. It was beginning to look as though the Veterans would lose their brief hold on the Barnard Cup, to the 5th XI (13 wins, 2 losses) - but, again, to be finalised at the A.G.M.

From the review of last year to the present and future:

The Club is taking three XI's to a festival in Berlin during May. I'm not sure of the exact details but, if anybody feels like accompanying them (no, Sir, Sally Bowles doesn't perform there any longer!) let me know and I'll put you in touch with the relevant organisers.

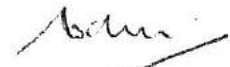
As you know, our admirable President, Peter Boizot, sponsors the London League through his restaurant chain, Pizza Express. Now, the Club itself would welcome some commercial sponsorship. Anybody interested, or who knows of a company who might be? If so, please ring the Secretary, Roger Rookes, on 444 6964 (Home) or 928 9000 (Office).

Since my last Newsletter I have tracked down a few more old members - Tony and Roger Henman, Peter Wilson and Richard Clarke (I hope) - all of whom are playing for Oxford Hawks - Chris Major (Chichester), Cyril Flaszner (Hounslow), Bob Hale (in Stirling, but I don't know if he's still playing), Suki Rao (Hitchin) and Sultan Farooqui. But I am still trying to find David Randall, Mike Lavan, Nigel Fletcher, Martin Sealey, Tim Hart, Richard Wright, Ramesh Seedher, Philip Conway, Vij Vijendran, Andy Hughes, Andy Gregory, Neil Worman, Arfon Jones, Cay Schroeder, Graham Still, Mike Patton, Abe Hillel, Peter Revell - anybody got an address?

That's all for 1987/88. But, I look forward to a really good turnout at the Dinner on 27th May. Don't forget to apply to Stan early so that we can accommodate as many guests as possible and make it a good old nostalgia evening.

Here's to next season.

Yours,



C. GREENHALGH

To: S.N. Elgar,
4 High St.,
Stock,
Essex, CM4 9BA

Phone: 0277 840421

HAMPSTEAD H.C. VETS/OLD MEMBERS' DINNER: 27 MAY

I would like to attend and enclose a cheque etc. for £16 (payable to S.N. Elgar)

I would also like to invite guest(s) if there is room. Please 'phone me to let me know one way or the other.

I would prefer a vegetarian main course /I would prefer cheese instead of sweet (Please tick)

Name:..... Address (for ticket):.....

.....

Phone No: (for a yea/nae on guests):.....