

JOURNAL

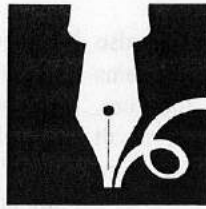
HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER HOCKEY CLUB

Journal Vol 8.

MARCH 14, 1997

INTRODUCTION

Here is the eighth Newsletter, as we approach the end of the 1996/7 playing season and another potentially nerve racking time with the Men's 1st XI at the Milton Keynes Play Offs. We have slightly postponed this edition to bring end of the season news for the team. So, without further ado, but first...



NEWS of OLD MEMBERS

It can only have been a question of timing but the last *Journal* sent just after new Year clearly found several in contemplative mood and eager to pick up the pen or plug in the WP. Thank you for the comparatively heavy post: perhaps, too, the Beaker Saunders' issue prompted some to write and if so it did the trick - although Harry does assure me still that he really wanted to know.

To get that brief issue dealt with, thanks to **Colin Greenhalgh**, **Hugh Wickham** and to **Morley Pecker**, who promptly put us right that it was *Beaker* and that the reason was as plain as the nose on his face. Hugh recalled that it was Beaker along with Rory Milstead and John Sankey who had resuscitated the Club after the Second World War

Colin was able to report his continued recovery and to thank well wishers. It was good to see him at the Third Round HA Cup match at Duke's Meadow - at least the right side of the river for him. He still labours under the misapprehension that the Club's current officers have it more difficult than he in his day. His efforts were then amply demonstrated by means of memorabilia kindly delivered by **Alastair Stormont** from New Zealand (about which more, anon) that included a newsletter and team sheet that Colin must have had a major role in producing during his lengthy stint as Secretary.

As if to demonstrate the power of the camera (which with a side-on shot of Beaker would apparently have demonstrated the point beyond peradventure, as, indeed, Colin, too, had recommended for proof positive) Hugh unearthed a photograph of several sturdy and apparently very keen members of the Spaniards' side of the 1960s ready to do battle (which included Morley and **Jim Deegan**, amongst others).

We have also had sad news that Honorary Old Member **Dick Cheston** is still recovering from a stroke and is in the Star & Garter in Richmond. This has meant a move from Highgate for his wife to the more proximate Teddington. Colin Greenhalgh recollected Dick's mastery of the After Dinner Speech and his honorary absorption into the Club by dropping in at Hornsey, which was then just down the road. We gather that he was a favourite speaker at the Gentlemen's (ie Vets' (?) Dinners that were run at the time. Dick was apparently not built for Hockey (rather for Dinners) but was once a substantial Centre Forward and Colin was able to recall his thwarting a certain goal that Dick would have scored on what may have been his last playing appearance for his home Club, Lensbury (those, indeed, were the days when Lensbury ran a renowned top flight Hockey Club).

Another new Year correspondent was **Nick Openshaw**, the Club's Secretary in the mid 1980s and responsible for assembling a new Constitution for the Club after the parting of the ways with the Hornsey Club (and probably realising that we were without such a beast!). Nick and Sally, an early stalwart of the Women's/Ladies' section, have moved

themselves down to the North Devon coast and seem well settled. Sally was said (and doubtless still is) going through growing pains, with the arrival of another youngster (they know not what: the baby is reckoned to have had its legs crossed in the photo) and which they have already decided will arrive on 21st April. Now there's organisation for you! Recalling the trauma of young Luke's arrival into this world, they have decided upon an elective caesarean - hence the confidence surrounding the date. Work has recently taken Sally much further afield than she was wanting, it seems. She is on call as a self employed sex therapist to two local GPs but then gets a summons from Tiverton, Newton Abbot and even London on various assignments.

Nick eventually turned down offers of a partnership at the firm he was with in Barnstaple and, in his words, decided to go the whole hog and set up from scratch a niche legal practice, specialising in commerce, from Bideford. Apart from local businesses, he has already succeeded in purloining instructions from Korean, US and German contacts and already confronted the some of the large City practices on the other side. So, whilst the *Journal* cannot accept nor seek any commission, any of you with commercial problems wanting direct specific legal care and advice should contact Nick's new firm: every little helps, as a famous store tells us (well, those in the UK) repeatedly today!

The Openshaws enjoyed seeing **Greg and Tracy Carr** in the summer, full of good cheer and very good company as always. They still see the fairly proximate H&W contemporaries, **Andy and Debbie Latter** who are in Marhamchurch, just south of Bude. As for Hockey prowess, Nick has admitted selection for the North Devon Hockey Club 1st XI: a recognition of his true and hidden qualities you might say. Apparently he wouldn't: they are (he claims) unlikely to have troubled the H&W 6th XI. Relegation ensued. A cracked rib or two finally persuaded Nick of the futility of it all and he finally downed the stick, stored the astros and picked up the squash racket.

As Nick's comprehensive letter arrived the *Journal* was considerably fortunate to receive **Andrew Alexander's** generous proposal to invite members of the Veterans, Super Veterans and Extra Super Veterans (ie the entire readership we suspect!) to travel to Rousham near Steeple Aston in late May or early August for some croquet on the 17th Century bowling green at Rousham Park House and Garden. Rousham represents the first phase of English landscape design and virtually remains as William Kent left it, one of the few gardens of its age to have escaped alteration and including many features that were the wonder of 18th Century visitors. The House was built in 1635 by Sir

JOURNAL

HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER HOCKEY CLUB

Robert Dormer and Kent added the wings and stable block, also undertaking some internal alterations which nonetheless retains some 17th Century panelling and the original staircase, furniture, pictures and bronzes. There is also a walled garden, small parterre and espalier apple trees, with a herd of rare Long Horn cattle to be seen in the Park.

Andrew has kindly suggested that teas can certainly be made available and perhaps with sufficient demand, a buffet lunch could be organised. We shall have to get folk galvanised at the end of the season to respond properly to this kind invitation and send more details once they have become clearer. As Andrew says, even those not used to grass pitches may appreciate the skills needed if the surface dries as much as it is expected to what with the comparative drought this winter.

Hugh Wickham was generous enough to send a rare collection of H&W memorabilia in response to Peter Boizot's message from the Carlton and to spare time to drop in a lengthy letter on Puritans HC notepaper

Hugh joined Hampstead in 1954 when, he says, he found that he could travel to the ground at Brondesbury CC for 7d on the bus from West Kensington. He became the Club's Secretary in 1955 and managed to keep patience with the job until 1961 when Colin Greenhalgh took over, having himself taken on Secretarial duties for the South and membership of the HA Executive Committee. There was still time for Hugh to remain as Chairman of the General Committee and to act as Fixture Secretary until leaving in 1966 to play at Surbiton where he had been living for the past 7 years: it was the strain (he alleges) of driving home at 9.00pm right across London - too hazardous!

Mention of those days recalls, too, Geoffrey Porter's captaincy of the 2nd XI - harder to be admitted to this team than the 1st XI it was said - what with the Captain's rod of iron and no dispensations for leaving the bar until after 7.00pm - if only this was the case today: and to think that some matches do not start until 3.30pm! Hugh did reckon that Morley Pecker was once let off early to participate at an evening concert of the London Youth Orchestra - but only after 6.00pm!

For those unaware, Puritans HC was formed in 1954 as an invitational side for Sunday and midweek fixtures against Oxbridge colleges and later for overseas tours. Some of the Hampstead members have included (now here's a Roll of Honour): **David Austin Jones, Peter Bell, Noel Cardoza, John Chaumeton, Des Cowperthwaite, Jim Deegan, Dick Downard, Steve Dunford, Tony Greener, Colin Greenhalgh, Jamie Jameson, Martin Lawrence, John Matthews-Lane, Alec Morrison, Des Oakley, Steve Oliver, Brian Owles, Norman Philip, Jeremy Potter, Murray Spicer, Alastair Stormont, Al Watson, Hugh** himself (obviously) and **Tim Young**. Clearly some are on the *Journal's* circulation: others not so. We shall extract details from the Wickham "Treasure Chest" for a later edition.

Another info-packed letter arrived from New Zealand and was most welcome. **Alaister Stormont** wrote from Epsom to recall the 30 odd years ago that a group of antipodeans of the First Order (he hastens to emphasise ie Kiwis!) first played for Hampstead and for the Spaniards. If it was 1967, there were reported to about eight in number, including **Murray Spicer, Colin Maddren, Des Cowperthwaite, Don Young, Peter**

Hanson, Rex Maddren, Bruce Penn, Chris Hook and probably **Graeme Phillips**, who may have lost his NZ passport by then! **Murray** and **Colin** also appeared for Middlesex and were 1st XI regulars.

Alaister mentions the 3rd XI and the warm welcome at the time. Theirs was a useful side, including **Peter Bell** and an introduction to the "Digger's Dummy" and then through Peter to **Hugh Wickham** and the Puritans. There's a full circle for you then.

As with **Hugh's** material, space may dictate that we leave mention of the momentos until later but there was included a Roneo teamsheet confirming **Peter Boizot's** 1969 inclusion as Centre Half and a 1st XI formation that will rekindle a few memories doubtless: thank you, **Alaister**, indeed. Please forgive us if we hold back for later some of the other stories and memories.

A sad task is to report the deaths of **Robin Henderson** and more recently a good friend of the Club, **Bill Murray** the President of London University HC, in whose honour there was a one minute's silence at the last South League Premier match last Saturday.

Robin was a respected, well-liked, fully supportive Club member, who had a significant hand in restoring the Club's fixture list after the Second World War as the Club's Fixture Secretary for a good long stint. Renowned as a speedy winger with the 3rd or 4th XIs **Robin** never aspired to the higher echelons of play but was a valued member of his side, always reliable and selflessly willing to offer lifts to others in the Mini that he drove at the time. He was a keen reader of the *Journal* and the Club was pleased to be able to make a contribution on his death to the Hospice where he spent his final days and to receive such a warm letter from his widow, **Mary**

HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Stan Elgar believes that he has now attended the last of his HA Meetings, what with its dissolution with effect from 1st June this year upon amalgamation with the AEWHA to form the English Hockey Association. **Stan** was able to send the HA Annual Report, the sort of thing you are sent as a shareholder, all glossy and plenty of pictures and large amounts of financial info in the middle pages.

However there are a few interesting snippets, including the steps that the Association still have to take to complete Phase 1 of the development of the Stadium at Milton Keynes. The land for a second pitch is available, which is seen as essential in order to attract events at national and international level. The development cost will be substantial because the level of the ground has to be reduced. Apparently, Lottery Funding has been rejected because the project fails to fulfil the Lottery Sports Fund *value for money* criteria. This has proved a major disappointment as the planned facilities will not now be in place for the World Cup for Under 21 Men in September this year.

There are tributes to **Tony White**, the HA Vice President who had chaired the Steering Committee and was

JOURNAL

HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER HOCKEY CLUB

President designate of the new EHA but who sadly died in January but not before the birth of the EHA had been accepted along with the inclusion of the England Mixed Hockey Association. Hands up those who did not know of this august body!

In his Chief Executive's report, Stephen Baines mentions that the levels of attendance at most Hockey finals held at MK is poor. Accepting that the HA's own marketing must improve, he adds that even members of participating schools and clubs seem apathetic when it comes to supporting their own teams and it must, he suggests, be difficult for our players to produce their best form in an empty stadium. This, too will also keep the TV cameras away and ever downwards in a spiral.

This theme is repeated by Rodney Rigby in the Competitions Committee Report, in which he bemoans the disappointing attendance at last year's HA Trophy and HA Cup Finals, which was the lowest for many years: that for the County Championship and other finals produced little more than a handful of spectators and clearly there is a concern that something has to be done if MK is to continue as the proper venue. Of course, there were some who doubted that its location as the centre for Hockey was going to succeed over a London venue, a message that the FA appear to have heeded in plumping long term for Wembley over the competing claims of Manchester, Sheffield and Bradford.

Affiliation fees to the HA decreased in the year, with fewer teams in being and coupled with relatively low levels of sponsorship, it has not proved possible to run all the programmes that the HA had wanted.

If Stan is correct about his attendances the *Journal* will miss his correspondence and news: thank you Stan, once again.

ANNUAL DINNER

We think that there is just room to announce the Club's Annual Dinner at the Langham Hotel, Portland Place on 19th April 1997, with tickets at £40. It would be good to see some Old Members there. The event is being organised by the Club's 2nd XIs (which in the case of the Men's 2nd XI is possibly a contradiction in terms!) If you would like to attend it's probably best to contact Ian Smith (address etc at the foot: he'll liaise with the Organisers) There will be the usual informality with a disco and a few honoured guests but the event includes the Club's prize giving, which will include the Sam Taylor Memorial Award, as well as the new Cup for the Club's most sociable team!

THE CARLTON

The Carlton is gradually taking shape as a Sports Pub, with some works still underway that were mentioned in the last edition. Peter B has installed state of the art video equipment in the back room which projects very effectively on to the back wall (as if designed for the very purpose) and is eager to encourage different sporting weekday evenings where, for example, film clips or videos can be shown and Clubs entertain guests and the like. We have even tried to encourage the Middlesex Hockey Umpires to assess the Carlton as a possible venue (because of its central location; well, comparatively so) for an Umpire's Club, which we

gather is still under consideration. Their business Meetings tend to be convened at Eastcote HC as many of their members live that way but we shall see.....

PETERBOROUGH FC (not HC)

It will, probably, only be those outside the UK who will have missed the announcement of Peter Boizot's accession to the Chairmanship of Peterborough FC along with a substantial investment in his home town. Peter was quick to announce that he might not be able to attend each home fixture, as Hockey might just get in the way - much against the grain of most entrepreneurial Chairmen in the post-Sky Sports football world of the UK.

YOUTH HOCKEY

The Club has often tried to encourage development of a youth section and these efforts do continue, although to the outside world they may appear sporadic. To the movers and shakers it is seen as absolutely vital to the continuation of the Club, particularly given the comparative youth of the top NHL teams these days. A fresh initiative has just invigorated an enervated group interested in pursuing this aspect further. A Westminster Sports Unit has been formed operating out of the newly opened Moberly Sports & Education Unit in Kilburn Lane, which according to Nick Coleman has the most impressive range of facilities and especially for the disabled, including the blind. The organisers are keen to enrol teams from the Borough to participate in the London Heathrow Youth Games in mid July and seek training and role modelling (especially for the girls) from the H&W membership.

So, this should mean the resuscitation or re-launch of Sunday morning sessions at PRG backed by the far greater resource on the publicity front from the City of Westminster. Regrettably, the Unit knew little about us and had to be "filled in" quickly. Intelligence that was gathered included a copy of the *Journal* - so you are part of this too.

Current plans are for the 10-12 year olds to play/train from 10.00am to 11.00am, and then the 13-18 year olds from 11.00am to 12.00pm starting on 4th May until 27th July.

There are massive advantages to H&W in embracing the WSU, including in particular the encouragement of youth Hockey in the summer months, when we tend to be out to pasture, metaphorically.

ON THE PITCH

Its high time for some playing news: this will probably concentrate on the Men's 1st XI by way of reports that are included in the Match programmes for home matches that have been available this season (and which were referred to in the last edition). So, we shall have to start with apologies to **Tarlok Mandair** and **Jimmy James** in particular, regular and trusted supporters of the team and who thereby will have doubtless read all this before.

JOURNAL

HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER HOCKEY CLUB

Unbeaten in the league at the Christmas break with only 4 points dropped, the New Year saw a trip to the South coast and **Chris Major's** home club these days.

CHICHESTER 0 : 4 HAMPSTEAD & W

18th January 1997

All squad members had been given a training routine to follow during the Christmas break but with an abrupt jolt of a 3 hour strenuous evening training session. It took H&W at least half the game to wake up against a team in third spot in the League. However, the opposition rarely showed any attacking inspiration and it was 0-0 at the half.

After the break, the team changed gear (metaphorically of course!) and won a stream of short corners. During a series of 8 on the trot, Rob Thompson opened the scoring, followed quickly by another from Dan Williams. There then followed a debatable incident when, with the Chichester defence torn to shreds, a defender pounced to score an own goal but which Lindsay Troy claimed was his (it is getting as bad as footballers, this!) Then, GET CARTER! Coruscating (*the H&W reporter on the spot said*) his way elegantly from his own half to but a yard in front of goal our tall defender was within a whisker of a goal but his miss was collected on the proverbial plate by a goal starved Mark Crowley. Dix would have roofed it, but poetry.....

HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER 3 : 3 WOKING

25th January 1997

Your reporter was wont to throw his clipboard down from time to time in this match, as a mark of frustration, perhaps - hence an abridged report. Despite being two from the bottom of the League at the time, Woking opened brightly and scored from a short corner early on as if to announce that H&W should not be complacent and so it proved to be. Will Saxby then hit the bar from a Rob Turner cross and a little later, a Rob Thompson drive was saved. Rob then incurred a green card and Mark Crowley responded by putting one over the top from just in front of goal. Will Saxby then equalised and marked the occasion by watching the next few minutes of the match behind the goal, after a yellow card. So, at half time it was 1-1.

In the 39th minute Woking scored again to make it 1-2 but Mark Crowley managed to equalise for his 23rd of the season. H&W then went ahead after a goal from Rob Turner but the team was still playing fitfully and several players were off the boil.

The game's excitement turned out to be at the other end of the pitch. During the last 5 minutes, Woking held the ball up at our end and, in particular, in the right hand corner. From one such attack the ball was creamed from the right, directly across the circle where an unmarked Woking attacker lined up the goal and walloped the ball first time past Steve Dodson for what, objectively, had to be a deserved equaliser. On reflection, if you have to lose a goal, you might as well do it to a quality goal such as Woking scored.

WOKINGHAM 1 : 7 HAMPSTEAD & W

1st February 1997

With little warm up time on the sand-drenched pitch and in an increasingly bitter wind with an overcast sky, coupled with Dan Williams being side-lined (with a tender hamstring) Derek

Stone took on the captaincy and Dave Grady filled in at the centre of midfield. H&W were, as usual, quickly into attack, gaining an early short corner at which Rob Thompson's drive was saved but the second, Rob opened the scoring from a rebound after 13 minutes.

H&W's second was a classic *Goal of the Month* candidate. After quick passing down the right, creating acres of space, the ball was forced into the middle with cracking pace from Mark Crowley, leaving Nigel Land to sweep it in, with the home defence wondering what had hit them. The Wokingham defensive strategy was apparently *single cell*, a concept yet to travel up the M4 but often exhorted from the home team bench (had there been one). We remain ignorant.

With short corners continuing to come with regularity H&W were unable to convert any of them. Dan Williams did crack one into the roof of the net but this was disallowed. It took a magical pass from Mark Crowley to Lindsay Troy, who was then unceremoniously pushed off the ball in the circle to lead to the third goal, when J-J roofed the resultant flick for 3-0. The fourth goal followed shortly, scored by Pat Curtin, after work along the left by-line and the fifth a minute later when Pat was able to plant his shot high into the roof of the net after Lindsay Troy had made space in the circle after a sinewy run.

The momentum in the second half was not quite the same. The Wokingham 'keeper stood his ground well to repulse direct shots from short corners (the score for the game on that front was 18-0 in our favour). Lindsay Troy pushed forward and Jack Galliford slotted in at right half to good effect, including a great save in defence, spreading the ball wide and to the side when Wokingham threatened to add to their goal, scored after Rob Turner had made it 6-0 with his now familiar "poach" at the right post of Rob Thompson's mild drive from the short corner stop. There was time with five minutes remaining for Lindsay Troy to make it 7-1 after another closely controlled dribble from inside right and then for Dave Grady to hit the foot of the post and be denied.

HAMPSTEAD & W 2 : 0 OLD WHITGIFTIANS

8th February 1997

Back in the caged pitch at PRG after a reasonable dousing of mid-week rain and a chance to assess adaptability to a water based pitch, H&W eventually managed to pull away doggedly for a win against a well organised and tenacious side. Old Whitgiftians initially sat back, willing to absorb the pressure and assess our strengths and lines of attack. We wasted two early short corner opportunities and on at least two occasions, Will Saxby was clear on the right with promising moves that were snuffed out. Old Whitgiftians had their chances too, the first real opportunity falling to their inside right immediately in front of goal after a stinging cross from the left. Then not long after Steve Dodson proved his worth with a crucial save after a mis-directed hit out from the H&W defence.

At the other end, a Dan Williams' short corner effort was cleared off the line and as the game appeared to be

JOURNAL

HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER HOCKEY CLUB

heading for a half-time stalemate, with H&W still having something to prove to its supporters, J-J scored from the deep left of the circle, with a cracking shot, hit as he fell off balance, helping to add to the confusion that the ball might have missed the outside of the post, which fortunately it did not.

Further short corners at the start of the second half were well defended including a push from Dan Williams, which the opposition goalie saved at full stretch. Lindsay Troy then woke everyone up with a sudden direct shot on goal that was padded away. At the other end Steve Dodson maintained his concentration with two further critical saves. Derek Stone then fell awkwardly and suffered what appeared to be a dislocated or separated shoulder (a distinctly non-medical diagnosis, of course) and which had to be alleviated with *ad hoc* ice packs. This prompted Dan Williams to take the field, as H&W's game-plan called for a calming authority in the middle of the park to help nullify increasingly threatening Old Whitgiftian pressure, augmented by extremely vocal harridan "support" from the touchline.

A stroke of entrepreneurial genius from the sideline involving (it was alleged) some currency of the realm -this is the era of *Open Hockey* all said and done - then saw a specially motivated Mark Crowley beg to be allowed back on after a period of substitution. He broke up an opposition attack near the top of our circle, passed to Dan Williams who moved forward in midfield before releasing Will Saxby at just the right moment wide on the right. Will took the ball to the sideline and cracked in a cross which Mark collected (and in more than one sense!) to bury home the second goal - and just at the right moment in terms of the tempo of the match.

It was then as if the H&W pressure valve had blown. The team relaxed and played some excellent hockey in the final few minutes to secure the win, as OWs soon realised that this, too, would mean a 2-0 loss, similar to their result earlier in the season against league leaders Anchorians.

There was time after the game for many of the team to return pitch-side to support the Men's 2nd XI, taking on Maidenhead, for whom Fabrizio Ravenelli was making a guest appearance up front. That game was virtually over after ten minutes as H&W scored two early goals against a generally unimaginative side and which was eventually comfortably won by a 4-1 margin, for yet more valuable London League Premier points.

SPENCER 0 : 3 HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER

15th February 1997

Hail to a magnificently sunny day at Battersea Park, with the smell of hot-dogs and victory titillating the nostrils (your reporter was always fond of a bit of *syllipsis*: no. not a new venereal disease!) Company on the bench (non-Park variety) included Captain Marvel, resting his hamstring, the excellent Derek Stone (with one good shoulder) and the lugubriously effervescent (now what figure of speech can that be?) Rob Turner with an injury alleged to have been picked up in bed?!

Spencer were placed second from bottom of the league at the start of the game and were not expected to cause that much trouble. And so it proved. They had one short corner and Steve Dodson in the H&W goal did not touch the ball once in the match. Jack Galliford settled in at the back with Rob Bloomer at

left half and David Grady in the key role in centre midfield. From the off, Spencer were sent reeling. A great run and shot by Mark Crowley was followed by a mesmeric solo effort from J-J van Dijk. Entering the circle from the left he somehow managed to dribble past the defence move across the front of the goalkeeper and smack the ball high into the roof of the net: an awesome effort!

After 11 minutes, a rasping shot from a short corner hit their post. Seven further short corners followed but Spencer held out with their Goalkeeper making some brilliant saves. The second half started like the first with Will Saxby speeding down the right before feeding Rob Thompson who in turn passed to dead-eye Pat Curtin to make it 2-0. Spencer now appeared to fear being on the receiving end of a cricket score and began now to ride their luck and play some good hockey. They were helped first by a reshaping of Dave Grady' nose (without pre-med and anaesthetic) and then by "Crowls" yellow card.

Undaunted, H&W forced their fifteenth corner and suddenly finding no-one to push it out, resorted to Jack Galliford who got the ball to Saxby for the clean stop, followed by an elegant Rob Thompson dummy, a spot of Dan Williams' Special Team magic and the ball was back at Jack's feet. The ebullient Jack then put home his first and famous H&W goal to leave a final score of 3-0. This earned Jack the unanimous MVP vote and a Jug or two by way of celebration, which was followed by the rearguard's detailed study of the Teletext results later that evening which confirmed the Play Off place, further toasted by way of PJB's NV 'poo. Brilliant!!

HAMPSTEAD & W 6 : 1 ANCHORIAN

22nd February 1997

Those studying Saturday evening's Teletext results may have suspected a transmission error when reading the scoreline but H&W strode to the top of the league with a devastating exhibition of power hockey.

H&W were sufficiently motivated from the start (was it the presence of the Boizot-induced video cameras?) to take the game right to Anchorians and to press them in the opening ten minutes. Anchorians began predominantly with speculative long ball deliveries up front. H&W's first short corner after three minutes saw a strong drive from Rob Thompson, which rebounded out and his second shot was just deflected. This was followed by two goal line saves, after good work on the reverse side from Mark Crowley and then a great gloved save from the Anchorians' goalkeeper to a strong shot from an acute angle from J-J that was heading for the top right hand corner:

Then on 12 minutes, from the second short corner, Rob Thompson dummied a drive and Dan Williams pushed to ball left to J-J who flicked it in for 1-0. This was followed six minutes later, after further H&W pressure, by a Mark Crowley flicked shot for 2-0, which made up for H&W disappointment after a whistle to mark a disallowed goal.

The tempo remained intense as H&W maintained an enormous work rate, particularly up front where there was no lack of confrontation: Nigel Land and subsequently Pat

JOURNAL

HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER HOCKEY CLUB

Curtin were spent sprawling and Greg Pierce had cause to look after himself. After 25 minutes and entirely *with* the run of play Mark Crowley secured his second after a deflected shot by the right hand post. Yet, before the half ended, Steve Dodson in the H&W goal had to be called upon for a save from the one opposition short corner.

At the start of the second half, Anchorians deployed a forward right up on the H&W goal, with Dave Grady pulling back to cover him but whilst they saw more of the game, it continued to be the H&W attack that took the eye. Five minutes into the half Will Saxby combined at great speed with Mark Crowley whose shot sizzled just wide of the right post and then Nigel Land and Mark probed deep on the left by the by-line but the ball was forced away. A minute later saw H&W attackers outnumber the defence by 5-2 but Nigel Land's shot was saved.

On 52 minutes however J-J drove in his third in open play after Dan Williams and Will Saxby had exchanged passes in midfield and a minute later it was 5-0 after J-J's shot after a short corner hit the roof of the net. J-J then collected his fourth after initial work from Pat Curtin and Rob Thompson. Anchorians pulled one back to make it 6-1 after a cross from the left eluded the defence and was meekly tapped in at the foot of the right post. Steve Dodson then showed his prowess with a diving save at the second Anchorians, short corner, with an outstretched stick save. All in all a tremendously satisfying performance.

OLD KINGSTONIANS 0 : 5 HAMPSTEAD & W

1st March 1997

A right motley crew was on the pitch for H&W at the start: 10 men and not many Club shirts! Then five minutes into the game along came the admittedly breathless cavalry (and with them the shirts!) eager for news of the score (possibly suspecting the worse - it was 0-0) and suddenly normality prevailed. The problem was the inordinately heavy traffic, with one car taking 3 hours to reach Hampton Court from central London. Rugby-infested Twickenham, Hammersmith Bridge's closure, roadworks approaching Putney Bridge, Chiswick Roundabout closure, RTA on M25, M40 roadworks at the junction with M25: you name it - each conspired against. Dave Grady had at least been able to warm up, but not by conventional means: he was forced to attend to a call of nature so long was the traffic queue and by the time he reappeared, the car was way down the road and fast disappearing from view.

This game saw a welcome return for Andy Thompson in the absence of J-J van Dijk (whose academic pursuits demand a return to Holland), for Paul Varnish, filling in at right midfield and Jack Galliford at the back on the left. The pitch was very slow, slippery and lumpy, which did not suit our usual speedy attacking play.

There was a generally sleepy atmosphere to the start but then Mark Crowley, Dan Williams and Rob Thompson gradually took control. An early short corner shot pinged off the far post, a shot from Will Saxby was saved and a cracking left side cross from Mark unfortunately evaded everyone. Then after 20 minutes Mark opened the scoring with a deflection of a Rob Thompson shot and Rob himself drove home the second four minutes later from a short corner, helped in off the goalie's pads.

In the second half, much as in the first, OKs offered very little in attack and there was little in the game to excite the spirit as the strong wind cooled the deceptively sunny afternoon. Mark Crowley scored his second from a penalty stroke after a H&W stick was hooked in the circle - so much so that it was left strewn across the floor and his third after a push to the left. With the game virtually a foregone conclusion, Steve Dodson then had to keep OKs out single footedly (not literally because he had to use both) as defensive concentration lapsed. With two minutes left Paul Varnish came forward in attack and slotted home the fifth to end the scoring. With Anchorians squeezing past Winchester, it is down the wire for the League Championship!

HAMPSTEAD & W 4 : 1 GORE COURT

8th March 1997

H&W took the 1996/7 Nastro Azzurro South Hockey League Premiership with a deserved workmanlike defeat of a tough and disciplined Gore Court and notched up the 100th goal of the season (inclusive of the Cup run) and to end the League season with a goal difference of 70.

With several absentees, the starting line-up was a little unusual: Mark Crowley found himself on the right wing, with Rob Bloomer alongside at inside right and Lindsay Troy played up front. Paul Varnish opened at left midfield. The game started a little late to the particular irritation of the local press photographer, eager to reach Loftus Road for QPR's match. By then it was murky with the lights on as drizzle threatened.

H&W's inability to seize comfortable control of the play was to be a feature of the afternoon; their play was not as fluent as in earlier games and in marked contrast to the previous home match against Anchorians. However, after 5 minutes Lindsay Troy opened the scoring with his second touch with a flick, after a neat pass along the byeline from Rob Bloomer, beating the goalkeeper on his right. Gore Court were clearly intent on containment playing half court (no pun intended) and risking little with plenty packing midfield and making H&W work hard for openings, which resulted in the ball often being passed back trying to prise open some avenue of attack.

There was a degree of fortune for H&W after 15 minutes when an excellent opening for the visitors was ruined by an air shot from their forward. Perhaps it was Will Saxby's absence but the first H&W short corner after 17 minutes saw Rob Thompson pushing the ball right and trying to skip around a defender but the shot was pushed away and out of danger. At the other end Rob Carter was called on for some careful shadowing of Gore Court attacks, masterfully fending the attackers away from the circle and our of harm's way. Their first short corner, awarded after a strong reverse stick shot was initially stopped by Dave Grady, was cleverly intercepted by Mark Crowley on the edge of the "D" and quickly shovelled forward along the right wing to Rob Thompson and then Lindsay Troy who was dispossessed deep on the Gore Court right.

JOURNAL

HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER HOCKEY CLUB

H&W's second goal came from the penalty spot, scored by Mark Crowley with a penalty stroke for his 30th of the season after he was sent sprawling in the circle after a rapid series of passes on the right wing. Some cynics reckoned that it should have been enough for a RADA scholarship or SWET award. The half ended 2-0 but not until H&W had watched with relief an airborne Gore Court shot flash past the far post and a Steve Dodson save with his left boot.

After 5 minutes of the second half, Gore Court's second short corner witnessed a clever move, with a strong shot right across the face of the goal from deep right to inside left which just eluded an attacker moving in along the goal line to collect - rather a let-off, for the feeling amongst the spectators was that if Gore Court had scored then it might have proved to be rather different game. However their cause was not helped when their midfielder vocally likened the umpire to a quadruped of horse genus with long ears and was invited to re-consider this assessment from the sideline for ten minutes.

The game then opened up, with two excellent chances for H&W, the first falling to Paul Varnish wide on the left and then to Nigel Land after deft work on the byeline which the opposition keeper managed to foil, after strong work from Rob Thompson and Mark Crowley. Gore Court were temporarily down to 9 men after a head injury but still kept H&W at bay. On 57 minutes and after their third short corner, Rob Turner exchanged passes with Rob Thompson and the latter pushed the ball in at the far post for 3-0, a slight variant on their usual double play at short corners.

Another Gore Court injury ought to have troubled them more but 5 minutes later they pulled one back when a shot-cum-cross was deflected airborne at considerable speed by Jackobi for 3-1. H&W lost some shape and cohesion as the game wore on, accommodating Derek Stone as sweeper and with Jack Galliford filling in competently on the left wing. Even Paul Varnish's temporary suspension well into injury time after a fairly robust challenge could not stop a magical end to the league season as Rob Thompson collected a pass deep into the Gore Court half and with customary skill held off a valiant attempt to rob him of the ball by the Gore Court keeper, rounded him and calmly pushed the ball over the line for his 15th League goal of the season.

OTHER REGIONAL LEAGUES

We have been following closely the results from the other Regional Leagues and the winners have now all emerged, namely Norton from the North League, Loughborough Students from the DTZ Midland League, Robinsons from the Sun Life West of England League, Chelmsford from the Adnams East League (with the pipping of Cambridge City with a 1-2 away win on the last League Saturday) all of whom go to the Play Offs with H&W and Anchorians, to be joined by the two other non-automatically relegated sides from National League Division One, which has three matches (on the whole) still to go.

THE PLAY OFFS

The Play Offs begin on Friday 25th April and go through until Sunday 27th April and will be held at The Stadium (as it is now officially called) at Milton Keynes. The Draw for the two

Pools has just been announced. In H&W's pool there will be Anchorians (runners up in the South League Premier) and Norton from the Northern League, plus one of the two National League teams. The leaves Loughborough Students, Robinsons, Chelmsford and the other NHL team in the other Pool.

No indications yet of starting times but these should be available in the Press closer the day. If you have yet to visit the centre at MK, why not plan to do so now?

HA CUP NEWS

ST ALBANS 3 : 2 HAMPSTEAD & W

5th Round: 23rd February 1997

It is not easy to take on NHL Division 1 opposition with nine players or even ten, come to that, and come away with a win. However it is particularly galling to be in complete control of the game, creating so many chances and to take a 2-0 lead early in the second half, with the opponents bickering amongst themselves, only to see the result of so much hard work and running evaporate.

Political correctness demands that we do not mention the rather capricious umpiring that saw three yellow cards for H&W players. At one time two players were in the "sin bin" following a successful "navigation" with ten players, after J-J van Dijk's temporary suspension. But if this is how NHL hockey is played (and the umpiring seemed even more officious than that at the Play Offs last year) then there may be lessons to learn. Certainly H&W may have rued the several chances missed as, objectively, a 0-3 half time score would have ample reward.

After 9 minutes, Will Saxby stretched out across the top of the circle to intercept a poor push square from the St Albans' defence and took the ball to the goalkeeper's right where his stick was chopped and a penalty stroke was awarded which J-J van Dijk put firmly away for 1-0. This was followed by further efforts from J-J after passes from Will Saxby and a rapid exchange of passes with Nigel Land. Lindsay Troy also tested the 'keeper after hard work from Rob Thompson. In the meantime the H&W defence had successfully repulsed four St Albans' corners, with a good clearance by Rob Carter after Steve Dodson's block and then a palmed save from a dragged pull going high to Steve's right. There were several close shaves of the St Albans' goal. Then with three minutes left in the half Rob Thompson produced a quite astonishing save with his stick, airborne and at full length just enough to guide the ball out for a long corner. No ordinary mortal had a hope of getting to it but the famed Big Man surely did.

The second half started with an immediate strong left sided H&W attack from one end to the other, involving J-J, Nigel Land and Mark Crowley and eight minutes into the half H&W were awarded their third short corner. From the stop Rob Thompson guided the ball to the right post for Rob Turner to steel in with his now customary aplomb for a 2-0 lead. Ironically, it was then that things began to go wrong for H&W. J-J was suspended for an innocuous tackle and St Albans pulled one back from a right cross. No sooner

JOURNAL

HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER HOCKEY CLUB

had J-J returned than Pat Curtin found himself off, followed shortly by Dave Grady penalised harshly, when to all appearances, the opposition player merely fell over (and Dave is no thug on the field after all). Down to 9, H&W reorganised but St Albans equalised and then their young forward Mark Armstrong prised open an opportunity for the third St Albans' goal with four minutes left. There was still time for two late H&W short corners right at the end but by now St Albans had drawn all their players back (having pushed two attackers right up when 2-1 down) and H&W were unable to capitalise, despite strong play from Rob Thompson. And thus the team suffered its first loss of the season! Truly, we wuz robbed!

It was particularly pleasing to see **Leon Flack** and **David Blakemore** at the game; both thriving with West Herts HC, with Leon's team apparently heading for the final stages of the HA Trophy competition

LONDON LEAGUE

It remains difficult to garner word on the street about the progress of the H&W teams but the *Journal* will continue to try. Briefly (and space permits just that) the 2nd XI appears to have secured its position without as much alarm as hitherto. The 3rd XI is comfortably mid-table, whilst the 4th XI has gone worryingly downward, which may not be unconnected with its Captain Phil Johnson's absence for eight weeks (is it now?) on business, which has taken him unexpectedly to NZ for a while. However, the eyes are on the 5th XI and 6th XI both vying for League Play Off places. Both have stuttered recently, the 6th XI not assisted by a pitch booking cock-up that had them default one game 0-5 just at the wrong time. If they do succeed with promotion this will put two H&W teams in Division 5A. We'll try to get League standings and more news for the next edition. The 7th XI are also holding their own, not in distress but not at the top either!

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Much the same with the Women we fear: we shall have to repeat the now oft made aspiration (it must be now, as opposed to certainty) to bring some facts to the page. Regrettably, few appear willing to rally to the cause of fighting the frontiers of ignorance (waxing too lyrical here) even if they are given a questionnaire: may be it needs multiple choice answers as in "Did you win (a) 1-0 (b) 2-0 (c) 2-1 (d) 3-1 (e) 3-2" [or even, perhaps (f) 2-2]? No; that's unfair!

The 1st XI has struggled in the South League this year, having lost players from last year's squad who enabled the team to stay in the hunt for the top. Too many games have been lost by the odd goal and although they find themselves standing in the lower half those to whom the *Journal* has spoken reckon that we should be able to stay up. Ignorance prevails otherwise we regret in relation to the other Women's teams: one possible correspondent (No: not Co-Respondent) has not yet delivered a report thought at the time likely to be worth its weight in gold. Gold leaf perhaps, now?

ENCORE FANZENE

Too many are running away when approached by the Editor, seeking participants for this spot: may be cheque book journalism will have to be employed. However, we were able to persuade Nick Coleman to air his views and at little cost, comparatively speaking, and anyway Members of the Bar are reckoned not to discuss their fees - other than through their Clerks. Nick has been with the Club for over 25 years and includes within his accomplishments, coaching prowess with Middlesex and advice to them on disciplinary matters. He has amongst others a Vice Presidency of the County Association. Nick is currently playing for the Vets, when not out on the golf course. So, tell us Nick:

At what age did you first start playing Hockey?

11 years

What was your first competitive match and with what result?

It was against Royal Russell School but God knows what the result was!

When did you join Hampstead/Hampstead & Westminster?

1969/70

Which H&W teams have you not played for?

Not sure; but likely to have been most if not all of the men's teams: the Women have yet to invite me to play for them!

Which H&W match result gave you the most pleasure?

There are two: the first was the 1st XI 4-1 win against Maidenhead in 1976-78(??) when we had not won a game all season until then and the second, paradoxically, was the 3rd XI's 1-3 loss against Beckenham in the final of the London League Play Offs in 1984. Why so? We had beaten Bromley 3-1 in the Semis and as they were runaway League leaders we reckoned that we had all but won it, only to be hammered by Beckenham!

Who is your best H&W player you have played alongside?

Dave Dixon but... if you want a Vets' Tournament it has to be Greg Pierce at Maidenhead three years ago

Which is the best Hockey match you have watched?

Olympic Gold

Who is the best Hockey player you have seen playing?

Rui Saldanha: Durham's UAU Quarter Final side was a good one but we were taken apart by him against Liverpool and lost 0-5

What was the last item of Hockey kit that you bought?

Some tape for my stick

What infuriates you most about Hockey?

Playing with Incompetents

Your most amusing incident on a Hockey pitch?

Mike Patton, the ex Men's 1st XI captain in Holland in 1975 - Unmentionable!!

Which team do you least look forward to playing against?

Sorry, but it has to be the Club starting and ending with an "E" in the outer NW London suburbs

Which other Club do you most admire?

Southgate, for their sheer longevity

Except for Hockey, which sport gives you most pleasure?

Contemplating the prospects of the 19th hole with Claudia Schiffer

STOP PRESS

PLAY OFFS PROGRAMME JUST ANNOUNCED

25.4.97 v NORTON @ 1.00pm

26.4.97 v NHL TEAM @ 12.00pm

27.4.97 v ANCHORIAN @ 4.00pm