

## Welcome

This is a brief Supplement to the seventh Newsletter. This corrects the situation of the Women's 2's, who were not relegated and thereby puts the record straight. So much for placing reliance on other websites. Apologies to those who were offended. A direct report has been received and can now be added, *see below*. As you will read, it was all a little complicated.

The opportunity also arises to recollect that the end of the season marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Colin Greenhalgh's retirement as Secretary of the Club. In addition, we have heard from some long-term friends of the Club that has stirred recollections of indoor London League hockey at the Michael Sobell Sports Stadium, when Hampstead surprised a few.

## International News

Dan Fox has continued his appearances for Great Britain in the Sultan Azlan Shah International Tournament in Ipoh, Malaysia. At the time of going to press, he was 100% successful, with three wins in his three appearances.

Great Britain have so far beaten Malaysia, Pakistan and New Zealand. They were beaten by India, largely because of the heat and a second consecutive day's play, by three short corner conversions (but Dan was not selected for that match). More news and reports from the Tournament will follow in the next full Newsletter.

## On the Pitch

### Women South Division 3A

Helene Wehrmann has kindly given a direct report of the final stages of the season for the 2's. She was very much aware of the details, as she played for them for most of the second half of the season. Work commitments prevented her from training regularly with the 1's.

There were a number of possible convoluted scenarios as the team went into the game. The relegation situation in the parallel leagues is now such that at the end of the season, the two tables for South 3A and South 3B are combined and the bottom five teams are relegated. At Christmas a team had dropped out of South 3B, meaning that one fewer team would be relegated this year.

If no team was relegated, either directly or through play-offs, from the EHL National Conference (East or West) into the South regional set-up, then a further team would be saved from the drop, and only three would go down. This is in order to balance numbers, as there is automatic promotion for the winners of the South 1 League, in which the Women's 1's play.

"Going in to the game, the 2's were still in the fourth from bottom position and relying upon Staines to avoid the play-offs in National Conference West. We were three points behind the team above, West Hampstead, with a goal difference of -2. Therefore in order to keep our fate in our own hands we needed to win our last game (away at City of Oxford) and do so by two clear goals. We further needed West Hampstead to lose their final game.

Our push back was at 2.00pm. We knew by this stage that West Hampstead had lost. It was entirely in our hands. Struggling with the effects of the journey, the heat and a distinct lack of concentration, we found ourselves 2-0 down within the first 10 minutes. But it is a credit to the sheer determination of the team and the motivational abilities and faith shown in us by our coach, Jaime Laguillo Gonzalez (of the Men's 1's) that by half time we had pulled back to 2-2.

We dominated throughout the second half, barely allowing the opposition to enter our half. Our spirit and utter dogged persistence resulted in the two goals required, both scored by Kelly Furber (the former Club Treasurer). When the final whistle went there was - as I'm sure you can

imagine - much jubilation, relief, as well as total exhaustion (although the latter did not seem to prevent the team from celebrating well into the early hours!).”

### Indoor Reminiscences

Brian Beaumont Owles (or *BBO* as many have now used) kindly responded quickly from Australia to the news of the Indoor success over the winter. His mind went back to the early days of the London Indoor League in the early 1970's.

At that time, Hampstead was well represented in the winning teams. “We had one Nick Gierke, a German International playing for us. He gave us the rudimentary tactics: three defenders, two attackers in the two corners, with NG in the middle. He ran around with the ball (very skilfully) and if he passed to you, you passed it back immediately to the top of the circle, where he drilled it into the top corner of the net.

We had some huge victories because even the English internationals from Hounslow and Southgate had not played indoor hockey seriously before. And then Nick returned to Germany”. Richard Chapman also recollected the famous occasion of the measuring of the Sobell Centre goals that turned out to have been made too small. Nick Coleman was also in reflective mood: “Nico - ah yes, the Sobell Years, when we had a one-man indoor team that thrashed the world. Where is he now?”

BBO is threatening to attend the Memorial match in September (and has already been lined up to represent the Legends!).

### Forty Years Ago

The Club would not be as it is without the efforts of many who, over the years, have sacrificed much to keep things ticking over and making progress. However there can be few who can match Colin Greenhalgh's efforts over an unprecedented 11 years. And it is to Colin that we owe thanks for not only compiling the Club's history for the first 75 years but for introducing Peter Boizot as a member, a fact that Peter is always eager to acknowledge, so long is their friendship as a result.

Colin's last bulletin was, he reckoned, his 246<sup>th</sup> in all. Despite the inevitable ups and downs, he recorded that it had been a gratifying and often amusing 11 years and very good fun. He thanked all those members who co-operated loyally in the Club's affairs, if only by turning up regularly - and punctually - and to the Club's officers and team captains, who provided excellent support in the running the Club's affairs over the past few seasons. He was sure that everyone would give his successor, Richard Shaw, just as much help.

Sadly, in that bulletin he had to announce the death of Roy Salisbury, a member for 17 years. Roy also made a large contribution to editing the official HA Coaching Book that he was helping to revise and for which he had been awarded Associate membership of the Hockey Association.

Colin was also able to add, amongst others, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI selection for the game against Teddington<sup>1</sup> that Saturday.

Hitch; Key, Sealey; Mandair, Hewson, Oliver; Owles, Nicholson, Cleal, Spicer, Cooper

### Next Letter

As mentioned, the next full edition will hopefully report the start of the new season in September/October. If you have any news or views, please send by e-mail to [mail@velwell.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:mail@velwell.eclipse.co.uk). More news - and no doubt putting things straight - from the Women would be particularly welcome.

If it is fit to print, it will be!

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<sup>1</sup> Teddington make a return to the National League next season.