

HAMPSTEAD AND  
WESTMINSTER HOCKEY CLUB  
A MISCELLANY

Conserving the Identity

*Hampstead and  
Westminster  
Hockey Club*



# Hampstead and Westminster Hockey Club

## **A Miscellany**

*Conserving the Identity*

Written and Produced for Hampstead and Westminster Hockey Club  
2016 by Ian Smith





## Introduction

This is a collection of brief observations of Hampstead Hockey Club and, latterly, Hampstead and Westminster Hockey Club and, in particular, some of its more noteworthy members, including in several instances, their lives outside the world of hockey.

It is not intended to be inclusive or to run necessarily in a consecutive sequence. Hopefully there will be later opportunities to add to the contents of this volume and redress any perceived imbalances. The first third covers the first two decades in which Hampstead Hockey Club evolved and the key individuals who oversaw its transformation from a hockey-playing section of Hampstead Cricket Club in 1894 into a leading hockey club in England within a little more than a decade. This collection is in part to supplement the record of the first 75 years of the club, already covered by Colin Greenhalgh in his *Short History of Hampstead Hockey Club* published in 1969.

It had proved to be a meteoric rise, with three Club members representing England in the gold medal winning team at the Olympic Games of 1920 held in Antwerp. A fourth player joined a little after the conclusion of the Games. Two members had also won gold medals in the 1908 Olympic Games in London, but, it has to be admitted, in a rather truncated format.

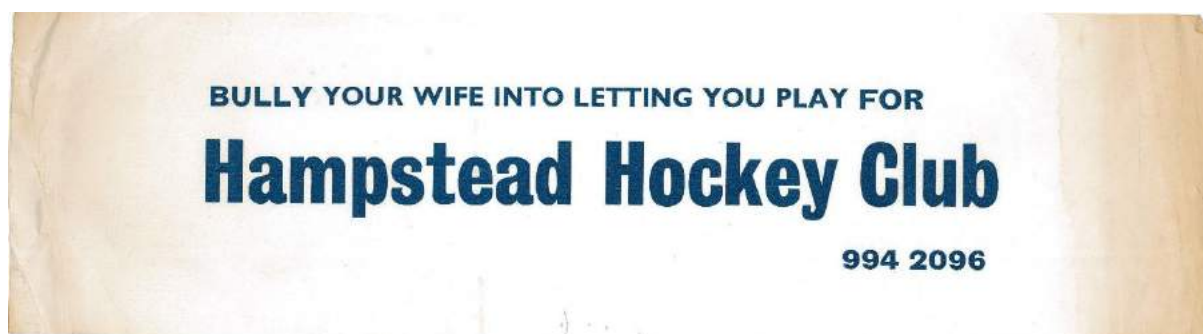
The Club remained unusual in still playing its home games in Richmond (an arrangement that began as temporary but continued until 1945). It did not enjoy the same level of success between the Wars. Its membership dispersed after the Second World War. The Club was rescued and revived in the 1950's by the efforts of three members, returning to a base at Hampstead Cricket Club.

It then quickly established itself as a leading London club. At first team level, within five years its results and players in representative capacities, were contemporarily on a par with the Club's first decade. By the end of the Fifties and in the Sixties, this level of success proved hard to emulate. In 1969, the London League was formed and Hampstead played in its first ever game. A gulf gradually opened with the leading clubs in London, notably at first team level. Hampstead probably came to be seen as unfashionable.

A third transformation, in a little over ten years, began in 1983 with the establishment of a connection to Paddington Recreation Ground, the admission of what quickly became three Women's teams playing in Hampstead colours and the appointment of Greg and Tracy Carr from New South Wales as coaches and players that led to a huge and sudden improvement in results. The Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI secured promotion to the National League in the Club's centenary year, for which much is owed to the vision and philanthropy of Peter Boizot.

Progress has continued, with a large growth in the number of teams fielded, contrary to the experience of a considerable number of other once well-established London clubs. The Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI starts its 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive season in the Premier Division and the Women's 1<sup>st</sup> XI will enjoy a second season in the Eastern Conference of the National League. There is much to celebrate.

A Club is essentially about identity and values, carried through the generations. It has a wide significance and Hampstead's story demonstrates many of these qualities. We need to preserve them. This collection results from a wish to add insight to the Club's identity.



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## The Meeting at The Eyre Arms

It is a little more than 120 years since 17 gentlemen met to form Hampstead Hockey Club. We have initials for a few but in some cases only a surname, displaying some of the difficulties frequently encountered by takers of minutes of meetings.

This meeting was convened at the Eyre Arms, now sadly demolished. Come out of St John's Wood underground station and look to the opposite side of the Finchley Road and there is the site of the Eyre Arms Hotel and Assembly Rooms. It was also known as a tavern and described in 1894 as being in Hampstead but, it has to be said, is at its southernmost extremity.

This was a grand building, capable of accommodating 1,500. It included a concert room and was in extensive grounds. It was named after the Eyre family, whose substantial landed estate bordered those of Lord Portman and the Duke of Portland. Colonel Eyre was influential in the development of Hampstead by first building a turnpike that connected St John's Wood to Finchley in 1827.

Why did this meeting come about? Hockey had been played by a hockey section of Hampstead Cricket Club for several years. There is a report in the *Richmond and Twickenham Times* of 19 December 1874 of a return game between Richmond and Hampstead that Hampstead won 4-0 (but it, would appear, against eight opponents only).

We can assume that a number of fixtures were being obtained for the winter months, to play on each side of the cricket square after the end of the season. Hampstead Cricket Club's ground was at Lymington Road, Hampstead, located between the Finchley Road and West End Lane, where it still plays today.

In 1893 there was an altercation within the Cricket Club, when it was discovered that some non-members had been playing hockey at the cricket ground. The Cricket Club's historian says that these fixtures started in 1890 (although from the above we now think it was at least 15 years earlier) and that a sub-committee had been formed to deal with hockey matters.

It was pointed out that a general meeting of the Cricket Club had approved two hockey matches to be played every week. However, there was insufficient hockey-playing support from within the club to fulfil the fixtures, so outsiders had been invited to play.

There was an added problem. Although results had been very successful, a number of games had to be cancelled as the ground was frequently waterlogged. The hockey section representative complained that it was "useless to arrange fixtures for the coming season owing to the wet state of the ground".

The Eyre Arms meeting appears to have been called after the Committee of the hockey section had formed the same view and concluded that the hockey players needed to find a new ground. Opinions were sought of those attending. John Besch, who chaired the meeting, mentioned that he and H R Lipscombe had, at Mr McMillin's suggestion, been to see a ground at Acton thought suitable for hockey that could be rented for £10 for the season.

Mr Lawrence then proposed that if the Committee (presumably of the hockey section) were unable to find a more convenient ground, he was in favour of procuring the ground at Acton. He was supported by Mr J N Brown.

With a general meeting of the Hampstead Cricket Club due to take place two days later, the meeting decided formally to propose that “it is the opinion of the meeting that in consideration of the wet state of the Cricket Club ground, a hockey pitch be hired elsewhere for next season” and that “if no more convenient ground can be found than at Acton, it is decided to rent a ground there.”

It added that it sought the Cricket Club’s permission for the hockey section to control its own affairs, including the election of officers and members. The uniform was to be as before, “a shirt of the club colours and a dark blue cap.” New members were to be proposed and seconded, as they were under the rules of the Cricket Club.

As for officers, the meeting’s proposal was for a Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and not more than eight committee members (and that four would form a quorum). Mr A Russell Parker (a long servant of the Cricket Club – and goal scorer in the 1874 return match with Richmond, mentioned earlier) was to be proposed as Vice President.

Finally, those attending agreed to meet again, inauspiciously, on Friday 13 April 1894, when the decision of the Cricket Club would be known.

We know that later the hockey section of the Cricket Club was declared no longer to exist and the Hockey Club was formed.

So, we salute the pioneers who attended that important meeting, the founders of Hampstead Hockey Club:

John Besch, C D D McMillin, J N Brown, G W Ravenor, Giles, Cyril Toller, Rutland, B Brown, Warren Hale, Lawrence, Mergerstein Petty, Bishop, Danver, S Brown, H R Lipscombe and William Danby.

## John Besch

The first person to be prominent in the affairs of Hampstead Hockey Club when nascent as the hockey section of the Cricket Club was J G Q Besch or to give his full names, John George Quiddington Besch, who was born in June 1861. He later died on 24 March 1940 in Brondesbury. He is recorded as playing cricket for Oakham School when aged 17 and a player for Hampstead Cricket Club from 1886 until 1894.

As a cricketer, John Besch had first appeared in the averages of Hampstead Cricket Club in 1885 and is mentioned by the Cricket Club's historian, Freddie Monroe, for many years making "a great many runs and [being] an immense help to the Club as an official".

This was the year in which the renowned Andrew Stoddart joined the Cricket Club renowned for his immense innings for Hampstead in 1886 against the Stoics, in which John Besch also played, which is covered later in this volume<sup>1</sup>

In that match, played on 4 August 1885, John Besch, another apparently nicknamed "Daddy", came in at number three and scored 98, having taken the score from 28-1 to 242-2.

He is also mentioned as an opener with Andrew Stoddart in Hampstead's game against Surbiton on 25 July 1891. This is noted particularly by Freddie Monroe as an example of days on which Hampstead Cricket Club occasionally went down "even when their stars were playing for them".

The Hampstead team included Stoddart, Hale, Thornton and Pawling, as well as the renowned Australian test bowler, Fred Spofforth (who had emigrated to England). Of the others, he mentions that "Besch, Robertson, Danby and Russell Parker were amongst the best cricketers in the Club".

John Besch was the spokesman for the hockey section of Hampstead Cricket Club when the question of non-members playing hockey first raised its head at a general meeting of the Cricket Club in 1893. His was the *apologia*, so described by Freddie Monroe, that explained the inability of the hockey section to fulfil its allocated fixtures.

At that meeting the Cricket Club resolved that the hockey sub-committee had exceeded its powers in admitting non-members of the Cricket Club to play hockey but that the arrangements for the present season were "to be carried out".

At a later meeting, another hockey section's representative, H R Lipscombe, who later became the Honorary Secretary of Hampstead Hockey Club and was appointed captain of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI, had told the cricket club of the "very successful results" of the matches played.

However, he had to add that a number of matches had to be scratched "owing to the wet state of the ground". He said that it was useless to arrange fixtures in the winter and proposed that a new ground be found and that "the hockey section be allowed to manage its own affairs".

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<sup>1</sup> See pages 15-16

This may have led to or equally may have preceded the general meeting of the hockey section at the Eyre Arms that agreed to propose to the Cricket Club that “the permission of the Cricket Club be asked for the Hockey Section to control its own affairs”.

The Committee of the cricket club then resolved, as Freddie Monro describes, that in view of the wet state of the ground no more hockey was to be played there without the sanction of the Committee. Further, that the hockey section should cease to exist and that Hampstead Hockey Club “(late hockey section of the Cricket Club)” be allowed to wear the Cricket Club’s present colours.

There followed the first general meeting of Hampstead Hockey Club on 12 April 1894 at the Eyre Arms, described earlier. As Colin Greenhalgh commented, it would seem the Hockey Club was never formally constituted at that meeting, although it was hoped to play games at Elms Farm near Garden Lane in Acton.

Along with H R Lipscombe’s appointment mentioned earlier, John Besch was appointed Honorary Treasurer and captain of the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI. He later chaired virtually all meetings of the Hockey Club until at least 1908, along with the Treasurer’s responsibilities.

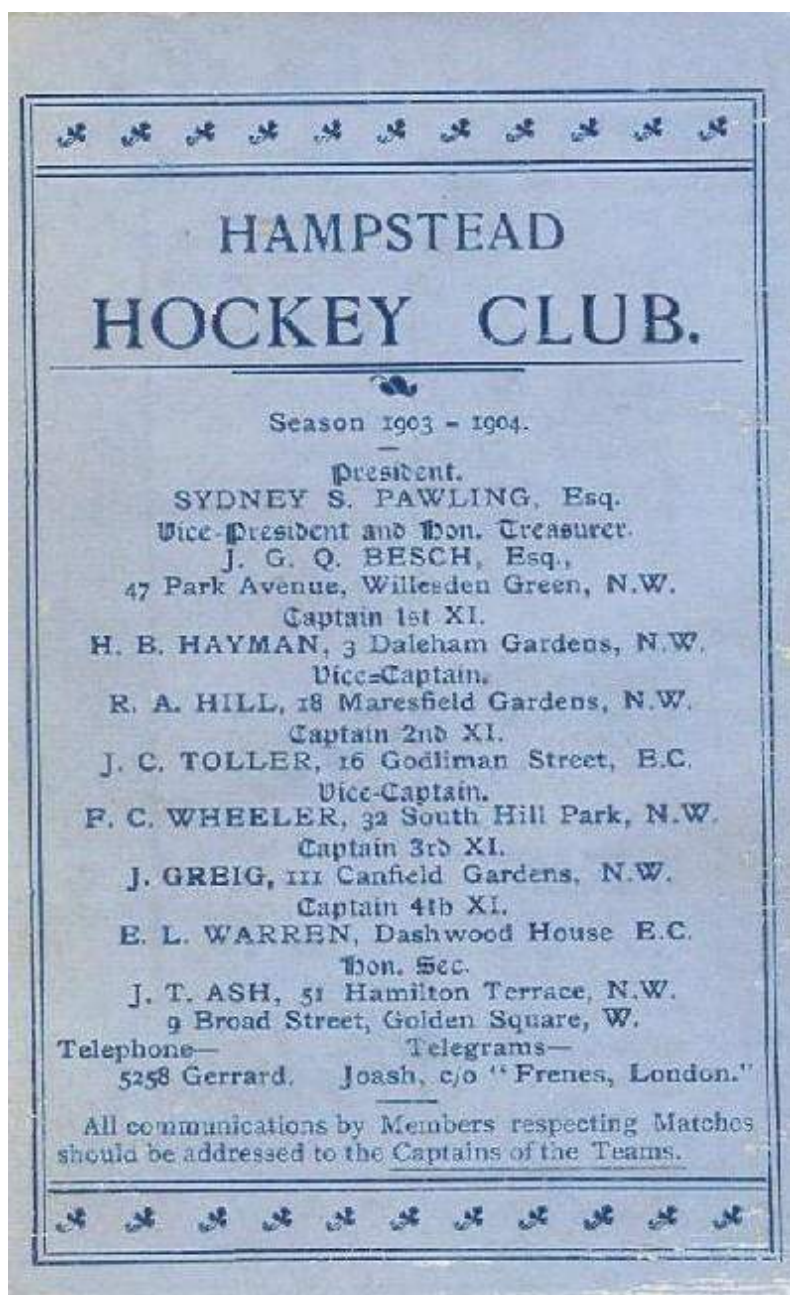
At the conclusion of a general meeting held on 6 July 1899 at 50 Canfield Gardens Hampstead, John Besch was given a vote of thanks “for his kindness in granting use of this room and for presiding”. At that meeting, once again Besch had been appointed Vice President and Honorary Treasurer.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance from 1898-1899 ... ..	26 4 10	Rent of Ground ... ..	19 10 0
Fifty full Members at £1 18s. ... ..	93 10 0	Hockey Association ... ..	1 10 0
Donation (B. Brock Hoare, Esq. M.P.) ... ..	0 10 6	Middlesex County Association ... ..	0 10 0
Four Members (half-season) ... ..	2 2 0	Printing ... ..	7 7 0
Eight Honorary Members at 3/- ... ..	24 0 0	Postages and Stationery ... ..	3 5 11
Collections for Hockey War Fund ... ..	0 18 0	Telgrams, Movers, &c. ... ..	3 5 11
		Painting Hockey Balls ... ..	1 1 6
		Washing ... ..	1 8 9
		Ground Boy (27 days at 2s. full) ... ..	3 7 6
		Visitors' Teas ... ..	3 7 6
		Brushes and Combs ... ..	0 11 7
		Sponges ... ..	0 12 3
		Present to Club ... ..	1 0 0
		Present to C. Book ... ..	0 10 0
		Expenses at Outing, Lunches, & Strangers ... ..	0 9 11
		Lanterns ... ..	0 8 0
		Donation to Hockey War Fund (see contra) ... ..	2 10 0
		Balance in hand ... ..	24 11 11
	<u>£74 5 4</u>		<u>£74 5 4</u>

J. G. Q. BESCH, *Hon. Treasurer.*

Examined and found correct,  
 J. C. TOLLER, | *Hon. Auditor.*  
 ALFRED B. OSMOND, |

At a meeting of the Committee also held at Canfield Gardens on 5 November 1899, John Besch submitted a design for "a blue cap and badge that was adopted as part of the club uniform".



John Besch made a formal request to be relieved of his responsibilities as Vice President at the Annual General Meeting held at the Constitutional Club in Hampstead on 7 September 1907 and Herbert Hayman was elected to take his place, Mr Besch retaining his post as Treasurer.

This latter responsibility continued until the Annual General Meeting held on 22 September 1908, when he was once again acting as Chairman. At that meeting, the balance sheet was discussed and with reference to the item of £18-18-0 for unpaid subscriptions. It was decided to write off the amount in three cases and "to write strongly to the other members whose subscriptions still remained unpaid", which amply illustrates that these problems that recur today are far from novel.

It was then proposed that in future the item “for a brake at Cambridge” should be paid for by the team playing there instead of by the club. “This was lost by 7 votes to 6”. However, a proposal that no item for “tour expenses” should come from the club funds was carried.

John Besch was once again appointed a Vice President for the 1908-9 season at that meeting, along with Herbert Hayman. The Minutes then record that:

*Mr Besch resigned the treasurership [sic] having served in that capacity ever since the beginning of the club, a period of 17 years. In recognition of his invaluable services, the club presented him with a pair of silver candlesticks with a suitable inscription. After some eulogistical remarks by Mr McMillin, Mr Orr presented Mr Besch with the aforementioned token of the club's esteem and gratitude for his many past services. Mr Besch expressed his thanks in eloquent words indicative of his deep gratification*

The Fixture Card still records John Besch as a Vice President for the 1911-12 season, despite being referred to as C Q Besch, still in that post alongside Herbert Hayman.

The Annual General Meeting of 1912 was convened on 7 September 1912 at the Constitutional Club in Hampstead “after the club's cricket match against Hampstead Cricket Club which ended in a draw”. Stanley Shoveller acted as chairman. It appears that John Besch had now decided to relinquish his Vice Presidency of the club. He was not proposed and the sole Vice President appointed was Herbert Hayman, who stood down himself in 1913. He was then to be replaced by the former 1<sup>st</sup> XI goalkeeper of stature, Richard (R A) Hill<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> who sadly was amongst the six members of the club killed in World War 1

## Gerald Logan



Gerald Logan, standing fourth from the left in this Hampstead photograph of 1904, was regarded as one of the best inside-rights to have played for England. He scored in each of England's three games at the 1908 Olympic Games in London, including the first two of their three first half goals in the 8-1 demolition of Ireland in the final, in which he ended up with a hat-trick.

He was born on 29 December 1879 in Wimbledon and attended Kingston Grammar School, where he played hockey alongside Stanley Shoveller, who played at centre forward, with Logan at inside-right. He joined Hampstead in October 1902.

They soon developed a striking partnership that served Hampstead, Surrey, the South and eventually England very well. It culminated in the 1908 Games, in which they both won gold medals. Between them they scored one half of England's total of 24 goals in the tournament, Shoveller helping himself to seven and Logan managing five.



In an account of Hampstead's perceived status as a *cricket-hockey club* at the time of the photograph above, it was said that much of the playing success was attributable to the play and goals of Stanley Shoveller. "All this is by no means to say that the other 10 members of the team are only of ordinary merit. G Logan and R Manser, who play either side of Shoveller, are sound and skilful performers and both have earned the distinction of playing for the South".

Logan was in the Hampstead line up for the 1902 game against Bromley that ended in a 1-1 draw, when McMillin scored for Hampstead, from a penalty bully. Hampstead later had a goal overruled for sticks. Logan also played in the 1907 return match against Staines, held out as the most successful club of the time in the South, with an unsurpassed record, until Hampstead began to dent that success.

In the 1907 match, Hampstead won 4-2, in what was described as "a strenuously contested game". Hampstead were put under heavy early pressure and had backs Marsden and Sherwell to thank for holding firm and not conceding. Hampstead's forwards then exerted greater control for 15 minutes and Shoveller scored with what was described as a comparatively soft shot. At the start of the second half, Staines attacked hard and scored an equaliser through Pimm. But in less than a minute Hampstead had retaken the lead and then added another two more, to lead 4-1. Staines scored a late consolation goal from a short corner to leave the score at 4-2.

The reporter claimed that the Hampstead forwards combined well at times but the team's success was attributed to Shoveller's individual efforts. He did add that, "Logan got through an immense amount of defensive work".





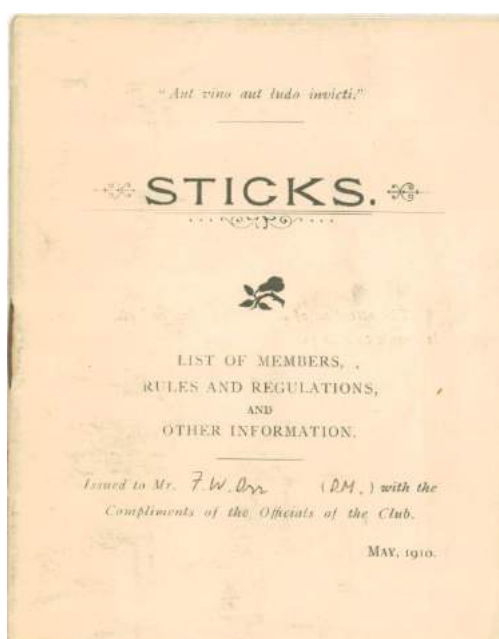
Gerald Logan also played in the 1908 win against Wimbledon on their ground, when the score was 2-6. Hampstead started well and only fine goalkeeping kept them at bay. Shoveller then scored with what was described as a particularly fine shot. Another was added for a half time score of 0-2.

In the second half, Wimbledon sprang an immediate attack from the bully off. Buisman, a new Dutch recruit for the home side, scored to make it 1-2 "but Hampstead retaliated almost immediately, adding a third goal as a result of a very fine effort by Logan". For the rest of the match Hampstead continued to press and scored again, through Logan, Shoveller and Gresswell. At virtually the end of the game, Buisman got through again for Wimbledon to add their second.

The reporter said that of the forwards, "Logan was by far the best, Shoveller not quite being at his best".

On 19 November 1910, Hampstead faced Cambridge University, who had won their preceding five matches. In the cold and rain, the University forwards were said to be out of sorts in the circle and could not initiate any attacks to outwit the Hampstead defence. With Freddy Orr and Jack Bennett holding out in defence, "S H Shoveller and Logan brought off several neat runs but they never neglected their wing men and it was quite in contrast to the Light Blues, to see these men giving hard passes out to their outside men."

After 10 minutes, an unmarked Bland opened the scoring for the University after a cross from the right. Hampstead immediately got on level terms again. "A free hit against Stevens near the circle being taken advantages of by Logan, who rushed the ball through at close quarters." Shoveller scored the winner a little later after working himself into a position to score neatly. The second half was scoreless and it ended 1-2 to Hampstead, who were reported to have packed their defence and frequently with their forwards retreated, to hold on for the win.



Logan was admitted to the Sticks Club in 1908, a secretive club for whom the qualifications for entry were to have played internationally and to be a good diner (according to Jack Bennett).

Gerald Logan went on to play nine times for England between 1906 and 1909. He also played for Surbiton and Canterbury, occasionally as a centre-forward. On 22 April 1914, he left England for the Malay States and S H Shoveller and C H Eiloart were present at Liverpool Street for his departure by train to Tilbury and to wish him good luck on behalf of Hampstead HC.

The Club had made a presentation to him on his departure, the nature of which is not known. According to the Club minutes, after a collection worth £5-0-0 (approximately £485 in today's terms) there was a shortfall of £1-4-3. The members present at the meeting agreed to meet the deficit, as the Club's retiring honorary secretary was out of pocket to that amount.

Logan was the son of a Wimbledon florist but became a junior bank clerk before developing an interest in the rubber trade that explains his leaving the country in 1914.

In the early 1900s, increased reliance on the car and the use of rubber in common products such as boots, were driving demand for rubber. Rubber was then made from naturally occurring latex extracted from certain plants requiring a tropical climate. Some 75% of rubber was controlled by British companies and led to efforts in Russia, Germany and the United States to reduce their dependence and develop methods of manufacturing synthetic rubber. However, synthetic rubber was not yet sufficiently practical.

Between 1914 and 1922, natural rubber prices fluctuated between \$0.115 and \$1.02 per pound for several reasons. First, blight affected rubber trees in Brazil and caused British and Dutch rubber producers to start new plantations in Malaya and in the Dutch East Indies. Secondly, after the 1917 October Revolution, Russia was renewing its effort to make synthetic rubber. Thirdly, during World War I, demand for rubber was high. New sources of rubber were being developed. But following the War, demand diminished and there was a resulting glut that led to very low prices.

In 1920, the British Rubber Growers Association turned to then Secretary of State for the Colonies, Winston Churchill, for help. A Rubber Investigation Committee, chaired by Sir James Stevenson, devised a plan to stabilise prices by limiting the tonnage of rubber exported. The so-called Stevenson Plan was enacted by the governments of Ceylon and British Malaya. A Restriction order was imposed on exported rubber that took effect on 1 November 1922.

At this time, British interests controlled about 75% of rubber production. The United States consumed about 75% of the rubber produced in the world. Britain was still paying its war debt to the United States following World War I. It needed a profitable rubber industry. The Dutch, who controlled virtually the rest of the market, refused to go along with the Plan. Their preference was not to regulate the industry (and they sought to profit from a unilateral action by Britain). US tyre maker, Harvey Firestone, reacted angrily to the Restriction order, as did Secretary of Commerce, Herbert Hoover.

By 1925, high prices resulting from the Restriction were beginning to threaten the American way of life. Hoover informed the British that if the Stevenson Plan stayed in effect, the United States would try to protect itself in any way it could. By 1928, the Restriction order was repealed but not before the expanding Dutch rubber plantations had successfully captured most of the American rubber market.

Rubber producers returned control of prices to the free market. The Great Depression in the 1930s then lowered demand for rubber: again, rubber prices plunged. Rubber producers once again turned to regulation to maintain prices.

This time it was achieved under the auspices of the International Rubber Regulation Agreement that was signed by all major rubber producing countries. This succeeded in governing the price of rubber to the satisfaction of producers and most consumers. But by now Japan was a consumer, using rubber to support its war effort in Manchuria and China. Its leaders were not happy with the price of rubber. This is believed to have provoked the Japanese and is thought to have been one motive for their attack on Pearl Harbor and that precipitated entry by the US into World War II.

Against the earlier part of this backdrop, Gerald Logan was employed as a Restriction Officer in Ipoh. Coupons were issued under the Restriction to producers. In the early days of the scheme there were delays and difficulties. It was alleged that this led to Restriction Officers urging licensed rubber dealers to buy rubber without coupons in order to reduce hardship to small producers, on the basis that in due course a means would be found for the rubber in question to be exported by purchasing coupons.

However, in May 1923, rules were published that required each registered dealer to submit a return setting down the quantity of rubber in excess of that for which coupons were held. No concessions were apparently given in respect of earlier volumes acquired without a coupon, leaving dealers with stock, said to be in the region of 7,000 tons in total that they were unable to sell or transfer. This naturally generated hardship and a Petition, signed by 211, was lodged by the Rubber Dealers and Growers Association with the Chief Secretary to the Government of the Federated Malay States (and reported in *The Straits Times* on 14 March 1924).

The role of a Rubber Restriction Officer was to inspect the books and records of rubber dealers and thereby monitor the efficacy of the Restriction order. It is not known if there was any requirement for the collection of payments or royalties for the coupons. It was considered a relatively important and well remunerated post. *The Straits Times* reported on 27 May 1927 the conviction, on his own admission, of a Chinese, who had impersonated a Rubber Restriction Officer by approaching dealers with requests to inspect their books. He was arrested when the proper Restriction Officer delayed his departure from a shop on being informed that the bogus officer was about to attend. He was then confronted and arrested on being unable to offer any adequate explanation for the requests he was making.

Gerald Logan left Ipoh in October 1928 for Seremban and is reported to have taken up a post with R A Bendixen & Co. His absence in Perak would be felt, it was reported, as he had helped the Perak hockey team remain unbeaten for two years. He had resigned as captain of the team in 1926. He had instead turned to golf and became the Secretary of the Ipoh Golf Club, now known as the Royal Perak Golf Club. The Ipoh Golf Club had started as a modest nine-hole course on the Race Course, before the turn of the last Century. In 1932, as a result of the growing membership, 180 acres of land were acquired to construct an 18-hole golf course and a new improved clubhouse was added.

In February 1930, *The Straits Times* noted that Mr and Mrs Gerald Logan who were “well known in Malaya” were on holiday in Buckinghamshire and were due to return to the Federated States towards the end of April.

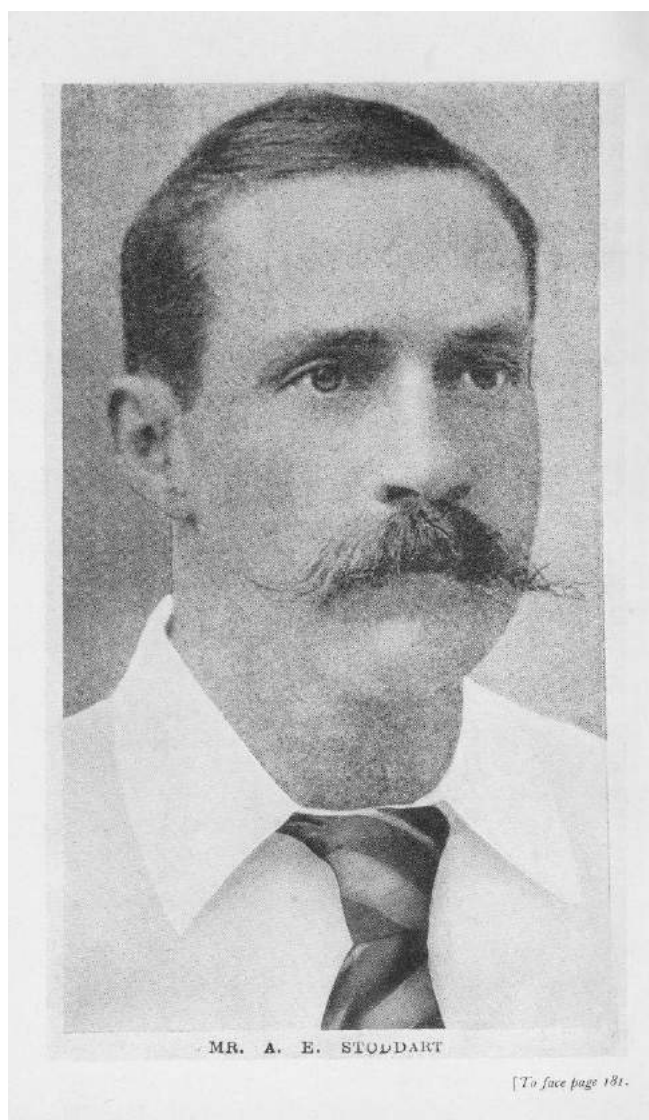
In 1941 Gerald Logan returned to England with his wife, Alexandra, presumably in retirement. He died ten years later in Folkestone on 29 April 1951.

The gold medal won by Gerald Logan was left to his great nephew, Nigel Bates by Alexandra upon her death, as he was the only member of the family who followed in Gerald's footsteps and played hockey. The medal has been lent to the National Hockey Museum in Woking.

## Andrew Stoddart

Andrew Ernest Stoddart joined Hampstead Cricket Club in 1885, when aged 21 and ten years later joined Hampstead Hockey Club.

He had by then given up rugby and may have wanted a replacement winter sport, following the frequently mentioned adage that cricketers needed to play hockey to “keep their eye in” over the winter months.



Andrew Stoddart was a winger with Hampstead Hockey Club and known for his speed and agility, which is unsurprising in light of his earlier rugby career. There is no record so far as to which team Stoddart played for at Hampstead Hockey Club but he joined as the club was finding its feet and at the dawn of the *golden days* of success in that first decade.

He was born in Westoe, South Shields, County Durham on 11 March 1863, the youngest son of a wine merchant. When aged 14, the family moved to Marylebone. He earned his living as a stockbroker but made his early reputation as a cricketer for Hampstead. He was a true all-rounder in every sense, as a cricketer and rugby player in particular. He was one of only two to

captain England at cricket and rugby. He was also known to be a good tennis player and after cricket, took up golf that he soon played to scratch.

He was thought to be a relatively late starter to cricket, according to *Wisden*. He is widely reported not to have taken much interest in cricket until 1885, having concentrated on rugby for at least three years earlier. However, Freddie Monro was told that when Heath Mount School in Hampstead played Oliver's School, Acacia Road on the old Eton and Middlesex ground, Stoddart had captained Oliver's, who had a reputation for nurturing good cricketers.

His first season for Hampstead was remarkable, as *Cricket* reported on 13 August 1885:

*Some weeks ago mention was made of a very fine innings of 185 not out by Mr A E Stoddart, for Hampstead against the Granville Club of Lee. I notice that during the five weeks which have passed since that match (played on 4 July) Mr Stoddart, whom I take to be the well-known rugby international footballer, has completed as many as four centuries for the Hampstead club:-*

<i>July 18 v Hendon</i>	<i>113</i>
<i>July 21 v MCC &amp; Ground</i>	<i>108</i>
<i>Aug 4 v Blackheath</i>	<i>108</i>
<i>Aug 8 v Old Carthusians</i>	<i>120</i>

*As, in addition, Mr Stoddart is a particularly good bowler as well as a brilliant field, I should fancy the executive of the Middlesex County Cricket Club, for which I believe he is qualified, would do well to seriously entertain the advisability of giving him a good trial.*

This advice must have been heeded. Andrew Stoddart made his debut for Middlesex at Bramall Lane, Sheffield on 17 August 1885. This was a three-day match against Yorkshire that Middlesex won by 49 runs. Stoddart opened the batting and scored 3 in a first innings of 169, to which Yorkshire replied with 201. Middlesex ended their second innings on 201 (with Stoddart scoring 21) and were able to dismiss Yorkshire for 145.

He played three further games for Middlesex that season, at Trent Bridge, Clifton College and Mote Park, Maidstone.

From May until June 1886, Stoddart was fully employed by Middlesex, without conspicuous success, including a game at Lord's against an Australian XI on 24 June 1886 that the touring team won by one wicket. Middlesex scored 259 and 217, to which the Australians replied with 354 and 123-9, for the narrow win. This was followed on 2 July 1886, by another game against the tourists, for C I Thornton's XI at Chiswick Park.

On the Tuesday night preceding the club game against Stoics on 4 July 1886, he and friends had gone dancing and at midnight, began playing poker. Stoddart was not reckoned to be fond of cards but he started winning and, according to his biographer, David Frith, it was an appreciable amount too. He was said to be reluctant to leave the table with his friends' losses, so gave them ample opportunity to recover their cash. Rounds of jackpots were played but as he grew wilder, his winnings increased! It was said that because of his relative youth, he did not have the courage to say that he would not continue to play after a certain hour. But at dawn at 5.00am, they, too, called it a day. The participants set off for a warm bath and then later took a cab for a swim at a local pool. After substantial breakfast, it was on to the Hampstead ground.

The Stoics were one of the earliest travelling cricketing sides. They were said to be in part a continuation of the Revellers Club, for which the common factor was O R Borradaile, well known in Essex County Cricket Club circles and the Secretary of the County for many years after 1891. It is widely denied that the change in name to Stoics followed their treatment in the face of Stoddart's bat.

Stoddart opened the batting with Billy Marshall at 11.30am. Marshall was bowled for 6 and John Besch came to the wicket. They set about the bowling. After an hour the score was 150-1. Besch was then out for 98 and it was 242-2. After a relatively cheap wicket, Swift took over the supporting role but scored quickly too. By lunch, after two and a half hours, Hampstead had reached 370-3 (Stoddart was 230 not out).

Declarations were not then permitted, so the Hampstead innings continued at 3.00pm. Stoddart and Swift carried on from where they had left things and took the score beyond 600. It became 652-4 when Swift was caught for 92.

Stoddart then surpassed the record individual score of 419 not out, achieved in the previous year by J S Carrick (ironically another well-recognised rugby player) playing for West of Scotland. Stoddart was dropped when on 421, when a hard drive to mid-on could not be held. But with the score on 811-7, Stoddart miscued a big hit to leg and Kelly clung on to a steeper at point, the batsman having reached 485. It is said that his dismissal came shortly after the umpire had said, "Go for the 500, Mr Stoddart".

The miscued shot that led to his dismissal is mentioned to have gone so high that the batsmen ran three and that the fielders had rushed in to decide whose catch it was to be. The ball then spiralled in descent and Stoddart is reported to have put the chances of an actual catch at 100-1. Allegedly, at the last moment, Kelly (reportedly "a lanky man") put up his right hand and trapped the ball between his three middle fingers. This latter report has no reliable provenance, however.

The Hampstead innings closed, ten down, five minutes later at 6.45pm, with only two further runs added. There was no time for the opposition to bat. Hampstead's 813 may not have surpassed Orleans Club's innings of 920 in their game against Rickling Green in 1882 but that was over two days. 813 stands as the highest innings score for a day's match.

Stoddart's innings had taken six hours and ten minutes. He scored at 78 runs per hour with an 8 (four from overthrows) three fives, 63 fours, 20 threes, 36 twos and 78 singles. The bowling had been good, with only one wide and without a no-ball. By comparison, the fastest quadruple century in first class cricket was that of Donald Bradman, whose 452 was achieved at 65 runs per hour. The wicket at Hampstead was on the day in the middle of the square so, there were no short boundaries.

Not quite satisfied with that effort and whilst he might have wanted some sleep, a tennis four had been organised for that evening, so had to be fulfilled. After tennis, he had another hot bath. Then it was off to a box at the theatre and supper afterwards, such that he did not get to bed until 3.00am the next morning. On this basis he was without doubt accurately described by a contemporary as one of the most tireless men who ever lived.

<b>HAMPSTEAD</b>	
A E Stoddart c Kelly b Renny	485
W R M Marshall b Oscar	6
J G Q Besche <sup>3</sup> c Lavender b Fleming	98
H Smith-Turberville b Kelly	5
E Swift c Kelly b Carter	92
F A K Doyle c & b Carter	27
P Dollar c Lavender b Renny	38
H G Rooth c Carter b Kelly	1
T Stewart not out	0
E A Dwyer absent	0
Extras (b50 lb 6 w 1)	57
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>813</b>

Three days later and again at home, Hampstead's form continued when they scored 459-4 against Blackheath in under four hours. Stoddart contributed 207, which, when added to his 98 for Middlesex against Gloucestershire on the following Monday, saw his aggregate runs for the week climb to 790. On this basis, noted an article in *Cricket*, "I have it, in fact, on the best authority that he has decided after all to remain in England." This refers to his apparent indecision whether to emigrate and join his brother in the United States.

His first century in first class cricket followed in August in the game with Kent at the Bat & Ball Ground in Gravesend. Kent scored 196 and Middlesex replied with 457, A J Webbe scoring 103 and Stoddart 116 in an opening stand of 205. Kent responded to the second innings' challenge and were 374-5 at the close. Three more County games then brought that season to an end.

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<sup>3</sup> So named in the score card



## A B Osmond

Alfred Bartrum Osmond first played for Hampstead Cricket Club in 1892 in the balmy playing days (so described in *Hockey World*) of F R Spofforth, A E Stoddart, G McGregor, Dr Thornton, W R Moon and H B Hayman.

He was top of the bowling averages that season, beating stalwart Spofforth, although taking fewer wickets. He generated considerable pace off the pitch, which he was able to sustain for long periods. Freddie Monro, the historian of Hampstead Cricket Club, regarded him as a “really good club fast bowler”. Others thought he was erratic.

He was born in 1866 in South Stoneham, on the outskirts of Southampton. There is one recorded match in which he played for Hampstead on 11 May 1892. The opponents were Kensington Park and the one-day game, with five ball overs, was played on Wormwood Scrubs. It was recorded as a draw, although Hampstead were clearly in the lead after first innings.

Hampstead scored 284, of which Stoddart contributed 132. Kensington Park were all out for 86, with Osmond taking three wickets. Stoddart took three. In their second innings (perhaps following on) they were 34-5 when play ended. Osmond this time opened the bowling and again took three wickets. Detailed bowling analyses are not available.

For Hampstead Cricket Club in 1902, there was what Freddie Monro described as “a somewhat curious match”. The opposition was old rival, South Hampstead, who always selected a strong side. Hampstead scored 170-6 declared. The local newspaper reported that the start of the South Hampstead innings was “sensational”. Osmond and Monro had opened the bowling and were said to be unplayable. The innings ended in 30 minutes, during which seven wickets had fallen for 19 runs.

Numbers 8 to 11 of the batting line-up could not be found when their turn to bat arrived. They had apparently left the ground and were unaware of the rapid fall of wickets.

Osmond’s bowling analysis was 8.3-2-16-6. Freddie Monro only conceded one run, with 8-7-1-1. He attributed his concession of only one run to a wish on the part of the batsmen to avoid facing Osmond (so hostile was his bowling), so not risking a single to take the strike at the end of the over.

A rugby injury had led Osmond to playing hockey with Hampstead Hockey Club. He was introduced by his Hampstead cricketing friends, who, he said, used to practice on the cricket ground in late August and early September. He was elected as a member of the Hockey Club on 8 December 1896. He became a Committee member on 2 June 1897 that he continued until the 1902 season.

He regarded Hampstead Hockey Club in 1896 as a “somewhat poor side” (only two years since formation, it ought to be said) and “had to crawl on their knees to obtain fixtures with clubs such as Wimbledon, Surbiton, Bromley etc”. He was known for his somewhat florid language in his later days as a contributor to periodicals such as *Hockey World*. He was very much in the role of sketch writer when contributing to *Hockey World*, as the following extract from the edition of 27 March 1925 demonstrates.

## SOME MEMORIES

A B Osmond

### ***Bromley's Balmy Days***

I recollect beginning rather to fancy myself and coming a cropper against the Bromley team, then at the zenith of their fame. The team then, I think, contained three Earnshaws, two Solbes, Hose and Lovell and the evergreen L S Wells (who still plays for Bromley IV). The half back lines were far too much for me and others of our side and we received a great hiding. My acquaintance on the field of the Bromley stalwarts, the Westrays, M Barker, Hincks Clapham, How, Beaven etc. had such an effect on me and more particularly my skipper that once more I descended to the second team, where I played until a broken ligament in my knee sustained at cricket forced me to abandon hockey as a player.

### ***Starting as an Umpire***

However, I was persuaded to buy a whistle and tootle it to disadvantage (so I used to be told) of my own club. One needs a somewhat thick hide to take up umpiring, and I am afraid in my early days I was somewhat sensitive to criticism, and indulged in very heated arguments after the match. We had a goalkeeper, a very good friend of mine, who had a nasty irritating habit of repeatedly tapping the goal post with his stick when he imagined an opponent was "offside" and if I did, by chance, agree with him and penalise the offender, he used to say, very audibly, "Oh! he saw this time". Another "pal", then the captain, used to remark, again very audibly, "He never kicks" (incidentally a kick is often extremely difficult to see). These remarks and others like them were, I suppose, all for my good, but it took a certain amount of W and S [whiskey & soda] to square things after the match.

### ***Watch Him!***

I well remember the first time I came across a "pukka" member of the SCHUA before I joined that body. I was in the dressing room before the game started, when a funny little man came in and said, "Is this the Hampstead dressing room?" On being answered in the affirmative, he explained that he has been sent down by the Association to represent our opponents; took off and hung up a funny short overcoat and proceeded outside. Our captain turned to me and said, "You might go out and watch that fellow, there are a lot of pavilion robberies taking place just now!" Another libel on our useful Association!

### ***Discovering Shoveller***

At a committee meeting one night the captain of our second team was severely "chaffed" at his team (which he considered to be as good as the first) being beaten by Kingston Grammar School by 12 goals to five. He grew somewhat heated, and made a bet that if the first team beat him, their half back line which included a South and two county players that in the return match a fortnight later, the School would again score double figures. He won his bet; the result of it was I think, 14-3 and as that captain said – an old rough warrior back, "there are two boys, a fair-haired centre-forward and a brown-eyed inside-right, who twist and turn, dodge round you, run between your legs and shoot like a gatling gun." Those boys were Gerald Logan, then centre-forward and S H Shoveller, both, as is well known, destined to become famous and be capped for England shortly afterwards, and who made the Hampstead Club more or less famous.

### ***Pioneers of Reverse Stick Play***

They were, I think, the pioneer of the modern style of forward play. Shortly after *Shove* left school and joined us, he was stationed at Richmond and could only get away to play in matches in that neighbourhood. The consequence was that he played for our second team almost as often as he did for the first. What a record the second had that year! They were quite a useful second without *Shove* but I believe they scored over 300 goals that season. [311, we believe, *Ed*]

### ***Shove's missed train***

I shall not forget the first inter-divisional match I umpired. It was at Bournville in 1911 and one or two incidents are still fresh in my memory. To begin with, *Shove*, who had taken all the tickets for the Southern players and officials, missed the train. When we arrived at Birmingham we had great difficulty in convincing the railway officials that we hadn't been trying to "bilk" the company. However, the situation was saved by the arrival of the Midland HA officials and poor Pridmore convinced the station master that we were really respectable citizens. *Shove* arrived about five minutes before half-time, when the Midlands were leading by a goal, which lead they held to the finish, and on reaching the pavilion, dear old Philip Collins told me I had given 10 seconds short! He had "clocked me" with a stop watch! In which time the South might have equalised! Perhaps?

### ***Looking for Whisky***

After the game everyone was "baked" through the heavy ground which had been under water for the two previous days, owing to abnormal heavy rains. The players tried every sort of bottle in the Pavilion in the hope of finding a "pick me up" but all to no purpose, and I was requested to "forage" for a bottle of whisky. But, alas, our hopes were again dashed to the ground, Bournville being a *Pussyfoot* village, so there was nothing doing.

As a hockey player, he thought that a considerable degree of talking and appealing took place during games. When he was promoted to the Hampstead 1<sup>st</sup> XI after a few games with the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, he was reprimanded by the captain for talking too much. He offered his opinion that a "well-oiled jaw" was the qualification for a first team player. He was then pushed back down to the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI but "after a fortnight, was once more pushed *up* and then played for the first team for some two to three seasons".

He is thought to have played in every position on the pitch other than as goalkeeper, which, he was convinced, called for a different temperament.

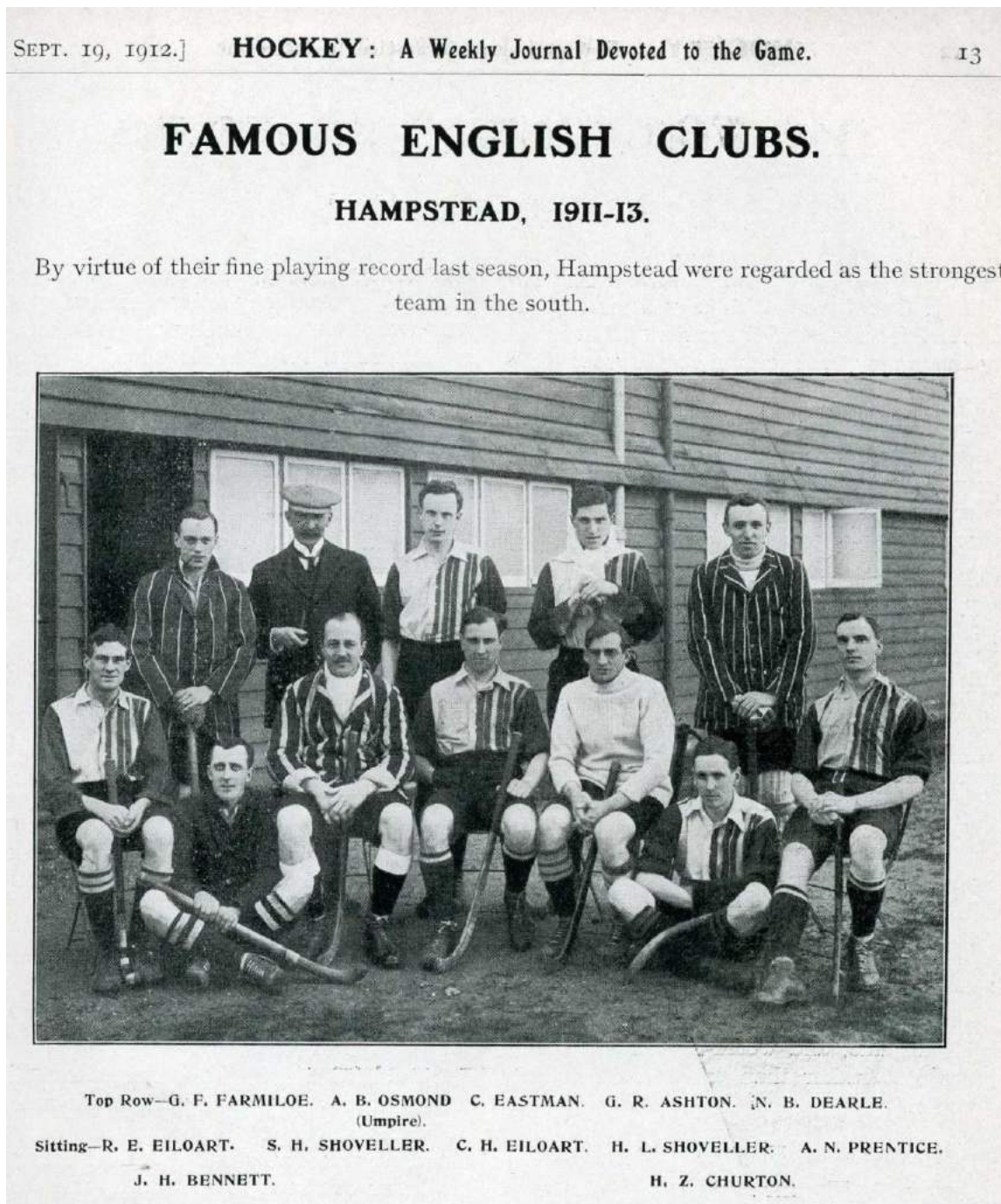
At the end of his playing career (as mentioned earlier) he turned to hockey umpiring. *Hockey World* suggested that it may have been a case of Osmond becoming tired of his club or the club becoming tired of him. He later officiated in internationals in Germany, France and Belgium as well as divisional games in England and the Oxford University v Cambridge University and Army v Navy fixtures.

He also contributed to the literary side of hockey, including *Hockey for Men & Women* and books written by S H Shoveller and H E Haslam, in the Royal Navy Sports handbook, as well as contributions to *Hockey World*, predominantly on umpiring matters.

He was the author of *Playing Field Diagrams* recurring weekly and lectured to Army and Navy embryo umpires (as he described them) at Aldershot on "How to apply the Laws of the Game".

He became a member of the Southern Counties' Umpires' Hockey Association (*sic*), the Southern Counties Hockey Association and the Hockey Association Council. He encouraged players "past their prime to hand playing duties to youth" and to take up umpiring instead.

In this photograph of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI from 1912, he stands out on the back row in his cap.

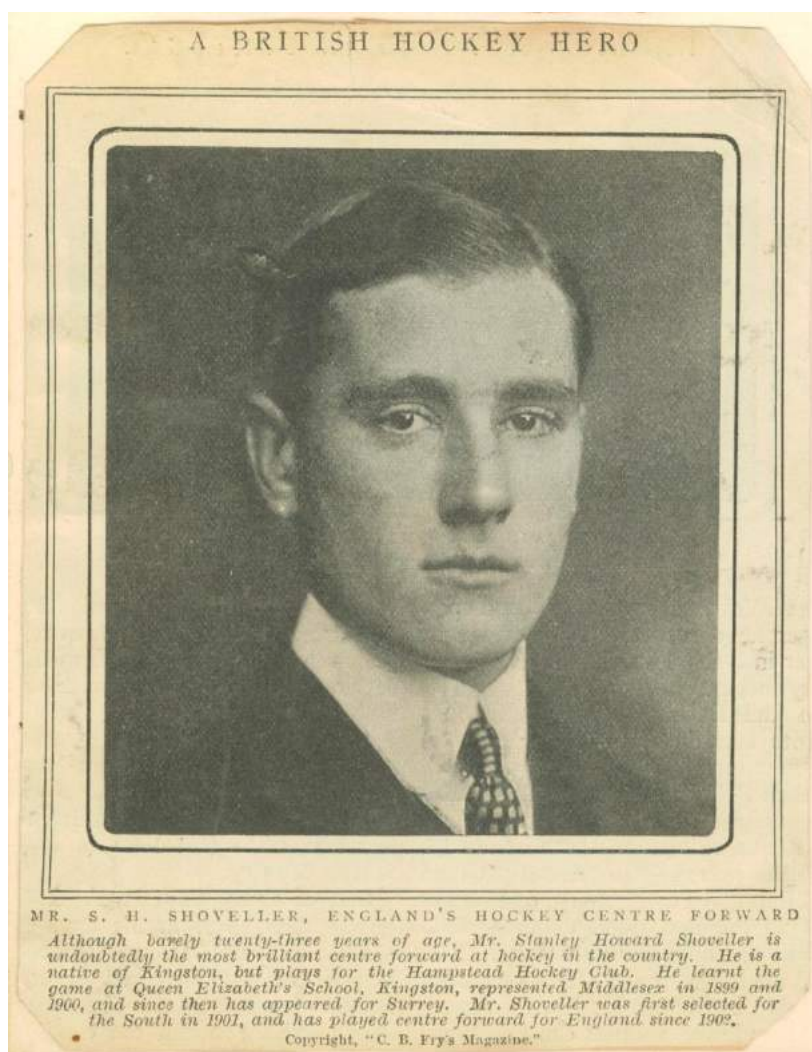


He was well-regarded in both clubs on the entertainment side. In 1901 a musical evening was convened by the Cricket Club at the Conservatoire in Eton Avenue as fund raising event. Albert Osmond's "spirited rendition" of *Faugh-a-Ballagh* was particularly well-received.

In his private life, he ran a poultry farm in Wilmington, Kent, prompting teasing by the editor of *Hockey World* over his distinguishing *fowls* and *fouls*.

## Stanley Howard Shoveller

*The Prince of Centre Forwards*



Stanley Shoveller was born at 1 Park Road Villas, Park Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, on 2 September 1881, the second son in a family of three sons and one daughter.

He was admitted to Kingston Grammar School (then known as Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School) in January 1892, when hockey was being taken up as a school sport. Already distinguished in school athletics, he played as a forward for the school's hockey 1st XI aged only 14. He went on to play centre forward and captained a school team that regularly beat club sides from the London area. In his last school term, in November 1898, he scored eight of the goals in a 9–1 victory over club opponents.

On leaving school, he became a stockbroker's clerk and spent his working life at the London Stock Exchange, where he eventually became a stockbroker.

From September 1898 he played club hockey for Hampstead, of which he was captain from 1909. In 1899 he represented Middlesex but from 1901 played for Surrey. After selection for the South against the Midlands, the Western Counties, and the North in 1901, he was selected for England against Wales at Kersal in March 1902.

He marked his international début with the *prettiest goal of the afternoon* according to the *Manchester Guardian* on 10 March 1902, dribbling single-handed from the half-way line before finishing. He was to make 37 international appearances over 19 years.

His international total would have been greater had his business commitments not prevented him from being always available for selection. In his early years as an international he formed an effective partnership with his Old Kingstonian contemporary, the inside-forward, Gerald Logan.

Stanley Shoveller was a prolific goal-scorer at all levels of the game, scoring seven for England against Wales in 1906, and achieving 17 international hat-tricks.

Hockey was admitted to the London Olympic Games in 1908, though the fixtures at the White City were played at the end of October, two months after most of the events had been completed. Only two overseas nations (France and Germany) entered sides, so the four home nations competed separately to create a competition.

Shoveller played centre-forward in an England side that emerged as gold medallists after defeating France in the preliminary round, Scotland in the semi-final, and Ireland in the final.

The sport was omitted from the Stockholm Olympics in 1912, though as an alternative an international tournament was organized by the German Olympic Council at Hamburg in October 1912. The Hockey Association, of which Shoveller was honorary match secretary from 1906 to 1912, entered an England team. He scored four times in an 8–3 victory over Germany, and three times in a 10–0 defeat of Austria.



This photograph shows the England team that played France on 26 March 1910 at Auteuil near Paris, before 1,000 spectators. Stanley Shoveller is standing in the darker jacket in the centre.

Under immediate French pressure from the start, England's defence and midfield began to exert some control and won a short corner. Shoveller fielded the corner injection and made a clever opening that allowed Stafford to open the scoring. Just before half time, Shoveller collected a pass from Matthews to make it 0-2.

At the start of the second half, Shoveller pressed again and tested the French goalkeeper Salarnier, who cleared but only to England's Twigg, who picked up the ball out on the right wing and centred to Shoveller, who scored his second. France pulled a goal back quickly after the re-start and added a second through Bessan. Shoveller and Pridmore attacked again for England but France gained ascendancy, with two racing saves off his line by goalkeeper Powell. France forced three more corners but England counter attacked at great pace after the third, when Stafford made ground and passed to Pridmore, who scored for 2-4. France pulled one back when a shot cannoned off the England goalkeeper's foot.

England then took control of the game. Shoveller scored his third "cleverly, with one of his typical strokes with the stick reversed and the same player again tested Salarnier, who saved in excellent style". Stafford later scored again, leading to a final score of 2-6

On the outbreak of the First World War, Shoveller joined the Rifle Brigade, was commissioned second lieutenant, and went to France in 1915 with the 7th battalion. Wounded at Hooge, Belgium, in July 1915, he returned to the front, was awarded the MC later in 1915, and promoted to lieutenant in December 1915. He was promoted to captain in 1917 and served through the remainder of the war, relinquishing his commission in July 1919.

Shoveller resumed hockey in the autumn of 1919 and captained the England side, representing Great Britain, which gained a gold medal at the 1920 Olympics in Antwerp. Only three other countries (Belgium, Denmark, and France) entered, and the tournament was organized on a league basis, held, as in London, after the main Olympic events had been completed.

England decisively beat Belgium and Denmark, and when the French scratched the final fixture after a convivial dinner on the previous night, England were left as victors. He made his last international appearance in a match against Ireland on 12 March 1921 at Beckenham, attended by George V. The 1-1 draw proved a rare occasion when Shoveller, effectively marshalled by the Irish centre-half P. Murdock, failed to score in an international match.

He retired from regular club hockey in 1922, though occasionally appeared after that. In 1922 *Hockey World* commented, *the retirement of S H Shoveller this season, the most brilliant centre ever produced in hockey, is a big blow to the famous London club. No one has done more to bring the name of Hampstead right to the front rank. But time is no respecter of persons, and "Shove" has had to bow to the inevitable.*



*Sixth from the left on the back row is Stanley Shoveller, to his right is C T A Wilkinson and to his left J H Bennett. The third from the right is C S W Marcon. All were representatives of Hampstead Hockey Club (although Marcon was to join later).*

He was a vice-president of the Hockey Association from 1921 until his death, and was an England selector in the 1930s.

Shoveller - or *Shove* as he was widely known in the game because others were uncertain how properly to pronounce his surname - dominated hockey over two decades. Likened to W. G. Grace, he was regarded as the supreme exponent of the sport.

Contemporaries admired his stickwork, ball control, and bursts of pace, using his skill at dribbling—feinting to deceive opponents—and speed of movement and passing, to cut through packed defences. His trademark scoring finish was not a blasted shot, but a deft push, placed past the goalkeeper.

His name featured regularly in press reports of matches. For example, in 1902 when Hampstead played Blackheath:-

*Judging from the way the visitors pressed at the start it looked as though Hampstead would be well beaten, for they never crossed the centre line for the first ten minutes. Blackheath could not manage to score however and suddenly Shoveller broke away and scored practically the first time the centre line was crossed.*

In a review of the Club in 1904, it was said,

*It goes without saying that the bright particular star of the Hampstead team is S H Shoveller. Without him, the team are much in the same case as Sampson was when*



*shorn of his locks. With Shoveller, Hampstead are always a formidable side, a team of dangerous potentialities. There is no more pleasing sight in hockey than one of those electric runs with which Shoveller delights his comrades and paralyses his opponents.*

*Combination and Shoveller are the main characteristics of the Hampstead team and more especially of the forwards who pivot around their centre, making him as it were, their objective. But there are days when Shoveller is so carefully marked down by his opponents that even his genius is stifled and then it is that the other forward have an opportunity of showing their individual abilities and resourcefulness.*

Two years later, the *Evening Standard* included a column entitled the *Rise and Progress of the Hampstead Club*, in which it stated,

*The want of a regular centre forward was always the principal cause of the Club's weakness and there can be no doubt that its rise to its present rank started with the advent of S H Shoveller to that position in 1899 whilst still a student at Queen Elizabeth's School, the nursery of so many brilliant players.*

*Shoveller's quick advance to County, Southern and international honours is testimony to his merit and it is not surprising that the club's continued success and increased scoring power earned for them the reputation of being a "one-man" side.*

He was a prolific goal scorer, seen yet again in 1911 in the Wimbledon v Hampstead fixture:

*From the bully off Hampstead pressed and although Wimbledon defended strongly, Shoveller succeeded in scoring two goals in quick succession and with Eastman (1) and Shoveller (3) scoring again, they led at the interval 0-6. The visitors pressed again on re-starting but could only score one more through Shoveller. The Hampstead team played magnificent hockey throughout and Shoveller was seen at his best.*

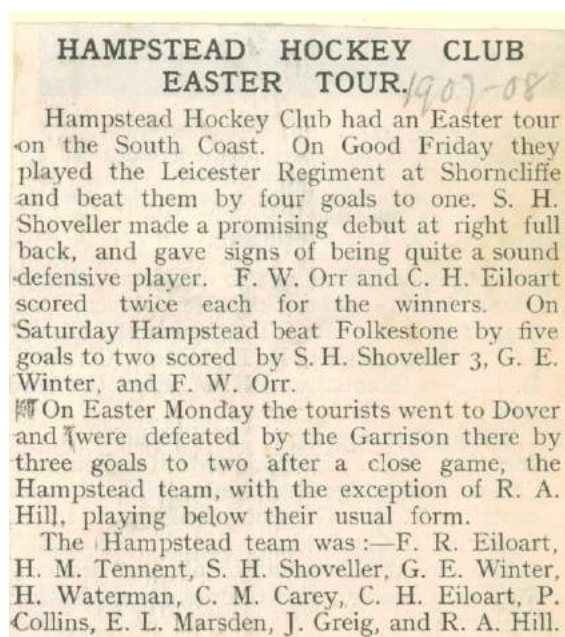
It was rare for Stanley Shoveller to be outdone by an opposing defence but it happened sometimes. In 1908, Hampstead lost 2-1 to Southgate and in a report on 17 December 1908, *Hockey Illustrated* commented that it was *high testimony to the new formation that Southgate were able to overcome Hampstead with their great array of forward talent. Although they were a goal behind at the interval, they overplayed their opponents in the second half, and, with luck would have won by a larger margin than 2-1.*

*Southgate had adopted four half backs who proved a severe handicap to a forward line of stereotyped methods. We do not hold a brief for the four half game. On the contrary, we believe the old and generally adopted formation the better; but we wish to emphasise that in hockey, as in all games, the end justifies the means, so long as the rules of the game are adhered to in letter and in spirit.*

*Hampstead's forwards, led by Shoveller, did not meet with more success; and, whilst they did not appear to give their best, the cause was greatly due to the tactics employed against them. Surely, this was a case in which the end justified the means. Hampstead were undoubtedly prevented from playing their proper game.*



Stanley Shoveller regularly toured at Easter with Hampstead when they tended to send their best team.



On tour on Good Friday in 1908, however he was reported to have made a promising debut at right back and “gave signs of being quite a sound defensive player!”

On his death, a fellow England international, the civil servant Sir Denys Stocks, recalled Stanley Shoveller as the ‘apostle of orthodoxy’ (*The Times*, 20 March 1959), whose impeccable style ensured that he had fewer ‘off’ days than most players. He added that it would not be disputed that Shoveller was the greatest centre forward the game had ever produced. *He was fast, with excellent ball control and had a first class shot at goal. In addition to this he had a most deceptive body swerve that made him difficult to mark. He was to me the ideal model for any aspirant to copy..*

Another fellow international and member of Hampstead Hockey Club, Cyril Wilkinson commented that *Prince of Centre Forwards* was the title bestowed upon Stanley Shoveller and was acknowledged to have been fairly won by everyone who played with or against him.

*He was not always able to get away from business when selected and his playing career was interrupted by the four years of World War One. But for these two factors, he would probably have won more than the 29 international caps he was awarded.*

*His most remarkable record was in connection with the Olympic Games. He was the only player to have won two gold medals and though it must be conceded that the foreign challenge was not so strong, it was remarkable that in 1920, twelve years after his first medal, including four years of war, he again represented Great Britain when approaching his 40<sup>th</sup> year.*

*He was a most deceptive player to watch. He did not appear to be fast or to have remarkable stickwork or a devastating shot. But he was desperately quick off the mark, had wonderful control of the ball, without any flashy display of stickwork, took the ball away from and past a tackler with a body swerve and no obstruction and shot hard and accurately when necessary.*

*His favourite and most effective method was, however, to bring the ball up to the left side of the goal and to score with a flick shot that no goalkeeper seemed able to stop.*

In all the years that Cyril Wilkinson played with him, he regarded him as a splendidly fair and sporting player and could not remember an occasion in which he was involved in any incident or unpleasantness. With all this, he was the most modest and unassuming of men.

Another member of Hampstead Hockey Club, Toby Orr added that he was *ambidextrous and as a centre forward unparalleled and most unselfish. Just to give one example of his prowess in a match against Surbiton he stopped the ball from a short corner and scored a goal defeating five opponents.*

In retirement, Shoveller wrote extensively on the sport and its techniques, compiling with Marjorie Pollard, a leading exponent of the women's game, a handbook, *Hockey* (1936). In that and other works he set out his ideas on forward play and the importance of the centre-forward in linking the forward line, feeding short passes to the inside-forwards, or opening up defences by unexpected long diagonal forward passes to the wings.

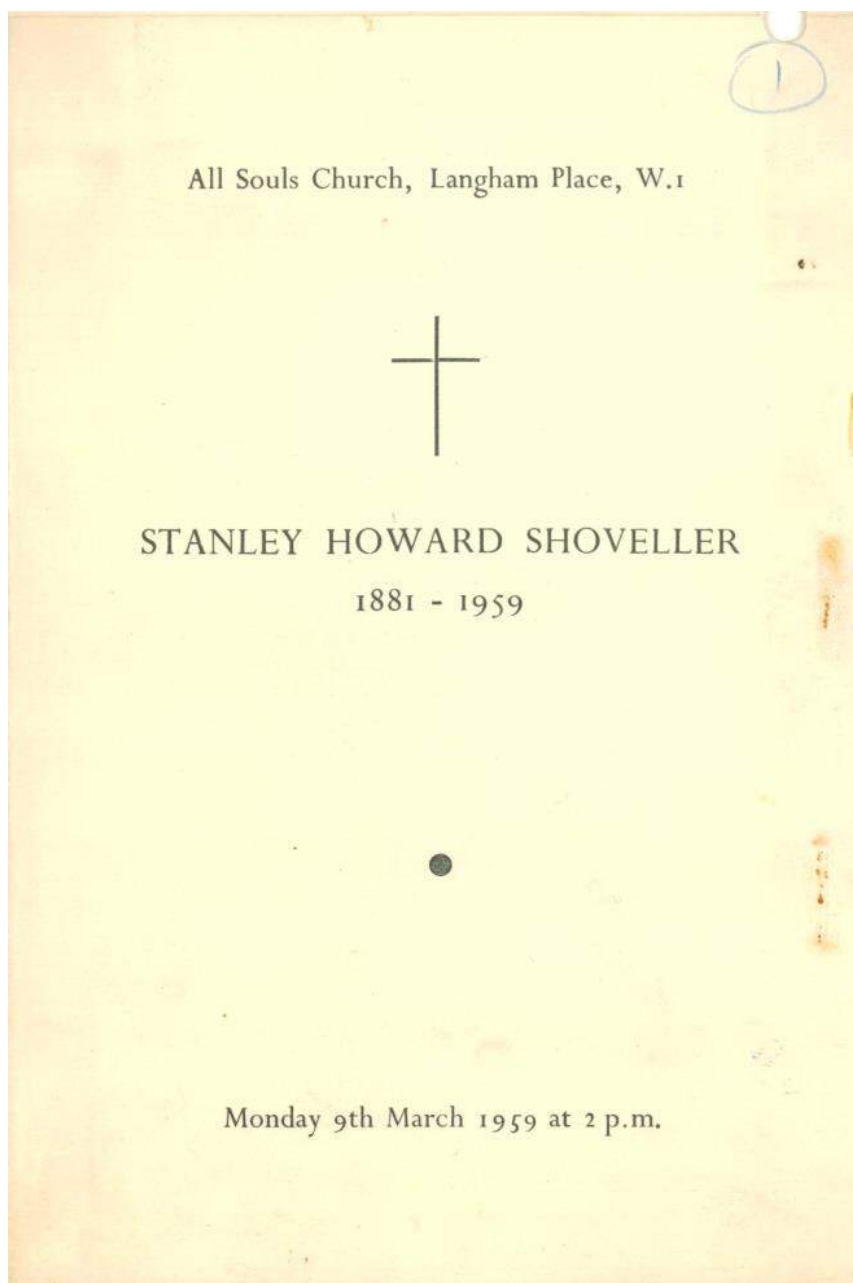
Fellow players acknowledged Shoveller's modesty and charm, and his upright sportsmanship. Most of all he was admired as the embodiment of a sport which represented itself, in the years immediately preceding and after the First World War, as upholding the purest forms of amateurism.

It was celebrated as a skilful game that could be played by men well into their thirties and after, free from any of the undesirable trappings of mass spectator sport. No one in England played the game for money, and the Hockey Association opposed playing for cups or medals. The league format and medals awarded at the Olympic Games were therefore a source of unease.

The Hockey Association did not affiliate to the Fédération Internationale de Hockey, founded in 1924, membership of which was a condition of participation when hockey re-entered the Olympic programme in 1928. There were no further British hockey

teams at the Olympics until 1948.

Shoveller married Vera Mary (1888–1972) on 2 February 1938, the only daughter of Sir Henry Smith, who had owned a large textile warehouse in the City of London. There were no children. He retired from the Stock Exchange in 1939. In 1947 he moved to Broadstone, Dorset, where he died at his home, White Barn, Dunyeats Road, on 24 February 1959. A memorial service was held at All Souls, Langham Place, London.

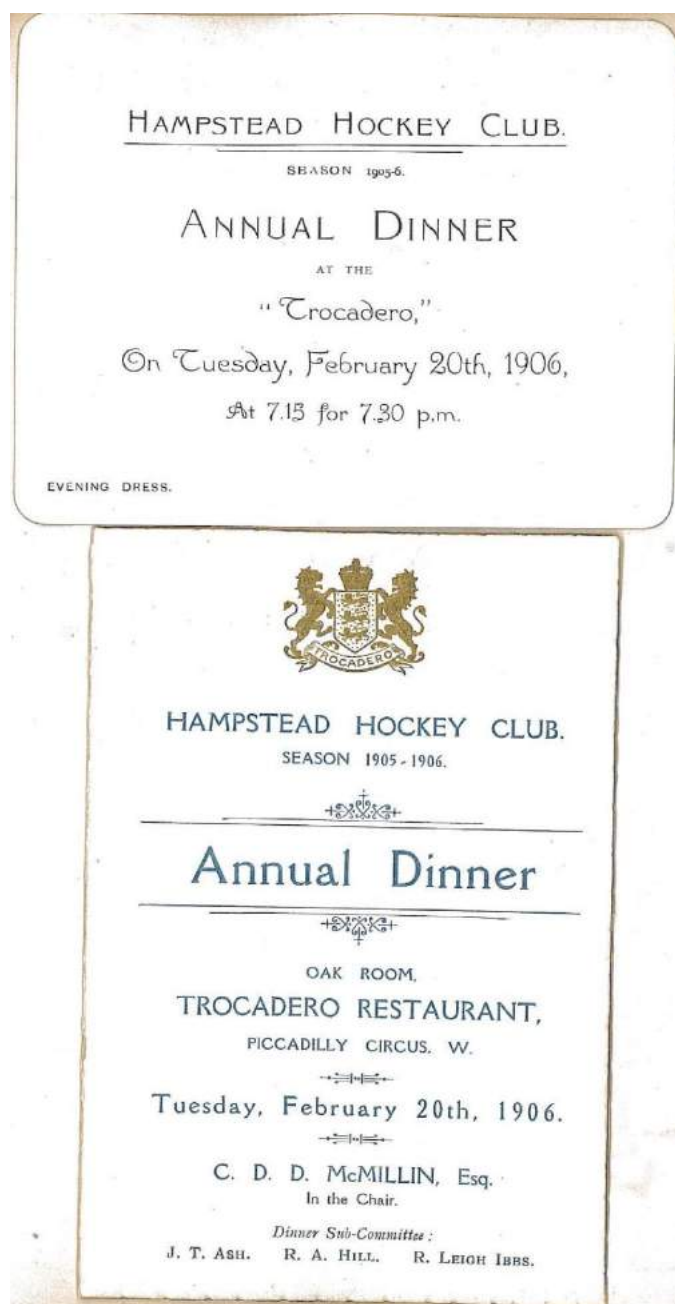


***Take him for all in all, we shall not look upon his like again.***

## Harry Tennent

Harry Tennent was mentioned in the Club's annals in relation to the Annual Dinner that had been instituted in the early 1900's and that was generally held at the Trocadero.

The 1906 menu card is replicated in Colin Greenhalgh's *Short History of Hampstead Hockey Club*, in which Colin queried whether Harry Tennent may have helped with the arrangements for the entertainment or could he have been anticipating the role of the famous impresario?



Hockey News reported that:

*The annual dinner of the Hampstead Hockey Club took place the other evening, at the "Troc.," under the presidency of Mr C.D.D. McMillin. Amongst those present were Messrs. S. H. Shoveller,*

*Gerald Logan, H. M. Tennent, H. R. Jordan, L.G. Campbell, R. A. Hill (captain), S. S. Pawling, E. B. Marsden, H. R. Hebert, E. E. Barnett, J. T. Ash, F. C. Wheeler, R. Leigh Ibbs (hon. secretary).*

*After the usual loyal toasts, the Chairman gave the toast of the Hampstead Hockey Club, tracing the history of the Club from its commencement in 1890, when it was an off-shoot of the Cricket Club. He referred to the great services rendered to the Club by several of its officials, particularly H. B. Hayman (who captained the Club for many years), W. G. Ravenor (one of its oldest members), and R. A. Hill (the present captain). Mr W. G. Ravenor responded. Mr E. L. Marsden gave the health of the chairman in a racy speech. Among the contributors to the after-dinner entertainment were Messrs. Whitworth Mitton, H. M. Tennent, J. T. Ash, Roberts, C. R. Trimen, E. L. Marsden, L. G. Campbell, R. Leigh Ibbs, and Arthur E. Godfrey*

H M Tennent was Honorary Secretary of the Hockey Association at the time and one of his appearances for Hampstead was on its southern tour in April 1907. This included a game against Folkestone and may well have formed part of the very first Folkestone Festival.

Tennent was one of the Umpires in the 1908 Oxford and Cambridge Hockey Match and one of the main chroniclers of the early Varsity Matches, which had started in 1890.

Born on 18 February 1879, Harry Moncrieff Tennent attended Blackheath Collegiate College. At a time when organised sport was expanding at schools and universities, he came on to the scene as a versatile athlete. He played rugby football and was in the College cricket XI. In addition to playing fives and racquets, he is credited with starting the College hockey team.

He went up to Wadham College Oxford in 1897 and was in the University hockey team for four years, being Secretary in 1899 and Captain in 1900 when a half blues for hockey were awarded at Oxford. Cambridge granted half blues in 1894.

He played cricket occasionally for Wadham College and also continued his interest in fives and racquets. On top of all this activity, he became President of the Oxford University Dramatics Society (OUDS) where his lifelong interest in the theatre took root.

Tennent went down in the summer of 1901 and at once took an active role in expanding the organisation of hockey. He began by establishing the Oxford University Occasionals Hockey Club in 1901 and became its Secretary until 1909. By 1913, the Club had 400 members and was organised on similar lines to the Oxford University Authentics (cricket) Club. Cambridge University's counterpart was the Cambridge University Wanderers Hockey Club, formed in 1904. Harry Tennent was made an honorary member.

Tennent was a regular member of Blackheath Hockey Club, becoming its captain. He was also an occasional member with Hampstead for tours and Easter Hockey Festivals.

He played for the South on many occasions and had been appointed Secretary of the Hockey Association until 1909. Even in these early days of the organisation, the Association was laying the foundation of its resolute opposition against any sort of "league", an opposition continued until 1957.

Harry Tennent was also on the Olympic Hockey Board and arranged all the hockey part of the Olympic programme in London in 1908, besides filling the post of Chairman of the new

International Hockey Board. He was Captain of the Kent County Hockey Team from 1903 to 1910. As a member of the Worplesdon Club, he found time and energy to play golf.

All this activity in the sporting field was going on as Harry Tennent was developing his business career. In his early years he was connected with the Board of Agriculture. He then moved and joined Broadwood Pianos, of which he was sub-manager in 1923, a job that suited his musical talents and interests.

But the main part of his life was the running of H.M. Tennent Limited, which he built up to be the most successful impresario business in London's West End for three decades. He became well-known as a theatrical producer, impresario and songwriter.

In March 1929, Harry Tennent and Hugh (*Binkie*) Beaumont met for lunch at Verrey's Restaurant in Regent Street. Already assistant general manager (and general manager of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane), Tennent engaged Beaumont as his assistant to help in booking shows for Moss Empires. They had first worked together in Cardiff. They set up on their own in 1936. Their first production at the Queen's Theatre in 1936 was a failure.

They formed H M Tennent, with offices on the top floor of the Globe Theatre (previously the Hicks Theatre, now the Gielgud) in Shaftesbury Avenue, where they enjoyed great success. Their organisation set exacting standards for their theatre presentations for 30 years.

Kitty Black joined as a secretary in 1937 and remembers Tennent as a tall grey haired figure with horned rimmed glasses. He held himself extremely erect and strode around the small office like an ex-guardsman.

He was the Managing Director of the Drury Lane Theatre and had been responsible for launching Ivor Novello on his incredible string of successes there, *Glamorous Nights*, *Careless Rapture*, *Crest of the Wave* and *Dancing Years*.

Their best loved and remembered production was *The Importance of Being Earnest* with Edith Evans as a triumphant Lady Bracknell and a stellar cast of John Gielgud, Jack Hawkins, Margaret Rutherford, Peggy Ashcroft and Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies. It opened on 14 August 1939 to rave reviews. It was, however, brought to a premature end when war broke out in September 1939 and the Government closed all theatres down temporarily.

The organisation was to suffer an unexpected blow. At midday on 10 June 1941, Harry collapsed on the steps of the United Universities Club in Whitcomb Street, where he went to lunch each day and was rushed to hospital. He was diagnosed with an aneurism and by 8.00pm he was dead at the age of 62.

Nothing had prepared the staff for the shock of losing their Managing Director. By many accounts, he was the soul of courtesy, kindness personified. His relationship with his staff coloured the entire firm's operations. He trusted everyone and relied completely on their good sense and co-operation.

Binkie Beaumont took charge of the business at the age of 32 until he died in March 1973. having been associated with, amongst others, the classic productions of *My Fair Lady* in 1958 at Drury Lane and *West Side Story* at Her Majesty's.

In the House of Commons debate over the Theatrical Companies Bill 1954, accusations were made by the Labour MP, Woodrow Wyatt, that Binkie Beaumont and the Tennent group of companies were legally using an exemption from an Entertainments Duty, then levied by HM Customs & Excise, to their advantage by essentially running a non-profit business alongside a far larger profit-making business that had created a theatrical monopoly with which their competitors could not compete. The Bill was introduced as a measure to control non-profit making theatrical companies but was refused a second reading on 2 April 1954.

There was opposition to the Bill, pointing out that Woodrow Wyatt's was "a strange attitude" to be taken by an MP interested in the theatre and who wished to help it. "Just because Tennents is a successful organisation" it was being looked upon with great suspicion, instead of being congratulating it on its success.

In effect, the basis of the sponsor's argument seemed to be that "if you see something really efficient you should try to destroy it. Tennents is doing nothing wrong. It has no monopoly. Its ideas are open to anyone to adopt if they wish to do so....the only crime committed by Tennents is that it employs Mr. Beaumont who has... a great flair for theatrical productions and a great ability and experience in this field of enterprise But apparently the law must be altered in order to try to make this success into a failure."

Another MP suggested instead of doing something to support the theatre, Woodrow Wyatt had "made a rather bitter attack on it from the point of view of publicity for the theatre. The attack was quite unnecessary. He talked about five of our leading actors being employed by Tennent Productions and implied that it was more or less impossible for other theatres to get anybody who is any good".

It was later said that, "It just happens that the Tennent company and Mr. Beaumont and his supporters on the board have been extremely effective, intelligent and enterprising. There is an appalling amount of jealousy about that sort of thing, and that jealousy is being interpreted in the House today."

H M Tennent Limited was known especially for its later production of *My Fair Lady* between 1961 and 1963 and of *What the Butler Saw* (by Joe Orton) in conjunction with Lewenstein - Delfont Productions Ltd in 1969 at Queen's Theatre, London and *Private Lives* (by Sir Noël Coward) at Theatre Royal Drury Lane, at Queen's Theatre, London and at the Globe Theatre, London.



## Walter Adolphus Baron von Bissing

A relatively brief minute of a committee meeting held immediately after the Annual General Meeting of the Club at the Constitutional Club, Hampstead on 11 September 1909 has led to some intrigue.

At that meeting, it was confirmed that Baron von Bissing, whose application had been proposed by G F Farmiloe and seconded by E L Marsden, had been elected a member of the club.

What is known of Baron von Bissing?

He was Walter Adolphus von Bissing and was born in Schloss Bellmannsdorf in Silesia on 6 July 1855. He must have travelled to London in the early 1880's and made England his home. In 1881, aged 26, he is recorded as living at 2a Granville Place in Marylebone and was married to Louisa Marion von Bissing, who was of the same age. A decade later he was still living in Marylebone. Louisa Marion died on 21 December 1905.

He was also resident in Hove and appears to have become well established there. He was employed as a journalist but does not appear to have made much success of it in financial terms at least. He ran into debt and his landlady, Mrs Abbott, had to take action against him in the Westminster County Court to recover arrears of rent of £8-6-0.

His career always remained a mystery according to press reports. He attributed his plight to "misfortune". He was nominally employed by the principal German conservative newspapers, (according to a report in the *North Otago Times* of 13 November 1915).

On 26 March 1897, he was declared bankrupt but managed to obtain a release on 29 June 1898, presumably on being able to repay the judgment debt. His address was then recorded as 2 Old Quebec Street, in the heart of Marylebone but he was also believed to be living at 80 Landsdowne Place, Hove.

He became a naturalised British citizen<sup>4</sup> in 1906. In 1911, he is recorded as living at 10 Grand Avenue Mansions in Hove. He had married again a year earlier or thereabouts to Mary Charlotte Louisa von Bissing, who was said, later, to be the daughter of an English clergyman. She was 22 years his junior. There are reports in Brighton and Hove that von Bissing "soon blossomed as a wealthy man" and is believed then to have moved within Hove to 31 Adelaide Crescent. He lived there until March 1915.

He became a member of leading Brighton clubs and participated in motor, yacht, rowing swimming "and other phases of sports and pastimes" (of which hockey may have been one, or at least membership of Hampstead Hockey Club, then pre-eminent in English hockey).

It was reckoned that von Bissing's birth (as son to the Chamberlain of the King of Prussia) had opened to him the doors of fashionable society. He had managed to obtain an invitation to attend the wedding of the Princess Royal (Louise, the eldest daughter of King Edward VII and

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<sup>4</sup> If immigrants came to Britain from Ireland or the British colonies, they were called Britons. If they came from elsewhere (including Scotland before 1707) they were called aliens. Foreigners wishing to become English (or later, British) could either apply for *denization* (which made them almost equivalent to native-born Britons and granted them most of a free subject's rights and the protection of the law) or *naturalisation* (which granted them all the rights and made them a subject of the Crown). However, most foreign settlers did not bother to go through these formalities

younger sister of King George V) to the Duke of Fife on 27 July 1889, held in the Private Chapel at Buckingham Palace. He had illustrious neighbours in Adelaide Crescent, including the Sassoons and Baron de Worms.

However, after naturalisation, it was alleged that he frequently mentioned “my Minister in Berlin” that led to deep suspicion that he was employed by the German Secret Service.

Von Bissing once owned a motor yacht that had belonged to the Duke of Westminster. He took considerable interest in things aquatic. He joined Hove Swimming Club. He was regarded as a fine swimmer and in 1914 won the Deep Sea Swimming Club’s handicap race from the West Pier<sup>5</sup> to the Palace Pier (over 1500 metres that is still run today by Brighton Swimming Club).

He was well known for his entertainment of visitors to the Hove Swimming Baths, by exhibitions of high diving and what was called “fancy swimming”. A favourite feat was apparently an imitation of the roar of a seal lion in the water “which never failed to astonish the hearers.” He was always regarded as affluent and able to fund prizes for local sports. He also served as the Honorary Secretary of The Drive Lawn Tennis Club.

According to the *Straits Times* von Bissing remained in Adelaide Crescent until March 1915 “when the attentions of the neighbourhood proved embarrassing.” His work as a journalist for German newspapers had led to greater suspicion, as hostilities began, that he was supplying secret information. He packed his bags and moved back to the West End.

In spite of his citizenship, the onset of the First World War soon put an end to his freedom. A report of 7 September 1915 in the *Straits Times*, entitled *The Alien Peril* was one of the first to cover his internment.

A news item in the *Argus*<sup>6</sup> of 20 September 1915 sheds more light. This contained a report that the appeal by von Bissing against an Order of the British Government issued on 25 July 1915 for his internment as an enemy alien had been disallowed. This date coincides with that given in a statement to Parliament, mentioned in further detail, below.

This newspaper article included an extract from *The Times* in London. This stated that “Baron von Bissing, who is a British subject and had been in England for many years has been regarded with grave suspicion by many people for some time and various efforts have been made to induce the Government to intern him.” It added, “That these suspicions have been to some extent shared with the authorities has been shown by the replies given to questions in the House of Commons.”

“When bombarded with questions from the Opposition benches in the days before the Coalition Government was set up, Mr Tennant found some difficulty in satisfying his questioners and indeed in convincing the House that he was absolutely sure in his own mind that Baron von Bissing was an innocent, unoffending British subject.”

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<sup>5</sup> Once the competitor to the Palace Pier but closed in 1975 and since then severely damaged and partially demolished

<sup>6</sup> The *Argus* was a morning daily newspaper in Melbourne considered to be the general Australian newspaper of record for this period.

Harold “Jack” Tennant was the Under Secretary for War in the second Asquith Ministry, a wartime government that was formed by Herbert Asquith, his brother in law, on 25 May 1915.<sup>7</sup> Tennant was a Scottish Liberal politician and was later succeeded in the Ministry of War by The Earl of Derby, a Conservative, on 6 July 1916.

The “bombardment” had begun in at least February 1914. Tennant had informed the House of Commons that the facts of von Bissing’s German connections had been brought to the attention of Government. He said that the Baron was not involved in secret service work and that the War Office “knew all about him”. For that moment at least, von Bissing had escaped internment. In September 1914, he was leaving the West Pier at Brighton after a swim and was met by the Chief Constable of Brighton and Hove. He was taken to the local police station, where he was detained for three days and then released.

However, several Members of Parliament were reported to have been “unremitting in their efforts to arouse the authorities to the danger of permitting the Baron to be at large”. The response from Harold Tennant and the War Office was regarded as complacent. The *Straits Times* mentioned that “the credit of interning this naturalised Englishman is due to Sir John Simon, the Home Secretary, who is taking a very different view of this peril.”

A report of the *North Otago Times* headlined *The Spy Danger: Famous Baron Interned* also said that the constant pressure of the authorities had “at last been rewarded” by the internment. On 22 September 1915, *The Bystander*<sup>8</sup> featured a photograph of the Baron and Baroness standing outside their house, under the headline *Bissing is Missing* and reported that despite the Authority to intern him, von Bissing had not been averse to the opportunity to “obtain a final souvenir as a free and independent alien.”

It appears that Baron von Bissing was then interned in London from 20 September 1915 until 1918. Between 1914 and 1919 over 32,000 German and Austro-Hungarian civilians in Britain were interned. This took place against rising xenophobia and panic over imagined spies up to the outbreak of war. Public opinion appears to have led to pressure on the Government to act.

The main waves of internment occurred in October 1914 and May 1915 (the latter coinciding with that of von Bissing). They reflected *anti-foreigner* violence in many town and cities in Britain, during which German-owned property was looted or damaged. In some cases, individuals were interred for their own personal safety. But the official Government line was that internment was necessary to safeguard the country and “to appease strong feeling against the Germans roused by atrocities.... in Belgium.”

Germany invaded neutral Belgium on 4 August 1914. From the next day, civilians were executed *en masse*, as the invasion force advanced on its first obstacle, the ring of forts around Liège. To retaliate for the shelling from these forts, the German troops rounded up inhabitants of surrounding villages. Victims were selected and shot, those still alive being killed off with bayonets. By 8 August 1914, nearly 850 civilians were dead.

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<sup>7</sup> The change of government resulted from attacks on the Asquith administration, and particularly on Winston Churchill, by the Conservatives in the aftermath of the Gallipoli disaster, and in the context of the Shell Crisis

<sup>8</sup> was a British weekly tabloid magazine that featured reviews, topical drawings, cartoons and short stories, published from Fleet Street. The magazine ran until 1940, when it merged with *The Tatler* (titled *Tatler & Bystander* until 1968)

The general German advance started on 18 August 1914. By 28 August 1914, the invasion force had crossed Belgium. The ten days in between saw the worst violence. Exhausted from the forced marches and often under the influence of alcohol, the troops committed a series of large-scale massacres, pillaged and burned towns and villages, and deported survivors.

The hardest-hit places were Aarschot on 19 August 1914 and Andenne on 20 August 1915. In the small industrial town of Tamines on the Meuse, 383 inhabitants were killed on 22 August 1914. On 23 August 1914 in Dinant, the worst massacre of the invasion left 674 people (one out of every 10 inhabitants) dead. The treasured University library was burned down in Louvain and 248 civilians were killed. Further south, hundreds of people were executed in the Belgian Ardennes. On one occasion, 122 alleged *francs-tireurs*<sup>9</sup> were killed, in groups of ten. The last were forced to climb on the mound of corpses to be shot.

On a smaller scale, having been invaded, France saw similar killing. The first civilians were shot in the northern Meuse-et Moselle on 9 August 1914. Amongst other massacres, 60 people were killed in Gerbéviller, a large village in Lorraine, on 24 August 1914<sup>10</sup>.

In Britain after a few months of setting internees quietly free between November 1914 and February 1915, the riots resulting from the sinking of the *Lusitania* that broke out in May 1915 resulted in a resumption of a Government move towards wholesale internment of men between the ages of 17 and 55. The total number of men in captivity rose from 12,871 on 13 May 1915 to 32,440 by 22 November 1915.<sup>11</sup>

This was accompanied by attempts to deny captured German submariners the rights afforded to POWs under international law. This move was again justified with reference to German "war crimes" against Allied merchant shipping. However, the policy was soon abandoned after German countermeasures against British military prisoners convinced public opinion that such reprisals only harmed Britain's interests and standing abroad.

Concern for national image also influenced how enemy aliens were treated after their arrest. In spite of the anti-German violence of 1914 and 1915, the conditions inside the camps in Britain were relatively good, as reports of the International Committee of the Red Cross repeatedly confirmed.

In particular, Britain respected class distinctions, allowing privileged *gentlemen's camps* to be set up for wealthier inmates. These were at Douglas on the Isle of Man, where a large number of internees were sent and Lofthouse Park near Wakefield that was described by one inmate as a true *Beamtenstaat* (a bureaucratic state) where "nearly everyone seemed to have a sort of 'official position' of which he was proud".

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<sup>9</sup> Before the War *franc-tireur* was sometimes used for an armed fighter who, if captured, was not necessarily entitled to prisoner of war status. An issue of disagreement at the 1899 Hague Conference, the controversy generated the *Martens Clause*. This was introduced as a compromise between the Great Powers, who considered *francs-tireurs* to be unlawful combatants, subject to execution on capture and smaller states, who maintained that they should be considered lawful combatants. It provided that until a more complete code of the laws of war was issued, in essence, in cases not covered by the law in force, the human person remains under the protection of the principles of humanity and the dictates of the public conscience

<sup>10</sup> *German Atrocities of 1914* by Sophie de Schaepdrijver; Assistant Professor, Penn State University

<sup>11</sup> *Enemy Aliens and Internment* by Matthew Stibbe of Sheffield Hallam University, published in the International Encyclopaedia of the First World War

At no point during the war were women and children interned in Britain. Civilian prisoners were entirely exempt from forced labour. This did not mean that life behind barbed wire was comfortable, but it did suggest that Britain was determined to protect its reputation as a so-called "civilised" nation and to obey its obligations under international law.

The next mention of Baron von Bissing is in relation to the Isle of Man. He crossed to the island with his wife and two children on 3 April 1918. As reported to Parliament (covered below) in 1917, there had been a break down in his health whilst interned in London and, on medical advice, he had been admitted to a Nursing Home in West London until 2 April 1918.

On his release from the Holloway internment camp, his accommodation was taken up by Philip de László, the Hungarian painter, renowned for his portraits of royalty and aristocracy and who, despite marriage to a member of the Guinness family and five British sons, was interned for 12 months between 1917 and 1918. László had been arrested on 2 September 1917 and was held in Brixton Prison. He was transferred to Holloway that, as a former workhouse as opposed to prison, he found, hardly surprisingly, to be more beneficial. Further, von Bissing had arranged with Mrs Lucy de László, to leave her husband his furniture "and the use of his personal servant".

On his recovery, von Bissing was transferred to the Isle of Man, pursuant to an Order of the Secretary of State. This Order gave the Lieutenant-Governor of the island power to determine von Bissing's residence and to make other regulations concerning him.

There was reportedly a small demonstration as the von Bissing household arrived at Douglas Harbour. However, it was said that it did not take long before the Manx people became accustomed to the presence of the family, who were able to move about freely and "without the slightest inconvenience."

This did not stop further Parliamentary scrutiny. On 11 April 1918, in the House of Commons, Major Rowland Hunt, the MP for Ludlow, "asked for what reason Baron von Bissing, brother to the late German Governor of Belgium, has been released from internment and allowed to live at large with his family in the Isle of Man; whether he and his family and servants are allowed to associate freely with the people in the Island; whether all the letters and telegrams written and received by him and his family and servants are strictly censored; and whether he or any of his household are allowed to use a telephone?"

The reply was by Sir George Cave<sup>12</sup>, then Home Secretary, who said that "Mr. Walter von Bissing, who was a half-brother of the late German Governor of Belgium and was naturalised in England in 1906, was interned on 20 September 1915. In the latter part of 1917, he was in a serious state of health, and his case was referred to an independent medical practitioner, who advised that further internment would be likely to have fatal results. His case was also referred to the Advisory Committee, who advised that von Bissing might be released "under proper conditions without any risk to the public safety or the defence of the realm". His release was sanctioned, first to a nursing home, where he underwent an operation and afterwards to the Isle of Man. His residence there was subject to strict conditions, including a restriction, without permission, on

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<sup>12</sup> George Cave, 1st Viscount Cave GCMG PC KC was a British lawyer and Conservative politician. He was Home Secretary under David Lloyd George from 1916 to 1919 and served as Lord Chancellor of Great Britain from 1922 to 1924 and again from 1924 to 1928. He was described by Roy Jenkins in his biography of Asquith, published 1964, perhaps too harshly, as the least distinguished Lord Chancellor in the first three decades of the twentieth century.

communicating “directly or indirectly, with any alien or with any person outside the Isle of Man”. Letters and telegrams written and received by him and his household were censored and they were not allowed the use of a telephone”.

It was noted on the island that during the 15 months that von Bissing spent there, he complied with every restriction placed upon him and not infrequently when in doubt as to doing something or recording anything in writing, he would make the point of attending the Government Office for a direction.

When the Certificates of Naturalisation (Revocation) Committee, set up under the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Acts 1914-1918, investigated Baron von Bissing’s case in July 1919, the Committee “was not satisfied that von Bissing has shown himself by speech or act to be disaffected or disloyal to His Majesty King George V”.

The Committee was established on 20 August 1918 and was chaired by a High Court judge, usually Mr Justice Atkin or Mr Justice Salter. Its other members were Viscount Hambleden and Judge Radcliffe. It was intended as a high ranking body. Its recommendations were bound to be accepted by the Secretary of State. It was largely autonomous and sat generally in private. It had all the powers of a court in relation to evidence and could compel witnesses.

Section 7 of the Act gave the Secretary of State power to revoke a certificate of naturalisation (that could leave a person stateless) on five stated grounds. The majority of its cases were decided on a disloyalty category. Between 1918 and 1937, 273 Certificates were cancelled<sup>13</sup>

On the finding in the von Bissing case, the Secretary of State for the Home Department (as it then was) decided that his Certificate of naturalisation was not to be revoked.

It is likely that a large influence in the pressure brought to bear that preceded his internment and the manner in which his case was dealt with was that of his half-brother, the one-time German Governor of Belgium, mentioned in the Parliamentary answer of April 1918. This certainly gave rise to the deep suspicions in the days that preceded the War, when he was living in Hove.

**Moritz Ferdinand Freiherr von Bissing** was the son of Moritz von Bissing, a member of the landed gentry who was known to speak his mind to the Kaiser. In 1865, the son entered the Prussian Army as a Lieutenant in the cavalry. He soon saw active service in the Austro-Prussian War and the Franco-Prussian War.

Gaining steady promotion, in 1887 he was appointed as an aide-de-camp to the crown Prince, who later became the Emperor Wilhelm II. He served in the Guards Cavalry until 1897, when he was given command of the 29th Infantry Division.

From 1901 until 1907, Moritz von Bissing commanded the VII Army Corps in Münster. In 1902 he was promoted to General of the Cavalry, and he retired from the Army in 1908. After his retirement, he was a strong tennis player and appeared in the 1912 Wimbledon Championships but lost in the second round.

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<sup>13</sup> *Control of Alien Civilians in Great Britain 1914-1918* by J C Bird, published by Routledge

Upon the outbreak of the First World War, Moritz von Bissing was recalled to active duty as deputy commander of the VII Army Corps, serving in that post from August until November 1914.

After the fall of Belgium during the early months of the War, he was promoted to Generaloberst and appointed as Governor-General of occupied Belgium, serving from December 1914 until a few days before his death in 1917.

As governor-general, Moritz von Bissing carried through the German Flamenpolitik, during which he netherlandized Ghent University to make it the first solely Dutch-speaking university in Belgium. As the German Chancellor encouraged Flemish nationalist leaders to declare independence and to integrate into the German sphere, Moritz von Bissing convened a commission to organise the division of Belgium, issuing a decree on 21 March 1917 that separated Belgium into two administrative areas, Flanders and Wallonia. This was the first attempt at dividing Belgium along linguistic lines.

Taking into account the decision by Walloon nationalists in 1912 to recognize Namur as the central city of Wallonia, von Bissing established the Walloon administration there. The Flemish region had Brussels as its capital and was made up of the four northern provinces of Belgium, as well as the districts of Brussels and Leuven.

In April 1917 a chronic lung ailment forced Mortiz von Bissing to resign his post as Governor-General. He succumbed to his illness very soon and died near Brussels on 18 April 1917.

He is frequently associated with signature to the death warrant of the English nurse, Edith Cavell. However, Hugh Gibson, who was the Secretary of America's Legation at Brussels at the time of her execution (and later published a *Diplomatic Diary* in 1917) has said that he was informed by Baron von der Lancken (the Chief of the Political Department) that the ratification of the sentence of the Court was carried out by General von Sauberschweig, the Military Governor of *Brussels* and not by Mortiz von Bissing, who was the German Governor-General of **Belgium**.

Hardly anything further is known of Walter Adolphus von Bissing after his release from internment, save that he embarked with his wife from Dover on 30 November 1919 by ship to Buenos Aires and returned on 25 June 1920. In 1924 and 1925 he travelled, again by ship, from Southampton to Genoa and is believed to have taken up residence (possibly on a temporary basis) in San Remo in Italy. He died there on 30 June 1926 at Villa Carina.





## Paddington Recreation Ground

The origins of Paddington Recreation Ground date back to 1886 and a local campaign to create a recreation ground to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887.

In common with most of Maida Vale at the time, the land had originally been intended for residential development. Pressure had arisen because of the conflicting requirements of landowner and developer. Unable to agree their respective proportions of development gain, momentum was gained to establish the area for recreation in a borough that had urgent need for it. Increasing public exposure led to embarrassment and the developer withdrew from the project.

Cricket had been played by boys on Paddington Green in 1815, to the local Vestry's annoyance (the Vestry being an administrative fore runner to a Parish Council). Maida Vale Cricket Club was formed in 1846 and Westbourne Cricket Club in 1852. Westbourne C C used a field in Harrow Road, opposite the workhouse, in 1857. There were several local teams in 1870, including the Goldbourne and Nonsuch clubs, both from Upper Westbourne Park and Greville House from Paddington Green. Groups of workers, such as the Bayswater Bakers and, by 1875, employees of Whiteley's also formed clubs.

There was considerable pressure for local facilities for the playing of sport. Throughout the 1870s, home matches were usually played by cricketers outside the parish, at Shepherd's Bush or Kensington Park. The shortage of local land prompted Richard (later Sir Richard) Melvill Beachcroft, a solicitor and the treasurer of Paddington Cricket Club, to start his campaign for the purchase of Paddington Recreation Ground.

He accepted a yearly underlease of nine acres as a site for a Grand Festival for The Aged, Poor and Children of the Parish in the hope that on its expiry, a final attempt would be made to secure the site as a playing ground for local use.

Money was raised and the Grand Festival took place on 7 July 1887. The *Daily Telegraph* reported the event and reckoned that "there was more behind this movement than just this enjoyable scene. Paddington has no playground. A township of 120,000, equal to a third of municipal town, has no open spaces for football or cricket".

There then followed the national slump in 1887. With no alleviation of evident distress and no proposals to tackle the problems it generated, Lord Randolph Churchill, a resident of 2 Connaught Place, took the initiative. The Fund for the Paddington Unemployed was formed and raised £1,800. The underlease negotiated by Mr Beachcroft also provided work for men in fencing and creating an athletics track and an area for cycling, with part of the local relief fund being used to pay for labour. The pavilion was built in 1888 and used originally for refreshments and as a grandstand.

The Prince of Wales and his wife Alexandria accepted an invitation to attend the Recreation Ground in 1890. Lord Churchill was also in attendance. Despite inclement weather, many activities, including athletics, took place. In 1890 the ground was being used by six cricket clubs.

The royal visit stimulated further benevolence from those previously reluctant to donate. Lord Churchill was able to announce a gift of £1,000 from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and

within ten days the Paddington Vestry appointed a special committee and resolved to raise half of the cost of acquiring the Recreation Ground if the other half could be subscribed privately.

This spurred the parishes of St Marylebone, Hampstead and Willesden to contribute £8,000. A further £3,000 was raised from the Trustees of the Paddington Estate, the original developer of the site. In 1893 the recently formed London County Council gave £6,000 to facilitate the acquisition of a further two and a half acres. In June 1893, the Paddington Recreation Ground Act was passed to authorise the purchase by the Vestry “to provide the residents with a public recreation ground”.

In 1896 the Recreation Ground was established as a charitable trust enabling it to raise funds for any public recreational purpose. The Ground subsequently became the responsibility of Paddington Borough Council (and now Westminster City Council). The London County Council provided for other sports including the running and cycling tracks.

Melvill Beachcroft became the Deputy Chairman of the London County Council between 1896 and 1897. He became Vice President between 1897 and 1898. In 1904 he succeeded to the baronetcy and became Sir Melvill Beachcroft. He was appointed Chairman of the LCC between 1909 and 1910. He died in 1926.

In 2010, after further improvement to the Ground undertaken by the City of Westminster, with work completed to the Pavilion and the opening of the new Gym and Fitness suite, the Pavilion was named after Richard Beachcroft. At the same time, the Randolph entrance was re-named as The Randolph Churchill Gate to recognise the debt owed to these men for securing the land and developing Paddington Recreation Ground for the community.

## Annual Dinners: the beginnings

Annual Dinners featured significantly in the calendar of Hampstead Cricket Club and it is assumed that once it had become established, the same concept was adopted by Hampstead Hockey Club.

They seemed to be organised on the same lines, with a Chairman and Dinner Committee. There would be a good number of distinguished guests, many amusing after dinner speeches, raconteurs and singers, frequently members of the club. The Dinner Invitation Cards, menus and toasts appeared to be adopted equally by the Hockey Club, as were the number of food courses.

The first indication of a wish by the Hockey Club to celebrate with an annual dinner appears at the Annual General Meeting held on 10 September 1904 at the Constructional Club in Hampstead, when a Dinner Committee was formed. H R Hebert, F C Wheeler R Leigh Ibbs and J T Ash were appointed.

Frank Wheeler had participated, along with Robert Leigh-Ibbs, in the Annual Dinner for the Cricket Club on 7 March 1901 at the Empire Hall of the Trocadero at Piccadilly Circus. According to the Cricket Club's historian Freddie Monro, this was "one of the most successful functions ever held under the auspices of the Club".

After the loyal toast, the Club Chairman proposed the health of the Cricket Club and this was responded to by Mr Wheeler, described by Monro as "one of the most perfect after dinner speaker I have ever heard".

Frank Wheeler, then the Hockey Club Secretary, gave formal notice of the Hockey Club Dinner, which he had agreed to chair, to be convened on 2 March 1905 also at the Trocadero, at 7.15pm for 7.30pm, with tickets costing 7/- each, "The Committee hopes that all Members will make the point of attending". No other details of that Annual Dinner have been discovered.

But it was repeated in the next season, convened at the Oak Room of the same venue on 20 February 1906 and organised by a committee of R A Hill, J T Ash and R Leigh Ibbs. C D McMillin was in the chair. A dinner card has been kept.

The Dinner was later reported in *Hockey News*, as mentioned earlier<sup>14</sup>.

Robert Leigh Ibbs (or *Slibbs*, as he was known) who had provided entertainment at the Dinner, was elected as a member of Hampstead Hockey Club on 23 November 1895. He played first team cricket for Hampstead Cricket Club and was well known as a chronicler of the times for the club. He was described as a most vigorous and red-faced of men. He was equally busy at the Hockey Club, taking over as Secretary in the 1905-6 season and fulfilling that role for two years.

Slibbs was relied upon to ensure the quality of the dinner entertainment and always persuaded Robert Kennerly Rumford and Henry Squire to attend the Cricket Club Annual Dinners. In particular, at the 1901 Annual Dinner, Kennerly Rumford "most generously" gave his services and was "warmly received for his splendid rendition of *When the Swallows Homewards Fly* and

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<sup>14</sup> See pages 29-30

*The Old Grey Fox.*” Harry Lauder also appeared at this Dinner and “evoked roars of laughter with his three humorous songs”.

Robert Kennerly Rumford was a baritone, well known for his performance of the Oratorio. Following his marriage to the well-known contralto, Clara Bell, he toured with her all over the English-speaking world, with a repertoire of more popular songs. He was born in Hampstead in 1870 and educated in London, Frankfurt and Paris. He married Clara when aged 22. She died in 1936 and he remarried five years later. His reputation was made with more serious works such as Bach’s *St Matthews’ Passion* and Brahms’ *Ernesto Gesange*.

However, with Clara he performed Grand Concerts at the Royal Albert Hall and toured the world. He also served in World War One between 1914 and 1917 and later with the Special Intelligence Department of the War Office. Between 1909 and 1920, he made a number of recordings for HMV and from 1915 for Columbia Records, He died aged 86 in March 1957.

William Henry Squire was born in 1871 and was a cellist, composer and music professor. He studied the cello at the Royal College and Guildhall Schools of Music. He was principal cellist in several major London orchestras and helped make the cello popular as a solo instrument. He was especially well known for his performances of Elgar’s and Saint Saens’ cello concertos. His legacy may well be his collection of student-level works for the cello and piano that are included in string teaching syllabuses, including those of the Associated Board of the Royal School of Church Music.

At the turn the century, he made frequent concert tours of the provinces of England as a soloist with Clara Butt and Robert Kennerly Rumford – hence his appearances at the Hampstead Cricket Club Annual Dinners.

In 1906, Robert Leigh-Ibbs formed a concert agency with John Tillet. The agency became for the greater part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as well known and regarded as the equal of Marks & Spencer’s influence on the High Street. It represented an unmatched number of international stars, such as Clara Butt, Fritz Kriesler, Pablo Casals, Sergei Rachmaninov, Andreas Segovia, Kathleen Ferrier, Myra Hess, Jacqueline du Pre, Julian Lloyd Webber, Clifford Curzon and Vladimir Ashkenazy.

The legacy of Ibbs & Tillet is said to have remained a benchmark for the current competitive world of artist management and concert promotion, many of whose principal operators began their working lives as *ibblets*.

After their deaths, the agency was run by John Tillet’s wife, Emmie, who was dubbed the *Duchess of Wigmore Street* and became one of the most formidable and yet respected women in British music.

## Sholto Marcon

Sholto Marcon is frequently credited as one of four Hampstead players to have played in Great Britain's (or England's) gold medal winning team in the 1920 Olympic Games in Antwerp. That he played is beyond doubt but he actually joined Hampstead after the tournament. His application to join beforehand had rather mysteriously (at least to a modern eye) been rejected, as it was felt that he could not guarantee to play regularly enough. He nonetheless gained sufficient accolades to be associated predominantly as a Hampstead man.

Charles Sholto Wyndham Marcon was born on 31 March 1890 in Headington, Oxford. He was the son of Charles Adby Marcon, a curate in the Church of England, who became well-known for the re-naming in 1891 of Marcon Hall in Oxford University, one of the permanent private halls of the University, when he succeeded W H Charsley as Master. Charles Marcon was also known as a pioneer of hockey at the University.

Sholto Marcon was educated at Lancing. He played 1<sup>st</sup> XI cricket there in 1907 and 1908. There is a record of the game between Lancing College and Eastbourne College on 6 June 1907 and against Hurstpierpont College on 24 June 1907. In 1908, his participation in three matches is recorded, against St John's School, Leatherhead on 6 June 1908, against Eastbourne College on 13 June 1908 and Brighton College on 11 July 1908.

He went on to Oriel College at Oxford, where he won hockey blues for four consecutive years, from 1910. In his final year he captained the team.

After University, he moved to the north of England and played for Oxton. He represented Cheshire and the North.

As hockey was not selected as an Olympic sport in the 1912 games convened in Stockholm, he played for England in the 1912 Hamburg tournament. The German Olympic Council organised the tournament and the Hockey Association, of which Hampstead's Stanley Shoveller was Honorary Secretary from 1906-1912, entered an England team, as mentioned earlier. The tournament was considered to be an adequate substitute for the Olympic Games. Shoveller scored four times in the 8-3 victory over Germany and a hat trick against Austria, in which Marcon outscored him, with five goals, in a 10-0 defeat.

On the outbreak of war in 1914, Marcon was commissioned into the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, as a second lieutenant.

He features in *The Story of the 2/4th Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry*, a diary account written by Captain G. K. Rose KC (published in, 1920).

*It is morning of 22 February, 1917. Colonel Bellamy and his four company commanders are setting out to reconnoitre the new front line. Guides are to meet us at Deniécourt Château, a heap of chalk slabs and old bricks, beneath which are Brigade Headquarters. To reach this rendez-vous\_ we pass through Foucaucourt and then along a corduroy road through Deniécourt Wood to the village of that name. Dismal surroundings on a dismal morning, for the frost has relented for several days and already sides of trenches are collapsing (flop go the chunks into the water!) and on top the ground is loading one's boots at every step.*

*We change into gumboots in an old cellar and our journey commences. See the Colonel, Cuthbert, Marcon, Brown, Stockton, Robinson and myself lead off down a communication trench behind a guide, pledged to take us to the Berks Headquarters. The going is desperate – water up to our knees; however, each hundred yards brings our goal nearer, and it can hardly be like this all the way.*

*We come to a trench junction, and our guide turns left-handed; presently another –the guide knows the way and again turns to the left. Confound the mud! If we do not get there soon we shall never be home for lunch ... but we do not get there soon. The guide, always protesting that he knows the way, has led us in a circle and here we are whence we started an hour ago!*

*After such well-meaning mockery of our efforts, a route 'over the top' is tried. Soon we are outside Battalion Headquarters of the Berks. Whilst we are there, German gas shelling starts—a few rounds of phosgene—and helmets require to be adjusted. It is not everybody's helmet that fits, this being the first real occasion on which some officers have worn them. There is some laughing to see the strictest censor of a gas helmet (or its absence) in difficulties with his own, when the moment for its adjustment has arrived.*

Sholto Marcon had first been selected for England in 1913 and went on to win 23 international caps. In the 1920's he, with Stanley Shoveller and S H Saville, were virtually automatic choices for England. He resumed his international hockey career after the War and became a prolific goalscorer that led to his selection by England for the 1920 Olympics. He was the sole northern-based player in the squad. He played in both wins by England and scored a hat trick in the 12-1 defeat of Belgium.

After the Olympic Games, he took up club and county hockey in Sussex and in 1921, was appointed to a teaching post at Cranleigh School and became its first coach of hockey. He is widely acknowledged as responsible, in large part, for the development of the game in that school. He continued until 1936, when he left to become ordained.

Until 1916, there were two major sports at Cranleigh; cricket in the summer and football in the winter. In 1916 the School opted to take up rugby in the autumn term, a move later deemed a success within a season. In 1919 hockey was therefore introduced in the Easter term. But it said to have made very little impact for several years.

In December 1921, the first Old Cranleighans side took the field when they beat the School by a score of 4-3, with prolific goalscorer, Eric Abbott, scoring a hat-trick. Considering that hockey had only been played for two seasons, it was thought commendable that the old boys were able to raise a team. This fixture then continued to be played each March. In 1929, Marcon was appointed a Vice President of Old Cranleighans Hockey Club, a post he held until his death 30 years later.



*There may be some doubt as to the date of that first fixture, as this photograph from 1929 claims to be of the teams in the first Old Boys v School match in 1928-9. Sholto Marcon is seated, fourth from the left.*

Sholto Marcon had been elected to Hampstead Hockey Club on 5 September 1924. He was another recommended to the Club by Jack Bennett, probably as a result of the latter's continuing connections with the University.

He was described as "probably the greatest inside-left who ever played for England". He was noted for an exceptional sense of *position* and excellent ball control. These qualities found expression to his exploitation of the through pass, of which he was an acknowledged master.

He played for Hampstead for seven seasons until 1931. He continued to play representative hockey until 1935, when he was aged 45.

Upon leaving his teaching career, he was first appointed to Kennington Church on the outskirts of Ashford in Kent. In the Second World War, he served as a Chaplain to the Royal Air Force and rose to the rank of Squadron Leader. After the War, he returned as incumbent to Tenterden and served there until his death on 17 November 1959.

Marcon was also well regarded as a coach of hockey and wrote several tutorial books about the sport. He also wrote for *Boys Own Paper*, among them

*The Hockey Game* March 1922  
*Hockey for Boys* February 1923  
*Helpful Hints on Hockey* March 1927  
*Hockey and the Schools* November 1929

*Hockey for All* February 1937  
*Common Faults in School Hockey* March 1938  
*Moves that tell in Hockey* March 1940

There was other hockey writing, too, including this reproduced below from 1934, for an unidentified newspaper.

### **Getting Ready for the Season** **Hampstead's Trial Game**

This is the time of year when summer and winter games can be played on the same day. But on Saturday the cricket stumps which I saw erected on a well-known pitch near Thames Ditton were not likely to be disturbed by any ball, as the rain was coming down in torrents. It had little effect however on football and hockey grounds, and at Richmond to the accompaniment of cries of, "Wasps! Wasps!" from an adjoining ground where the London Scottish lost by the odd point, Hampstead HC played their second trial match prior to opening the season against Dulwich next Saturday.

As I saw the familiar – to me especially familiar – blue and white shirts, my thoughts turned to the pre-war days when S H Shoveller was in his prime. With "Shove" in the attack, partnered by G Logan and with the support of such players as C H and R E Eiloart, J H Bennett and G F Farmiloe, the Hampstead side must have been a terror to most London teams.

Certainly at Oxford round about 1909 whenever SHS was seen leading his men on to the old Varsity ground near South Parks Road, one knew the fight would be especially grim and if the 'varsity centre half failed to shadow his famous opponent, all would be lost.

The ground was very hard below the half inch of moist soil occasioned by the rain and owing to the dry summer, some bare patches were to be seen, though the ball ran well. I might mention that the indefatigable honorary secretary, M M Wyatt told me that it is hoped to acquire shortly an adjoining ground for the use of the second eleven.

### **Two Serious Losses**

The players seemed very fit but it was a pity that few of the old first eleven members were able to turn out. I understand, however, that most of them will be available this season, the two most serious losses, perhaps, being B Trimmer, the goalkeeper and J F Alston, the old Cambridge outside left. The latter, I hear, has joined Bromley, though this rumour was not confirmed. If it is true, it will mean the Kent team should be especially strong. To replace Trimmer, Hampstead hope to have the services of H E Ascoli, now down from Oxford, while Alston's place will probably be filled by D F Kerr, a Cambridge Wanderer and a new recruit.

In Saturday's game, Colours' forwards were far the better line and were well led by J C Sankey. Kerr did well on the left wing and is a fast runner. Closer ball control and the abolition of the reversed stick centre will help to improve his game. Sanders, an old Lawrentian, and left half supported Kerr closely and demonstrated the value of the cross pass to the right.

On the Whites' side, captain R L Milsted, who played for the Rest v England last year, turned out and set a good example to some of the younger members of the club by his tackling, positioning



and passing. The backs were recruits from a school eleven and when they have learnt to be much quicker on the ball they should be useful.

So far as next Saturday's game is concerned, Hampstead will probably call up H E Ascoli S Fickling, A E Legett R L Milsted B M Bird O G Jones A G Hardie C A Hinds Howell J G Chappell I M Milsted D F Kerr. It is hoped that by next March there will be more "W"s on the fixture card and not so many "D"s as last season when 12 games were drawn.

Following Sholto's death, Douglas Goodbody wrote to *The Times* on 2 December 1959 from oversea (*sic*) and said that he hoped that the death of Reverend Charles Marcon announced in the newspaper's columns would not pass without notice, for "he was one of the finest hockey players of his or any subsequent generation". He added that he had had "the good fortune to play in his company in the period between the two wars and his stick-work and energy were unsurpassed. When persuaded to play he retained his skill at the end of the last war. As with many great games players, he was both modest and kind."

A few days later, an Old Cranleigh cricketer, C B Blackshaw, also wrote to *The Times* to add to Mr Goodbody's tribute. He said that, "Sholto Marcon was probably the greatest inside-left who played for England at hockey" and "one of the famous trio of inside forwards - S H Shoveller, S H Saville and himself, who were automatic choices for England in the early twenties". He went on to say that, "he was passionately fond of hockey and, apart from being a brilliant performer himself, he was a magnificent and inspiring coach and wrote a good deal about the game. He was also a more than useful cricketer and a very keen fisherman. Above all, though, he was a great Christian and a loyal and charming friend."

Mention of Sholto Marcon's cricketing career prompts a brief review of its resumption in 1953. He represented the Canterbury Clergy against Chichester Clergy at Poplar Meadow in Tonbridge on 4 June, in the Church Times Cricket Cup, when his side won by one wicket, scoring 175-9 (of which Ronald Perfect scored 139, some 79% of the total). He also played for them in July 1954, when they reached the quarter final of the Church Times Cricket Cup, when they won by 36 runs at Sutton Valence School.

In 1958, the Canterbury Clergy improved their record and beat Gloucester Clergy by six wickets in the semi-final at London Road, Bagshot, when Sholto Marcon did not bat. But they lost the final of the Cup on 4 September 1958 at the Walker Ground in Southgate to Blackburn Clergy by 82 runs. The Canterbury Clergy could only manage 46 in their innings, of which Marcon scored 2. By this time, he was aged 68. It was a year before his death.



## **B G Lampard-Vachell**

Benjamin Garnet Lampard-Vachell was elected as a member of Hampstead Hockey Club on 16 September 1921. He had already been capped by Wales in the 1919-20 season and played against England and Scotland, at right back.

He represented Gloucestershire from 1911 to 1914. He played in the Cambridge University Freshmen's match in 1913. He was given a place in two of the University trial games in 1913-14. He toured in Germany and Denmark with Mr. A. E. Y. Terrestrial's XI of Oxford and Cambridge Wanderers during the Easter of 1914.

On the outbreak of war later that year, when the playing of club hockey came to a halt, he had to wait until the 1919-20 season, when he was given a trial in the Cambridge University Seniors' match. He also took part in the University trials in the following season. When apparently on the brink of a place in the Light Blues' team, it was discovered that he had exceeded the residential limit at Cambridge and he was not qualified to play for them.

This led to his decision to join Hampstead. He was then by then playing county hockey for Glamorgan, which he continued from 1920 until 1923 and in all the international matches for Wales. He was appointed captain of Wales in 1924, by when he had won eight caps.



*Lampard-Vachell on the left with the ball and Sholto Marcon (Gold medal winning Olympian in 1920) to the right.*

He was distinguished in that he played with a pince-nez or sometimes wearing spectacles but this is reported not to have interfered with his general play. He was known as a fine tackler, with rare judgment and rapid recovery if beaten by a forward, being tolerably speedy. He was also known as a strong and clean hitter of the ball.

He is reported to have enjoyed playing against England's forwards, as this was something he did in his ordinary club hockey at Hampstead. There is little doubt that he had the good fortune to be playing alongside such a master of back-play as Jack Bennett: able to improve his own game by watching the renowned English international in his methods.

In October 1923, *Hockey News* reported that he was "well set up, of fine physique, very dashing in his play, fast on the ball and a sound and judicious hitter, the Welsh International has developed his game until he is undoubtedly one of the leading full-backs in the four countries".

He went on to win 26 caps for Wales that, in equivalent terms today, would be in the region of 250 matches. On one occasion as captain, he opposed England under the captaincy of Jack Bennett, causing Hampstead Hockey Club to pass a resolution at its committee meeting held on 4 March 1924:

*That this Committee congratulates Messrs J H Bennett and B G Lampard-Vachell upon the honour again of being selected as captain of the English and Welsh XI's respectively and that the Hon Sec be instructed to convey the terms of this resolution to the gentlemen indicated.*

Lampard-Vachell's family story is a little unusual. According to the 1851 census returns, Charles Vachell junior was born in Exeter in about 1785 and William Vachell was born in Cardiff in about 1789. Charles and William were both druggists, who later acquired land and property in Cardiff and elsewhere. They both served as councillors and later became aldermen of the city of Cardiff. Further property was acquired in and around Cardiff by the younger son, William Vachell and later by his son, Frederick Charles Vachell that passed to Loder Wilkins Tanfield Vachell.

But by 1900 this line of the Vachell family had moved away from Glamorgan. As Loder Vachell had no son, he left his property to the son of his housekeeper, Benjamin Garnet Lampard, but on condition that he changed his name to Lampard-Vachell, which he did by deed poll, the record of which was published in the *London Gazette* of 8 September 1914.

**BENJAMIN GARNET LAMPARD-VACHELL**,  
heretofore called and known by the name of Benjamin Garnet Lampard, of "Lansdown Park," Bath, in the county of Somerset, Gentleman, hereby give public notice, that on the 18th day of August, 1914, in compliance with the last will of Loder Wilkins Tanfield Vachell, deceased, dated the 18th day of August, 1898, I assumed and adopted and designated theretofore on all occasions whatsoever to use the surname of "Vachell," in addition to the surname of "Lampard," but as my last and principal surname; and I hereby give further notice, that by a deed poll, dated the 18th day of August, 1914, duly executed and attested and enrolled in the Central Office of the Supreme Court, on the 20th day of August, 1914, I declared that I had determined to assume and theretofore to adopt and use the surname of "Vachell," in addition to the said surname of "Lampard," and as my last and principal surname.  
—Dated the 18th day of August, 1914.  
BENJAMIN GARNET LAMPARD-VACHELL,  
late Benjamin Garnet Lampard.

When at Pembroke College, Cambridge, Lampard-Vachell was involved in archaeology, reported upon by the *Daily Express*. With an assistant, he uncovered three coffins in the ruins of Beaulieu Abbey, in the New Forest. One contained the skeleton of what is believed to have been a soldier killed in battle during the Wars of the Roses.

In the First World War, he was a technical officer in the Admiralty and Air Ministry in the War Department. He later trained as a barrister and was admitted to Middle Temple in 1920. He then pursued a political career. The 1923 general election led to a hung parliament and following the collapse of a short-lived minority Labour government, another general election was held in October 1924. Lampard-Vachell was selected by the Conservative party as its new candidate for the seat of Wednesbury, north west of Birmingham, and one of the oldest parts of the Black Country. Despite a drop in the Labour vote, Alfred Short MP held the seat by a slim majority. Lampard-Vachell polled 17,832 votes and reduced the Labour majority from 1,019 to 338.

The Club Had confirmed its support of its member's candidature. After the result, Lampard-Vachell responded to the Club on 3 November 1924.

13 SELWYN GARDENS,  
CAMBRIDGE.

3.11.24.

Dear Bryant,

Please thank the  
Committee & members of the Hampstead  
Hockey Club for the letter of good  
wishes they sent me at the  
General Election.

I am sorry I have had to  
disappoint you - I presume now  
you will institute your threat

He thanked the Committee and members for their good wishes and expressed his sorrow in disappointing them, presuming that they would now institute their threat and relegate him to the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI! He said that he did not mind "as long as I get my game of hockey on Saturday afternoon that at least is one criterion now that I have been beaten at the polls".

He considered standing in the 1929 election in the South Molton constituency in rural Devon. However he is reported to have stood aside in favour of George Lambert MP, who had lost his seat at the 1924 General Election to the Conservative candidate but regained it in 1929.

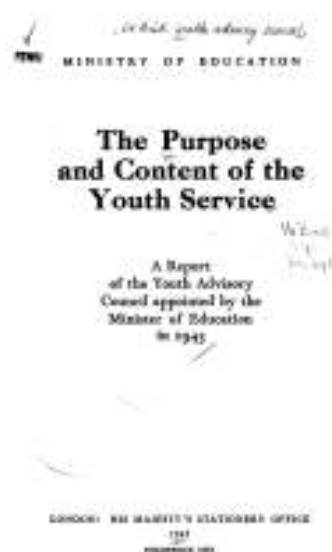
In 1932, he took up residence at Weare Gifford Hall in Weare Gifford, a village located between Bideford and Torrington. His first wife had died in 1931 and he re-married, moving into the Hall and renting it from the Fortescue family.



It was not the end of his political ambition. In 1935, he was selected by the North-West Devon Conservative Association as the Conservative Party candidate at Barnstaple in North Devon, defending the seat from Sir Basil Peto, who had held it for the Conservatives in the 1931 General Election, with a majority over the Liberal party of 1,710. He faced the same Liberal Party candidate, Richard Thomas Dyke Acland, but on this occasion the seat fell to the Liberals, with a small majority of 454.

After the Second World War, in which he served as an RAF Pilot Officer, Lampard-Vachell turned to a career in education and became more involved in local politics. In 1944 he was appointed Sheriff of Devon, the Queen's representative for the County, with judicial, ceremonial and administrative functions. He became Mayor of Torrington and a local Justice of the Peace.

He was a member of the Youth Advisory Council that sat in 1943 and in 1945 published a report that examined the nature and shape of the Youth Service after the War. A second Report *The Purpose and Content of the Youth Service* followed shortly. In contrast to the first, it was considered largely to be factual and descriptive and was more theoretical and speculative.



In 1956, the University College of the South West of England that had come into being in 1922, was granted a Royal Charter by the Queen on a royal visit on 8 May and so became the University of Exeter. Lampard-Vachell had for several years served as its Treasurer and subsequently, in the words of the Charter:

*Our trusty and well beloved Benjamin Garnet Lampard-Vachell, Esquire, Master of Arts, Bachelor of Laws, Barrister-at-Law, shall be a first Pro-Chancellor.*

Numb. 40774



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# The London Gazette

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TUESDAY, 8 MAY, 1956

Whitehall, May 8, 1956.

The following Address was presented to The QUEEN to-day by the Chancellor of the University of Exeter on the occasion of the laying of the Foundation Stone of the new building of the Arts Faculty of the University by Her Majesty:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY

We, the Court, the Council, the Senate and all the Members of the University of Exeter, present our humble duty to Your Majesty and extend to Your Majesty and to His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh the most loyal and affectionate welcome on this Your visit to the site of our young University. We offer to Your Majesty our most grateful thanks for the grant of Your Royal Charter and for the signal honour which Your Majesty has been pleased to confer upon us by presenting the Charter to us by Your own hand. We are proud that the University which, as the University College of the South West, was honoured by visits from members of Your Majesty's Family in the past, should start its new and expanding career so auspiciously.

The University is very fortunate in being able, so soon after its foundation, to begin the construction of a new building of outstanding importance. It is doubly fortunate that this building is being inaugurated by an act so gracious and propitious as the unveiling of its Foundation Stone by Your Majesty. For this also we desire to express our deepest gratitude. This new building, which will house the departments of the Faculty of Arts, will assist the University to take its full share in the advancement of learning and the pursuit of truth.

The Universities of Your Majesty's Realm have set high standards. In striving to attain them, every member of the University will be encouraged by Your Majesty's interest. It will be the constant endeavour of each one of us to serve Your Majesty with loyalty and devotion throughout Your Reign, which we pray will be long, happy and peaceful.

Mary Devonshire, Chancellor.  
B. G. Lampard-Vachell, Pro-Chancellor.  
J. W. Cook, Vice-Chancellor.

To which Address Her Majesty was pleased to return the following gracious Answer:—

It gives me great pleasure to be here with my husband to-day and to receive this Loyal Address from you, as Chancellor of the University of Exeter, and such a warm welcome from its members.

Nearly a century ago a son of Devon, Sir Stafford Northcote, urged that Exeter should be made a centre of education for the west of England. His good advice was followed, and that imaginative proposal has been so expanded that this University now serves not only the people of the South-West, but the whole country, and also contains many students from overseas, including representatives of most of the countries of the Commonwealth.

It has one great natural advantage in its beautiful site, which enables students to live and work in a most agreeable environment. I feel confident that when the plans for its further fine buildings have been completed this new University will play a prominent part in widening the frontiers of knowledge—a duty for which the West Country, with its long traditions of exploration and discovery, is specially fitted.

To you, as the first Chancellor of the University, I extend my good wishes for a long and successful term of office in presiding over its destinies. My family, like yours, has had a constant interest in it since its foundation. The first building was begun in 1865 in memory of the Prince Consort. One of the wings of this Royal Albert Memorial College was opened, at the end of the last century, by the then Duke of Devonshire and another by my grandfather, King George the Fifth, as Duke of York. More recently, your brother, Lord Salisbury, held for ten years the office of President of the University College of the South-West, and to-day I have come here to hand over to you, my Mistress of the Robes, as its first Chancellor, the Royal Charter which incorporates the University of Exeter.

This is the third University—Southampton and Hull being the others—to be founded in my reign. I think that this bears striking witness to the increase in the facilities for higher education which are being provided throughout the Kingdom—a development which has its counterpart in the Colonies and in the other countries of the Commonwealth. I am glad to know that the advantages of University life and the opportunities for advanced studies and research are being made available to a constantly growing number of young men and women both here at home and overseas.

There is a great need in the world to-day for technical and scientific education, but, side by side with that, it is important to maintain the study of the humanities, in which Britain has for centuries held an honoured name. It will, therefore, give me great pleasure to unveil the foundation stone of the new building of the Faculty of Arts in this University.

Finally, to mark the occasion of my visit to you, I am happy to name the road on which I have just travelled The Queen's Drive.

I now deliver to you the Charter which founds the University of Exeter.

Treasury Chambers,  
Great George Street, S.W.1.

7th May, 1956.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has this day appointed Gerald Wellington Williams to be Steward and Bailiff of Her Majesty's Three Hundreds of Chiltern.

He became Chairman of the Devon Education Committee. In July 1956, as an alderman, Lampard-Vachell was supporting the introduction of comprehensive or bilateral schools (as they were called) in Devon and the Minister of Education was prepared to concede in Parliament that a case might be made for approving them in rural areas instead of secondary modern schools. Lampard-Vachell had particular concern for adaptations or revisions required to suit the rural economy.

He was a member of the Central Advisory Council, under the chairmanship of Lord Crowther in 1956 requested to review the education of children between the ages of 15 and 18 that resulted in *The Crowther Report – Fifteen to Eighteen*. This eventually led, in 1972, to the raising of the school leaving age to 16 (and under which the word *numeracy* was coined).

Between 1956 and 1957, he was President of the Association of Education Committees and in 1959 he chaired the Advisory Sub-committee on Further Education for Agriculture that produced two reports in 1960 and 1961.

It is not known for how long Lampard-Vachell stood as Pro Chancellor but he died in April 1965. A school in Barnstaple that has a special place locally as a school re designated in 2004 for pupils aged 7 to 16 experiencing learning and associated and complex difficulties, is named after him.

One of his greatest interests was ornithology. He is reported to have had a large collection of eggs and was active in bird watching activities. In 1937, when Mayor of Torrington, he published *Wild Birds of Torrington and District* that was re-published seven years later and he donated all receipts to the Torrington Hospital.

He was also a founder member of the Lundy Field Society and became its chairman from 1947 to 1951, when pressure of other work forced him to resign. Lundy Island had a few tortured early years that were a period of continual financial worry. This was brought about, for the most part, by the need for substantial repairs to the Old Light. Fieldwork continued, however, with an archaeological survey begun in 1955 and the first mist-netting of birds in 1958. Its future was only essentially secured when acquired by the National Trust in 1969 after a significant donation by Sir Jack Hayward and the agreement of The Landmark Trust to operate the island under a 60 years' Lease.



## Cyril Wilkinson CBE

Cyril Wilkinson's life was one of considerable achievement. The extent of his contribution as a Hampstead Hockey Club member to the world of hockey is unlikely to be surpassed. It culminated in the award of a CBE for service to hockey in 1954.

Frequently referred to as CTA, he joined the Club in 1911. He was one of four Hampstead players to win an Olympic gold medal for hockey at the 1920 games. He was a county cricketer and then an international hockey umpire and member of the International Hockey Board from 1938-1955. He also held a high ranking post in the High Court from 1936 until 1959.

Cyril Theodore Anstruther Wilkinson was born at Elvet Hill, Durham on 4 October 1884. His father, Anthony John Anstruther Wilkinson had also been born in Durham in 1835 and he, too, was a cricketer. He played for Middlesex for a decade from 1864 and then for Yorkshire from 1865 until 1868.

Cyril was educated at Blundell's School at Tiverton in Devon and represented the school certainly at cricket in the 1<sup>st</sup> XI in 1902 and 1903. No records are readily available concerning his hockey prowess at that school. His first class cricketing debut was when he represented Gentlemen of England in 1908, opposing Surrey, whom he later joined as a player in 1909.

His captain in that game was W G Grace with whom he batted in the second innings, when they followed on. Wilkinson, coming in at number 4, when Grace opened the innings, scored 39 in a total of 130, handing a win to Surrey by an innings and 41 runs. He had once opened the batting with W G Grace on his own admission but this is not believed to have been classified as a first class match.

His first game for Surrey was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI against Wiltshire at the Oval in June that year. He went on to play for the second team between 1910 and 1913.

His hockey playing at club level started with Norwood. When they disbanded, he joined Hampstead in 1911. He was elected to the Committee of Hampstead Hockey Club at least in September 1914 when the season's fixtures were cancelled owing to the state of war and "the absence of nearly all the members of the club serving their country either in Lord Kitchener's Army or in the Territorials or in some other equally useful capacity" and at the time of the reconciliation of the Club's gift to Gerald Logan, on his departure to the Far East.

He represented the South and Surrey. He won four caps for England and went on to represent Great Britain in the Antwerp Olympics, along with Stanley Shoveller, Jack Bennett and Sholto Marcon (all Hampstead Hockey Club members, eventually in the case of the latter) each winning a gold medal.

This is what *Hockey World* had to say in its *Mainly Personal* column in the edition of 26 November 1926

*C. T. A. Wilkinson, the captain of the Hampstead H.C., and who has played for England against Wales, has been a well-known figure in both hockey and cricket for many years.*

*At one time he captained Surrey and is a member of Beckenham Cricket Club for which club he has registered some high innings in his time. His earlier hockey days were spent with the old Norwood HC. and when that club became defunct, he joined the Hampstead HC and always plays at left half.*

*He has been one of the masters of stickwork, "scooping", and rolling in, etc., and the latter is a real object lesson to youthful players*

And he was mentioned in another report: this time not a game to stay long in the Hampstead annals, when Oxford University defeated Hampstead by 10-1

*The Oxonian side just now are going great guns with the forwards, a fine, fast, bit of attacking machinery. Hampstead lost at Oxford on Saturday by 10 – 1. Fore and aft, the Dark Blues gave an amazing display of hockey; their place and combination in attack revealed a fine understanding and they quite overplayed the strong Hampstead defence.*

*C. Kirkpatrick played well at outside right, scoring four goals; he has never been more effective, while other goals were hit by N. Kirkpatrick (2), Maturin (2), and Chilman (2). Hewetson, introduced at right-half for Oxford, played quite well.*

*Bennett and Wilkinson worked hard for Hampstead, but they were rather overwhelmed with work; Norton scored the goal for Hampstead. The Dark Blues will be at Wimbledon Park to-morrow, Saturday, but Wimbledon, on current form, will not be able to hold them*



*1920-21 Hampstead 1<sup>st</sup> XI v Cambridge University  
[Cyril Wilkinson fifth from the left,  
with Stanley Shoveller to his left and, to the left of him, Jack Bennett]*

In 1927 it was discovered that the Hockey Club Rules that were believed to have been drafted in September 1895, were nowhere to be found. A Sub-Committee consisted of Messrs. Wilkinson, Wyatt and Trotman (shortly afterwards the 1<sup>st</sup> XI Captain for a season) was appointed to draft new rules. They were accepted at the Annual General Meeting of 1928. These rules, with necessary amendments from time to time, served the club until 1966, when they were substantially re-written to suit modern conditions and changes in practice over the years.

As a cricketer, Cyril Wilkinson captained Surrey when they won the County Championship in 1914 and again in the first two seasons after the First World War, in which he signed up for military service. He also had to miss a number of games owing to business commitments.

In 1914, in which he was awarded his county cap, *Wisden* said of him that “he proved himself a real leader, keeping the side under firm control and managing the bowling with sound judgement”. It has to be remembered that Surrey’s team included Jack Hobbs as well as Andy Sandham and Percy Fender, both soon to be capped by England against Australia, that must have required some skill and fortitude.

Cyril Wilkinson’s highest first class score was 135, scored in two hours only, with 19 fours and a six against Middlesex in 1914 at the Oval. Surrey scored 544 in the first innings. Middlesex replied with 267 and followed on, with J W Hearne hitting 191 not out in a total of 393-5, to avoid a loss.

In 1920, he passed 1,500 runs in first class cricket, when he scored 106, coming in at number 8, against Hampshire, also at the Oval. He followed this up with 56 not out in the second innings, to secure a win for Surrey by two wickets.

Overall, his first class record was 1,773 runs scored in 78 innings at an average of 25.32. He took 23 wickets with slow left-arm orthodox bowling at an average of 31.47.

In 1919 Wilkinson scored a rapid 100 against the Australian Forces in a famous stand with J N Crawford.

He represented MCC at Lord’s in 1921 against Buckinghamshire. Having dismissed the visitors for 66, CTA opened the batting with 127 in a total of 403. He then took 5-126 in the County’s second innings of 434. He went on to open the Club’s second innings with an undefeated 59 out of 100-1 in 17 overs, to win by 9 wickets.

His final (recorded) game (not ranked as first class) was against the West Indies in 1928, when he represented the Civil Service in a two-day game, which was drawn, Wilkinson scoring 42 out of 197, to which the tourists replied with 330.

He later became a member of Refreshers Cricket Club that was founded in 1935 but disbanded due to the War, to be revived in 1945 under Lord Griffiths, a future President of the MCC. This was a team predominantly of barristers. Cyril Wilkinson is recorded primarily as a bowler with the club but played only occasionally.

Cyril did not stop there. He retired to Devon and was known as great club cricketer. Every August turned out for Sidmouth Cricket Club. In 1953, at the age of 69, he scored 50 and took all ten wickets in a match against The Nondescripts.

In his professional life he was a Registrar of the Probate Divorce and Admiralty Division (as it then was) of the High Court from 1936 until 1959. During this time, he was joint editor of the Seventh Edition of William Rayden's *Practice and law in the Divorce Division of the High Court of Justice and on appeal therefrom*, published in 1958 by Butterworth. The volume ran to 1,311 page, the standard text of the procedural workings of what became the Family Division of the High Court.

He was also a consulting editor of *Tristan & Coote's Probate Practice*, a volume that had started life as *Coote's Common Form Probate* and *Tristan's Contentious Probate*.

He also found time to sit on the Advisory County Cricket Committee between 1929 and 1933.

As well as sitting on the International Hockey Executive Board for 27 years, he was a Vice President of the Hockey Association. He was the President of the Southern Counties Hockey Umpires Association from 1952 until 1960.

This all led to his award of a CBE for services to hockey in 1954. He died, aged 86, in Honiton.

## Sir John Masterman



John Masterman was elected as a member of Hampstead Hockey Club on 14 September 1923. He was introduced and proposed for membership by club stalwart and Olympic gold medal winner, Jack Bennett and, once more, probably through Oxford University connections. John Masterman was highly competent across at least six sports, gaining four international caps for England in hockey, representing England in tennis (and playing in the Wimbledon Championship at the All England Club). He was virtually a scratch golfer and equally skilled at squash. He won a blue at Oxford in Athletics, where he competed in the High Jump. His greatest passion was, however, for cricket, in which he played four first class matches, as well as minor counties cricket for Oxfordshire and he toured frequently overseas.

He became a Vice President of Hampstead HC after the club was re-formed in 1950 after World War Two and is remembered particularly for the players he introduced to Hampstead in those reformative years, when such referrals were vital to the growth in playing numbers and in forming a viable basis for the Club's survival.

He was a guest of honour at the Club's Annual Dinner on 1 December 1961, held at Pimm's Red House Restaurant in Bishopsgate, renowned as a speaker of high quality. Bill Fletcher was Club President and recalled that with Sir John's reputation and after whom he had to speak as President that year, he was more nervous than usual. However, having spoken, he later said that "the evening was quite made" by Mr J M Ross of Purley Hockey club, in reply "with an excellent speech for the guests and thanking Sir John *Wolfenden*, which our honoured guest took in good part". (Sir John Wolfenden was probably best remembered for chairing the Wolfenden Committee, whose report in 1957 recommended the decriminalisation of homosexuality).

John Cecil Masterman was born on 12 January 1891 in Kingston upon Thames to a naval family and destined from a young age to follow in his father's footsteps. He was educated at the Royal Naval Colleges of Osborne (on the Isle of Wight) and Dartmouth. However, he then became convinced that a naval life was not for him and in 1908 dropped out, much to the dismay of his parents. He won a scholarship to Worcester College, Oxford, where he read Modern History.

He later studied on a post graduate course at the University of Freiburg. In 1914, he was also an exchange lecturer and remained based there when World War I broke out. Consequently, he was interned as an enemy alien for four years in a prisoner-of-war camp in Ruhleben outside

Berlin, where he spent much of his time polishing his German. On his return from captivity, he became tutor of Modern History at Christ Church, Oxford, where he was also censor from 1920 to 1926.

In the 1920s he became a very good cricketer, playing first-class for H D G Leveson-Gower's XI, Harlequins, the Free Foresters, and also for Oxfordshire in the Minor Counties Championship and the MCC. He toured North America with the Free Foresters in 1923, Ireland with the MCC in 1924, Egypt with H H Martineau's XI in 1930 and 1931 and Canada with the MCC in 1937. As a result of his sporting prowess he was acknowledged as a master gamesman in Stephen Potter's book *Gamesmanship*.

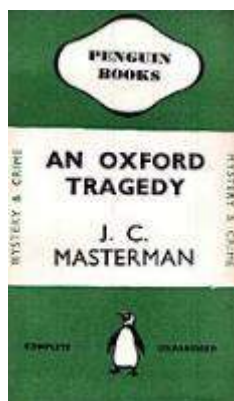
He made his first class cricket debut for H D G Leveson-Gower's XI against Oxford University in May 1926 that the University won by 186 runs. In 1927, he played for Harlequins also against Oxford University in the Parks but on the winning side, after the visitors reached 358-6 dec in their first innings. Later that year, also against the University but now playing for Free Foresters, he was on the losing side. He took 2-124 opening the bowling in a University first innings score of 520-8 dec., the Oxford captain, E R T Holmes, scoring 236, including four consecutive sixes off Masterman and I P F Campbell in consecutive overs. Masterman did share 10<sup>th</sup> wicket stand of 59 (scoring 17) in that game.

His final first class match was also for Free Foresters, in June 1939. Douglas Jardine scored 112 for the Free Foresters, in a first innings total of 361. However, Oxford University replied with 445-9. In their second innings, Free Foresters had reached 258-6 at the close of play and the match was drawn.

He had a long and beneficent influence with the Free Foresters. In his autobiography, *On the Chariot Wheel*, he wrote, "I hope I put back into the Free Foresters something to compensate for all that I had had from the club - for I was on the committee for 31 years. The record shows that I proposed or seconded 177 candidates".

He did not rate I Zingari so highly in his days on the IZ committee but added that "nowadays it has regained all its old prestige and panache".

He wrote a crime novel, *An Oxford Tragedy* that was published in 1933 and was his first work. He followed this almost 25 years later in 1957 with his second and final crime novel, *The Case of the Four Friends*.



*An Oxford Tragedy* is a classic murder mystery, with Brendel at its centre as a master of hypothesis and deduction.

*Francis Wheatley Winn, Senior Tutor at St Thomas's College, is ready for a cosy night of dining, port, and pleasant company. Ernst Brendel, Viennese lawyer and crime specialist, has come to Oxford to lecture in Law. The regular residents of St Thomas's are pleased to have such an interesting guest to liven up their after dinner chat. Talk soon turns to murder, and Winn finds the subject altogether unpalatable, even if his colleagues seem to relish the details of past cases Brendel has worked on. But then real murder breaks the cosy calm of the evening, shocking the inhabitants out of their frivolous talk. Now Winn must overcome his distaste to work with Brendel in uncovering the perpetrator of this terrible crime.*

Brendel is again the central figure in *The Case of the Four Friends*, the distinctive feature of which (as the title page says) is that it is "a diversion in pre-detection".

His story is of four men, each a potential victim, each a potential murderer. Events unfold quite slowly and the narrative is interrupted from time to time by discussion between Brendel and his listeners.

Critics said that Masterman retained a firm grip on the reader's interest throughout and the originality of his approach was regarded as commendable. There is the added bonus of an introduction at the end of the book and in which the author gives a brief glimpse of his ability to argue the case that "reality has little to do with detective fiction".

He also wrote a novel, *Fate Cannot Harm Me*, a play *Marshal Ney*, an Oxford Guide Book, *To Teach the Senators Wisdom* and his autobiography, *On the Chariot Wheel* that was published in 1975.



When World War II broke out, he was called up in June 1940 and was soon employed as secretary of a War Office committee. Concerned about his lack of military background, he replied, when asked by a general "Can you write the King's English?" that this was almost his only qualification.

He later became chairman of the Twenty Committee, a group of British intelligence officials who were responsible for the *Double-Cross System*, which turned German spies into double agents

working for the British. Apparently its name was a pun based on the Roman numeral XX and its double-cross purpose.

Simply defined, a double agent is an agent in simultaneous contact with two (or more) intelligence services but working for (or under the control of) only one of them. No case, or few of them, turns out to be so readily delineated but this statement sets out the essential element of every double agent case.

British Security services distinguished a number of categories of double agents in World War II:

- (a) the classic double who was in personal, physical contact with two (or more) sides during his case — like *Tricycle* or *Snow* in Masterman's later account. One of the consequences of this predicament is that the double agent is in control of his own operation for longer. Such double is to be distinguished from
- (b) the double agent who is not in personal physical contact but uses intermediary communications that are under control (such as radio, or secret writing). Both categories are distinguished from
- (c) the penetration agent, namely a double who worked solely against other intelligence services to obtain information on their organisation, personnel, methods, and operations. And all of these were to be distinguished from
- (d) the special agent, who was a double used solely for planting information on an enemy service (a *feeder*).

This nomenclature that probably is now archaic reflected the evolution of the use to which double agents were put by MI5 from 1939 to 1945, ranging from the purely defensive early in the War to a very specialised offensive use in the later years.

The Twenty or XX Committee was created on 2 January 1941 and charged with the *nuts-and-bolts* work of co-ordinating the build-up, management, and oversight of the *Double Agent* teams.

This system grew and evolved and not simply developed overnight. Masterman piloted the XX Committee through meetings on Wednesday and Thursday each week — some 226 meetings in all — until it was disestablished on 10 May 1945. Masterman called the committee an institutional anomaly but it appears to have worked. Beginning with the 1939-40 accumulation of doubles and controlled enemy agents, the XX Committee ran more than 120 such cases up to 1945.

Everything paid off when a mere handful of agents played an unexpectedly decisive role in putting across the highly commended cover plan (*Fortitude South*) of Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force that tied down German reserves in the Pas-de-Calais not only before but well after D-day.

In 1945, John Masterman had privately published a history of his time working on the double-cross system, *The Double-Cross System in the War of 1939 to 1945*. The Government objected to its publication under the Officials Secrets Act. It had been written between July and September 1945, before Masterman left MI5.

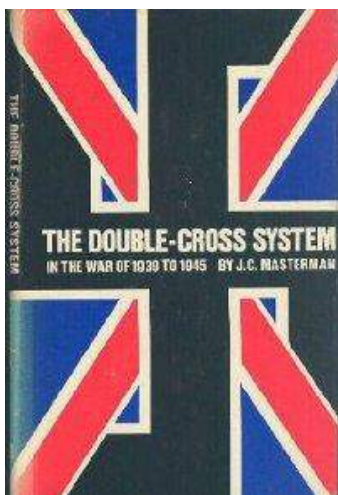


Only 125 copies were printed. 100 were immediately destroyed. Masterman retained Copy No. 3. He made successive efforts, in 1947, in the mid-1950's, in the early 1960's, and in 1967, to get the text released for publication. He was driven, he said, by the desire to reflect deserved credit on the intelligence and security professions, which he believed needed it.

The text was vetted and then re-vetted, it has been reported, from Prime Minister to Foreign Office, to the Home Office, to MI5 and MI6 and the Chiefs of Staff. All agreed to publication at one time or other but never did all of them agree together.

Some original solutions were devised to contain Masterman's pressure to publish. The last was an idea to incorporate the study in a larger, projected work about British Intelligence in World War II. Masterman regarded this as a ploy "to give him time to die", because he knew that no such work would ever be authoritatively done, at least not in his lifetime.

He therefore immediately went ahead to publish his work abroad and was placed in touch with the Yale University Press. The University Press regarded it as a lucrative scoop. Once Masterman's determination was registered in a firm intent to publish abroad, the objections to internal publication evaporated. The Government abandoned the Official Secrets Act argument and licensed Yale University Press to include publication in the United Kingdom, as well as overseas.



John Masterman's book is essentially regarded as being about counterintelligence, the part of intelligence work that is concerned about what *other* peoples' spies and spy services are doing to you, using those spies to find other spies, to gain intelligence information, and to deceive the spy masters and those dependent on them.

The book's thrust is that counterintelligence is a co-equal professional activity with espionage and political action activity and on that rests its underlying significance. The codification of operational principles that accompanied Masterman's double agent case facts made the book unique in the public arena.

After World War II, John Masterman returned to Oxford University. He became Provost of Worcester College from 1946 to 1961. He was appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University from

1957 to 1958. He was knighted for his wartime services in 1959. He did not marry and died in Oxford on 6 June 1977.



## Ken Ingledew

Colin Greenhalgh drew our attention to the achievements of Kenneth Ingledew in his *Short History of Hampstead Hockey Club*.

These were emphasised in a letter sent by Myer Cohen, the Chairman of the Welsh Hockey Association<sup>15</sup>, in September 1968 that was addressed to the club through John Sankey, in which the Chairman invited attendance at an informal dinner to be held at the Cardiff Athletic Club on 15 November 1968 at which a special presentation was to be made to Ken Ingledew.

The letter mentioned Ken's 23 years' stint as Secretary and Treasurer of the Welsh Hockey Association. He had also served as Secretary/Treasurer of the British Hockey Board, as a member of the International Hockey Rules Board and of the Bureau of the Hockey Federation. As an active international umpire between 1949 and 1956, he officiated as an umpire at the 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki. Along with A L Allen, he umpired the game between Germany against Poland and the pair were later awarded control of the final, on 24 July 1952.

After his relatively brief stay with Hampstead and upon his return to Cardiff, he was an official of the Cardiff and Druids Hockey Club, the Glamorgan Hockey Association and the South Wales Counties Hockey Association. He was renowned in the later years for his virtually total dedication to Cardiff and Welsh hockey. A serious leg injury is reckoned to have curtailed his playing career.

Kenneth Hugh Ingledew was born in 1907. He studied law at Oxford University (whose course is described as *Jurisprudence*) both as an undergraduate and graduate. After graduating with a BA, he was awarded the highly prized BCL (Bachelor of Civil Law)<sup>16</sup> in 1934. He was admitted as a solicitor in that year and became a partner in what (through name) appears to have been a family-based practice, with an office in London, from where Ken practised and that may have led to his introduction to Hampstead Hockey Club.

He became immediately involved in club affairs and was appointed Secretary on 21 September 1935. He convened Committee meetings at his London offices at 78-79 Leadenhall Street in the City of London.

His Minutes are masterfully succinct and framed with economy. He was frequently deferential in relation to his own efforts and achievements. His professional background is reflected in what he composed and how club affairs were summarised, all in legible manuscript, crafted with a fountain pen and with few revisions to the text. Regrettably his tenure as Secretary was all too brief.

An official Notice in the London Gazette announced that the partnership practising as Ingledew & Sons in two offices in Cardiff and as Ingledew Sons & Brown at 78-79 Leadenhall Street

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<sup>15</sup> Myer Cohen, who was a solicitor, later went on to be chairman of the Welsh Games Council. He was a shareholder of Cardiff City FC and was a former director of Barry Town FC. In 1978 he was awarded the Order of Polonia Restituta, a medal, awarded to civilians for services to Poland. He was an honorary life member of the 1st Polish Armoured Division.

<sup>16</sup> Bachelor of Civil Law is promoted as a world-renowned taught graduate course in law, designed to serve outstanding law students from common law backgrounds. The academic standard is significantly higher than that required in a first law degree, and only those with outstanding first law degrees are admitted.

London EC3 had dissolved on 31 December 1935, as it has not been renewed when the Partnership Agreement had expired. It is not currently known why this occurred.

Ken was to practice on his account at Royal Chambers, Park Place Cardiff under the name or style of Ingledew Spencer & Co. This must have marked his return to Wales for work on a full-time basis and two years after his resignation as the Secretary of Hampstead Hockey Club (dealt with in more detail, below).

Ken's first meeting as Secretary of Hampstead HC was held on 10 October 1935. At that meeting and in spite of an earlier donation by Herbert Walker of new goal posts, notice of which had been "passed with acclamation" at an earlier meeting of the Committee on 10 September 1935, John Sankey reported that on examination of the goal posts and nets, it was necessary to purchase new posts and it was agreed that this should be done.

It was also agreed that payment for the new pitches at Richmond should be made half-yearly and this suggestion was to be put by Ken Ingledew to a certain Mr. Humphreys. In relation to pitches, it was also agreed to accept an offer from Richmond Council to use a pitch in Old Deer Park on each Saturday for the 1936-37 season, at the cost of 10/- per week. It was further agreed to accept a new lease for five years from September 1936 from Richmond Town Cricket Ground and Athletic Association on the same terms as the old lease.

At that time playing at Richmond, the club was investigating the possibility of securing headquarters in the West End. Ian Hayward reported to the meeting that after enquiries, it was thought that Punch House might be suitable.

At the next meeting, a month later, the question of "the proposed presentation to Mr Wyatt" was discussed<sup>17</sup>. It was arranged that the forms of letter seeking contributions should be sent, respectively, to members and past members, to be drafted by John Sankey.

Upon realising that the matches scheduled for 18 January 1936 would clash with the Jubilee International, enquiries were to be sent to the proposed opponents that day to enquire whether they desired that the matches be cancelled. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI had a fixture vacancy on 20 March 1937 (that is, a year on) and it was agreed that attempts should be made to secure a fixture with St Thomas Hospital, Barclays Bank or Westminster Bank.

Team selection was a continuing source of frustration. The meeting decided, apparently after lengthy debate, that reserves should be selected for each team so as to avoid the dislocation of more than one team when a player was unable to play after he had been selected.

It was suggested that a Dance might be convened. Enquiries were to be made as to whether there might be support for this at a price of 5/- per ticket. A Dinner Committee was elected at the next Committee meeting held on 5 December 1935. It was agreed, in principle, that representatives of other clubs should be invited to attend but that "if possible the tickets should be paid for by members".

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<sup>17</sup> M. Montagu Wyatt had succeeded Jack Bennett as the Secretary of the club and held the post for an eleven-year stint up to 1935, the longest term served by any Secretary of the Club to date

There had been correspondence with Oxford University HC and Ruari Milsted reported that they would only give one fixture on 31 October 1936. It was decided to try to obtain a fixture on 16 January 1937 with National Provincial Bank, Teddington or Royal Engineers.

With regard to the potential clash with the Jubilee International on 18 January 1936, Ken Ingledew reported that all matches to be played had been confirmed. In other related correspondence, it was decided that no application should be made to individual club members but that the Club should make a donation to the Jubilee Trust Fund of an amount to be agreed at the next meeting.

Fulfilment of mid-week fixtures was then proving difficult and it was decided that all such matches for the current and following seasons (other than in the case of Charterhouse) should be cancelled.

In relation to pitches, the landlords had requested the introduction of a provision allowing the landlords a right to cancel matches if they considered the ground to be unfit. Ken Ingledew was asked to meet the landlord's representative, Mr de Lissa, and endeavour to have this suggested clause withdrawn.

At the next Committee meeting, held on 2 January 1936, Ken Ingledew was able to report that Mr de Lissa had agreed to waive the right to cancel matches and "the Committee congratulated the Secretary on the success of his negotiations".

Teddington HC had said that they were unable to accept a 1st XI fixture on 16 January 1937. It was decided to make a fixture with them for 1938 and to try to obtain a fixture for 1937 with Royal Engineers or Rugby (*sic*). At a later meeting in February, Ken Ingledew reported that he had not been able to secure a 1st XI fixture on that day and it was decided to try Hendon, United Hospitals, United Services Portsmouth, Purley or the RAF.

A fixture was later secured with the Royal Artillery. Fixture cancellations were also giving concern and Ken Ingledew was "instructed" by the Committee to make enquiries regarding methods by which notice of cancelled matches might be given "in the midday papers". He succeeded in this by arrangements with the *Evening Standard*, reported at the Committee Meeting in February and he would arrange for a note to this effect to appear in the Fixture Card for the next season.

The donation to the Jubilee Trust Fund was set at £2-2-0d subject to conferring with other clubs over their proposals to the same effect. Ruari Milsted was given this task at the meeting on 6 February 1937 and the Treasurer was asked to pay the proposed two guineas' donation "if we considered this to be enough".

An end of season Dance was also proposed. Further soundings were to be taken as to a venue and the matter to be considered further at the next meeting. At the next meeting it was agreed that the Club's "first" Annual Dance should be held at the Empire Hall, Victoria on Friday 27 March from 8.30 pm until 1.00 am, with tickets priced at 4/- each. A Sub Committee of members was appointed "with power to make all arrangements for the dance".

Negotiations with Richmond Town Cricket Ground and Athletic Association Limited had now been concluded. The Committee formally resolved "to enter into an Agreement to extend the existing lease for a period of five years from March 1936 on the same terms and conditions in all

respects as the existing lease". Mr Montagu Wyatt was authorised to sign the counterpart Agreement on behalf of the Club.

The fund collected for a presentation to Mr Montagu Wyatt had reached £18-0-0 or thereabouts by February 1936<sup>18</sup>. John Sankey produced samples of silver cigarette boxes and gold wrist watches. After "some considerable discussion" the Committee decided upon the style it preferred and John Sankey was authorised to make the necessary purchases, with a unanimous vote of thanks for all the work he had undertaken in this task.

At the Committee Meeting held on 5 March 1936, Ken Ingledew was requested to write to the Sports Masters of Marlborough College, Wellington, Charterhouse Cranleigh, St Lawrence and Gresham, enquiring about the possible recruitment of players for the next season, something he was asked to repeat at the next meeting on 2 April 1936, by way of a reminder.

It was agreed that Cyril Wilkinson, a member of the gold medal winning England team at the 1920 Olympic Games in Antwerp, should be appointed a Vice President of the Club at its next Annual General Meeting.

Two other aspects were debated at length and led to a decision to convene a special meeting of the Committee on the following Saturday at Richmond to consider, first, the hospitality offered to visiting teams at Richmond and secondly, continuing issues over team selection.

At the next Committee meeting held on 2 April 1936 John Sankey circulated a paper that he had prepared on the subject of team selection and entertainment. There followed what Ken Ingledew recorded as "considerable discussion" and "after the views of the Committee had been fully expressed" it was decided to form a sub committee (of which Ken Ingledew was to be a member) to draft recommendations to be put to the next Annual General Meeting.

This recommendation was subsequently that a Selection Committee should be formed to consist of the Captains and Vice Captains of the four teams, together with one further representative of each team. This Committee was to meet in London each Saturday night to select teams for the following Saturday's fixtures. If a club member had not notified his ability to play by the Wednesday evening in question, he was to be deemed to be unavailable for the following Saturday.

John Sankey had also proposed an increase in the yearly subscription to £2-2-0 in order to cover the cost of teas for visiting teams. The Treasurer was to be asked to report upon the "financial effect" of such a change. Subject to his report being favourable, the increase was to be recommended to the next AGM.

Captain Mawer presented a report on the Annual Dance. 158 tickets had been sold and yet there was a likely deficit of £1-7-8. A vote of thanks and congratulation to the Dance Committee was carried unanimously.

That meeting closed with the vote of thanks. The first was to Jack Bennett for having chaired the meeting and the second to Ken Ingledew for having allowed Committee meetings to be held at his office throughout the season.

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<sup>18</sup> Worth approximately £7,700 in today's terms

The first Committee meeting of the next season was held on 17 September 1936 at Simpson's Restaurant in the Strand. Ken Ingledew attended. Candidates for posts in the season were discussed. However, Ken Ingledew's resignation was "accepted with regret". The reason for his resignation is not known but the suggestion is that it was business related and possibly the decision to return to his legal practice in Cardiff, described earlier

Certainly on 31 December 1938 the formal notice was issued in the London Gazette that the partnership had ceased to exist. Ken's former partners were noted to be continuing in practice as partners under the name of Ingledew & Sons in Cardiff and Ingledew Sons & Brown in London.

Arthur Murray Ingledew was Ken Ingledew's senior by 44 years and had been admitted as a solicitor in 1886. He was still practising at the age of 85. He was a prominent golfer in Wales and once captain of Glamorganshire Golf Club and President of the Welsh Golfing Union. He was also Chairman of the Exchange Club in Cardiff Docks and once crowned their billiards champion. He sat on the Council of the Law Society for 15 years but declined the Presidency in 1972.

Norman Murray Ingledew was born in 1880 in Penarth. He was captain of Cardiff and County Hockey Club in 1911. At the outbreak of World War I, he joined the 7<sup>th</sup> Reserve Battalion (Cyclists) of the Welsh Regiment and was promoted to Captain in 1915. He was demobilised in 1919 and in the Second World War became involved in civil defence, being awarded a BEM (Civil) in 1946.

Ken Ingledew's achievements and his considerable contribution to hockey were finally recognised in 1974, when he was awarded the Order of Merit by the International Federation, the FIH.



The Order of Merit may be awarded to individuals, whether members of FIH or not. In the case of FIH member it is for distinguished service over a period of at least ten years, or for exceptional achievement or contribution that is important in the international field. In the case of those who are not members of the FIH, qualifying criteria are constructive and positive activity over a period of at least 15 years, or unique personal achievement or contribution that has benefited international hockey. No more than four awards may be given during each two-year period.

The first series of these awards was made in 1974 and included that to Mark Cowlshaw of England, who had been a fellow member, with Ken Ingledew, of the Ground Committee at the Olympic Games in Helsinki (and who had umpired the game between Austria and Switzerland in the first round of the competition). The final was held on 24 July 1952 at the Velodrome and was won by India, with their fifth consecutive gold medal<sup>19</sup>.

The Velodrome was a concrete structure with steep sides, built for the 1940 Olympic Games<sup>20</sup> for track racing but with a central grass oval that hockey later adopted. The 1952 Olympic Games for hockey was based upon simple elimination, following late withdrawals by Spain, Denmark Argentina and the United States, who were replaced by Germany, Italy and Poland (the IOC having accepted the participation of hockey on the basis that no more than 12 teams, plus the host nation, should compete).

In the semi-finals, India beat Great Britain 3-1 and Holland defeated Pakistan by the single goal. In the final, India dominated and won with a score of 6-1 (having led 4-0 at half time) with Balbit Singh scoring five (and ending the tournament as top scorer, with nine of India's 13 goals). In the third place play off, Great Britain defeated Pakistan by 2-1.

Mark Cowlshaw went on to umpire the final at the next Olympic Games in Melbourne on 6 December 1956, played at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (or the G, to the locals). India were victorious again, defeating Pakistan 1-0 after converting a penalty corner in the 38th minute. The other umpire was Jim McDowell of Australia. In the 1956 Games, Great Britain were placed fourth of 12 teams<sup>21</sup> that, interestingly, included Kenya and Afghanistan. The Games were also made noteworthy by India's goal tally over all matches of 38, with none conceded.

Ken Ingledew died in May 1977. On his death he bequeathed a considerable amount of hockey related material to the National Library of Wales, including copies of *Hockey World* from 1928-1939 and from 1946-1950, *Hockey News* from 1951-1965 and *Hockey World* between 1971 and 1972. He also delivered a diploma that had been presented to him at the 1948 Olympic Games in London (the other having been awarded to the Great Britain 2<sup>nd</sup> XI). He also made available to the Library copies of Rule Books (over a period) of the Welsh Hockey Association, the Irish Hockey Union from 1902-1972 and the International Hockey Board.

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<sup>19</sup> This followed success at the Games in 1928, 1932, 1936 and 1948

<sup>20</sup> Those Games had been awarded to Helsinki but did not take place (London having played host to the first post War Games in 1948, called the *Austerity Games*).

<sup>21</sup> East Germany was third.



## A Powerful List

It is expected that R. L. Milsted, the South half-back, will continue the captaincy of Hampstead, and other old members who will be available are I. Milsted, Owen G. Jones (the Welsh international) P. Hazell, A. G. Hardie (who has recently been ordained), H. Hinds Howell, and others. Hampstead would like to have a goalkeeper for the second eleven and another first-class forward. There are several vacancies for the four teams. The lease of the Richmond Athletic pitch has been renewed for another five years and an additional pitch has been obtained in the Old Deer Park, Richmond, close to the Athletic ground, on alternative Saturdays. The fixture list is the usual powerful one, with both Oxford and Cambridge Universities included. M. Montague Wyatt has retired from the secretarial post and Kenneth Ingledeu has been elected his successor.

*The Observer, 22 September 1935*



## The Club's Colours

The origins of the light and dark blue colours of the Club have frequently been associated with Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

This link is perhaps reinforced by the resolution at the 1915 Annual General Meeting that “the Captain and Hon. Secretary each year of both University Hockey Clubs and also of Marlborough College, be elected honorary playing members of the Club while at the University and College respectively”.

From its founding in April 1894, the uniform of the Hockey Club was recorded to be that as before, namely, “a shirt of the Cricket Club colours and a dark blue cap”.

The *Short History of Hampstead Hockey Club* mentions that “the following season (1900/01) contained further notable events. Oxford and Cambridge Universities appeared in the fixture list for the first time - though the club's elaborate dark blue, light blue and white shirts are traditionally supposed to hark back to some long-standing link with the two Universities. It is likely that this link derived from the Cricket Club, where the colours seem to have been inherited.”

Contemporary photography confirms the adherence over the years to shirts of a reasonably consistent pattern of dark and light blue stripes with a white half (being reversed on the back). This team photograph (admittedly monochrome) was taken at the Folkestone Easter Festival of 1910, when the Club sent its strongest team. (Try to spot the two Great Britain internationals!)



In 1878, the Minutes of Hampstead Cricket Club covered the rules of the cricket club and the question of club colours arose. Allegedly those they had adopted were the same as another club. After enquiry it was established that the club in question apparently played no matches although later discovered still to be functioning. Therefore "it was decided that the colours [of Hampstead Cricket Club] would be dark blue, cerise and black". This may partially explain the dark blue cap recorded by the hockey section in 1894. Those colours predominate in the current crest of Hampstead Cricket Club.

One possible explanation, though extremely unlikely, is that the hockey players were unaware of the cricket club colours and thought they were the two blues and white. Colin Greenhalgh doubts that explanation, since the circumstances of it largely (if not entirely) involved the same people.

Another suggestion is that somewhere between the cricket club giving the new hockey club permission to use their colours and the hockey club becoming active in its own right, the hockey club decided that it did not want to accept the offer. Perhaps they decided it would be to their advantage to concentrate upon an Oxford and Cambridge association. Colin believes that somehow that decision was never recorded, so we may never know.

In the 1920's the viability of producing Club shirts adopting the pattern and colours came into question. In September 1920, the Club minutes record that "owing to the expense of getting Club Colours made, the question of adopting the new Cricket Club colours of all white was discussed." The matter was deferred, but the suggestion was subsequently rejected, as it has been on several occasions since. Tradition has always (rightly, most would say) overcome the exigencies of finance.

But the expense of getting shirts manufactured in the Club's complicated design continued to concern the Committee. Two or three years later, an alternative shirt, supplied by Nuttings, was employed. Nuttings' first batch was delivered just in time for the start of the 1923/24 season. Sadly, after all the effort, the colours had been stitched on to the wrong sides!

## The First Match; 1950

The first post-revival match was played against Teddington 2<sup>nd</sup> XI on 2 October 1950. Here is the Hampstead team. The three leaders of the revival are seated centrally on the front row.



From left to right standing: G P Walker, E N Larmour, J L Matthews-Lane, R H Matthews, J Bayman, A Reid, P Johnston  
Seated: W J Fletcher, S J Saunders, R L Milsted (captain) J C Sankey, I Suster

The Hampstead line up was:

P Johnston (GK)  
●  
S J Saunders  
R L Milsted  
●  
G P Walker  
J Bayman  
A Reid  
●  
E N Larmour  
J L Matthews- Lane  
W J Fletcher  
I Suster  
R H Matthews

And the score was 1-1. No more do we know. There is no recorded match report.

Of its three transformative decades, that of the 1950's is probably the most significant and possibly very much underestimated by Club members today.

This was the period of re-formation or revival after World War Two. The pre-War membership had largely dispersed and the Club effectively had lain dormant for ten years. All was begun from scratch.

The initiative for the revival is attributed to three men, each as important in the Club's history as the 17 who met to form Hampstead Hockey Club in the Eyre Arms in 1894. They were Ruari Milsted, John Sankey and S J "Beaker" Saunders.

The Club's Minute Book spanning the hiatus possibly provides the most succinct summary.

*The Hampstead Hockey Club was re-formed after the 1939-45 War by meetings during the summer of 1950. R L Milsted was the Chairman of these meetings and ably assisted in the work of re-formation by J C Sankey, S J Saunders, P C Kay and A Reid (who was appointed Hon Sec). The first match of the re-formed Club was played on 21 October 1950 at the Hampstead Cricket Club ground, Lymington Road NW6, which became the headquarters of the Club.*

What was described as a Hampstead Hockey Club sub-committee of Hampstead Cricket Club had met on 31 July 1950, attended by Messrs Milsted, Saunders and Sankey.

They resolved

- that the sub-committee of the hockey section of the Cricket Club was to consist of the present members of the sub-committee with power to co-opt other members from the Hampstead Cricket Club
- that the following temporary scale of subscriptions should be authorised for the hockey section
  - new members, two guineas
  - full members of the Hampstead Cricket Club and junior members of the Hampstead Cricket Club, no additional subscription
- that the subscription scale was to be reconsidered after the end of the first season
- that the Hampstead Hockey Club was to guarantee [the Cricket Club] a minimum of £40 per annum in respect of subscriptions for the first three seasons.

In relation to equipment, they also resolved that the following were to be purchased out of Hampstead Hockey Club funds

- two sets of goal posts with nets and back boards; and
- hockey balls and corner flags.

It was reported that negotiations were in progress to obtain a supply of Hampstead Hockey Club shirts and stockings.

So far as the ground was concerned, they resolved to request the Management Committee [of the Cricket Club] to agree to the pitch being sited on the far side of the "square" from the pavilion.

They also resolved to play a trial game on Saturday 14 October and that the first fixture was to be arranged for Saturday 21 October 1950. Arrangements were at that time being made for a further six home fixtures and six away fixtures for the first season.

It was also reported that an article on the history of the Hockey Club had appeared in the *Hampstead and Highgate Express* on 30 June 1950 and that others were to appear in the *Hockey World*, the *Evening Standard* and Sunday papers.

Several schools were reported already to have expressed their willingness to give the venture their support.

It was resolved that a circular letter announcing the start of the season be circulated to all members of the Cricket Club. From this the Club grew again and it led to the revival of hockey at Hampstead and that first match against Teddington 2<sup>nd</sup> XI.





## Jeremy Potter

Ronald Jeremy Potter was born on 25 April 1922 and attended Clifton College and then Queen's College, Oxford. He was an Intelligence Officer in India in World War Two. He was a prolific games player and started playing hockey when aged nine. He was prominent in cricket, racquet, squash and lawn tennis at Clifton College.

He joined Hampstead in 1952 and was appointed as the hockey representative to the Management Committee at the Annual General Meeting on 17 April 1953. He later took over the captaincy of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI from Sandy Kay in the 1954-5 season, with Scottish international, Ian Hayward continuing as vice-captain. In the 1955-6 season the 1<sup>st</sup> XI had impressive results, winning 16, drawing 2 and losing 3 to Hounslow, London University and RMA Sandhurst, scoring 72 goals and conceding 23. (It also won the club's Barnard Cup in that season).



*On tour at Folkestone in 1954, Jeremy Potter is the standing on the far right in this photograph*

Jeremy Potter attributed the success of his side (**In Praise of Hockey** in the *Book of Hockey*, compiled by Patrick Rowley in 1964 and reproduced below) to the fact that the same players were keen enough to turn out regularly Saturday after Saturday, rather than to their star qualities.

R J Mallinson proved to be a high-scoring centre-forward who believed in hitting the ball at goal like a bullet the instant he was in the circle. On his right was Noel Cardoza, directing the attack "like the master he was" and outside him Peter Bell.

The backbone of the defence at centre-half was J N Bartlett who, said Potter, “did not miss a ball for five or six seasons”. Robin Mallinson, John Bartlett and Sandy Kay had been contemporaries at Oxford University, at a time when Sir John Masterman did his old club a great service by encouraging players from Oxford to help in its re-building.

In 1956, Jeremy Potter again captained the side that won 12, drew 4 and lost 6, scoring 78 and conceding 47. On 10 November 1956, Hampstead beat Royal Artillery 3-2 at Cricklewood and the match was reported in the *Daily Telegraph*. Having taken the lead through Mallinson, who scored two goals in the first five minutes, the visitors grew more accustomed to the steep slope of the Cricklewood pitch and its uneven surface and managed to pull one back through Burnett. Cardoza and Bell then combined to let the latter in to score Hampstead’s third. Burnett scored a second for Royal Artillery and according to the report, “would have equalised soon after had Potter on the line not saved splendidly a vicious shot from a short corner.”

At the Club’s Annual Dinner held on 15 March 1956 at Lord’s Tavern (with 70 members and guests present) Jeremy Potter proposed the toast to the visitors and announced that the club had decided to move next season to Boston Manor Playing Fields. There was reported to be an excellent playing surface and, although conditions were not ideal, they were quite adequate and a local public house would become the club’s headquarters “in order that the traditional hospitality to visiting teams could be maintained.”

Later that season Jeremy Potter was selected for Middlesex A. At that time, the Hampstead team had a considerable hockey pedigree (from a contemporary perspective):-

Goal: C L Vye (Great Britain, England B, Oxford University, South and Middlesex)

Right Back: P C Kay (South, Buckinghamshire)

Left back: R J Potter (Middlesex A)

Right Half: M J Pailthorpe (West, Dorset, Oxford University)

Centre Half: J H Bartlett (Sussex, South triallist)

Left Half: R A Downard (Wales, Middlesex)

Outside Right: P D Bell (Buckinghamshire)

Inside Right: N Cardoza (Middlesex)

Centre Forward: R J C Mallinson (Oxford University, Middlesex)

Inside Left: J F Deegan (RAF Combined Services, Middlesex)

Outside Left: I A C Hayward (Scotland, Cambridge University. Kent)

As Colin Greenhalgh pointed out in his *Short History of Hampstead Hockey Club* the 1<sup>st</sup> XI at full strength contained five internationals – past, present and future – and only one (Jeremy Potter) who was not a full county player (and he played for Middlesex ‘A’ in the heyday of that county’s strength).

In 1957, Sandy Kay took over the captaincy of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI. Dick Downard, who had been selected for Wales, was appointed vice captain.

At the club’s Annual General Meeting at the RNVF Club on 1 April 1966, Jeremy Potter accepted a nomination and was appointed the club’s President and held that post for the usual three seasons until 1969, when, once again, he was succeeded by Sandy Kay. He chaired the Annual Club Dinner at the City Pride on 15 December 1967 and at the Talbot Restaurant on 23 December 1968, proposing the toast to the guests.

A Dinner was held on 16 May 1969 to commemorate the club's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary at The Olde Swan Hotel in Thames Ditton, at which he presided as Past President.

On the celebration of the club's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Jeremy Potter appeared for the President's XI in a match against the club's 2<sup>nd</sup> XI held at Hornsey on 4 October 1969 that was won 1-0, playing at full-back along with Sandy Kay and several others from the 1<sup>st</sup> XI during his earlier captaincy. He also then proposed the toast to the guests at the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Dinner held at Simpsons-in-the-Strand later that evening. He was later appointed a club Vice President.

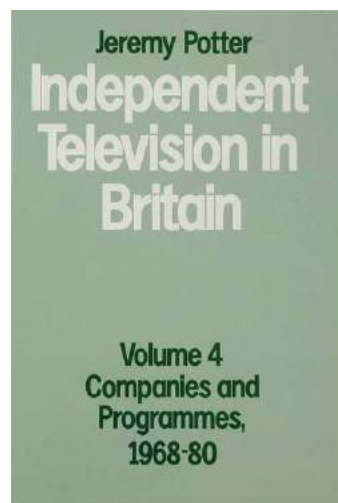
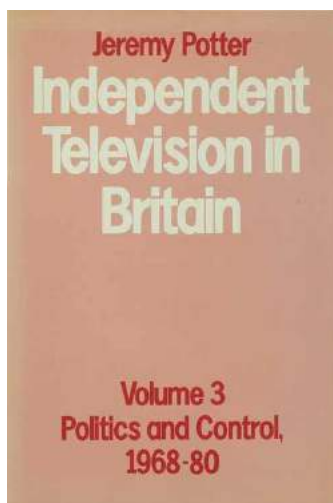
Jeremy Potter was also renowned as a publisher, novelist, historian and businessman. He was successively manager, managing director and deputy chairman of the *New Statesman* from 1951 until 1969. He worked with its chairman, Jock Campbell and is said to have had a tight rein on the business aspects of the magazine. Following the appointment of John Freeman as editor in 1961, and his succession in 1965 by Paul Johnson, Jeremy Potter raised the circulation of the *New Statesman* to 94,000.

However, surprising a few in the industry, he then left in 1970 to become managing director of Independent Television Publications, publishers of *TV Times*. Under his direction it became the most successful mass-market magazine in British publishing history. It sold 11 million copies of its annual Christmas issue. He became the President of the Periodical Publisher's Association in 1978-79.

During this time, he was strategist and editor of ITV's submission to the 1974 Annan Committee that succeeded in preserving the regional identity of the ITV network, having made what was regarded by his peers as an important contribution to the structure and development of British broadcasting.

His skills as an editor, strategist and draftsman led him to be re-united with John Freeman at London Weekend Television in 1979. He was director of corporate affairs, with special responsibility for overseeing and co-ordinating LWT's successful franchise application in 1980. He chaired several of the group's subsidiary companies.

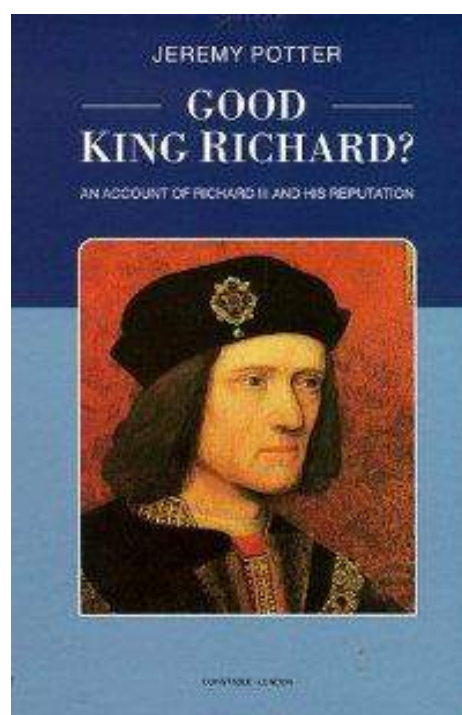
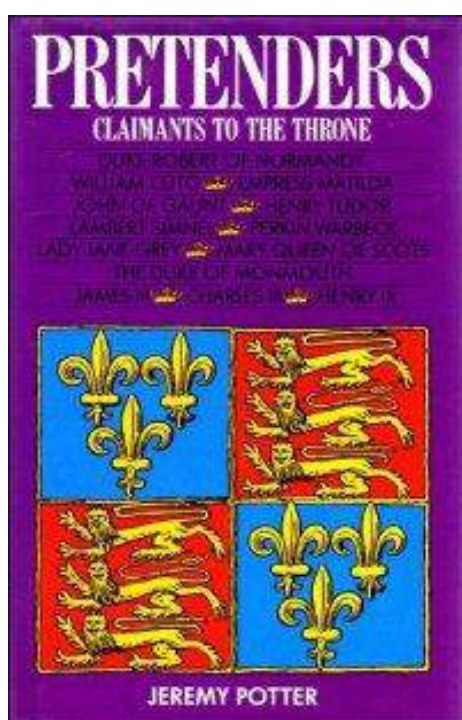
He retired in 1988 and wrote the third and fourth volumes of *The History of Independent Television in Britain*. Modestly, he suggested that his was "a view of ITV not from the stage, or the auditorium, but from the wings."



is attraction and devotion to history and, to him, the need to seek the truth, made him an authority on Richard III. He served the Richard III Society as Chairman from 1971-1989. During his chairmanship, the Society launched several significant initiatives, including the commissioning of a heroic statue of Richard III (on display in Castle Gardens, Leicester), the securing of royal patronage from HRH Richard, Duke of Gloucester, and the Channel Four broadcast of *The Trial of Richard III*, with Lord Elwyn-Jones, the former Lord Chancellor, presiding, in which he was principal defence witness.

During his tenure, the Society also became active in sponsoring the publication of fifteenth-century source documents and works of current scholarship on the period. It also created the Richard III and Yorkist History Trust, which provides financial support for graduate study and publishing. Jeremy Potter was elected President of the Society at its Annual General Meeting in London on 4 October 1997, sadly very shortly before his death on 15 November 1997.

He wrote *Good King Richard?* in 1985 and *Pretenders* in 1986.

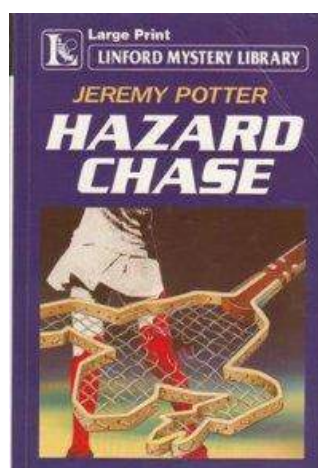


As well as being a prolific writer, Jeremy Potter wrote ten novels. One was set in the context of hockey, entitled *Foul Play*, a crime novel “with a hockey background, an entertaining *whodunit* about foul people, behaving foully”.

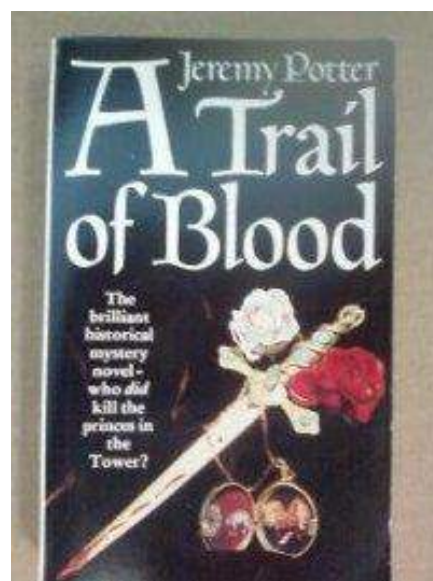
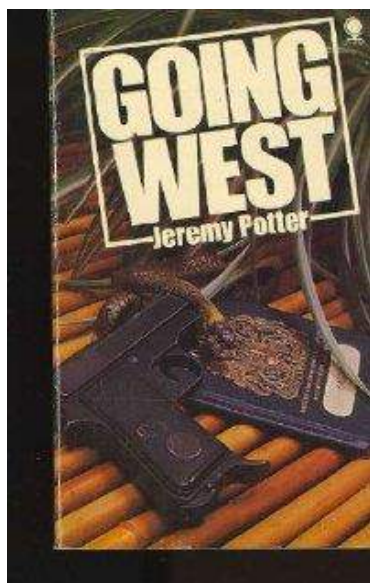
It recounts the members of the Old Soaks Hockey Club, who enjoyed the worst of reputations, being “foul in word and in deed”. The disappearance of his friend Johnnie leads to David joining the club. He spends a sporting weekend at a French seaside resort with the team and its seductive (and seducing) camp-followers, Bunty, the delectable, Freda, the sexpot and Christabel, the nympho. As the members’ murky activities multiply, sudden death begins to work its way through the club. Accident? Suicide? Murder? While the action moves from Bristol to London to Normandy and back again, the deaths accumulate and David decides that Detective Inspector Hiscock is unlikely to uncover the truth without assistance.



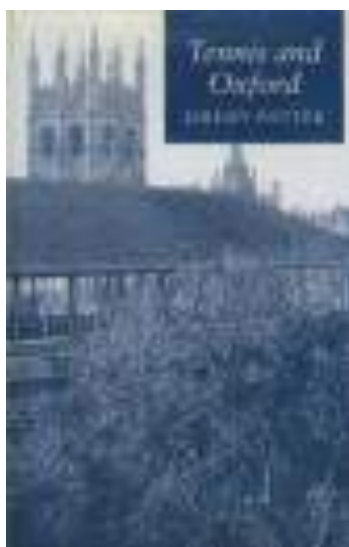
He wrote two other crime novels, *Death in Office* and *Hazard Chase*.



Other books include *Dance of Death* (1968), *Going West* (1972), *Disgrace and Favour* (1975), *Death in the Forest* (1977) *A Trail of Blood* (1985), *The Primrose Hill Murder* (1992) and *The Mystery of the Campden Wonder* (1995).



He also wrote *Tennis and Oxford* (1994), a historical work derived from his attraction to tennis and to a greater extent his passion for real tennis.



He remained fit and sufficiently agile to win the World Amateur Real Tennis Veteran Championship in singles and doubles in 1986 and 1987. He never lost touch with hockey either and when aged 74, captained a Veterans' tour to South Africa, his final such venture.

He also conducted book reviews: the following has a clear hockey connection, written for *Sport & Recreation* in April 1967, two years prior to the formation of the London League.

## HOCKEY COACHING

(HODDER AND STOUGHTON 30s Postage 1s 7d)

*Hockey in Britain is wholly amateur. There are no professionals and shamateurs. No one puts fivers in our boots after we have scored a goal and there are precious few in the coffers of the British Hockey Board. The game attracts little public interest and (except when the women play at Wembley) few spectators. With no league hockey, competitive play is minimal. On the field, science, fitness and the will to win will take second place to bursts of enthusiasm and bouts of rustic bashing. It must be confessed, in fact, that all over the country thousands of men and women boys and girls play hockey for nothing more than the sheer fun of it. And where, in these grim times will that get us at the next Olympics?*

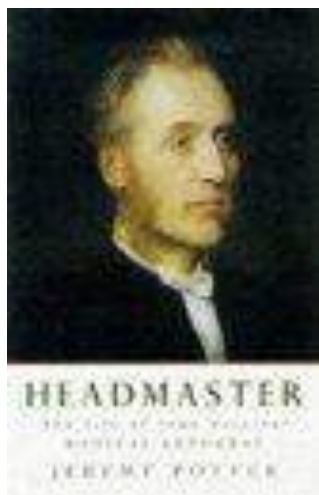
*With Mexico (and our failure at Tokyo) in mind the Hockey Association has been taking steps towards a wider appreciation of the game and a higher standard of play. It has arranged a Pre-Olympic London Tournament next October, when the World's leading national teams will be performing at Lord's and the Oval and it has sponsored a publication of this official manual.*

*Running to 368 pages, Hockey Coaching is comprehensive, well produced and neatly laid out (with plenty of illustrations and diagrams). There are chapters covering basic concepts and skills and defence, essential tactics, captaincy, coaches and coaching, training games fitness and equipment. The usual drawback to such annuals is that they are written by various hands, whose basic skills are not literary. But except for one or two uncalled for glimpses of the obvious ("the wing half must ensure that he does not infringe the rules") the anonymous but extremely distinguished contributors to Hockey Coaching emerge with very high marks indeed for sound and clear exposition – perhaps because some of them are schoolmasters. Coaches apart, every player in the country would profit from a good browse here (Aspects of the Rules enlightened me, for instance, on several points I had failed to grasp in thirty five years of play). Moreover, there is not, I believe, a better manual of its kind currently available anywhere in the world.*

*Whatever happens at Mexico, what about gold medals for Terry Podesta, Chairman of the HA Coaching Committee who has spent years on this enterprise and Roy Salisbury, who has made a brilliant job of the editing?*

He also found time to write what was his last book, *Headmaster; The Life of John Percival, Radical Autocrat* that was published in 1998. This is a biography of the first headmaster of Clifton College, where he made his reputation as a great educator. In his 17 years at Clifton College numbers rose from 62 to 680. He accepted the Presidency of Trinity College, Oxford to

recover from his exhaustive years at Clifton. It was from Trinity that he went to Rugby to become Headmaster of Rugby School before becoming the Bishop of Hereford.



In addition, Jeremy Potter was a vigilant defender of his local communities. In Hampstead, he campaigned for the preservation of the Heath, in Teddington for a youth club and in Oxford for the preservation of the Oxford Playhouse. Until shortly before his death, he was chairman of The Friends of Old Headington, seeking the preservation of the old village.

### **IN PRAISE OF HOCKEY**

JEREMY POTTER

Hampstead Hockey Club, London

Hockey is a life sentence. Already, at forty-two, my kind of retirement is well behind me: from inside left to left back twelve years ago. My playing career to date extends across a third of a century, and I expect to keep going in a mild sort of way for another eighteen years, sliding gracefully down the elevens and employing less and less mobility and more and more guile.

How the rules, like us players, have changed for the worse! One of the happiest memories of my childhood is of hooking sticks. You flicked up your opponent's stick ever so delicately from behind, converting his epic swipe into a humiliating airshot, and then you stole the ball away while he was angrily unwinding. In those days, too, you stopped the ball with your feet proudly, without a twinge of conscience or peals of horror from the chap with the whistle. I can re-live a couple of dozen enthralling penalty bullies, mostly as a forward, gaining in tempo on the goalkeeper at every tap, some as a back putting on a sly *rallentando* performance. No Ichabod; the penalty bully has departed, replaced by a soccerish importation.

I have played hockey on grass and gravel, mud and sand, concrete and wood – even on that fiendish pitch at Dean Close, where wooden parapets prevent the ball from ever going out of play and you'll be lucky if you're allowed a half-time. For me there are no pitches like Indian pitches. There the ball travels fast and true, the tactics are a matter of the instant calculation of



angles, and the Sikhs' feet are temptingly bare. There the game is played in the right temperature and at the right time of day – when the sun is nearly down, the tropical heat dying a slow death, and the second half cooler than the first. If only cricket's stranglehold on the grounds could be broken and we could have full seasons of summer hockey in England! Hockey in gym shoes in the sunshine; hockey on hard, dry pitches instead of in rain and slush and frost and fog.

Even as things are, no other activity has given me so much pleasure over quite so long a period as playing hockey. It attracts because it is a team game for individualists, and not a long-drawn-out one like cricket, or one steeped in professionalism, like soccer. Not for us hockey players the unbearable egocentricity of the lawn tennis addicts. Not for us, either, the bovine anonymity of second-row rucker forwards. We gather the ball, we bring it under control, we preen ourselves with a modest display of stickwork while finding an opening, and then – we pass. There is scope for the opportunism of a dashing wing or a weaving inside; a half may have a private duel marking his man out of the game; but when the crunch comes it is the forward line as a whole which scores and a dovetailing defence which keeps the ball out of the net.

Thus, the successful club is the one which turns out the same team week after week, not the one with the stars who twinkle in and out of the side. In one three-year stretch with the Hampstead Club, I didn't miss a single game, and the rest of the defence was almost as regular. Our combined endeavours became infinitely better than the sum of our individual merits, and in two of those three years I believe we were the only London club unbeaten by those thoroughly professional-thinking amateurs at Hounslow. We all went through our favourite private antics, but as an instinctive part of an intricate pattern which I find satisfying even in retrospect. In every emergency everyone sensed where everyone should be, and there, by a series of stunning coincidences, everyone usually was. Doubtless we would have been all the better for some hard work with a blackboard off-field but the joy of acting on individual impulse would have gone. As the enemy swept down the field we would somehow form and re-form in depth with (almost) military precision, but undrilled and uncommanded.

Hockey has its perils as well as pleasures. I am scarred on the cheek for life by a blow from the stick of a centre-forward from the other side of London (we dropped the fixture the next season, naturally). Usually, though, it is the centre-forward who suffers. There was one I used to play inside who was an Anglo-Indian – a mixture of bloods which for some reason produces the best hockey players in the world. He rarely scored fewer than four goals a match, and each one with an effortless diffidence which made it all the more galling to those at the receiving end. One day the opposing goalkeeper became so infuriated as number six went in that he abandoned the ball for good and set about the man with his stick – not a smart tap on the ankle such as even respectable defenders unleash from time to time, but full-scale belabouring round the shoulders. That was an Army game, and it ended months after the final whistle in courts-martial and dishonour.

On quite another occasion my own goalkeeper, finding the opposing centre-forward providentially at his feet, proceeded to kick him gravely and systematically out of the circle. That was in Germany, and there was already some tension in the air owing to what the papers would call “amazing allegations” of body-checking against me and our centre-half, a player of unblemished character from the stockbroker belt in Surrey. (The point at issue was who is fouling whom when blond fliers from Hamburg tap the ball ahead and try to run through you

and you simply stand). The goalkeeper incident was as a climax, therefore, and the umpire's whistle sounded like a signal for World War 3. Our goalie stood impassively to attention while being harangued in broken English and at the end remained silent and unapologetic, leaving it to us to explain that the team's only goalkeeper was at our hotel sweating out a fever under one of those huge feather mattresses, and this was an obliging fellow from Munich (where Hamburgers were unpopular?) who didn't speak a word of English.

Now let me dogmatize and, breaking the golden rule for backs, commit myself. At the age of nine I was told that I would never be able to play hockey properly because I was left-handed. But as the seasons passed I discovered this to be what is politely known as the reverse of the truth. The greatest natural advantage in playing hockey is to be left-handed. On the reverse side this should be obvious, yet it's astonishing how few opponents realise that one is left-handed, let alone the implications. At left back, for instance, I positively encourage inside rights to try to take the ball round my reverse side, and they never tag on.

But left-handedness goes further. If you are a left-handed cricketer, bowl left-handed by all means, throw in left-handed) though not at first from cover-point – keep it for the quick single to your left-hand side) but don't bat left-handed. Leave that to right-handers who have enough sense. For if you play a two-handed shot from the right-hand side of your body at cricket or hockey or any other game, the right hand merely guides. What counts is the left wrist, and if you use your left hand for all the manual chores of life yours will be stronger and suppler than any right-hander's.

The effect of left-handedness is one peculiarity of hockey; another is the variety of its manifestations. Because of differing atmospheres and attitudes, Saturday and Sunday hockey in Britain are virtually different games: staid Bromley men break out the very next day as Bandits; and Syphons and Tankards and Heathens, too, are specially reserved for the Sabbath. Women's hockey, again, is a world apart, and according to my observation one Saturday at Wembley (in the company of 60,000 schoolgirls) a far, far cleaner one than men's. Mixed hockey, on the other hand, occupies a dangerous half-world of its own: an unholy of extramural and intramural sports.

But, so far as memories are concerned, the heights of hockey are achieved in yet another manifestation; the festival. Here, Pink Elephants and Hairy Goats abound. Here, spectators actually appear on the touchlines. Festivals have taken me to The Hague, where I found that Holland wasn't a flat country after all; to Guernsey, where I was expected to share a bed with a large centre-half; to Folkestone and Bournemouth and that unlucky venue the National Physical Laboratory; but above all to Le Touquet, the quintessence of festivals. Au Touquet, as they say one unlimbers in the scramble for free champagne at the Mayor's reception, then follow the fierce encounters on the field with long-legged Dutchmen and short legged Belgians and afterwards there are nocturnal junketings at the Café des Sports and dark rumours of other encounters in the tents among the pine-trees. One year, such is the fervour of festival hockey, we even transported our right-half across the Channel and safely back again without benefit of transport!

Hockey is not for watching (except by small boys who can fetch the balls). Hockey is not for making money out of. Nor is it really for writing about. Hockey is for playing.

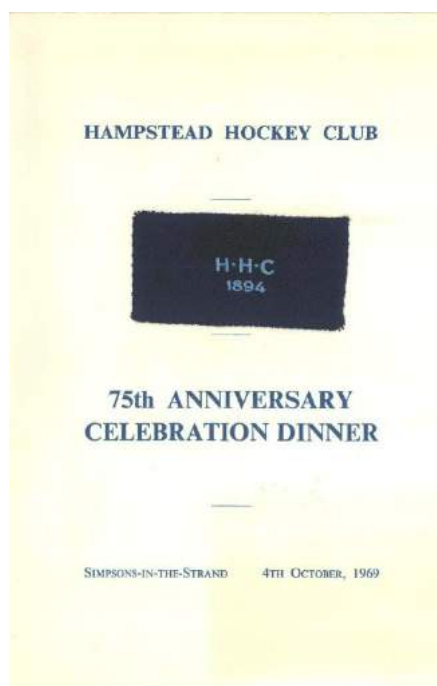
## The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

Hampstead Hockey Club celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the start of the 1969/70 season, having seceded from Hampstead Cricket Club in 1894.

The decision to celebrate in 1969 was taken after some deliberation, given the two hiatuses in the Club's history. P C Kay, the Club's President, pointed out that most hockey clubs regard their anniversaries as something really important and worth celebrating. "Hampstead feels that its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary calls for special recognition.... The Club was twenty-five years old in April 1919, a time when there was very little to celebrate. The fiftieth anniversary, in April 1944, would have taken place some 55 days before D-Day: while in 1954, when we were sixty years old, the club had only just started its journey back to the position it had held in London hockey from 1900 to 1939, and the whole future was extremely uncertain".

The General Committee took the opportunity to hold a 'Senior Officers' celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary much nearer the actual birthday date than the official programme. This was held at The Olde Swan Hotel in Thames Ditton on 16 May 1969 under the chairmanship of past President, Jeremy Potter. Amongst those attending were Colin Greenhalgh (then General Secretary) Richard Shaw (his successor) Richard Clarke (captain of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI) Roy Salisbury, Bob Tom and future Club Presidents Peter Boizot and Guy Mayers.

It had also been agreed to hold a number of games, followed by an Anniversary Dinner at Simpsons-in-the-Strand on Saturday 4 October 1969



The Hockey Association had agreed to raise a representative XI. The opening matches in the newly formed London League had been played in the previous week. League hockey was new to the London area. There were uncertainties over the possible adverse effects and, in particular, players' temperaments and whether play might become more aggressive. Hampstead's opening game against Hounslow had been watched with close attention.

Writing in the *Evening Standard*, on 3 October 1969, Richard Lynton had commented upon the position encountered by Mike Doughty, who had been asked to raise a Hockey Association team to face the Hampstead 1<sup>st</sup> XI in the headline match of the weekend.

### RED TAPE BEGINS TO TIE UP HOCKEY

*The tyranny of red tape which smothers initiative and enterprise in so many directions is intruding now upon hockey. There was time when as a player paid his subscription to the club of his choice and the club its dues to the Hockey Association etc one and all could get on with the game without hindrance. Not any longer, as Mike Doughty, former Surrey and England outside left has been finding out.*

*He agreed to raise a representative Hockey Association XI to play the Hampstead Club tomorrow (3.15pm) in celebration of their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Doughty found distinguished players who at first accepted this invitation to the Hampstead match, crying off one after another. The inevitable excuse: "my club want me for a league match or to practice for a league match".*

*The grip of clubs on their players is going to tighten, make no mistake. There is already talk of players having to be registered to prevent poaching by one club or county on the preserves of a rival in their league or cup.*

*But Doughty, by reason of his long connection with the game and personal popularity, was able to raise a team adequate for the purpose.*

#### *Team*

*D D Archer (Enfield); J N Busk (Cheam) P J Svehlik (Cambridge University Wanderers); C J Atkinson (Alderley Edge) I L Clarke (Bromley) T W Price (Surbiton); G J Wilkinson (Guildford) R K Lynn (Polytechnic) S R Cliel (United Banks) C A Akers (Broxbourne) M O Doughty (Old Kingstonians).*

A useful summary of the day's events was supplied by *Hockey News* in its November 1969 Edition

### THEY DINED AND THEY WINED AND SOME WERE VERY LATE TO BED!

HAMPSTEAD HC did not celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary or their 50<sup>th</sup> for reasons beyond their control<sup>22</sup> but they made up for it when their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary came round on 4 October. From curtain-up at the cool, cool hour of 10.45 until tea was brewing, pavilion and pitches at Hornsey echoed to the smack and crack of almost non-stop hockey.

After that there was dining and wining and much good company at Simpsons-in-the-Strand, where the roast beef should convince anyone that Old England had something to boast about. So too had Old Hampstead and Young Hampstead, as Sir John Wolfenden made abundantly clear

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<sup>22</sup> The end of World War 1 in the case of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the ongoing World War 2 in the case of the 50<sup>th</sup>

in proposing the toast of the evening: *Hampstead Hockey Club*. Mr R J Potter, welcoming the guests, poked a little fun at the hemlines of the Old Members' XI which, he said, were "lower than they make them now". The President Mr P C Kay, a model chairman, had the last word and some were very late to bed!

It was the third, fourth and the fifth XI's, aided and abetted by certain Spaniards, who set the ball rolling in what was thoughtfully described as a Barrel Tournament. It was not all together clear whether this referred to the prize, a pint of beer or to some of the other fine figures on display.

#### THE BARREL

At all events, the barrel rolled predictably: the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI beat the 4<sup>th</sup> XI. The 4<sup>th</sup> XI and the 5<sup>th</sup> XI beat the Spaniards, the jolly boys of the Sunday side and the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI beat the 5<sup>th</sup> XI 1-0 in the final. The 3<sup>rd</sup> XI rolled out the barrel without a hitch and all were the best of friends.

Next on the stage were the President's XI led in person by P C (Sandy) Kay. They included two past presidents of Hampstead, R J Potter and R L Milsted, W N Livingstone, an Olympic player of 1960 vintage, a Scottish international I A C Hayward and a school of county players. Old heads proved more potent than young shoulders and the Presidents' party defeated the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI by one Mallinson goal to nil.



#### *Teams*

**Hampstead 2<sup>nd</sup> XI:** G R Hitch; G H Rutherford (capt) J M Tallon; N Sonley P R Bowden P M Rutherford; D R Randall Z Muller L C Ingvarson D Vautier K K Seedher

**President's XI:** D J Austin-Jones; P C Kay R J Potter; R L Milsted J N Bartlett W N Livingstone; P D Bell N A F Cardoza R J C Mallinson J L Matthews Lane I A C Hayward

**Umpires:** D S Baker (SCHUA) and D C Smyth

## MATCH OF THE DAY

In the main match of the day, a Hockey Association XI, watched by their president, Mr R Y Fison, the aforementioned past-presidents, vice-presidents and other old stagers, pulled their socks up just in time to force a 2-2 draw with the Hampstead 1<sup>st</sup> XI. The pitch was dry and cracked and distinctly tricky as a result of the Indian Summer we have enjoyed so much and Hampstead made the best of it in the first half, Spicer and Randle giving them a 2-0 lead.

Late in the second half the HA XI, captained by Ivan Clark, decided the time had come to take matters into his own hands. Since his forwards were not scoring goals, he would show them, and he did. Another old hand, Rex Lynn, who still has that pretty touch, which made him such an attractive player to watch when he was playing for England, followed suit. His was a timely parting shot, leaving Hampstead no time to hit back.

### *Teams*

**Hampstead:** D E Ratcliffe; R K Seedher. M B Spicer S P Lunn C J Black R Cake; D Randall R W Clarke (capt) G W Phillips S J Oliver D N Jennings

**HA XI:** D D Archer\*; J N Busk P J Svehlik\*; C J Atkinson I L Clark\* (capt) T W Price; G J Wilkinson K R Lynn\* S R Cliel C A Akers M O Doughty\*

**Umpires:** N Miroy\* and M L Pecker (SCHUA)  
*\*international*

Another outlook on the weekend was supplied by a special correspondent of the *Sunday Telegraph*, on 5 October 1969.

## THAT OLD GLORY

The ground at Hampstead Hockey Club was thick with Blues – Oxford and Cambridge - internationals past and present and the sweet scent of old glory as the members mustered yesterday to honour the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this flourishing club.

The President, P C Kay, rallied his Old Members to put the young men of the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI in their place by a goal to nil. Truth to tell, the Old Members were not all that old, notably Mallinson, who scored their goal, Cardoza and Bartlett and Livingstone, who must have been just babies of the side and very healthy at that.

There was an older vintage, ably represented by Milsted, who was in his prime before most of his opponents had seen the light, He will surely remember what I fancy must be positively his last appearance and he will remember it most in the morning.

A little later the Present were in a fair way to outdo the Past when Hampstead 1<sup>st</sup> XI led the team sent to try them by the Hockey Association by 2 goals to nil.



For this game the club reverted to an orthodox five-forward formation. It suited them a good deal better, I thought, than the four-forward game they played the week before<sup>23</sup>.

The right side triangle of Clarke, Lunn and Randall worked the standard flanking moves with some success. Spicer popped the first shot in from a penalty corner, Randall the second and, with a bit of luck, there might have been a third by Hampstead in the second half.

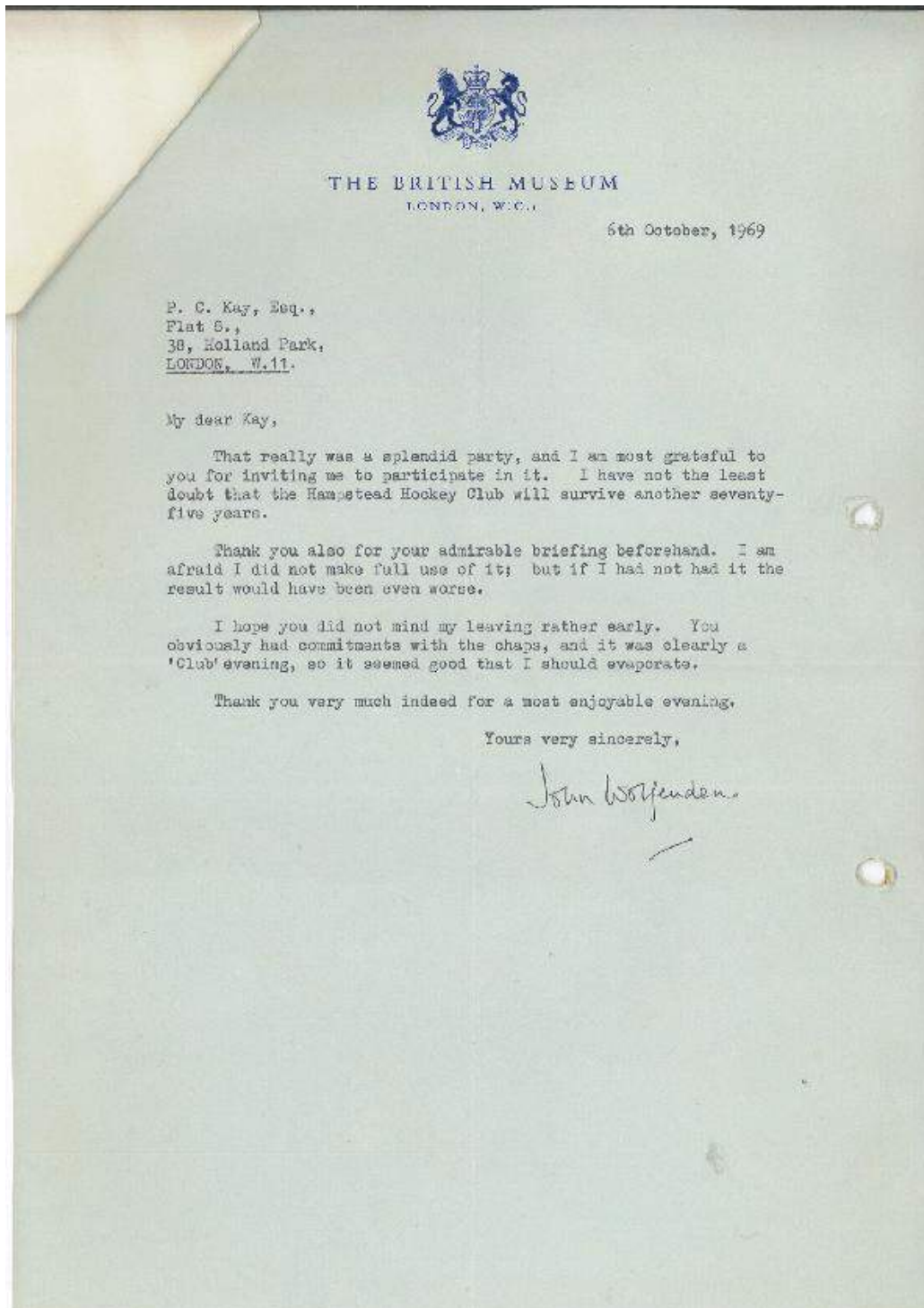
But at the critical point, Clarke, an old campaigner, rallied the Hockey Association XI by his personal example and after suffering a penalty for offside scored their first goal. Lynn, though slower than of old, still has the same sure touch, controlling the ball well on a somewhat fiery surface and it was he who scored the parting goal, so that all retired content.



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<sup>23</sup> In the first ever London League fixture, against Hounslow that Hounslow won 7-1

Later, the chief guest of the Club, Sir John Wolfenden, sent his thanks to Sandy Kay. Sir John is perhaps best well known for the chairmanship of a committee of 15 that led to the Report of the Departmental Committee on Homosexual Offences and Prostitution (better known as the Wolfenden Report) published on 4 September 1957 after a succession of well-known men were convicted of homosexual offences. John Wolfenden had previously been headmaster of Uppingham and Shrewsbury and in 1950 became Vice Chancellor of the University of Reading. He later became Director of the British Museum.





## London League Opening

The inaugural London League match took place between Hounslow and Hampstead on 27 September 1969.

Here are two different outlooks on the game, from the *Guardian* and the other from Desmond Eager of *the Sunday Telegraph*.

### **Spirited start to the League**

*Guardian correspondent 29 September 1969*

#### **Hounslow 7 Hampstead 1**

One of the fears most frequently expressed by opponents of League hockey is that it would lead to tough, if not positively rough play. It may be too soon to pass judgment on the evidence of this first match in the new London League but I saw nothing which exceeded the normal rigour of the game in this encounter between Hounslow and Hampstead at Hounslow.

It could be argued that a side which wins 7-1 as Hounslow did here has no reason to get hot under the collar and that as it takes two sides to make a quarrel, there was no occasion for friction.

Hounslow's forward line included two internationals, Corby and Langhorne, and the others were all players of county class or better. Not many clubs can say as much. Corby was perhaps not quite so elusive and challenging as usual. He may have been thinking of the squash rackets final he had to play in the evening and which, incidentally, he won.

At all events he was content to scheme opportunities for others and those others took their chances to a man: centre forward McManus, who scored the first two goals and the last; Langhorne, who took two; and Grimmer and Smith, with one goal each, Grimmer from a penalty stroke.

Hampstead might have had a goal in the first quarter-of-an-hour if their attack mounting only four forwards had been as closely integrated as their defence. I had the impression they do not clearly understand the possibilities of the 4-2-3-1 formation which they have adopted.

But there was no doubt at all that Hampstead were inspired by a fine resolution and it earned them the last word in the shape of the last goal of the game, scored by Spicer from a penalty corner. If they hold on to that spirit, they should know better days.

### **Gay Hounslow notch up historical seven**

*Desmond Eager Sunday Telegraph 28 September 1969*

History was made at Hounslow when the first match in the new London Hockey League provided two points and plenty of goals to the home side.

Hounslow were far too strong and skilful. It was interesting, too, that there was no easing up by either side. Perhaps it was the thought that goal difference at the end of the season might mean the difference between Division One and Division Two.

McManus got both goals in the first half. Both came from the wings; the first a short centre by Smith and the second a long one from Grimmer. This was a splendid effort by Mc Manus who flung himself full length to get to the ball.

The Hampstead defence seemed to be Ratcliffe alone. He made a number of fine saves to keep the score within bounds at half-time.

The pressure had been so great that it was perhaps no surprise when the Hounslow forwards had a field day in the second half.

But the goal rush did not start for 15 minutes. Then Grimmer converted a penalty stroke.

The fourth goal, a solo effort by Smith, was followed quickly by two goals from Langhorne and McManus completing his hat-trick. Just on time, Hampstead were awarded a short corner and Spicer saw to it that they did not come away empty-handed.

**Hounslow:** P M Morgan; M J Harris. F H V Scott; W Morris, J D Martin, M R Kittrell; J Grimmer, C J Langhorne, D Mc Manus M WS Corby W T Smith

**Hampstead:** D Ratcliffe; R Seedher, N Souley; M Spicer R Cake R Clarke; S Lunn, D Randall, G Phillips, S Oliver, D Jennings

**Umpires:** D Hall and C E Moody

## First Eleven

Hampstead v Spencer

20 November 1971

(with the Horney Club pavilion in the background!)



*Left to Right*

**Standing**

A Watson; B Beaumont Owles; D Vautier; D Ratcliffe (GK); A McLaren; Briars

**Front Row**

S R Cleal (capt); S Oliver; J Aurell; J Talon; G Madrira



## Kettner's

Kettner's at 29 Romilly Street London W1 features prominently in the entertainment annals of Hampstead and Westminster Hockey Club.

It was therefore with much regret that it was learned that the restaurant was to close in January 2016. This was to allow for redevelopment that, by several accounts, was unlikely to return it to what it was and, in particular, its upper storey rooms, in which many early season Newcomers' Welcome Drinks events were convened by the Club, thanks to the generosity of the owner and Club President at the time, Peter Boizot MBE.

It was also used for fortnightly Monday selection meetings and for the preparation and copying of team sheets, still then sent out by post, generously, again, being provided the office facilities of Peter's businesses housed there. The Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI coach, Greg Carr carried out his responsibilities for PizzaExpress and Peroni beer and in promoting the hockey club to schools from Kettner's. When Peter acquired *Hockey News* the magazine was also run from Kettner's. It became the place to be able to meet Peter and to conduct important Club business.

Kettner's was opened in 1867 by Auguste Kettner, the chef to Napoleon III. Originally comprising four Georgian townhouses, it was one of the first French restaurants in London and commonly regarded as exceptional in the quality of its food.

It also soon became associated with Lily Langtry. She was celebrated as a young woman of beauty and charm, who later established a reputation as an actress and producer. Her looks and personality attracted interest, commentary, and invitations from artists and society hostesses.

In 1877 the Prince of Wales, Albert Edward or Bertie, later King Edward VII, arranged to sit next to Lily Langtry at a dinner party given by Sir Allen Young. Although the Prince was married to Princess Alexandra and had six children, he was a well-known philanderer. He became infatuated with Lily Langtry and she soon became his semi-official mistress. She was later presented to the Prince's mother, Queen Victoria. Eventually, a cordial relationship is said to have developed between Lily and Princess Alexandra.

The affair lasted from late 1877 to June 1880. It was widely accepted that the Prince courted Lily Langtry at Kettner's, although this was not regarded as an exclusive venue for their liaisons. Nonetheless, it was reported that a secret tunnel was commissioned, to be built between Kettner's and the Palace Theatre, where Lillie Langtry performed. Rumour was that the tunnel was used to facilitate clandestine *rendez-vous* during intermissions.

By 1881, Lily had become an actress and starred in many plays, including *She Stoops to Conquer*, *The Lady of Lyons*, and *As You Like It*, eventually running her own stage production company. In later life she performed "dramatic sketches" in vaudeville. She became known for her relationships with noblemen, including, as well as the Prince of Wales, the Earl of Shrewsbury, and Prince Louis of Battenberg. She was the subject of widespread public and media interest.

Oscar Wilde was another prominent guest and regarded Kettner's as his venue of choice.

In the twentieth century, Kettner's remained open during both World Wars and survived the Blitz of the 1940's. Agatha Christie and Bing Crosby became regulars. This generated a growing

fashionable crowd who frequented it. It gained a reputation as an establishment for an affair! The Cocktail and Champagne Bar had an enormous range, with in excess of 100 champagnes on offer.

In 1980 Peter Boizot acquired Kettner's from Paul Raymond, the well-known owner of substantial parts of Soho. Peter said that Paul was a good friend of his and told Peter that he was tired of running Kettner's and asked if Peter was interested in talking it over. Peter was staggered by the suggestion and the opportunity it gave rise to.

Peter regarded Kettner's as "a restaurant of great splendour, garnished to the rafters with remarkable trinkets" but saw that it had "fallen into disarray in recent years". Despite "its undoubted quality, it had sadly become a bit run down."

Peter said that the thought of Kettner's "becoming somewhere that a waiter dressed as a pirate served you the daily *buy one get one free* cheeseburger specials filled us both with repulsion." Thus Peter agreed to buy Kettner's for what he described as a "modest fee" and decided to retain it as it was rather than absorb it into PizzaExpress "out of respect for Paul's hatred of chains". It was therefore acquired under newly formed Peter Boizot Franchise Limited that was independent of PizzaExpress.

However much of Peter's experience with PizzaExpress found its way into the day to day running of Kettner's. The basic idea was to serve *downmarket* food with *upmarket* drinks, that is, Pizza and Champagne. Peter's hunch was that being in the heart of Soho, surrounded by the film, music and television businesses, with the curiosity that a creative mind possesses, there would be a welcome for the purposeful contrast in cheap food and expensive drinks.

The wood-panelled reception area was retained with a door installed to the left with a completely refitted champagne bar that encroached on one half of the mirrored gold red and cream coloured dining room that housed a painting of Auguste Kettner.

The restaurant opened on a strict *no-booking* policy, Peter's aim being to make it a place at which people were happy to queue whilst waiting to enter.

Chandeliers were installed with laurel wreaths attached to the walls. There were 100 tables, including seats on pink banquettes that stretched around the walls in a style similar to the first PizzaExpress layout. Long tables were placed in rows in the centre of the room to seat 16, to accommodate a birthday party.

The second and third floors were painted in duck egg blue and silver.

The opening night was held on a Friday and despite a good number of celebrities in attendance in the presence of the *paparazzi*, Peter was disappointed that not a single photograph appeared in the national press next day.

However, on Sunday Kettner's featured in all the gossip pages. On being pressed by Peter, a photographer admitted that he and his peers had ditched their equipment in the cloakroom and retreated to the Champagne Bar, where they made a pact not to sell their photographs until the next afternoon so that they could enjoy a Friday evening and early Saturday morning.

Kettner's quickly became a popular spot for celebrities in central London. One high profile customer was Lady Diana Spencer, who attended with Princess Anne, a regular customer, in the winter before her marriage to Prince Charles.

Whilst sitting in the Champagne Bar with a group from Hampstead Hockey Club (as it then was) Peter recalled "an almighty cacophony in the hallway" and on investigating, standing there was none other than Marlon Brando. But he was soon ushered out before an introduction could be effected. In Peter's eyes, this merely emphasised that Kettner's "had a magnetic pull on celebrities".

PizzaExpress had started to supply the restaurant at the outset. Kettner's served a similar but extended menu, with large, more luxurious pizzas at slightly higher prices. It became the first restaurant in the PizzaExpress group to serve dough balls, not a product that Peter had initially regarded with great enthusiasm.

In 2002, PizzaExpress, then no longer owned by Peter, acquired Kettner's for £1.95m and it became fully incorporated in the PizzaExpress group. A new first floor Champagne Bar was launched. In 2008, the restaurant was refurbished and became a French brasserie, described by food critic, Jay Rayner, as "an act bordering on vandalism". It was still popular but to many did not enjoy the same caché it once enjoyed.

In 2015, Kettner's was acquired by Soho Home & Co. The buyers run the Dean Street Townhouse and Pizza East, as well as a number of private members' clubs. Its proposals for Kettner's include other adjacent land and buildings comprising 15 townhouses, of which 11 are listed. The buyer intends to create a Kettner's Townhouse, with a high quality restaurant and the reinstatement of the Champagne Bar. Included, too, is the refurbishment of the external vertical sign naming the restaurant on the corner of Romilly Street and Greek Street contained in the listing.

## Badlosers

### *The origins of Women's Hockey at Hampstead*

A few unofficial mixed games started in the Spring of 1981 under the name *Badlosers* but as a Hampstead side, wearing Hampstead Club shirts and using Corams' Fields as our home pitch in the main. Jenny Johnson (later Taylor) and Tony Goodwin ran this team; the latter was the necessary Hampstead HC club member....

In 1982 a Hampstead HC mixed side was officially started. Jenny had been playing for Hendon HC Ladies in 1980/81 and the first half of 1981/82. Being unhappy with arrangements there, she decided to propose a Ladies section at Hampstead, with the support of Tony Goodwin and John McCabe. The three sat on the veranda at the Tivoli Road club house in Crouch End, after a Men's summer game, drinking a gin and tonic (or two) discussed it and decided to go ahead with the suggestion.

The upshot was that Jenny attended a Hampstead HC committee meeting between the end of the 1981/81 season and the start of the 1982/83 season, when the Club was under the Chairmanship of Richard Shaw.

Jenny recollected that there was resistance from some of the men who wanted to keep it a 'men only' hockey Club but the Committee accepted the idea. Jenny placed an advertisement in *Time Out* that produced 33 players.

The team started playing with official backing in the 1982/83 season. Some fixtures were obtained through Sally Tippen, who was the fixture secretary for Ealing Ladies at the time. Sally gave Hampstead their 'spares' and others were picked up by the women's own efforts. Melinda Bennett became captain, as Jenny was already busy running the mixed side. Jenny ran the training/coaching sessions for the Women. Pre-game meetings were arranged close to Gospel Oak station on Parliament Hill Fields.



## Into the Women's South League

As the Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI won the South League in 1994 and marched on to the National League Play Offs at Olton and West Warwick HC, the Women's 1<sup>st</sup> XI were matching them every step of the way and ended as champions of the Hockey Digest Ladies League Division 1.

Their League results were as follows:

<i>Opponent</i>			<i>Scorers</i>
NPL	W	3-0	Charnell 3
Polytechnic	W	3-1	Charnell Thompson Ring
Chiswick	D	0-0	
Harrow	L	0-1	
Staines	W	9-1	Charnell 6 Curr 2 Murphy
Hounslow	W	3-2	Thompson 2 Davies
Southgate Ladybirds	W	9-0	Thompson 3 Charnell 3 Curr Edmondson Gardner
Ealing	W	5-0	Thompson 3 Stubbs Edmondson
Sunbury	W	3-0	Charnell Davies Gardner
Winchmore Hill	W	4-0	Thompson Charnell 2 Stubbs
Teddington	W	1-0	Thompson

### *Top Four League Places*

<b>Hampstead &amp; Westminster</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>28 pts</b>
Hounslow 1	11	8	1	2	26	9	24
Polytechnic 1	11	6	4	1	17	5	22
Teddington 1	11	5	4	2	10	3	19

This success led to their own Play Offs for promotion to the South League. There were two groups of three teams; Tulse Hill, Chichester and H&W in one and the other comprising Oxford Hawks, Trojans and Sunbury.

In the first of their games, H&W lost by a score of 2-0 to Tulse Hill. It was goalless at half time and the game gave every indication that it would end in stalemate. However, Tulse Hill scored twice in the last quarter of an hour. This was a harsh result for the women, as the score did not truly reflect their possessions and dominance. It was probably another instance of a team taking its few opportunities and Tulse Hill grabbed theirs.

Hampstead needed to secure at least a second place in the group, so set out determinedly against Chichester. They eased the pressure imposed on them by scoring early in the first half through left wing, Barbara Gardner. Goals for Lis Steele (from a set-play short corner routine) and two from Jo Edmondson put the game beyond doubt. In the other corresponding game, Tulse Hill won to face Trojans in the semi-finals.

Hampstead's wins secured them a semi-final place against Oxford Hawks. It was a tense match as Hampstead were not able to match the form they had shown in the preceding game against Chichester.

Hampstead's defence was put under considerable pressure by the swift play of the Hawks' wingers but also their other forwards. A well hit shot from Hawks from the top of the circle hit the far post and stayed out.

The game ended goal less and with no extra time allocated, the decision went to penalty strokes. Liz Charnell, Katharine Stubbs, Jane Thompson and Laura Davies converted the opening four for Hampstead, with goalkeeper Leanne Rogers saving two from Hawks that left Hampstead winners by a score of 4-2 at the conclusion.

Trojans defeated Tulse Hill so they too gained promotion to the South League for the 1994-95 season.

Hampstead's team comprised, Katherine Stubbs, Lis Steele (captain) Rachel Havers Janice Heinekey, Jane Thompson, Karen Pullar, Barbara Gardner, Ginny Murphy, Jo Edmondson, Laura Davies, Leanne Rogers Kate Bridger Liz Charnell and Caroline Brooke

The Coach was Avtar Bhurji.

## National League Play Offs 1996

Hampstead endured a painful second season in the National League. In most part, the untimely and wholly unexpected death of the team's Manager Sam Taylor was symptomatic and had a huge influence.

Sam's huge energy and commitment could not simply be replicated or to a lesser extent imitated in sufficient time and matters of organisation soon fell short. There was an equally adverse effect on morale as the results waned. It soon became evident that the team would need to scrap for points in order to survive.

A particularly dark day administratively was the home fixture against Beeston. A dog sprinted on to the pitch and removed the match ball on the point of being injected at a Beeston short corner. There was no replacement ball and play had to be held up. For other, but related reasons, there had been a threat of points being deduction by the League. However, a fine resulted instead, with some token paid to the loss suffered on Sam's death. It resulted, sadly, in a considerable loss of goodwill with the League's officials that had to be repaired later.

After an away 1-0 win against Edgbaston at the end of October, eight consecutive games were lost but not by significant margins (a single goal against Oxford University, Slough, City of Portsmouth and Sheffield, for example, in consecutive games). Peter Boizot was especially despondent after a 3-0 loss at home to Blueharts and had made his feelings known!

Serious cruciate knee ligament damage was also suffered by Andy Thompson, on whom the side looked for goals and central midfielder, Dave Grady, both of whom were lost for the remainder of the season.

Kevin Gallen returned to the club as coach with a handful of games to play, in order to generate some drive and, it was hoped, some forward momentum. A draw was secured against Firebrands at Failand that was followed by a 1-0 win against Crostyx and a 1-1 draw with Olton and West Warwick. Everything depended on the final home game against Isca but the opposition was too strong and it ended 3-1 to the visitors.

This reduced Hampstead and fellow National League Bromley to the League Play offs against the regional League winners (and, in the case of the South League, a runner up) in two groups of four teams. Thus was opened the Inter League Tournament (to give its proper title) at the newly opened National Stadium at Milton Keynes between 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April. (Regrettably for H&W, this coincided with the Club Annual Dinner, the plans for which were already well advanced when details of the Play-Offs were announced).

The opening game was against Lewes, runners-up in the South League (to Oxford Hawks) and a team that had caused a few problems earlier in the season in the Third Round of the HA Cup, when H&W squeezed a 2-1 win at PRG.

## HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER 0-0 LEWES

*Friday 12th April*

On a cold, grey and damp early afternoon, H&W opened their Play-Off campaign against Lewes. Peter Boizot had not long before arrived from Atlanta. There he had inspected the incomplete but comparatively austere facilities surrounding the pitch, which presently resembles a building site, where the pre-Olympic Tournament was being held (not without its controversy).

With his healthy tan, he was probably wondering why he was freezing his socks off here! The 1st XI were also greeted by a prodigal Dan Williams upon his return to the UK after travelling abroad and giving all the appearance of wanting to play then and there: was he sufficiently registered?

Lewes began brightly as H&W had their by now customary slow start. However, as the side settled, the first two short corners came their way but Dave Dixon's shots were blocked. Then a penalty stroke was awarded in their favour but Rob Bloomer's flick had little pace and regrettably went wide of the left post.

Lewes came back but only moved into H&W's circle twice during the first quarter. They were awarded their own short corner after 25 minutes, after a long speculative pass was collected by their right winger, who eventually played the ball off Gulsh Mandair after holding it for an age against the edge of the circle and the goal line. The resultant shot was deflected wide. The half ended with H&W generally in control but without unduly pressuring the opposition's defence.

At the tea-stand, where most of the 15 or so spectators were trying to thaw out, the general consensus was that H&W should already have sewn the game up and that Lewes were fortunate still to be in there.

There was little change to the pattern in the second half, with H&W controlling the midfield, where Greg Pierce was increasingly dominant, creating space and time and launching attacks to both sides of the pitch. Any pressure at the back was being absorbed by Derek Stone and Gulsh Mandair, both having steady games.

H&W's best chance from open play saw Kevin Gallen run in at pace in an inside left channel and with Sean Rowland advancing from his goal, Kev's pacy reverse-stick flick was pushed away with the goalkeeper's left hand but over his right shoulder. Up front, Nigel Land and Lindsay Troy were busily prominent (the latter was so eager to close down Lewes' free hits that he earned himself a green card). However, H&W were still finding it difficult to create real chances: lack of goals has been a problem all season and probably explains the current predicament and today was no exception.

With 20 minutes left, a Lewes shot from a short corner was disallowed for undercutting and shortly afterwards, at the other end, another Dave Dixon effort was blocked as the Lewes defensive line was quickly out.

H&W pressed on and with 10 minutes to go, worked a 3 to 2 numeric advantage going forward but Kevin Gallen's shot was wide. The game's excitement virtually ended with three minutes to go (the stadium clock gave up the ghost, too) as H&W's last right sided attack was saved by Rowlands. Running out of time, stalemate ensued, with H&W the more frustrated, having by common consent, displayed the greater skill and artistry but without reward and again betraying lack of confidence or a lack of ideas or execution in the opposing circle.

**HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER 4-2 IPSWICH**  
(Dixon 13, Crowley 29, Varnish 41, Steijnem 62)

*Saturday 13th April*

With snow still on the verges approaching Milton Keynes for an inordinately early start at 9.00am (and an entry fee of £8.00 for the privilege) it did not bode well.

In their alternative red strip, H&W took on the navy blue of Ipswich, this year's clear winners of the East League. Loyal H&W spectators (including an extremely bronzed Harry Watson) were quickly banished from pitch-side to the stand, as the team feared further criticism of (and possible retribution from) the officials for alleged "bench abuse", said to have occurred during Friday's game.

As this game settled, both teams seemed evenly matched with a strong right side bias to Ipswich's speedy attacks. However, after 13 minutes, after a strong run by Nigel Land, dissent from Ipswich led to a free hit being "upgraded" to the award of a short corner. Up stepped Dave Dixon (hailed by the tannoy announcer as our "corner specialist") who drove the ball in for a 1-0 lead.

Neither side then dominated but H&W kept pressing: Kev Gallen to such an extent that he suffered a green card on tackling back. H&W's defence stayed firm under any pressure, with Derek Stone and Gulsh Mandair again both composed and strong. After 22 minutes, Ipswich earned a short corner and, with a double decoy left, had a clear firm shot which went just wide, although Marcus Rudler had the goal well-covered. Again the majority of the attacks were along the right, utilising the speed of the Ipswich winger.

On 29 minutes, Nigel Land drove hard down the left for a free hit: the ball was quickly moved to the middle, where Mark Crowley forced his way in, reminiscent of an old-fashioned centre-forward, to crash it home for 2-0.

With three minutes to go in the half, some stick niggles led to a yellow card for Paul Varnish. Appearing uncertain, H&W drew back, tried to retain possession but let Ipswich's Bailey weave his way in for a right sided shot, which made it 2-1 at the half and a disappointment to H&W.

Paul's banishment lasted for a full 10 minutes of the second half (thus 13 minutes in total) but then H&W continued to press forward, with Nigel Land and Paul himself now prominent and with Mark Crowley taking up good positions on the right.

In the 41st minute a stick chop led to a short corner for H&W. On came the newly-tagged "special team". The push from the stop took the ball further into the circle than anticipated and Dave Dixon's shot was parried. However, Paul Varnish got a stick to it for the "finishing touch" (so said the tannoy) and it was 3-1.

Curtin and Crowley continued to press, wide on each wing and men were getting forward: one attack saw four men in advanced positions but the centre hit from the right eluded them all (and all defenders, too). In the 62nd minute, Ipswich pulled one back from their leading scorer, Cooke, whose shot from inside right bobbed at least twice before crossing the line, much to Marcus Rudler's frustration.

At 3-2 the Ipswich contingent became suddenly excited, possibly anticipating another quick goal? This did come but at the other end. H&W won a corner. The stick stop and push was again a little

rapid but Dave Dixon managed to hold the ball to push it right to Kev Gallen, whose shot was saved but Jean Paul Stijnem was on hand to guide the ball in for 4-2.

H&W then took control but had to concentrate to do it after Paul Varnish again secured a yellow card and another sit-down but for reasons which remained a little mysterious to those in the stand (but what do they know about the rules anyway?).

In response, H&W played attractive short pass possession hockey, masterminded by Greg Pierce, who was probably as surprised as anyone to find himself open up the left wing in the final minute for a cross that was so nearly a fifth goal, followed by the infernal hooter, to end the game. Smiles all around, with a Sunday afternoon decider thought to be in prospect against Warrington for one of the two immediate places in the National League.

#### *GOALPOST DEJA-VU?*

### **HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER 1-1 WARRINGTON**

(Varnish 58)

*Sunday 14th April*

H&W suffered the huge disappointment of hitting the post after a short corner routine with 16 seconds left on the clock and ending up with a draw on Sunday afternoon. This handed the automatic National League promotion spot to Lewes, despite Hampstead remaining unbeaten and conceding fewer goals.

It means that the 1st XI must return to the National Stadium on 27th April for the so-called cross-over games for the final places in next season's National League Division 2. There they will meet Oxford Hawks, who finished third in the other pool, after Bromley had retained their National League standing, greatly assisted by the 9-1 win against Weston super Mare.

Thoughts turned to the crucial Surbiton game 5 years ago: 1-0 up and no Play-Offs, the London League title there for the grabs and the infamous intervention of the goalpost, which otherwise would probably have finished the game, which also ended up a draw.

With news of the earlier 3-3 draw between Ipswich and Lewes, hopes were high and H&W were quickly into their stride, despite an early third minute green card for Rob Turner. Two minutes later saw Kev Gallen diving in the circle, trying to get on the end of a cross from the far left. Our first short corner resulted from a weaving left side run but the shot was disallowed for a moving ball.

At the other end, a strong left wing cross was deflected off Derek Stone's stick but in the air and a short corner awarded. On came Warrington's leading League scorer, Tim Rothwell. His shot hit Marcus Rudler amidships, bent him double and then prostrate, requiring attention from Kate Stubbs, oblivious to the crowd's (well, the vociferous but small Hampstead contingent) sartorial exhortations that the maker's label was protruding from the back of her sweatshirt! Sensibly, she ignored all the rumpus.

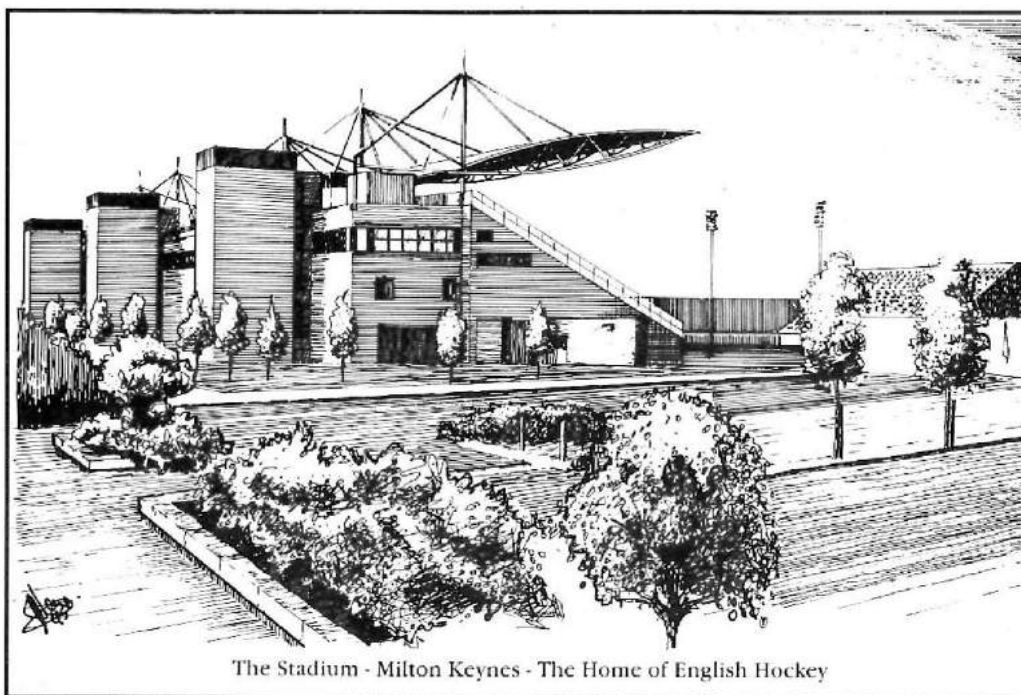
Paul Varnish then fell foul of the umpire and attracted another yellow card, which resulted in a loss of Hampstead's composure and an increasing threat from, in particular Warrington's Latif and his close controlled stickwork, bringing the best out of the left side of the H&W defence.

On 23 minutes, the second Warrington short corner saw Rothwell's appearance at the top of the circle again and this time he made it 1-0. On 26 minutes, Warrington were awarded a penalty stroke after a hooked stick in the circle. Marcus Rudler in the Hampstead goal took his time to prepare (too much time, said the umpire, brandishing a green card). However, the push was high (too high) and hit the crossbar, so 1-0 it remained much to the relief of tension in some parts of the stand, at least.



## **National Inter League Tournament**

**12-14 April 1996**



**at The Stadium,  
Milton Keynes**

**Programme - £1.00**

Back to a full complement at the start of the second half, H&W kept the game tight. Kev Gallen received a green card but Yates of Warrington was yellow-carded after a heavy challenge. Hampstead then stepped up the pace and probed left and right. Paul Varnish saw a snap shot go across the goal face at close range. Marcus Rudler then pulled off a good save diving to his left at a short corner in the 45th minute, as Warrington again concentrated their attacks through Latif, more than responded to with firm, low tackling (right out of the coaching manual) including several well executed on the reverse.

As the pressure mounted, Paul Varnish found himself clear on the left, rounded the defence and as the goalie came out, calmly waited the requisite but agonising (to the spectators) microsecond and then calmly flicked it over him for a well-deserved equaliser.

Mark Crowley then began to take the game right to Warrington, with a series of strong runs along the right with mesmeric control and setting up short corners. Three were awarded in the final three minutes and on the last, Dave Dixon managed to keep control as he manoeuvred for what seemed an eternity, made the smallest of spaces and cracked in a shot but all we were left with was the resonant "ping" of ball on metal and, alas, the draw.

Alex Ferguson might have said that his team cannot treat the fans the way Manchester United did on Saturday at Southampton and leave them in a state of nervous exhaustion. What about H&W? You get thrills a plenty: just recollect the HA Cup game against Thames Poly at Hornsey, the subsequent match against Gore Court with the succession of flicks, the Surbiton game mentioned earlier and the Neston HA Cup success at PRG. It takes nerves of steel!

#### *CROSS OVER MATCH*

What a way to spend a spring Saturday afternoon or was it evening? The Hockley Association appears so keen to cram in every important game in their new stadium that they are in danger of showing insufficient respect to the competitors.

Some thought that the Team management were joking when it was discovered that the 1st XI had risen from their beds at 5.00am in preparation for the Saturday Play-Off game against Ipswich. But it's all true! In order to get digested food on board and warm up sufficiently this was a must for the 9.00am push back. Is the tail wagging the proverbial dog here? This too for an amateur sport: let there be no doubt about the commitment required of the 1st XI in these circumstances.

This then was the last of the Play-Off matches at Milton Keynes, Warrington having earlier in the day won the other corresponding fixture (officially designated as the Cross Over Matches) and returned to the National League.

#### **HAMPSTEAD AND WESTMINSTER 2:3 OXFORD HAWKS**

(Saxby 49 Land 62 : Dawson 48, Laird 65, 68)

*Saturday 20th April*

H&W displayed unexpected naiveté towards the end of this crucial fixture, allowed the opposition to fight their way back and then agonisingly score the winner with just two and a half minutes left on the clock.



Thus they slipped out of the National League. It did not help having only 10 men on the pitch at the end, as a late Hampstead challenge just behind the half way line was "rewarded" with a yellow card for an over-enthusiastic Adrian Rogers.

This was a bitter pill for H&W's loyal band of supporters, outnumbered though they were by those rooting for Oxford Hawks, in another tension-packed match, with few clear cut chances until the later stages, as each side tried to prise open fairly solid defences, well marshalled by both teams.

After initial opening pressure from Oxford Hawks, H&W won a short corner in the sixth minute but the shot was blocked. Lindsay Troy and Mark Crowley received green cards in the seventh and twelfth minutes respectively, such was the commitment and in the fifteenth minute on came Dan Williams from the bench, making a return to H&W colours after his sojourn abroad. H&W managed to repel a series of Oxford Hawks' short corners in quick succession, with their hitter dummifying a full-bloodied drive of the stopped ball but allowing it instead to be pushed right by another, but from where the shot was safely blocked.

After 24 minutes on came the Stadium lights, such were the rewards for starting play at 6.30pm! This encouraged H&W with a break out on the right side, faced with only two defenders and a strong cross, which even Dan Williams, diving headlong, could not get a stick to. With otherwise, by then, only the goalkeeper for company in the circle, this was a good but admittedly difficult chance missed.

Then Derek Stone, of all people, was somewhat mysteriously yellow-carded, having, to most in the stand, won the ball from the tackle, but off he came, necessitating a rapid switch of players by the H&W bench, in order to replace him with another defender, much to Will Saxby's disappointment, having just come on.

Marcus Rudler in the H&W goal was then in bother, having to stretch with his stick to push the ball away. He fell rather heavily, requiring lengthy treatment. The half ended with H&W pressure, now back to full numbers. Two H&W short corners were well hit but deflected way over the cross bar and into the tall netting behind, giving the appearance to the crowd that Dave Dixon was out practising with his 7 iron! So, 0-0 at the half.

Early in the second half, H&W were often caught off-side, frustratingly once with Greg Pierce in a prominent attacking position. In the 48th minute, however, Oxford Hawks took the lead from Dawson, who ran right side after a forward pass which split the H&W defence, allowing him to dummy the goalkeeper and push it into the left hand corner of the goal.

A minute later, H&W pressed forward themselves, eager to regain the initiative. Mark Crowley was severely upended by a defender, appearing to go partially airborne but a good advantage was played. Will Saxby kept control rounded the goalkeeper and slotted it home for 1-1. Given the dose of yellow card earlier for Derek Stone, it was a little odd that no action was taken against the Oxford Hawks' defender for what appeared to be a substantially more serious assault but presumably it was felt a goal down was sufficient retribution?

In the 58th minute Greg Pierce and Dan Williams repeated the free-hit "swivel" routine on the edge of the circle that had earned them a goal at the 1994 Play-Offs against Olton but frustratingly on this occasion, others appeared unaware of its complexity and an off-side was called!

Adrian Rogers then found himself pushing forward in an inside left channel and was heavily stick-tackled in the 25. A short corner was awarded. On came Dave Dixon. The ball into the circle from the goal line was a little strong but was pushed right and flicked in by Nigel Land for 2-1 with only 8 minutes to play.

This generated a range of emotions in the stand: the impression was that some of the Hawks' supporters' thought the long season might just have ended for them. H&W had another opportunity a minute later, following a short corner shot from the right after Dave Dixon had pushed the ball right from the initial stop but the Umpire blew for off-side just as the shot was hit, which baffled a few.

H&W were strongly committed at this stage, typified by Greg Pierce's winning the ball in spite of being thrown to the ground by the challenge and securing the free hit. Then followed Adrian Rogers' challenge, possibly responding to prompting from the crowd to get back and stuck in that went just too far and his yellow card.

With H&W trying to re-organise and suddenly on the back foot (and only 5 minutes to go) an Oxford Hawks short corner was drilled home by Adam Laird. Having kept the opposition play-maker under close wraps for most of the game the metaphorical wheels appeared to be wobbling for H&W and things became all the more frantic. A deliberate stick tackle in our 25 led to a Hawks' short corner in the 32nd minute of the half which Laird again slotted home for 2-3 and delirium in the stand from their supporters.

Although they pushed forward, H&W were unable to repeat the success at this stage of the game against Warrington a fortnight previously and now were clearly playing "catch-up" hockey. Long balls were driven forward but fairly easily absorbed by the opposition defence and set up their win, very enthusiastically received, (not unexpectedly) by the Oxford contingent.

It is no consolation for H&W to have been involved in yet another *Milton Keynes Spectacular* and for the Tannoy announcer to offer condolences on a "difficult year" for the team: so near and yet so far.

Big decisions now face the Team. Most clubs in similar positions bravely announce that they will bounce back immediately but few have done so. Warrington, with whom, as readers will recall, a draw was secured - and so nearly (there's that expression, again) a win, are the only ex-National League team to have achieved it so far. Still, that is not to say that H&W cannot confound the sceptics again. What must be avoided is a slide into oblivion: what happened, for example to Brean, or even Broxbourne? A sad day, then, and an odd time for it all to end: 8.00pm on what was now a chilly Saturday night.

## Men's First Eleven

1998

Oxford Hawks 0 Hampstead 6



*From Left to Right*

**Back Row**

Andy Thompson, Rob Leslie-Carter (signifying six goals scored) Lindsay Troy, Nigel Land, Dan Williams, Rob Turner, Rob Thompson and Steve Dodson

**Front Row**

Mike Williamson, Mark Crowley, David Grady, Rob Bloomer and Will Saxby



## **National League 1999 Division Two**

The season was marked by the appointment of Soma Singh as the Club's coach in succession to Rob Thompson and a determined effort to win promotion that was eventually successful. The immediately preceding season had proved a struggle, replicating the Club's past experience that the second season after promotion to the National League tends to be far more challenging than promotion itself.

It was only in the last game of that last season that Hampstead's survival was confirmed, following a 2-1 defeat of Havant at Paddington Recreation Ground. The end of that season also witnessed the separation of the division into two, governed by league standings, with the genesis of a Premier League. Havant were particularly distressed by the loss that led to their inclusion in Division Two and, in some eyes, the start of their relative decline after years of considerable success on the national stage.

In three seasons from 1999 Hampstead were doggedly pursued by St Albans, who won promotion from Division Two themselves a year later. The same sequence was repeated in the next season and eventually led to both teams playing the Premier Division.

Some relatively high scoring by H&W in the early part of the 1999 season drew national attention and reports of some of those games are set out below. Two matches that are covered below were those against St Albans, as both teams vied with one another for top spot in the League.

### **HARLESTON 2 HAMPSTEAD 6**

*Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October 1999*

Hampstead maintained their hold on top place in the English Hockey League Division Two after a resounding win against opponents who, in the past, have always proved difficult to beat. They remain three points clear of nearest rivals St Albans.

Mind you, how they managed to get to leafy Norfolk is anyone's guess. All turn up, some later than others at the Carlton. Joe was awoken by mobile 'phone and the doors were opened. Soma needed the lights on for some inexplicable reason. The cars set off and just by Lord's the convoy comes to a sudden halt.

"¿Donde Bruno? No es en el coche?" His mobile is not working so the assumption is that he is delayed on the tube. Cars are reorganised and Rob Turner goes in search of el Español, who is located after a dreamy "¿Digame?" on the 'phone from Maria, who has just awoken. Bruno alleges some failure of the alarm clock and off on a wild detour goes Mika McLaren Turner, all the way to Earl's Court.

Our Formula One driver's back is bad enough as it is, despite emergency treatment in the Carlton but all those G forces made him miss the game, as the bench boys arrived at the ground shortly before the start.

No such problems for Tom Matthews whose short journey from Cambridge saw him quietly supping his tea, wondering where everyone else was: unusual this; no lack of 'phone, cash, gasoline or energy - just for a change.

So, on to the dunes of Harleston, the sand blowing in patterns over the pitch as the strong wind gusted in from the Fens. No sign of the Foreign Legion who must be stuck in their own sand drift further back. Hampstead open with Durassic Warhorse at left back, featuring in the titanic Battle of the Left Halves, (soon to be screened at the local Essoldo Cinema, once its certification by the Board of Censors has been clarified) vying with Mr Cobbold, who was even about as a player when Matt Taber was still playing at Primary School.

Hampstead earned two early short corners and Tom Matthews had inordinate problems getting the ball through the sand to the top of the dee. With no 9 iron available, two litres of best brand Highland Spring were wasted on the pitch. On 6 minutes Matt Hetherington flicked the ball high and fast but according to Hon Short Corner Waterer, aka Rob Turner, the ball was going wide but the defender on the line got a stick to it that brought the ball goalwards and then had to go to great lengths to keep it out. With such *on the spot* reporting, who needs a Sky camera behind the goal?

Hampstead then stepped it up and exerted considerable pressure but the ball would not go in. Soma dazzled us with stick skills as the pressure continued but then Harleston weathered the storm and began to put together a few attacks of their own. Harleston's Baker (joint leading scorer in the League Division One last year, mostly from drag flicks at corners) was also unable to get to grips with a short corner in the 23<sup>rd</sup> minute and a combination of Steve Dodson and Soma Singh saw the ball away. Then, just as the half was ending and with no time on the clock (if that is not tautologous), Harleston sneaked one in on the near post, from Howland.

The second half started in the same vein. Dan Williams earned a green card, probably on behalf of the defence as a whole and for a reason that was not totally clear. Soma was then intercepted by the home side and the ball transferred down the inside left channel, where Catchpole put it in for 2-0, one defender against the two attackers

This stirred the boys and Matt Hetherington pushed one in a minute later followed by Rob Thompson (another cracking finish) a minute later and then the whole complexion of the game changed in an instant.



Rob Thompson

Bruno was now wide awake and came on after 15 minutes. Craig Carolan, back from Switzerland, then found himself in front and with a reverse shot scored the third. Tom Matthews (aka Mr Slow Motion) continued the demonstration hockey with excellent ball retention and aerials, also within his repertory, used to great effect. A great save off Carolan in the 56<sup>th</sup> minute was a temporary reprieve and two minutes later Hetherington scored his second, with a mild flick that the opposition 'keeper appeared to let slip and it just about crossed the line under his boot.



Tom Matthews

The game was eventually put beyond reach with Craig's second in the 65<sup>th</sup> minute and with three minutes to go Simon Moffat scored the sixth, with the old men off for a breather, allowing Chris Law a National League debut and brief runs for Jon Mayer and Matt Taber, dropping in from a chat with his Mum.

Moffat's goal saw him sprawled inside the goal and to add insult to indignity the Harleston defender threw the ball at him more in disgust, we suspect, than retribution but the Umpire was having none of it and off he came with a yellow that did not go down well with the home team management.

All that left was the Formula One of Turner to go steaming back, taking no prisoners on the A14 and M11: shame about the traffic camera on the A14: three points scored there too.

**TEAM:** Dodson, Williams, Meakin, Watts, Singh, Matthews, Land, Thompson, Hetherington, Carolan, Moffat

**SUBS:** Taber, Law, Mayer, Solaun, Garbe

### SCORING

Howland	35	F	1-0
Catchpole	42	F	2-0
Hetherington	43	F	2-1
Thompson	44	F	2-2
Carolan	50	F	2-3
Hetherington	58	F	2-4
Carolan	65	F	2-5
Moffat	67	F	2-6

### HAMPSTEAD 6 FIREBRANDS 1

*Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October 1999*

Hampstead turned the tables on Firebrands in Sunday's English Hockey League Two fixture by reversing the score from the last time both teams met. Matt Hetherington took his season's goal tally to 11, with four, two from open play and two from short corners. Hampstead remain on top of the League, with their 100% record, still three points clear of St Albans.

It was all a little too *déjà vu*. Last season after a morale boosting win at Eastcote in a January warm up game, the team travelled to Bristol only for Andy Thompson's car to grind to a halt just after the Cirencester Services and never to see the light of day again - until Rob Turner took pity on it this summer, spent a fortune (his words) and got the vehicle back to full working order.

In the emergency, Dan's Williams' father was prevailed upon to trawl up and down the M4 for the hapless car full and when eventually they met, there followed a rather pacy run through the rest of Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and then Avon to Failand, with the horn sounding as the car pulled into the Firebrands Car Park with 60 seconds to go before the 30 mins delayed start. That day, it was 1-1 after a Rob Turner short corner conversion but the game then swung the way of the home side and 6-1 score resulted. Not many happy Hampstead players on the way home that evening!

Imagine, therefore, the atmosphere when one Firebrands car turned up at the start but not the others, who were on the A40 at Hangar Lane, allegedly watching the red lines being painted on the road. They eventually rolled up for a 1.15 start and then wanted more time to get



acclimatised. (Clive Felton's warm up last year had been to get his tracksuit off and to run on to the pitch).

By this time, the Hampstead contingent were getting cold after a studied warm up. The wind then blew strongly and the leaf clearing exercise undertaken with due dedication by valiant servant Chris Somes-Charlton appeared to be in vain, with a greater number on the pitch than there had been before it was cleared. Pointing this out to the team management immediately led to a sense of humour loss: the back pain from bending to pick 'em up still being felt on the Monday morning. The rain then lashed down as the Umps and Delegate headed for the dry (or was that the first half of the South Africa v England Quarter Final?).

Chris Law then discovered what an eye opening experience it can be playing for the Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI. A ball shot up and hit his lid with such force that he was immediately a candidate for St Mary's Sunday afternoon needlework class. He did get back at 5.00pm with a purple eyeliner, the like of which Boots want to patent and which Mary Quant could not have bettered. Said the hapless Chris, "I wish I could have played: my first touch was great".

Hampstead's line up saw a National League debut for Alex Garbe in goal and with Rob Turner again sidelined and on Camera Duty (particularly appetising in the climate) Dan Williams opened at left half, to sweep the Firebrands winger off the pitch, metaphorically, of course.

To be honest, Firebrands started well and matched Hampstead in the early stages, with their skipper Pullin very effective from the back. Quick release long balls seemed to be the order of the day for Hampstead but the ball seemed to get stuck, making it difficult to get the show on the road. There was an early chase for Craig Carolan after a pass from Tom Matthews. Pullin then saw a dangerous cross fizz across the Hampstead circle but with no-one connecting. On 16 minutes Craig Carolan had a long run deep down the left side and appeared set up for a massive reverse shot but was blocked. Then Rob Thompson was released by Soma and the keeper blocked him at the top of the dee.

In the 24<sup>th</sup> minute Firebrands were reduced to 10 men after a deliberate foot right under the Umpire's nose but that did produce their best form of the day. Dallas Watts was penalised and a short corner was awarded by Indy Bahra, which clearly the Aussie only accepted reluctantly, as he almost succeeded in drilling his stick into the turf in frustration.

El Khatib flicked in the goal and the visitors were cock a hoop. Fortunately, Matt Hetherington responded one minute before half time, also from Hampstead's first short corner, earned after good work from Rob Thompson, again, flicking the ball in from Craig's excellent stop and Tom Matthews bullet like injection.

At the half, Soma urged Hampstead to be more patient and with Bruno Solaun coming on for Simon Moffat on the right side of the Hampstead attack things began to open up. Matt Hetherington then went on goal spree, netting in the 42<sup>nd</sup> minute after a break led by Rob Thompson that left three on one at the back for Firebrands and then on the reverse, with a sweep in the 45<sup>th</sup> minute after the initial shot was blocked and again in the 50<sup>th</sup> minute after help from Craig Carolan.

Craig scored himself in the 54<sup>th</sup> minute with a flick from inside right and not to be outdone, Rob Thompson, no doubt having practised the shot to demonstrate to Matt how it should really be

executed, flicked one in himself from a short distance, much to the incredulity of his team-mates on 60 minutes.

It was a harsh comment that he had avoided passing to Matt Taber, who was up in support. Still, not to worry: our cameraman had already been heard to moan that he had managed to miss two of the goals and how difficult this videoing really is: even a cup of coffee at half time had failed to speed his reactions (unlike the effect of the close proximity of the female non-player on the opposition bench).

Rob Carter had by this time retired from his Programme Salesman Apprenticeship but not before outperforming all previous attempts at the job this season: thank you, Rob: mind you, big competition next Sunday if HHJ Coleman turns up, as hoped.

Rob Turner later said, *"In retrospect, the delayed start suited Firebrands and consequently we were slow to get into the game. However, to our credit, we didn't panic: our patience paid dividends in the second half as we continually cut through the Firebrands defence. In fact, the 6-1 scoreline was flattering to them."*

**TEAM:** Garbe; Williams, Meakin, Watts, Matthews; Soma Singh, Land, Moffat; Carolan, Thompson, Hetherington

**SUBS:** Solaun, Taber, Mayer, Pearson

#### **SCORING**

El Khatib	29 mins	PC	0-1
Hetherington	34	PC	1-1
Hetherington	42	F	2-1
Hetherington	45	PC	3-1
Hetherington	50	F	4-1
Carolan	54	F	5-1
Thompson	60	F	6-1

#### **LEAGUE**

Hampstead	P6	18pts
St Albans	P6	15pts
Peterborough	P6	11pts

### **HAMPSTEAD 3 ST ALBANS 1**

*Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December 1999*

Hampstead pulled off a great win on Saturday to continue their unbeaten run in the league to 14 and to take a six-point lead into the winter break, with matches due to start again at the end of January.

St Albans were well up for it, missing only Andy Halliday with his broken wrist and all fully alert and in the Carlton supping Joe's teas at 10.30am.

Hampstead arrived in fits and starts, Soma's train had broken down, Dallas Watts and Rob Turner were desperately seeking Susan (future Mrs Turner) at the Airport, Matt Hetherington and Michael Williamson were nursing heavy injuries from Lilleshall with the England U21

squad: Mikey leaving it until the warm up to see if his knee was OK and Matt with a wrist support to keep the thing straight.

With the H&W VP luncheon in preparation, the team had to use the downstairs facilities at the Carton, so were cramped more than normal and it was chucking it down.

Having seen off their Liaison Officer with a near post miss that did not with him and which sent his already addled brain into next week, they got themselves together and, in their Alan Partridge shirts<sup>24</sup>, began well against a consistently orange shirted opposition – so they have been to Alan's too since we last saw them?

Despite a good opening, Craig Keegan opened the scoring for St Albans in the 13<sup>th</sup> minute with a stunning roofed shot from within the dee that few could have stopped.

Hampstead kept their cool and stuck to the game plan. From a 33<sup>rd</sup> minute short corner, Rob Thompson stepped wide and poked in the equaliser at just the right time.

In the 41<sup>st</sup> minute St Albans' former South African international Murray Anderson missed from close range in front of goal after good work from Keegan deep on the right and a scurry along the Hampstead goal line. This might well have been a turning point (or so said the Gentlemen of the Press from the broadsheets, huddling under Peter Luck's umbrella).

In the 52<sup>nd</sup> minute Steve Dodson confirmed that he was still alive and kicking pulling off a good save from a sharp Keegan flick that he may have stopped underarm.

Then the turning point. Hampstead took the lead through Rob's Thompson's second, which followed a determined run from the 25-yard line from Craig Carolan, who beat two players and moved forward despite a lunge that fouled him and managed to pass the ball up to the circle where Rob was on hand in an inside right position to whip the ball home into the bottom corner ("lammed it in" was heard). A stunning goal and just at a crucial moment.

Rob Thompson's decisive third was scored in the 59<sup>th</sup> minute when Dan Williams and Craig combined with a right side one-two and Dan dropped the ball back to Craig, who hit a 40-yard ball up the inside right channel and although behind Rob's right shoulder he deflected it in almost from the same spot as he had the second. Dan and Craig think that they have at last reached a good understanding of how to play it down the right side. That completed a Thompson hat trick – just the way to celebrate his 150<sup>th</sup> League goal scored on the preceding Sunday.

Hampstead's captain commented: *Thompson's second goal was an incisive move down the middle with a ball swept out to the right wing where Craig beat his man and on drawing the next, slipped the ball to Rob who pushed it (because he can't flick it<sup>25</sup>) it low and hard across the 'keeper into the left hand corner where it resoundingly thumped home.*

*As for the third, it was a swift counter break with Craig dropping deep to pick up a pass out of defence who had thwarted another St Albans attack. In one movement he pivoted and hit a long pass into the path of Rob, with a St Albans defender scampering across but*

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<sup>24</sup> Please refer to the match report of the earlier fixture between the clubs that follows

<sup>25</sup> A frequent taunt of the squad

*failing to cut out the ball. So perfect was the pace of the pass and the timing of the run, Rob didn't have to break stride and he clipped it first time through the legs of the hapless keeper.*

Keegan was still up for a run at the Hampstead defence but found some resolute tackling from the back, with a peach of a take from Phil Meakin as one highlight. Dan Williams was not to be outdone, with a deflection off for a long corner and another splendid cruncher as the game began to wane.

So much so that a tussle with Webster saw a clash of sticks amidst ships and whilst Kevin Churchman decided that Webster should go and spend five minutes (ie what was left) cooling down, Kevin Matthews could not quite forgive Dan his tempestuous nudge and he also had a yellow card breather, albeit in the rain.

There was still time for a Soma Singh classic side shimmy to round a by then static-looking Keegan: we never knew the old legs had it in them.

The general view was that Hampstead had better all-round players on show today and that this exposed a few of the weak links in the St Albans armour and that they relied too heavily on their player coach Craig Keegan to create openings and to get them on the march. Once his possession was restricted the rest of the team could not compensate and perhaps too little use was made of Glenn Webster. Certainly in the second half Keegan was dispirited and began a series of dialogues with Kevin Matthews that probably did him no favours.

All in all, this a good all round performance with each of the Hampstead team playing to their full potential on the day and it was as well that it was saved for this week and that last week's comparatively low key performance was left well behind. *Feet still on the Ground* stuff determines that we cannot finish lower than fifth this season – and still with 8 games to go.

#### **TEAM**

Dodson; von Mayer, Meakin, Watts, Williams; Singh, Williamson, Moffat; Hetherington, Thompson, Carolan

SUBS (not used) Troy (welcome back!), Turner, Mayer, Garbe, Hall

#### **SCORING**

Keegan	F	13	0-1
Thompson	PC	33	1-1
Thompson	F	49	2-1
Thompson	F	59	3-1

#### **LEAGUE**

Hampstead	P14	Pts	42
St Albans	P14	Pts	36
Firebrands	P14	Pts	24
Harleston	P14	Pts	19



Matt Hetherington after scoring against Oxford Hawks in the same season

*A view from the Hampstead & Highgate Express:*

With immense satisfaction Hampstead defeated their nearest League rivals with a convincing display of fast open hockey and severely dented their opponent's title aspirations. Rob Thompson scored a brilliant hat trick to build on last week's milestone as the fifth player ever to reach 150 League goals.

Hampstead opened well in the driving rain but St Albans fought back and opened the scoring in the 13th minute when their player coach Craig Keegan made space in the Hampstead circle after a one-two and roofed the ball into the net spectacularly past Steve Dodson.

Hampstead did not panic and began to find space up front. Simon Moffat made room well in the 33rd minute and crossed from the left to Craig Carolan whose fierce centre earned a short corner. On hand was Thompson, standing wide, who pushed it in for the equaliser.

In the second half two chances were missed by St Albans, one fairly easy fell to South African international Anderson, which he failed to convert. As St Albans began to get irritated and lose their composure, Rob Thompson somehow managed to latch on to a long ball up the inside right channel in the 49th minute and steered the ball at great pace past Yull for a classic goal.

With Mike Williamson prominent in midfield, despite a leg injury picked up in the week with the England U21 squad, Hampstead took control. St Albans' Hammond was yellow carded after aiming a stick at an opponent and this affected their pursuit of the equaliser. However, it was all academic as Thompson once again floated into space at the top of the circle in the 59th minute and calmly slotted the ball in, with a move reminiscent of the second goal and which killed the game off.

This win opens up a 6-point gap at the top of the League, which now takes a rest until resumption on 30th January

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With mention of local newspapers, the following is reproduced from the St Albans Observer's report of the earlier match that H&W won 4-2 at Clarence Park.

### **HAMPSTEAD GATECRASH COACH KEEGAN'S PARTY**

*St Albans Observer*  
15<sup>th</sup> October 1999

**EHL Men's National Division Two**  
**St Albans 2 Hampstead 4**  
**Tim Hobbs reports from Clarence Park**

Craig Keegan made his long-awaited debut for St Albans on Saturday but could not stop arch rivals Hampstead putting an early season dent in his side's title hopes.

Both teams went into the game unbeaten and at the top of EHL National Division Two but despite a goal and the expected flashes of brilliance from Keegan it was Hampstead who came away with their record intact.

It had been billed as the clash of this season's titans and with Keegan and his Hampstead counterpart Soma Singh heavily involved the action did not disappoint.

The North Londoners had spent the summer and a large sum of money<sup>26</sup> strengthening their squad and the difference in both sides was plain to see as they took to the field in a new-look kit<sup>27</sup> - of which Alan Partridge would have been proud - while the Saints strolled out in their famed, but now a little faded, tangerine.

But looks counted for little as the home side made the early running, Dominic Maguire, Karl Hurst and Glenn Webster forcing early stops from Steve Dodson in the visitor's goal.

As well as being the meeting of the two title favourites this season, the game also saw then return to Clarence Park of Matt Hetherington, who swapped camps in the summer and was always going to play a part on Saturday.

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<sup>26</sup> This allegation has no provenance!

<sup>27</sup> One used since 1894...

He should have opened the scoring on 21 minutes only to guide his shot against a post with his friend Matt Yull struggling to get across his goal.

Hetherington was made to pay within two minutes as a quick free hit from Keegan found the ever-alert Dominic Maguire, whose instinctive effort brought a first and thoroughly deserved goal for the player who joined the Tangerine Team to replace the departed Hetherington.

Only two excellent saves from Dodson denied Keegan and Hurst a St Albans second before Soma Singh decided that his Hampstead side should step up a gear and stop being penned inside their own half. The former Great Britain international's input was evident and cajoling and controlling his side from deep he was rewarded with a five-minute spell that changed the face of the game.

First Rob Thompson levelled with a neat finish off an upright on 30 minutes and just two minutes later the inevitable happened as Bruno Solaun found Hetherington free in the dee and he calmly slotted past the helpless Yull.

His finish might have exuded class that the former Saint undoubtedly possesses but his decision to taunt the crowd by kissing his Hampstead badge did not.

Hetherington's histrionics aside - and there were more to come later - the defining moment of the half and indeed the match then saw Dodson pull off a breath-taking save from Keegan diving to his right to divert a penalty corner with the very tip of his stick.

It was a save that preserved his side's lead going into the half time break but no sooner had the game started than Hampstead were celebrating at the same end of the pitch with a third goal. A rare error from the reliable Nick Seagrave led to him conceding a penalty flick and Craig Carolan made no mistake from the spot.

The goal sent St Albans reeling and they needed two saves from Yull to prevent further disaster, before Keegan and skipper Andy Halliday rallied their side. They proceeded to dominate the next passage of play but crucially failed to cut the deficit as Maguire's snap shot struck the angle of post and bar, and a series of penalty corners saw Keegan thwarted by Dodson's pads and then the stick of Singh.

But it was not long before Hetherington was back in the spotlight as he was unceremoniously dumped to the turf by Webster. The Tangerine Team's vice captain was shown the yellow card immediately although when the Umpire bellowed "nine" it was not clear whether he was calling for Webster's attention or awarding marks for Hetherington's theatrical landing.

Even though the officials evened things out by yellow carding Mike Williamson for kicking the ball away within three minutes, Webster's absence left Keegan as the only man to provide the trickery to unlock a resolute Hampstead defence.

He did not disappoint and after Maguire had found Ian Hammond in the circle with a stunning diagonal pass, the Tangerine team's player coach was on hand to tuck in the simplest of chances.

With just a goal between the sides, St Albans had no option but to push forward in search of another equaliser and as a result left huge gaps at the back, which saw Hetherington finish with a flourish.

Twice he forced fine saves from Yull, but with the game in stoppage time fell in a heap with the 'keeper as Thompson scored his second of the day to make it 4-2 and leave Keegan and his side playing catch-up.



## First v Second

### CHELMSFORD 0 HAMPSTEAD 2

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2001

Hampstead did themselves a power of good on Sunday, reversing a run of two defeats by winning at the venue of the League's second-placed team. This was more satisfying as Chelmsford were commonly regarded as Hampstead's best opposition in the first half of the season and a team who were objectively regarded by some of the Hampstead faithful as unfortunate to have lost when visiting Paddington Rec in October.

This win opens up a five-point gap at the top of the League, as both Doncaster (Hampstead's next opponents) and Lewes closed the gap on Chelmsford.

In front of a large home crowd but with Hampstead Senior VP Stan Elgar doing his bit with vocal support, the game opened in fine, bright weather. Chelmsford went straight up the field and earned a short corner in the first minute. The push-out was not controlled and the ball was swept away.

With Chelmsford's dangerous South African Wayne Denne clearly not match-fit (still awaiting the full results from a scan but with a suspected fracture) and blunting the home side's attacking capacity, Nigel Land had fewer defensive duties than expected and was able to venture further forward as the game progressed.

The sandy pitch was proving difficult on which to manoeuvre and ball speed was badly affected: several players lost their footing early on.

Tom Matthews featured in two early Hampstead attacks, combining with Craig Carolan down the right when the latter was tripped and then with a fast cross from deep on the right, which evaded all, including a diving Matt Hetherington, newly kitted out with his shaven head, at the far post. Craig then intercepted a deep pass out of the Chelmsford defence as Hetherington ran across to collect and a short corner was awarded. Justin King firmly planted the ball in off the left upright, with a resounding ping for the opening score, after 7 minutes. Not content with that, he showed further class in the tenth minute with a reverse chip shot from deep in the Hampstead left side of defence that averted danger.

Coach Soma Singh had demanded immediately before the start that at least four short corners be won in the opening quarter and three of these were delivered. Shots at the second and third were blocked, from King and Hetherington respectively.

At the other end, Chelmsford's second short corner in the 16<sup>th</sup> minute was well worked and the eventual shot hit the foot of the post and was shovelled away. From their third, goalie Alex Garbe spread himself for the drive and blocked it, with Soma Singh standing to one side to flick the ball away off his pads.

There was a stoppage in play as David Kitchiner, the Chelmsford Manager was spoken to by the Umpire: it was *face to face* stuff and all the more mysterious for that. Later it was discovered that he was being asked to control the allegedly critical (and disreputable) comments on the quality of umpiring from the crowd, emanating from the Chelmsford President! Quiet was restored by a mobile phone message from one side of the pitch to the other.

At half time Coach Soma Singh was not happy with the team's performance and demanded more effort and speed of thought and execution. Within a minute of the re-start Hetherington had a shot blocked and a deflection from Rob Thompson was just blocked too. Mike Williamson began to find good positions up the Hampstead right combining well with Tom Matthews but unable between them to engineer a clear-cut chance. Then in the 57<sup>th</sup> minute the ball was swept into the circle where in a crowd of players veteran Rob Thompson was on hand to get a stick to it with a push for 2-0. The rating on Nigel Land's *Match Tensionometer* suddenly dropped as Hampstead realised that they now had a firm advantage.

The Hampstead defence, hitherto fairly solid, then let things slip with momentary lapses of concentration but Garbe rescued them twice at the top of the circle when it appeared as if a score would be inevitable. It was alleged that the Chelmsford President had obviously laden Gary Boucher with gifts, alcohol and women and this was *pay-back* time.

At the other end Craig Carolan was wide with a reverse shot hit with power but deflected off for a short corner. Paul Hilton then suffered a hefty blow on the outside of his knee and had to be carried off the pitch. By now Hampstead had the game under control. Mark Sully, coming on for Nigel Land, was prominent at left midfield with some excellent positional play, good quality ball handling and good calling.

Two further corners were awarded to Hampstead; the second after Carolan had released a shot of venomous power from deep on the right that flew just over the crossbar. The resulting corner was played out in over time but as it was blocked, the game ended with the 2-0 score line intact.

Paul Hilton was treated on the pitch-side but later taken to hospital, hoping that the injury would not ruin his participation in the England U21 training camp in Spain later this week<sup>28</sup>.

Next Sunday see the visit to PRG of the much-improved, third-placed Doncaster, Hampstead's fourth successive match against the League's top ranking teams.

**TEAM:** Garbe; Von Mayer. Boucher, King, Matthews; Land, Singh, Williamson; Carolan, Thompson, Hetherington

**SUBS:** Turner, Hilton, Sully, Darbon, Arscott

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<sup>28</sup> Regrettably it did and cruciate knee ligament damage was to have a prolonged effect.

## The Lure of the Cup

### HAMPSTEAD 7 ROBINSONS 0

*Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2001*

The Carlton was a sea of people on Sunday morning, following the arrival of the coach from Bristol, with at least 50 aboard. This was the second vehicle to be used, as there had had to be a bus swap north of Bristol upon the discovery that the first had a maximum speed of 40mph.

Carlton Vale could not come too soon for some of our visitors, as the toilet door on the coach was not operating....

With Robinsons finding it a little difficult to adjust to the administrative rigours of the EHA, what with team sheets, player numbering and a bench, the delegate and Umpires offered them a further 5 minutes warm up time. They also had to abandon their traditional blue and wear red shirts, of which they discovered that they only had ten. The Delegate then read out the rules for the golden goal version of extra time (fifteen minutes only in two halves, first to score wins or down to flicks).

Robinsons play in the Gerrard Premier League in the West and had a bad day at the office on the day before with a 6-0 defeat at the hands of Yeovil, for whom Rob Hill is still playing and, according to Robinsons, still getting too much respect from the local umpires.

Hampstead quickly put Robinsons on the back foot with some quality hockey. Coach Soma Singh opted for sweeper, with Max Mayer Aull at centre half and the two von Mayers in at right and left halves, respectively.

The opening goal was scored in only the second minute, following passes between Max Mayer-Aull and the returning Paul Hilton, before Craig Carolan smacked a hallmark reverse stick shot at considerable speed past the bewildered 'keeper. Not many shots of that quality had been seen in Bristol before, according to the Robinsons' bench.

The second Hampstead goal came only five minutes later from a long corner. The ball was drilled in from the left and the resurgent Hilton coolly deflected the ball at pace high into the net, with the 'keeper again unable to react.

Hampstead debutant (but widely experienced) Grant von Mayer, the younger brother of Hampstead skipper Andrew, then capped a fine first outing with Hampstead's third on 20 minutes by converting a short corner after Matt Hetherington's powerful drag flick was saved by the 'keeper on the line. Grant reacted quicker and poked the ball home from waist high.

The first half ended in slight controversy after Soma Singh cleverly rescued a poor back pass from former 1st XI skipper, Rob Turner, only for a short corner to be awarded. However, the team defended it well and the scorer remained 3-0 at the break.

After a soak for the pitch, the second half continued with Hampstead once again dominant. Matt Hetherington finally put his name to the score sheet with a clinical low drag flick from the fourth corner that he celebrated with a Justin King style salute.

By now the team had an unfamiliar look to it with Belgian, Fernando Lefere slotting in nicely up front and Rob Turner almost back to his best at right half. However, the team's fluidity was not affected. Fernando was busy, keeping FIH Umpire Tony Kelleher equally busy with the whistle.

Haddrell was shown a yellow card for the visitors after a dig too many on Matt Hetherington. Following a few obstructions from Hampstead players of which umpire Tony Kelleher had given some warning, the unlikely perpetrator was found to be Dave Sellick and he was yellow-carded too – a rare event for him.

Hampstead's fifth goal was a well worked effort, culminating in some virtuoso skill from Immy Bhatti who, receiving a pass from Mike Williamson, opened the face of the stick on shooting, allowing a simple tap in for Luke Hodges at the far post.

Immy also featured in the sixth goal, cleverly tricking the 'keeper, following his double point blank saves, into going down at his feet to defend and yet still hitting the ball beneath him from where it somehow squirmed across the line for 6-0.

Steve Dodson had replaced Gregor Maier in the Hampstead goal at half time and had to be vigilant to keep out two Robinsons' attacks with nine minutes left. He went on to keep the clean sheet, mirroring Gregor's fine block half way through first half.

In the closing minutes, with Robinsons clearly tiring, Hetherington was allowed the freedom of the pitch and ran through several tackles for 60 yards from deep in his own half to the top of the dee, before deftly slipping the ball to Craig Carolan to touch home.

With a 7-0 scoreline the final whistle came as welcome relief to the visitors and their supporters. It also seemed a relief for our visiting Dutch Umpire, who had had to put up with some heated comments from the West Country lads.

There are no Premier League games next Sunday but the League restarts on 18<sup>th</sup> November with an away trip to Southgate for another crucial game for both sides, with the home team eager for points for League survival.

In the meantime, we await news of the 4<sup>th</sup> Round draw early next week: any takers for Hull/ Isca/ Harleston/ Doncaster/ Formby, away?

**TEAM** Maier; Singh; A von Mayer, Sellick, G von Mayer; Hetherington, Mayer-Aull, Williamson; Bhatti, Hilton, Carolan

**SUBS:** Dodson, Turner, Lefere, Hodges

## Diary of a Season

### The Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI in 2004-5

In its fourth season in the National League's Premier Division, Hampstead and Westminster were fortunate to enjoy detailed match reports compiled from within the team. They tended to be more objective than a good deal of contemporary material to similar effect. Not all matches were covered but the reports offer an insight to the pressures encountered by teams in mid-table in the top-ranking League in England.

It is frequently said that games are won or lost by slender margins. Success ebbs and flows. This season was no exception. As so often, it began with much optimism, with the introduction of players of undoubted quality. At times things then became rather fraught. Loss of players for various reasons that are not unfamiliar to a club like Hampstead and Westminster recurred. It would not be the club it is without such trials and tribulations! The impression was left that gaining and retaining players of quality is key to longer term success – admittedly a truism if ever there were.

Here are reports from the first four games of that season

#### **Surbiton 2 Hampstead 2**

HWHC got its 2004-5 campaign off to a start with a competent 2-2 draw against Surbiton, one of the top four sides in the country in the course of the past five seasons.

A flurry of summer signings meant there were new faces taking to the pitch for both teams. Surbiton had signed Great Britain Olympian Rob Moore and three fellow ex-Teddington teammates, Matthew Lee, goalkeeper Jon Ebsworth and James Webber. But they had lost two GB players in the process: Ben Hawes to Holland and Brett Garrard to Switzerland.

Hampstead, as cosmopolitan as ever, meanwhile strengthened their squad with the arrival of new goalkeeper Simon Keys, Spanish internationals Marc and Kike Sala, Welsh international Josh Smith, Kiwi Roshan Parag and former Teddington player, Chris Ambridge. The season also saw the return of John Bell.

Prior to the game, the national press had predicted that of the top sides, Surbiton faced the toughest test of the weekend.

As the game got underway, both sides were understandably nervous, this being the first game of a long season. However, Surbiton created the first openings in a battling first half of play. Keys stood firm on his debut in the Hampstead goal and repelled a corner from the dangerous Daly with ease. Just before the break, Tim Thompson, H&W's Australian representative, pinched the ball from a Surbiton defender with a sharp tackle, advanced on the D and struck a wonderful reverse-stick shot across the keeper, low into the far corner, to give Hampstead an unlikely lead.

The second half increased in tempo. Surbiton started to thread some dangerous passes into the Hampstead 25. New boy Marc Sala however was having a fine game and Hampstead seemed to be coping with the ever-mounting pressure. Some inconsistent umpiring was raising tensions in both sides that only added to the pressure.

Surbiton were finally rewarded for their second-half display when in the 45<sup>th</sup> minute a short corner was awarded. Daly flicked one in from the top of the D, past Keys at his near post. This seemed to galvanise Surbiton, who moved into a higher gear. They broke again in the 52<sup>nd</sup> minute, winning another penalty corner. The first was charged down successfully but resulted in a re-award. From this, Daly deceived Keys with a drop of the shoulder and put his side ahead for the first time.

To their credit, the home team then roused themselves. With full vocal support from a good crowd, the Hampstead's midfield wrestled back the initiative. More of the play now took place in and around Surbiton's 25-yard line, as Hampstead looked for an opening. A couple of corners were won and Nurse, the competition's second-highest scorer last season (second only to Daly) had a bullet-like flick cleared off the line by a relieved Surbiton defence.

The pressure finally told for H&W. From a corner awarded with three minutes to go, a cute routine saw John Bell mark his return with a low flick into the opposite corner to level the scores. With the crowd poised for a ripping finale, one of the umpires sent off Hampstead's Thompson for an innocuous foul. This provided an impetus to Surbiton for the closing stages.

However, Hampstead defended well and at the final whistle both teams seemed content with a share of the spoils. This was a solid start for an ever-improving Hampstead side that goes on to Guildford next week with confidence that they can more than hold their own against the big guns in this League.

Simon Keys (GK); Marc Sala, Ed Bevan, Tim Thompson; Will Nurse, Gary Boucher (capt.)  
Tom Matthews; Zak Jones, Richard Arscott, John Bell, Chris Ambridge. Subs Max Mayer-Aull,  
Roshan Parag, Josh Smith, Kike Sala, Steve Dodson (GK)

### **Guildford 1 Hampstead 2**

Hampstead travelled to Guildford on a dreary Sunday morning to play their first away game of the season. With Falklands' veteran, Ian Jennings, as player/coach and GB centre-forward Danny Hall, Guildford always prove determined opponents. This was to be no exception.

With their cosmopolitan line-up of seven nationalities in the squad of 16, Hampstead again started well with an excellent run by New Zealander Roshan Parag down the right wing, leading to an open goal for John Bell. Unfortunately, the ball bobbed and his shot sent the ball high over the cross-bar.

After Hampstead's excellent start, Guildford started to fight back, first by winning a penalty corner that was well saved by Gary Boucher on the line and then by scoring after a lucky break gave Danny Hall a free shot at goal.

Hampstead remained on the back foot, with Guildford winning another set of penalty corners. However, Steve Dodson and the rest of the corner defence resisted well to keep the score to 1-0 to Guildford at the break.

After some stern words from coach Todd Williams, Hampstead regained control and started to show why they made it to the League playoffs last season. Good inter-play from John Bell, Richard Arscott and Tom Matthews down the right opened up the Guildford defence, giving

new-comer Chris Ambridge a chance at the back post. He finished this well, to level the scores and open his account for Hampstead.

Hampstead then continued to dominate and won another penalty corner five minutes later. Will Nurse (the top penalty corner striker in the League last year) aimed low and after a goalmouth scramble, Ambridge was first to the ball to make it two for Hampstead.

As the drizzle continued, the game became stretched. Despite being on top for 25 minutes, Hampstead began to let Guildford back in the game. To compound matters Hampstead's Richard Arscott was stupidly sin binned for back chat to the umpires. However, good defending from Spaniard Marc Sala and *The Big German Unit* of Max Mayer limited Guildford's attacks.

Nonetheless, Hampstead conceded three more corners. Good goalkeeping from Dodson and determined defending kept Guildford out, to give Hampstead their first win of the season. After a hard fought game coach Todd Williams said, very philosophically, "You can either lose, draw or win games. This is a game we won."

Dodson (GK); Marc Sala, Bevan, Thompson, Boucher (capt.); Nurse, Matthews; Jones, Arscott, Bell, Ambridge Subs Mayer-Aull, Parag, Josh Smith, Kike Sala, Keys (GK)

### **Hampstead 1 Old Loughtonians 3**

Hampstead vs Old Loughtonians is generally a tough 'derby' between two ambitious clubs. This match was no exception. Coached by Julian Halls, Old Loughtonians lined up with a selection of young talent and full time professionals, whilst Hampstead maintained their amateur cosmopolitan XI.

Despite a dirty pitch the match started at a fast pace with the Essex team attacking first. Quick breaks by Cheeseman and Cullen up front lead to pressure on the Hampstead defence. Good work by Nurse and Bevan at the back kept the visitors at bay. Hampstead never seemed to find their rhythm. With constant turnovers in the midfield, Old Loughts opened the scoring when a cross from the right wing was tapped in at the back post.

This goal sparked Hampstead into life. A good run by Will Nurse from deep found New Zealander Roshan Parag free at the top of the Old Loughts D. Roshan finished clinically to level the scores. Hampstead then allowed Old Loughts back in the game, who forced several saves from goalkeeper Steve Dodson. Unfortunately, this pressure also led to an Old Loughts penalty corner that was flicked high to make the score 2-1 to Loughts at half time.

Frustrated by their play, Hampstead were not functioning fully as a team and making too many mistakes. This continued into the second half. Old Loughts were again the first to strike after a quickly taken free hit was deflected in by the visitor's striker. At 3-1 down Hampstead finally started to find their feet. However, constant pressure proved to be fruitless, as Old Loughts moved all their players back into defence.

All in all, it was, a disappointing day for Hampstead, whose frustration against a highly motivated team led to poor play all around the field. The final 15 minutes showed that Hampstead can more than match the opponents but it was "too little, too late".

## **Chelmsford 3 Hampstead 2**

Having gone into Sunday's encounter with Chelmsford as firm favourites, it was a despondent Hampstead and Westminster side that returned down the A12 on Sunday night. Despite creating a host of chances, they returned empty handed, having been beaten 3-2 by a side who had until then failed to win a point in the League this season.

Hampstead went into the fixture knowing they needed a win to stay in touch at the top end of the table, where Cannock, Loughborough Students and Reading all have 100% records. However, things began badly. Chelmsford took the lead in the 12th minute with Phil Sully beating Keys who had been chosen in the place of Hampstead's veteran goal keeper Steve Dodson.

This fired Hampstead into action. A series of attacking movements gave rise to plenty of goal scoring chances. Chelmsford picked up three green cards in the first half but H&W seemed unable to take advantage and draw level. Eventually it took a set play to even things. Chelmsford gave away their third short corner of the half and Hampstead's corner specialist Will Nurse unleashed a vicious flick to beat the Chelmsford 'keeper. Hampstead went into the break feeling on top, with coach Todd Williams reassuring his side that if they could put away some of the chances they were creating, they could put the game beyond Chelmsford's reach.

The start of the second half saw little change, with free flowing hockey from Hampstead. A tricky move down the right hand side between Tim Thompson and Chris Ambridge led to a penalty stroke that Nurse fired into the top corner for his own and his team's second goal.

Things should have been straightforward from there, but a short corner goal from Gareth Carr turned the last minutes of the encounter into an *end to end* battle. An excellent move down the right hand side saw the home side take the lead in the 62<sup>nd</sup> minute. Although Chelmsford were reduced to 10 men for the final ten minutes, following a foul on Tim Thompson, Hampstead, failed to capitalise.

There were many positives in Hampstead's performance. An excellent display from skipper Gary Boucher and Nurse's name on the score sheet for the first time this season should give them confidence. Most of all, however, they should be pleased with the number of chances they created. But they might find shooting practice in order when they turn up to training on Tuesday.



## Women's Investec National League

### Eastern Conference

The *Hampstead and Highgate Express* has continued to offer support to the Club and, in particular, where success is reflected at national level. The Women's promotion to and successful participation in its first season in the National League for the 2015-16 season was a case in point. The newspaper conducted an interview with the team's captain, Annabeth Wijtenburg at the end of the League campaign.



*Photography: Mark Clews*

Hampstead Women's 1s are at the highest level in their 30-year history after promotion to the National League Conference East. The season's successes suggest they can continue to climb to the top flight.

Sunday's result was slightly disappointing – a 3-3 draw at home against St Albans which stopped Wijtenburg and her team-mates from grabbing third place in the final standings. But, while they ended up eight points behind leaders Slough, they were only two points behind the runners-up, Wimbledon, and the skipper believes there is plenty more to come from her side.

"I think it's been a great season. We set our goal to be in the top three or four and I think we've grown so much as a team and our players have become so much better, so I'm very excited for next season. There's always room for improvement and I think, talking to the girls and everybody, there are little things that we can definitely take forward – becoming fitter, more clinical and staying patient while we're trying to score".

She added, "It's been our first season in the National League and we've had 10 new players in so at times it was definitely interesting to manage selection. I think we've done really well and I definitely don't think we've peaked. We can still grow so much more as a team, which is the exciting part. Obviously it would have been nice to be in the top three because I think that's nicer to say, but in general the feeling is everybody's pretty proud of the season and what we've achieved. The spirit in the group is great, which I think is very important."

The team had gone into the winter break in second place but stumbled on their return to action in February, taking just one point from a possible nine against Cambridge City, Maidenhead and Chelmsford – and the latter two sides have finished in the bottom three.

However, H&W responded by thumping pacesetters Slough 3-0 at PRG and won their following two games before finishing off their campaign with Sunday's draw against St Albans. "We were starting to improve before Christmas and then we had three not-so-great games. It might have been just about getting into it again."

"I remember in the first game against Cambridge we definitely didn't play that well, but in the two games after that we didn't actually play that badly. We drew against Maidenhead and we had so many chances. We were getting there but we weren't finishing it, and we've definitely done that since then. I think the last few weeks have been the best hockey we've played, with some great results. We unfortunately drew on Sunday but I'm so positive for next season. I think we could beat any team."

Annabeth is not anticipating another influx into the squad this summer. But she is hopeful of attracting some of the players who have been pushing to earn a place in Great Britain's Olympic squad this season, and who might be happy to drop down from the Premier Division and focus a bit more on their jobs next term. She added, "I definitely think we'll be a lot more stable. We will naturally attract some additional players. This has been the year leading up to the Olympics, so people might have been trying to get into the national squad, and we are a central London team".

## [Women's Investec National League Eastern Conference](#)

The season's results were as follows:

Maidenhead 3 Hampstead 4  
Hampstead 1 Harleston Magpies 0  
Sevenoaks 2 Hampstead 4  
Hampstead 1 Chelmsford 2  
Slough 1 Hampstead 0  
Wimbledon 3 Hampstead 2  
Hampstead 5 Ipswich 3  
St. Albans 2 Hampstead 2  
Hampstead 1 Cambridge City 1  
Harleston Magpies 1 Hampstead 2  
Hampstead 3 Wimbledon 2  
Cambridge City 3 Hampstead 1  
Hampstead 2 Maidenhead 2  
Chelmsford 3 Hampstead 2  
Hampstead 3 Slough 0  
Hampstead 3 Sevenoaks 1  
Ipswich 0 Hampstead 5  
Hampstead 3 St Albans 3

## League Table

Sough	18	12	3	3	51	17	39
Wimbledon	18	9	6	3	32	17	33
Cambridge City	18	9	5	4	23	15	32
<b>Hampstead &amp; W</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>31</b>
Harleston Magpies	18	7	6	5	30	19	27
Sevenoaks	18	7	5	6	33	33	26
St Albans	18	6	7	5	32	28	25
Chelmsford	18	4	4	10	24	52	16
Maidenhead	18	4	3	11	27	51	15
Ipswich	18	0	3	15	13	52	3



*Photography: Mark Clews*