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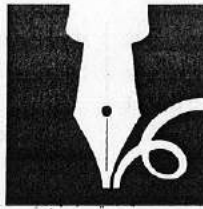
HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER HOCKEY CLUB

Journal Vol 6.

OCTOBER 18, 1996

INTRODUCTION

Here is the sixth Newsletter. It follows fairly rapidly from the fifth as there was then probably more to report than was first thought. It may be briefer, but this is "catch-up": see, we have all the sporting jargon of the 90s at our fingertips.



It also has attached details of the Sponsorship Scheme mentioned in the last edition and which John McCabe is now pursuing on behalf of the Men's 1st XI. Please read his letter and if you think that you might be able to help, particularly in identifying potential participants in the Scheme, do please give him a ring or fax him with details: the number is the same, namely 0171-252 0344.

NEWS of OLD MEMBERS

Chris Major kindly wrote to provide details of his home address and to report that to the wry amusement (or patent disbelief) no doubt of some of his H&W contemporaries, he still plays for Chichester whom H&W's Men's 1st XI will now confront in the South League on 18th January 1997, when Chris promises to look out for any visitors. His telephone number at home near Petworth is 0179 886 7238 (to put it into the modern numbering sequence) and any Old Member who might be planning to journey down to the south coast is encouraged to ring him at home.

Chris's contribution to the overheads of the *Journal* was warmly welcomed - thank you. The *Journal* also received a brief word from Andrew Alexander putting right more deficiencies in our Address List. We are sure that there must be more - so please do let us know.

The newly (OK then *recently*) removed Richard and Melinda James were good enough to don the Alastair Cooke mantle and send us their Letter from Birkenhead. It has not taken long but Richard is already ensconced in matters Hockey locally and had just been elected skipper of the Oxton 1st XI. Apparently concentration levels and the development of a more professional approach need urgent work. Richard alleges that encouragement from the sidelines merely stimulates cheerful waving to the crowd from the player involved! Equipment is said to be in short supply and pitch allocation is fairly haphazard. Still, there is a clutch of 17 year olds in the 1st XI squad enthralled by concepts of "channelling" and "breaking down" opposition play. (And Richard wonders why he is regarded as an "innovative upstart"?)

Oxton has an astro pitch (with another planned) and a National Lottery grant for a new Clubhouse and plenty of enthusiastic organiser-types (send some down here!) However there is one significant downside: the lack of a Women's section. Well, at least so far! As Melinda can probably testify, it has been achieved elsewhere.....

Morley Pecker is one of H&W's more distinguished Hockey Ambassadors and kindly wrote at length from Brussel/Bruxelles (whichever way you want it, but not

Brussels unless you really do want to guarantee upsetting the natives on either "side"). Morley is working for the European Commission but is also Honorary Treasurer of the European Hockey Federation. This keeps him rather busy and, we suspect, has him globe trotting more than he might have expected.

Since his return from Atlanta, he has been to Cardiff and Vejle in Denmark for the finals of the Women's and Men's European Junior Hockey Championships. A meeting of the Executive Board will take him to Posnan at the end of this month and this will be followed by the Biennial Congress of the International Hockey Federation to be held in Brussels (oops) in November. (And to think that some of the Club's present Committee think they are heavily loaded with duties!)

Morley also recollected his early days with H&W and his goalkeeping for the 3rd XI after leaving school in 1954. He mentions in particular the host of different rules that applied in those days, such as 25 yard bullies instead of 16 yard hits and penalty bullies instead of Penalty Flicks. He also fondly recalls that all matches were grass based and started at the same time of day, meaning that the bar tended to be heavily congregated and abandoned very late in the day (or next morning, perhaps?)

Morley took up umpiring after National Service (when he played for the Royal Artillery) and this put him in contact with the European Hockey Federation. He manages to spend time to visit London about once a month and is happy to umpire matches for the Veterans when doing so.

Through Morley, the *Journal* hopes to make contact with recently retired Peter Porritt, who is now has his home on Vancouver Island, Canada and who apparently recalls his Hampstead playing days with Jeremy Potter then captain of the 1st XI.

News from the HA reminds us of the Sports Club of the Year competition organised by the Central Council for Physical Recreation. Submissions usually call for demonstration of a full programme of activities, coaching, education and development, links with schools, local authorities and other Clubs, success in attracting grants and sponsorship and voluntary efforts given to Club management. One Hockey Club to have won a substantial prize (£10,000, £5,000 or £1,000) is Ben Rhydding and the *Journal* suspects that this was probably not achieved without significant help from Norman Borrett - sounds right up his street! Congratulations to them.

MEN'S 1st XI NEWS

After the hectic weekend of the Challenge (*see later*), the Men's 1st XI opted for Sa'arf London and the Oval for a final pre-season friendly against Spencer, future opponents in the South League. This resulted in a 6-1 win for H&W.

The first game of the Nasturo Azzuro South League programme opened with a trip to Fareham which had some of the less well travelled of the squad having to research the Atlas to find it. Fareham were third (that is, to some, "runners-up" to the two that gained NHL promotion) in last year's South League and were known to be well-drilled and a difficult team to beat. The squad was therefore a little apprehensive, despite the

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successes achieved pre-season and in the Challenge matches against good opposition. John McCabe arose specially early and arrived with enough time to enjoy a visit to the Marina at the Hamble along with yachtsman Dan Williams and H&W's new recruit Flying Dutchman, Jan Job van Dijk, from Hattem.

FAREHAM 0 : 1 HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER

Opening brightly in their new red shirts, H&W quickly sought to prise open the Fareham defence and concentrated on the speed on the right of Will Saxby. After two short corners that were saved, Will then deflected a hard hit cross-shot into their goal and it was 1-0 after 7 minutes.

Mark Crowley followed this up with a shot that was saved on the line and Rob Thompson narrowly missed with a strong flick. It seemed as if the floodgates were about to open but the Fareham defence held out until half time and an opportunity to catch breath.

The second half saw much of the same with H&W having to use their superior fitness and technique on what by common consent was a slow, sand saturated pitch. Jan Job van Dijk was launched on several sinewy runs on the H&W left but without success. The more the number of shots and corners that rained in the Fareham goal the more their keeper appeared determined to keep the ball out and this he did right until the end when the final whistle blew at 1-0.

HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER 6 : 1 RICHMOND

H&W stormed to the top of the South League with a devastating performance in the first 20 minutes that totally blitzed Richmond and virtually ended the game. Led initially by forceful play on the right from Rob Thompson the team threw everything into attack. Richmond first ventured into the H&W half only after 4 minutes when a misdirected pass from the side line was intercepted!

Recollection of the bizarre result in the pre-season game between these sides ensured that neither appeared really to believe what was happening but H&W continued to press and in spite of losing their shape and sense of direction half way through the second half, came back with a strong finishing performance that saw two late goals and another tennis-type result.

Some spectators came with the hope of watching the partial solar eclipse promised for that afternoon but with the substantial cloud about it was the version on the pitch that caught the attention of the 30 or so spectators (big crowds these days, huh?) but which included **Jimmy James, Ron Hart, Tarlok Mandair** and Dan Williams' supportive parents to name a few.

The early scorers were Mark Crowley after a short corner (5 mins), Rob Thompson similarly (9 mins) Nigel Land (12 mins) and Dan Williams again after a short corner (15 mins). Mark Crowley's Penalty Stroke after 19 minutes was saved. Steve Batchelor for Richmond was visibly fed up with all this (and was finding the speed and skills of "J J" (van Dijk) a little too much) and was "green-carded" after 30 minutes or so

Richmond's keeper then warmed to the task (having had little option so far) and kept out several H&W shots including a spectacular save at full stretch off his pads of a real stinger in open play from Rob Thompson that had "goal" written

metaphorically all over it and which drew admiration and applause from the crowd.

In the second half H&W began to lose shape especially at the back despite a prominent performance from newcomer Rob Carter with his long reach. Richmond pulled one back 10 minutes into the half. It was a scrappy affair but the reaction from the Richmond scorer was as if he had just put away the winner in extra time in the HA Cup Final. Then H&W collected themselves for a good finish, with Mark Crowley putting home a Stroke and securing his hat-trick with a splendid close control rapid dribble (true Crowley-style) from deep inside right to the top of the circle and then past the keeper for 6-1.

Afterwards, the Umpires from Kent admitted that they had arrived expecting the game to be "a bit lively" and expressed surprise that Richmond had not played it "tough" in the first quarter, as if they had left their NHL credentials (and credibility) behind. They enjoyed Jan Job's skills and the way in which Rob Thompson's energies had driven H&W to such a commanding position early on. Without being partisan in any way(!) they predicted a far tougher match for the following Saturday against Beckenham.

HA CUP

For those (in the UK) who may have scanned the press for news of the Men's 1st XI result in the First Round of the Cup on 13th October, no game was actually played. John McCabe managed at the last minute to secure confirmation from opponents Southampton that they intended to award the game to us as a walk over, to prevent the lads having to "do an Estonia" and lining up to play the ball forward then for the game to be abandoned as a win, FIFA style. Dan Williams was always eager to deploy a 0-0-0 formation and has been frustrated.

There is late news that in the Second Round, H&W will meet Maidenhead at home on 27th October, that is immediately after a home match on the 26th October against.....yes, you've guessed it, Maidenhead!

WESTMINSTER CHALLENGE

You have probably "read all about" it" - if you are UK based admittedly - but in case not here is a brief summary of the events of the second weekend of September at PRG

The inaugural Hockey Fair (sponsored by *Hockey Digest*) was quickly established by the cricket field and enjoyed a good deal of success. Why, there was even a Caribbean steel band to enjoy.

On the pitches the matches began early on the Saturday morning and in some, a good many goals were scored. Notable were the 8-0 defeats of Oxford University by Surbiton, of City of Portsmouth by Guildford by 7-2 and the 9 and 6 scored by Guildford and Old Loughtonians without reply from Edgbaston and Maidenhead respectively, as well as East Grinstead's hammering of Cambridge University by 8-0.

The new lack of Offside was taking its toll on the unprepared defences and it was sad that so many Club members

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missed this opportunity to see how teams were experimenting with and adapting (or not!) to the new environment.

As for H&W, they opened with an extremely heartening 5-2 win over Oxford University followed by the defeat of Bromley by 4-2 (which would have been a mighty useful result last year). On then to Surbiton, where that added degree of adrenaline took the team to 3-3 with only a minute to go when the absence of a yellow carded player cost H&W dear, the extra space being immediately exploited by Surbiton who managed a winner to make it 4-3 at the close.

This total effort took its toll on the team in the 5th/6th place play-off when City of Portsmouth defeated H&W by 3-1. Altogether, the view was that the weekend had been a very useful exercise allowing the team to get and able to hold its own against allegedly better opposition.

The Cup was won this year by East Grinstead who used Bhatti to great effect as a roving forward in the new no offside era to unsettle a few defences. In the final they overcame Guildford 4-1, with Surbiton placed third after defeating Old Loughts. 2-1 in the play-off.

HOCKEY SPORT

A contest for the best subscription support of Peter Boizot's **Hockey Sport** by a Club is currently being monitored by the magazine, with the *Hockey Sport Subscriptions League*.

The prizes are worthy of special mention. The First prize is a travel voucher worth £1,250 donated by Group Sports Travel of Bath for use to offset a 14 day Group Sports Travel Tour to Barbados, South Africa, Australia or Canada. Second Prize (which clubs might want to auction, being worth £1,100) is a week's holiday for two at Club La Santa in Lanzarote (with its good access to sports and leisure facilities). The third is £500 in cash.

All subscribers have to do is to specify their Club allegiance on a subscription form submitted between 1st September 1996 and 30th April 1997. There is also an opportunity for Clubs to nominate a Representative to win points for securing new subscribers, with a prize of £250 to the most successful salesman at the end of the season.

In the October edition, H&W are placed 5th. Coventry & North Warwick head the League with more than twice the number of points of Olton immediately behind them. So, those renewing or perhaps considering taking out a Subscription are encouraged, if they feel able to declare an overriding affinity with H&W, to name them and rack up a few points for the Club. Who knows where that might take them (H&W, that is!)?

PRINCIPAL FIXTURES

The following are the Men's and Women's 1st XI fixtures for the forthcoming season. We do not have details of the various HA Cup and Middlesex Cup matches (and the like) and these will have to be announced separately. They are also susceptible to change. Home starting time is 2.00pm but can alter virtually at the last minute.

MEN'S FIRST ELEVEN

October 19th	Beckenham (A)
October 26th	Maidenhead (H)
November 2nd	Winchester (H)
November 9th	Bournemouth (A)
November 16th	Ashford (H)
November 23rd	Tunbridge Wells (A)
November 30th	Ramgarhia (H)
December 7th	Wimbledon (A)
December 14th	High Wycombe (H)

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January 18th	Chichester (A)
January 25th	Woking (H)
February 1st	Wokingham (A)
February 8th	O Whitgiftians (H)
February 15th	Spencer (A)
February 22nd	Anchorians (H)
March 1st	O Kingstonsians (A)
March 8th	Gore Court (H)

WOMEN'S FIRST ELEVEN

October 19th	Ealing (H)
October 26th	Bexleyheath (H)
November 2nd	Reading (H)
November 9th	Worthing (H)
November 16th	Sevenoaks (A)
November 23rd	Winchmore Hill (A)
November 30th	City of Portsmouth (H)
December 14th	Southampton (A)

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January 11th	Rover Cowley (H)
January 18th	Aldershot (A)
February 1st	Winchester (H)
February 8th	Horsham (H)
February 9th	Dulwich (A)
February 15th	Maidenhead (A)
February 22nd	Tulse Hill (A)
March 1st	Reading (A)
March 8th	Woking (H)
March 15th	Worthing (A)
March 22nd	Winchmore Hill (H)
April 5th	City of Portsmouth (A)
April 12th	Southampton (H)

LONDON LEAGUE

The League embarks (or strictly speaking *has embarked*) upon its 28th season this year, which sees the admission of India Gymkhana as a new participant (with 4 teams). Enclosed with this *Journal* are the League's final tables for the 1995/6 season hopefully to ease identification of the League's structure and to give an idea of the top teams in each division.

If further explanation would help, the Premier Division consists of the top twelve 2nd XI teams, with the bottom two facing relegation to the First Division. This Division consists of the remaining ten 2nd XI teams, whose top two gain promotion to the Premier. All teams in both divisions play home and away in the season.

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As is quickly evident, there are a considerable number of NHL Premier Division 2nd XIs in the London Premier. This goes some way to explain H&W 2nd XI's sense of achievement in retaining their place in the past two seasons, given the top quality opposition.

The arrangements for Divisions 3A and 3B are fairly similar but, of course, for 3rd XIs. As before, all games are played on a home and away basis. Division 4A comprises the top 11 teams of 4th XI standard and eight teams make up Division 4B. Divisions 5A, 5B and 5C contain the remaining teams and here a Club can post more than one team in each Division (which is not permitted in the other Divisions) - dependent naturally upon success. From last year's results the strength of St Albans' lower XIs is self evident and H&W's XIs can testify to their achievements (unfortunately!). H&W is pleased to have three teams in each Division 5 but the 7th XI did find the going tough at times against some Club's 6th or even 5th ranking teams and in a League context with the added pressure that this brings to bear.

VETERANS' LONDON LEAGUE

This year also sees the introduction of a Veterans' League in which H&W will participate with the following fixtures:-

12th October	Spencer (H)
19th October	Surbiton (A)
26th October	Southgate (H)
9th November	Maidenhead (A)
16th November	Hounslow (H)
23rd November	St Albans (H)
30th November	Dulwich (A)
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11th January	Spencer (A)
16th January	Surbiton (H)
25th January	Southgate (A)
8th February	Maidenhead (H)
15th February	Hounslow (A)
22nd February	St Albans (A)
1st March	Dulwich (H)

(All very "date symmetrical" as you will see!)

The team format for the Veterans' League is that players must be 40+ at 1st October but as a concession to youth, no more than 2 aged 35+ may play. If there is to be any further "deviation" from the above this is acceptable, provided that the opposition agrees.

100 CLUB

Only a quick introduction was possible last time around, so we hope to fill in some of the gaps. What should be mentioned at the outset is the hope that syndicates will be encouraged to share the collection of the £20, perhaps within a team at the Club, or at work or at home - rather than rely on individual contributions (although these are always handy....)

The Club is seeking to maintain its present standard of facilities and to keep pace with the requirements of the future. There are three primary (but not exclusive) aims, namely first, to continue to play all home matches and to train at least once weekly on artificial surfaces that are in playable condition. Secondly, given the successes achieved by the 1st XIs

additional funds will be required should they maintain progress into the National Leagues. Thirdly, expenses are bound to be incurred as the Club attempts to start a women's and men's youth development programme on Sunday mornings.

Tickets cost £20 each and can be supplied on application to Harry Watson of 9 Lauradale Road London N2 9ET (telephone 0181 444 4192). There are to be separate monthly draws for £100 held at monthly intervals from October until February 1997 and with a bonanza £500 now to be won at the end of the season. So, there are chances to win more than once and the odds are far more preferable than those of the National Lottery.

The Club pays tribute to the last convenors of the 100 Club in the Hornsey days, under the guiding hand of Robin Francis, ever eager to squeeze funds from unlikely sources: whatever has happened to the drained pitches at Hornsey, we wonder? Does Hornsey CC still bemoan their loss of Middlesex 2nd XI matches because of the roughened outfield caused by the sand filled drainage channels?

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Talk of things nostalgic brings mention of the forgotten (well, the partially forgotten perhaps would be more accurate a description). The *Journal* has unearthed at considerable human cost a record of the Men's 1st XI selection for November 1985. Some names will be familiar: others perhaps not so much. No prizes are to be awarded, however for identifying *where are they now?*

Farr; Watson, Derbyshire, Stoughton-Harris; Leafe, Kirkpatrick, Flajsner, Chapman; Shrimpton, Cowans and Wickremaratne.

Surely others perhaps from much earlier days will have similar lists which could stimulate a few memories? Whilst the *Journal* cannot send an intrepid reporter around, as the *Independent* newspaper does to ask if you are still enjoying life as the Village postman or publican and whether you have any regrets about that scything tackle on the opposition winger that had Whittington Hospital written across him, we would love to publish the constituent parts (names, that is) of a few old H&W teams of yesteryear.

ENCORE FANZENE

The *Journal* felt it was high time it spoke to one of H&W's more respected members, not only with a wealth of knowledge and experience both as the Club but also Hockey generally and with a good deal of rapport with many Old Members. However, after brief period for reflection it was concluded that there were no immediate qualifying candidates and so with a shortage of space (which is the real reason) have decided to hold this over until the next edition. Mention of which.....

NEXT EDITION

We do still await news from the Women's section: we shall collar someone and try to include something next time around. The start of the season for the 1st XI has seen a lack of goals and two losses and two draws but *nil desperandum*: it's early doors (but who asked Alan Hansen for a contribution anyway?)