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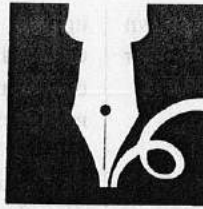
HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER HOCKEY CLUB

Journal Vol 7.

DECEMBER 27, 1996

INTRODUCTION

This is our seventh Newsletter, at least that's six more than many may have anticipated! We had hoped to wish all our readers a Happy Christmas or other appropriate seasonal greetings but this may end as many others by being late and so it's Happy New Year!



forwarded: they kept coming back in the dead letter post with equal velocity. So this will hopefully get to him via his office, from where he was recently able to persuade Greene King (with its clear record of support for Hockey) to subscribe to the Men's 1st XI sponsorship scheme, a much appreciated gesture and for which as mentioned earlier, was successful in the

TEAM SPONSORSHIP NEWS

The last edition of the Journal brought information about the Men's 1st XI Sponsorship Scheme. After much persuasion there were eight names that went into the proverbial Hat for the Official Draw that was conducted at Hampton's, another potential sponsor, in the presence of Mr Independent Adjudicator, Richard Sykes (further details of whose credentials for the job are discussed later in this Edition) and performed with great aplomb and due decorum by Mr Nick Coleman, the Chairman of the Club (and, invariably, Counsel for the Defendant).

We are delighted to report that the first name drawn was that of Greene King from Bury St Edmunds and we are very grateful to Simon Jamieson for having put their name forward. We look forward to forging closer ties with Greene King, including seeing the team shirts bearing their logo as soon as we can get them from the printers.

NEWS of OLD MEMBERS

Morley Pecker is the recent recipient of one of Hockey's top awards. He was nominated for the Diploma of Honour by the FIH at its recent annual Congress Meeting in Barcelona, in full recognition of his enormous contribution to European Hockey. This is a great honour and the whole Club wanted through the *Journal* to offer Morley its congratulations and thanks: he has been more even available than usual because of work commitments to umpire for the Veterans, who have been especially pleased to see him more frequently. (As ever the *Journal* is grateful to **Stan Elgar** for up to date intelligence on Things at the Top: thank you Stan - fast become its leading rover reporter (honorary, we hope we agreed!)).

Colin Greenhalgh wanted to thank all those who had offered him good wishes for his speedy recovery which have clearly worked: it was good to see him at Duke's Meadow with the Men's 1st XI in the Second Round of the HA Cup and certainly looking fit and well.

Nick White, a comparatively recent Hockey retiree, has upped sticks from Farnham and it was only an admirably early Christmas Card that alerted us to his new Perth, Western Australia address. We gather that it was (is?) a work opportunity and having tried Houston previously, the family thought it could manage in the other side of the world. Nick sounded uncertain how long this stint might last.

Colin Greenhalgh has successfully put the *Journal* in touch with **Simon Jamieson** for whom we had no current or accurate home address: persistence failed to get our envelopes

Draw.

We have two new addressees to the *Journal* circulation list prompted by Peter Boizot and we hope that they will contact us to let us know how they are faring.

John Faulkner is working as a freelance commentator for the Walt Disney Sports Channel network ESPN Asia, operating out of Singapore and covered the Olympic Hockey for Singapore TV. He reports that ESPN will shortly be merging with Star TV, giving greater coverage especially from Asia.

Our other recipient is **Stephen Levinson** who played for the Club some 25 years ago, apparently for the 3rd XI and wants to kept in touch with what is happening now. We hope that this does the trick!

Football memorabilia is a massive pastime and programmes in particular, with "events" all around the country, especially on a Sunday, allegedly, for those with "No Life". Imagine the surprise therefore when one such soul found in a car boot sale recently a Hockey Programme from many years back (ie over 20), for an Oxbridge game at Lord's, which incidentally featured Messrs **Hayward** and **Elgar** as Members of the organising Committee.

Who could it be featured within it, described as having a *geographical* sense of direction that led him straight to the *Catzbar* that year. He was alleged to be saving so that he could afford a scarf to go *all* the way around his neck? The *Journal* is certain that any resemblance to an Old Member of H&W is entirely coincidental.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

Clearly there is every chance there will be others that we have missed but there have two recent sitings of H&W members on the Box. **Peter Boizot** was interviewed at length by an ITV programme reviewing the development of fast food in the UK and in particular hand-to-mouth produce.

Peter eagerly sported his Hampstead tie and regaled us with stories from the early days of Pizza Express and his wish not to become involved with plates, cutlery and washing up - on the basis that it was entirely authentic to eat a slice of pizza from the pan and if necessary with a paper napkin, easily disposable afterwards with minimum fuss. However it soon became apparent that this was not going to succeed as there were increasing demands for knives and forks. Plastics had not developed the tensile strength we are accustomed to today and apparently in the early days there were repeated complaints about the new *Pizza Plastika* where the latent heat of the Pizza had caused a fork to melt and become embedded in the crust and topping!

Then who should appear on the fateful postponed-due-to technical-difficulties National Lottery draw as Independent

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Adjudicator, standing alongside *Guinevere* but our own **Richard Sykes**, who probably wanted only to be in the bar (this being Saturday night of course) after a Vets' match

MILTON KEYNES NEWS

As mentioned earlier, **Stan Elgar** was kind enough to bring the *Journal* fully up to date with news of the Special General Meeting of the HA to consider the Resolution to disband itself and from 1st June 1997, merge with the AEWH to form a single umbrella organisation, the English Hockey Association, and thus satisfy an increasingly important demand of the FIH. The vote was taken on 4th December 1996 and was passed by a considerable majority. This was followed by the vote of the AEWH who also passed their similar Resolution but with only a small turn out of the possible electorate (thankfully, no Peter Snow swingometer was required). So, from next June there will be the one organising body responsible for the sport in England, the EHA.

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE

Other snippets from Stan included the Discussion Paper pulled together by the National League Administrator Stephen Barlow, which concentrates upon a streamlined national approach to the NHL and suggests a radical re-appraisal of League structures in England and Wales.

His belief is that the National League Division 1 should be reduced to 12 teams playing home and away and as the second highest league in the country, it should be more than a status to be achieved and comfortably maintained. There is a recognition that such reduction in numbers will not be popular.

The debate over relegation and promotion seems to be the most fierce and Barlow believes that "six up and six down" does not ensure that quality is maintained in NHL Div 1. He still thinks that there should be steps to climb a League Pyramid but the gulf in quality between the five Regional Leagues and NHL Div 1 is too great, in his opinion, at present.

To allow for automatic promotion and relegation in and out of the NHL, the Paper proposes three (instead of five) feeder leagues, with the winners of three leagues automatically promoted to the NHL and the Play-Offs (ie the Inter League Tournament) withdrawn:-

1. Midlands & North
2. East & South (Sussex, Surrey, Kent)
3. West & South (Middlesex, Berkshire, Bucks., Oxon and Hampshire)

Each of these three Leagues would be served by two sub-leagues, that is, six in all, namely, Midlands, North, East, South (East), West and South (West), with leagues below organised and regionalised as required.

This structure, it is believed, will generate a true national League. The Regional Leagues would lose their direct link to a Division and indeed Steve Barlow calls for all 1st XI leagues to come under the NHL umbrella.

CUP COMPETITIONS

The Paper also tackles the Cup Competitions, which it says is in need of a shake up as qualification is dependent

upon a Divisional or County HA determination as to which Clubs should take part and that qualification via a County Cup often misleads if a good opponent loses out in a first round match and cannot progress to a stage where they might qualify for the HA Trophy.

Thus, it is suggested that all competitions be open and that there be five in number, the HA Cup, HA Trophy, HA Vase, HA Veterans Cup and the HA Vintage Cup. We shall try to bring you greater detail in the next edition.

THE CARLTON

The Club is now well established in The Carlton, which shows gradual signs of future greatness thrust upon it by the ever enthusiastic Peter Boizot. The *Journal* asked Peter for a few words about his enterprise and this is what he had to say.

The Carlton Tavern in Carlton Vale - which is off Maida Vale - also rests adjacent to Paddington Recreation Ground. Over the years it has gained a chequered and indeed nefarious reputation, being known as an MIB - Male Irish Boozer.

However, all that has changed under the Proprietor (ie PJB himself). Joe and Tess McEvoy are running a pleasant and generally respectable establishment. It is a Sports Pub and pictures of Hockey and Golf to name but two adorn the walls. There is a small Clubroom and an attractive beer garden. Care is being taken of the Bass Charrington Ales and the Corney & Barrow and Frescobaldi wines. Toilet accommodation is being improved.

In the basement, two changing rooms and showers are being completed, which will be useful for special occasions. Teas are taken in the Tea Rooms on the first floor and we encourage visitors to mix with the home teams.

There is a long way to go on the Carlton Tavern, but do pop in for a drink when you have a chance. Any ephemera or photographs of old Hampstead HC or Hockey in general would be most welcome.

PLAYER COACH

In mid-November, the *Journal* asked Rob Thompson for a quick insight into his perspectives of the H&W scene generally, poor soul, so soon after getting "stuck in". The Men's 1st XI were then (dammit, still are) going great guns in the League with a series of wins and several by wide margins.

Asked why he had decided to join H&W, Rob told us that there were three main reasons, the Club's clear ambitions for the 1st XI to regain NHL status, his awareness of us, through his younger brother Andy, who had joined from Hounslow some three years earlier and the fact that Dan Williams was to stand as Captain of the side.

Rob had seen H&W in action when playing against us for an England XI in 1993 at Bisham Abbey, the year of our winning the South League and recalled H&W as a reasonable side with talented individuals but not much cohesion as a team. Big Brian Tenner made an impression as RT's marker that day (though not in the literal sense we trust!) and is remembered for it.

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What were your initial impressions of the strengths and weaknesses of the team?

On the positive side, there was a group of talented individuals, with good team spirit and an experienced core of players. Conversely, confidence had been dented by the results of last season, there had been injuries to key players and the team lacked any degree of consistency.

What did you decide to concentrate upon?

Building up confidence was a priority and instilling a shape or structure on which to build. I also felt that I needed quickly to analyse players individually.

Did you think that the team was fit enough?

No; but we have worked hard on this and have yet to come across a side that is fitter in our League.

Some have witnessed the attacking way in which the 1st XI go about their play this year (as if the number of goals scored was insufficient evidence on its own). We wondered whether this had arrived by design or perhaps a happy accident.

Is it a policy to opt for attack? If so, was this predetermined or developed in light of the players at your disposal and is there anyone in particular that makes this a more feasible option?

Yes, I see it is as playing to our strengths. I am an attacker myself and we also picked up J-J van Dijk from Holland. Nigel Land and Mark Crowley are also very quick attacking players.

As mentioned at the start, we put our questions to Rob after the first 4 League games and asked if anything had discernibly improved since the start of the season?

Yes: confidence has improved dramatically but possibly to the extent of over confidence. The short corner routine has seen marked improvement, as has the quality of our defensive play. We still need, however, to improve the strike rate from the numerous short corners that we earn and this needs greater proficiency which calls for more and more practice!

When asked if anything had deteriorated since he started with the Club, Rob replied that nothing had. We asked him about recruitment and how it might be possible to secure the services of the really talented players. Rob certainly felt that there was a clear need to recruit and that every squad member young and old needed to nurture contacts, particularly in the close season. For example, this year we have been able to secure three good young players in Steve Dodson, Jack Galliford and Rob Carter.

Which other teams do you believe will be a threat to us in the League?

Anchorians and Gore Court, the opposition in the last two games of the League season.

What lessons can H&W learn from Hounslow HC?

There are two main points; the first is consistency and the second the ability to adapt during a match to the tactics being employed by the opposition during a match.

Do we do anything better than Hounslow?

Yes: off the field organisation and administration of the Club.

We finally asked Rob if all this hard work (ie playing and coaching, rather than suffering patiently these irritating little

questions) was proving to be enjoyable and were pleased to hear that he said yes; very much, although we should ask him again in March 1997!

The best moment experienced by him in H&W colours at the time we spoke to him was the 7-3 away win against Beckenham, when H&W played some of the most fluent attacking hockey that Rob has witnessed. A fine testimony to his skills as Coach and the efforts of The Lads.

Thank you, Rob!

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

News of the Season's prospects was promised in the last edition but have not really been clarified for us, possibly as the later it gets the more prospects become realities (or history?)

As briefly mentioned, the Women's 1st XI did not have that encouraging a start to the season and have not been able to put a run of wins together. Some of the stars from last year's successful team are not available. Nonetheless the team is in the upper portion of the South League and not barred from winning it, although it would be a massive achievement now if that occurred. The League leaders at the last call were Tulse Hill, Dulwich and Southampton.

Further news of the other Women's teams will have to await the next edition, we fear. The 1st XI did have a match on 15th December at PRG in the AEWAHA Plate competition and beat Burnt Ash 3-0 to progress into the next round.

MEN'S 1st XI NEWS

The Men's 1st XI has successfully promoted the sponsorship scheme. It has, in tandem, been able to produce a Match Programme for home games and it is largely from this that the following match reports come. There is the clear risk that repetition will dull the senses of those regulars who come to watch and pick up the Programme but we hope that they will bear with us as we seek to bring the news to the rest.

NEW PLAYERS

For those who may not know some of the new faces in the team and who feature in the reports, we have (as presaged by Rob Thompson above) a new goalie, **Steve Dodson**, who, together with defender **Jack Galliford**, hail from London University, thus able to push downwards the average age of the squad! **Rob Carter** plays in central defence, with a sturdy game assisted by his long reach in the tackle. **Jan-Job van Dijk** is probably our luckiest "find". He has played in Holland for Groeningen and Hattem at high level and wanted a bit more of a challenge than playing for UCL, where he is studying. He is a speedy left sided attacker, with extremely quick hands and a gift of exceptional skill. Rob Thompson believes that were he English he would have little difficulty getting into the younger national squad. Studies demand that J-J returns to Holland to see his Professor later in February but if we do secure a Play Off berth, he should be available to play.

Of the injured, **Andy Thompson** and **Dave Grady** are still recovering from Cruciate ligament problems although making steady come-backs, Andy presently with the 3rd XI and Dave

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with the 2nd XI. Rob Bloomer was injured pre-season suffering a broken leg but has now recovered and is back in the Squad.

OVERVIEW

There can be no doubt that the Men's 1st XI is an especially quick attacking force in the League, with such speedsters as Nigel Land, Mark Crowley and J-J van Dijk and adept at moving the ball left side as often as down the right. Rob Thompson has not taken up an out and out centre forward position but tends to play just behind the front three or four. This partially explains why he is not top scorer!

It is also certain that Rob's massive presence and the return of Dan Williams has strengthened the middle of the field and that we can compete with the rest if the game becomes a little physical: we are not knocked off the ball as perhaps we were towards the end of last season. We have generally a sound defence behind skilful players like Jack Galliford coupled with the experience of Derek Stone. Right at the back, as his performance against Ipswich in the Fourth Round of the HA Cup showed, we have a talented 'keeper. The team is developing the ability to vary its tactics as the opposition seek to exploit certain areas of the pitch. This was evident especially in the Tunbridge Wells game when a conscious step was taken to deprive their attacking right side of the ball, from where their main threat in attack was being developed.

The last edition brought you news of the opening League fixtures against Fareham (1-0 away win) and Richmond (6-1 home win) - if that does not sound too much like the Pools Panel!

BECKENHAM 3 : 7 HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER

19th October 1996

Opening in the now not-so-new red shirts, H&W reputedly took the game straight to Beckenham. (Your correspondent had his nose stuck in the Greater London A-Z trying to avoid the heavy suburban traffic in parts of outlying Kent not hitherto explored, supposedly to cut out a few of the well-known bottlenecks (ha ha ha!) and arrived as the score was 1-0 to H&W).

Rob Thompson had apparently scored the opening goal after 12 minutes and then Jan-Job van Dijk attacked repeatedly on the left. One of his runs led to a goal for Nigel Land after 16 minutes and then similarly, an easy chance for Mark Crowley for number 3.

With Dan Williams away, the team then lost a little cohesion. Beckenham pulled one back from their left winger to make it 3-1 and two minutes hit our post but at half time, the same score remained. In the second half, Rob Thompson put away a short corner to make it 4-1. Nigel Land then beat all the defenders left side and managed a neat reverse flick to the awaiting unmarked Crowley, who made it 5-1.

Mark added another after the keeper's block of the 12th short corner awarded after strong play on the right from GP. In the 57th minute Nigel Land scored number 7 after Lindsay Troy had rounded the Beckenham keeper. Three minutes later with concentration possibly wavering, Beckenham pulled one

back to 7-2 and two minutes later added a third after a short corner strike that appeared to be higher than the backboard when crossing the line but dipped as it entered the goal and hit the wood, so it was allowed (which was not surprising really!).

HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER 10 : 1 MAIDENHEAD

26th October 1996

Back at PRG H&W (acronymically-challenged reporting this!) opened the scoring floodgates once again with its high speed attacking play that took Maidenhead apart and resulted in 10 goals, led by Mark Crowley's six (which followed his two earlier hat-tricks in the preceding games) and which has attracted the interest of the national press.

There is just space to record the scoring which probably speaks for itself anyway. Mark opened his day with a short corner conversion in the 16th minute and 2 minutes later scored the second from open play. On the 27th minute Rob Thompson scored from a short corner to make it 3-0 when the half ended.

In the second half the deluge began, with Dan Williams scoring after 43 minutes, followed by J-J van Dijk 2 minutes later, after a short corner. On 53 minutes profligate Crowley missed a penalty stroke but converted one 2 minutes later to make it 6-0. He followed this up with two more goals in the 56th and 59th minutes, allowing J-J to score his second in the 66th. Mark secured his sixth in the 68th to make it 10-0 and with the stopwatch recording the 72nd minute, Maidenhead scored their consolation goal!

HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER 2 : 2 WINCHESTER

2nd November 1996

PRG was truly The Land of Plenty this Saturday: plenty of action, plenty of incident, plenty of advice from the opposition to the Umpires on the interpretation of the laws, plenty of delay in the finishing time and plenty of angst on the H&W side, as the equaliser was scored from a short corner with some 10 seconds left. Plenty, too, was the emotion from Winchester on the final whistle: it was as if they had just won promotion on the last day of the season! The South Premier League is a gruelling League and some results just have to be ground out. This match was one of them.

H&W started well but gradually found that things were not quite firing correctly. The forwards appeared unable to find as much space as usual, which left midfield having to hold on to the ball longer with a resultant slowing in the customary pace seen in attack so far this season.

Rob Thompson, with eyes firmly fixed on the Goalkeeper after an initial parry of his short corner shot, lashed the ball into the top of the net half way through the first half for 1-0 and J-J van Dijk added a second just before half time, which should have been the classic recipe for a result.

However, Winchester thought otherwise and after ten minutes of the second half, scored in open play following a sweeping move from deep on the right over to inside left leaving Richard Jones to beat Steve Dodson for 2-1. There was then time for H&W to press forward and secure several short corners, all capably saved by the keeper. Mark Crowley tested him but two shots looped over the bar from very close range. With a forward lying deep Winchester tried a few long range

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attacks: with one they caught Steve Dodson valiantly trying to close the gap at the top of the circle. He found himself kicking on the wrong side of the line and was yellow carded. There was then an eight minute break for Rob Carter to don the GK kit. Called into action immediately he stopped the resultant short corner.

Rob Thompson, Dan Williams and Greg Pierce then led the playing of good possession hockey with 10 men and Rob Carter was only called upon for one more critical save before another briefer stoppage for Steve Dodson to re-equip himself and get back on. However, this did not prevent that final strike from Jones to score his second after a short corner to pull the score back to 2-2 right at the death.

HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER 5 : 1 ASHFORD

16th November 1996

When the game started, it was immediately clear that Ashford's game plan was to bore us all to sleep and run off with the points. Our first short corner came after 13 minutes and Dan Williams roused himself from the bench to smack the ball home for 1-0, which it remained until half-time. The Umpires were unhappy. Ashford had alleged that the balls were being thrown back on faster for H&W than for them. Nor, apparently, were they impressed with some of the commentaries from the side of the pitch.

Two minutes in the second half, Mark Crowley broke into the circle on the left and swept the ball across the Ashford goal. Rob Thompson used the whole of his 10ft frame to dive at the ball and slap it into the net for 2-0. This was soon followed by a thundering short corner conversion for 3-0. Doubtless Ashford must have found something else to complain about, for Thompson then found himself the victim of a yellow card and was off the pitch for some 14 minutes. Reduced to 10 men, Nigel Land made a great run down the right before crossing for Crowley to make the score 4-0. On 26 minutes J-J contrived to miss from a short corner move but a minute later Land and Crowley hurtled unopposed towards the Ashford goalkeeper, with Mark finishing it off for 5-0. Ashford scored an unmerited consolation goal right at the death (this becoming something of a recurrent problem for us).

TUNBRIDGE W 1 : 6 HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER

23rd November 1996

The game started with very tight marking and space was at a real premium. Jack Galliford was prominent in the Hampstead defence in the early stages as Tunbridge Wells fed the ball down the slope to their right. Neither side moved into the other's circle in the first 5 minutes.

J-J and Nigel Land then began to find space on the Hampstead left. In the 31st minute, the fourth Hampstead short corner led to the opening goal for Rob Turner who neatly slotted the ball in on the right post.

Early in the second half, Mark Crowley scored number 2 but Tunbridge Wells pulled one back after a free hit was fired in from the right and steered in past Tim Forte. As the game then became increasingly competitive, Jack Galliford connected with Pat Curtin who took it on to lead to a short

corner which Rob Thompson crashed in to make it 3-1. With Dan Williams and Greg Pierce in clear control of the midfield, coupled with a strong defensive shield H&W pushed further forward. Rob Turner scored number 4 after another short corner and Will Saxby then combined with Mark Crowley on the bye-line to score for 5-1.

With the tackles now coming in thick and fast, there was still time for Mark Crowley to score his second after a strong run through the middle from Will Saxby, preceded by a great pass from Pat Curtin. The match ended 1-6 leaving a large home crowd rather stunned. All in all, a very satisfying performance against a physical side, Hampstead having combined great speed and good scoring with a sound defence.

HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER 5 : 0 RAMGARHIA

30th November 1996

Ramgarhia, fourth in the League and with a midfield brimful of tricky, skilful players made a spirited opening but failed to make any impression on a well-organised Hampstead defence. With a reputation as the second highest scoring side in the League, their closest attempt involved a flick shot at goal which was comfortably saved by Tim Forte. In spite of the absence of Rob Thompson, the Hampstead forwards quickly wrested control of the match, with Nigel Land scoring after 12 minutes and Will Saxby finishing off a superb end-to-end move two minutes later. With an opening League goal of the season for Lindsay Troy following a short corner, J-J van Dijk effectively finished off the match as a contest by roofing a shot into the Ramgarhia net after 32 minutes. So, at half time it was 4-0.

Hampstead, now playing at half pace, enjoyed a second great goal from Lindsay early in the second half. In spite of the Manager's entreaty to give Ramgarhia a negative League goal difference, we settled for rolling substitutes and the preservation of energies for the Cup match on the next day. Nothing further of note occurred, other than a yellow card for a frustrated Ramgarhia midfielder and an allegedly astonishing penalty flick miss from Mark Crowley.

WIMBLEDON 0 : 5 HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER

7th December 1996

Hampstead took on another side in third position in the League and beat them all ends up to record their ninth league victory. They spurned the opportunity to inflict a bigger dent in the home side's hitherto impressive defensive record as at least four good chances went begging in the latter part of the second half, but not before the team had notched up its 50th league goal in 10 games.

With Greg Pierce sidelined and Nigel Land away but with Rob Thompson back, the side opened brightly against a club technically disaffiliated by the HA but given, along with (it has to be said) many illustrious clubs, 13 days of grace to cough up its affiliation fee! Will Saxby was prominent in the early minutes down the Hampstead right, just failing to connect with Mark Crowley, who also just missed being on the end of another pass from deep from J-J van Dijk. J-J then took matters into his own hands and with an astounding run in which he beat four defenders in quick succession, scored a marvellous

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opening goal, flicking the ball high into the net. This even drew a degree of admiration from some of the home supporters! Another J-J run then led to a short corner, which Rob Thompson hammered home.

Wimbledon were combative (especially in midfield, where Dan Williams decided to get stuck in) but did not show much finesse or ingenuity in the final quarter of the pitch, where many speculative passes went harmlessly behind or were snaffled up by the efficient H&W defence. Steve Dodson in the Hampstead goal was called upon for his first save after 25 minutes after a Wimbledon free hit was drilled into the circle (not the first time that we have seen that tactic adopted against us!)

From our third short corner the ball was transferred by Dan Williams to J-J, who again flicked the ball high into the Wimbledon net for 3-0. Two short corners at the other end were then successfully repulsed, the second after a Steve Dodson save sent the ball sailing over the 22 yard line of the adjoining Rugby pitch.

Three minutes into the second half, J-J netted his hat trick after Rob Thompson's terrific shot was parried by the goalie. Six minutes later Rob Turner pushed home another short corner (this is getting to be a habit) to make it 5-0. The game then opened up and close work in the midfield was abandoned (this was a game against Wimbledon after all) and the wrongly derided long ball became *de rigeur*.

Mark Crowley tried desperately to get himself on the scoresheet (he must have sensed that Pat Rowley had arrived and was enquiring about him!) and came mighty close on at least four occasions. Will Saxby was again now prominent, finding himself repeatedly open on the left but the ball was destined not to go in. Wimbledon thought that they had got one back after a short corner but the Umpire had already blown his whistle for an offence as the ball went into the goal:

HAMPSTEAD & W 2 : 2 HIGH WYCOMBE

14th December 1996

Match report to follow but this result pushes H&W to second in the League behind Anchorians as the League goes into hibernation until 18th January 1997.

GOALSCORERS' TABLE

Player	League	Cup	Both
Mark Crowley	18	3	21
Rob Thompson	10	2	12
J-J van Dijk	7	1	8
Nigel Land	6	1	5
Rob Turner	4	1	5
Will Saxby	3	1	4
Dan Williams	3	-	3
Lindsay Troy	2	-	2
Pat Curtin	-	2	2
Totals	53	11	64

OTHER REGIONAL LEAGUES

Lest we are accused of being too parochial, the *Journal* has been keeping an eye on happenings around the country and, in particular, the other Regional Leagues, whose winners will participate in the 1997 Play Offs. These results might not be bang up to date but there are (or should be accurate to the tenth week, although the Midlands League will generally have played one match fewer).

NORTH PREMIER

Norton	Played	9-27pts
Formby		10-20
Sheffield Bankers		11-19

Norton stay top again without a game: they now have two games in hand over the third team and a comparatively massive 8 points in the bag. Formby did not play either, leaving the Bankers to move into third after a 2-1 win at Chester.

SUN LIFE WEST of ENGLAND & SOUTH WALES

Robinsons	9-22
Whitchurch	10-20
Bath Buccaneers	10-20

Robinsons won at Plymouth to stabilise themselves at the top, as the other leading Clubs could only draw, Whitchurch at Swansea and Bath Buccs at home to last season's League winners Weston super Mare.

DTZ MIDLAND PREMIER

Loughborough Students	9-22
Harborne	9-21
Nottingham	8-16

This League still appears wide open, with all to play for in the new year. Loughborough beat Bloxwich 3-2 and Harborne had an encouraging 5-3 away win against Khalsa. Nottingham hit the bottom club Blossomfield for 8 without reply, to stay third.

ADNAMS EAST

Cambridge City	10-30
Chelmsford	10-24
Ipswich	10-22

Cambridge City still have a perfect record after a 4-1 win at Dereham. Again, all three leading Clubs won, Chelmsford at home to Stortford and Ipswich 2-0 away to Colchester, clearly undeterred by their set back last week in the Cup at PRG.

HA CUP

After the Walk over against Southampton, the vagaries of the Draw, mentioned in the last edition, resulted in a tie against the same team as we had played the previous day in a league fixture.

HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER 3 : 0 MAIDENHEAD

27th October 1996

On a dull day at Duke's Meadow on the water based pitch, with the lights on at the start (not just the effect of the change in the clocks) it was quickly evident that Maidenhead had decided that Saturday's 10-1 loss was an aberration and was not to recur. Their challenges were more forceful and space was closed down more effectively. With a different opposition goalkeeper too, H&W did not get things its own way. Jan-Job van Dijk

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was closely marked and did not enjoy as much of the ball as usual.

However, after 5 minutes Pat Curtin opened the scoring and 2 minutes later Jan-Job forced an out-stretched save from the keeper, whose complaint was clearly audible to the effect that his team's performance was, in President Richard Nixon parlance, expletive-deleted appalling. On 20 minutes Will Saxby pushed in the second after good work along the right side. This was followed 9 minutes later by Pat Curtin's second from the top of the circle after a pass from Will Saxby had split the defence. So at the half it was 3-0.

Early in the second half, Rob Carter produced two stick stops on the goal line and averted danger. Rob Thompson fired just wide a short corner hit with tremendous velocity but Maidenhead refused to give up and defended strongly. They also tried to use the full length of the pitch in attack but Steve Dodson in the H&W goal was not seriously challenged. The game ended without further scoring.

Third Round

HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER 5 : 1 JERSEY

10th November 1996

On a bleak and bitterly cold November day, the Hampstead forwards kept themselves warm by subjecting their visitors from the Channel Islands to a furious bombardment, with short corners as early as the first and second minutes, with subsequent near misses and much activity and finally a goal from Mark Crowley after 10 minutes.

Imagine the surprise therefore, when Jersey in almost their first serious venture into Hampstead territory broke wide on the right and scored with a powerful cross shot to Steve Dodson's far post. Like brushing away from an irritating conversation Hampstead returned to the job in hand and won a short corner which turned into the award of a penalty flick which turned into Mark Crowley's second goal for 2-1. Two minutes later, Rob Thompson converted another short corner to leave the half time score at 3-1.

The Islanders clearly invigorated after a rest, came back strongly and with some good play forced a couple of corners and won the first award of a green card from Senor Jesus Pintor, our visiting umpire from Espana, por favor. Not to be seen as unduly partisan and doubtless in the true spirit of European unity, Senor Pintor then showed one to Rob Thompson. Rob Turner then collected a tax free lump on the head. On the Hockey side, Hampstead were now continuously buzzing around the Jersey goal with Jack Galliford prominent. On the 35th minute of the half, Rob Thompson made it 4-1 and then deep into injury time Nigel Land capped a fine display with number 5.

For a side that only comes together to play Cup matches on the mainland, Jersey equipped themselves well and have won more friends at H&W. Peter Boizot generously treated the Jersey squad to vouchers for Dinner at the Jersey "branch" of Pizza Express. Hasta la vista, too, to Snr Pintor along with our muchas gracias!

Fourth Round

HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER 3 : 3 IPSWICH

(Hampstead win 4-1 on penalty strokes)

1st December 1996

The goalie on the winning side always receives the accolades in a penalty shoot-out: just ask David Seaman or Tony Parkes (remember that one?). Steve Dodson in the Hampstead goal, however, won his acclamation well before the end of normal time in this absorbing match which saw Ipswich recover from 3-1 down in the second half, when Hampstead appeared to be cruising to the Fifth Round. Steve pulled off a series of memorable saves in the first half to keep his side in the game when during the first 20 minutes H&W were driven around the pitch looking for the ball and chasing back to defend.

Ipswich started with plenty of players behind the ball and gave no space to the Hampstead midfield. In the fifth minute a hard shot from their first short corner signalled serious goalkeeping business but Steve had it covered as the ball went just wide. On 17 minutes he pulled off a spectacular double save after the second Ipswich short corner and repeated this on his left side three minutes later clawing the ball away. However, Ipswich did put one past him in the 20th minute when the defence opened up for a shot from inside right to make it 0-1 (rather tumultuously received by the visitors). Another high class save two minutes later kept the score the same as H&W tried to make some openings.

Hampstead's best efforts came on the left with J-J van Dijk and Nigel Land combining at great speed but after 27 minutes Will Saxby was freed on the right and after a strong run he cut the ball back at pace to the top of the circle combining with Mark Crowley when the ball fell to J-J who cracked the ball in for 1-1 (and which led to an Ipswich defensive inquest).

The first H&W short corner was awarded in the 34th minute, when from the stop Dan Williams steered the ball with just the right pace on it to the far post where Rob Turner popped up in his customary way to slide the ball home for 2-1.

The second half saw repeated left-sided H&W attacking with Nigel Land, J-J and Mark Crowley prominent. In the 44th minute a short corner stop was pushed left where Mark scored to make it 3-1. This was followed by near misses at consecutive corners after 52 minutes as Ipswich were giving the impression of losing their way after their bright start. However this must have been an illusion as they then powered back to score in the 60th and 65th minutes to drive the game into extra time; to some, looking on objectively, a fair reflection of the way the game had gone hitherto.

The extra 15 minutes saw no clear cut chances for either side but was abruptly stopped as Will Saxby was breaking into the Ipswich circle ready for a shot with little but the goalie to beat, much to the regret of the Hampstead contingent on the sidelines whose metabolisms were ill-prepared for a penalty shoot out (that dreaded Gore Court syndrome!). Mark Crowley's first of the H&W strokes crept in under the goalkeeper's body but only just (and for a moment no-one was sure whether he has scored or not). Steve Dodson continued the earlier heroics with stops of Ipswich's second and third strokes (the latter with his boot stretched to his left) leaving J-J and Nigel Land to score. This left our own Captain Marvel to step up and fire the flick home to see us into the heady

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atmosphere of the Fifth Round. The team did not apparently vote for an MVP - possibly as there was no contest: thank you Steve!

Fifth Round

ST ALBANS v HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER

Sunday 23rd February 1997

(probably) Clarence Park, St Albans

ALL SUPPORT MOST WELCOME!!

100 CLUB

Under Harry Watson's impressive marshalling (and powers of persuasion) the 100 Club has successfully started and there have two draws for October and November, won by Caroline Brooke and Stuart Brown of the Veterans respectively. There is enough resource to cover the final dividend and the Club is the beneficiary - so this funding exercise has been a marked success: well done H; thank you!

ENCORE FANZENE

As threatened in the last edition, the *Journal* decided that increasingly now, it was high time it spoke to one of H&W's more respected members, with a wealth of knowledge and experience of the Club as a player now for more years than he wants to recall.

Roger Rookes has been an ever-present since the early 1970s and has served a broad span of teams as a player (and not always as a defender: the Editor can recall at least two goals as the roving 5th XI centre-forward - and hungry for more!) and captain (for at least two separate periods) as well as having acted as the Club's General Secretary for two years. Roger works with commodities (further elaboration probably required but unavailable as we go to press) but was always eager for a spot of the Arbitration when it was available. It was probably that trip to South America that did the trick or his knowledge of Russian, perhaps? Who knows? (How's that for the 1996 Non Sequitur Prize?)

So, tell us Roger

At what age did you first start playing Hockey?

16 years old

What was your first competitive match and with what result?

Cannot recall the result but it was for Exeter Hornets 3rd XI in 1967 (and it may have been 2-1)

When did you join Hampstead/Hampstead & Westminster?

1973

Which H&W teams have you not played for?

1st XI

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

Any defeat of Richmond!

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

Dave Dixon

Which is the best Hockey match you have watched?

Hampstead v Gore Court (with those Penalty Flicks)

Who is the best Hockey player you have seen playing?

Recently? Rob Thompson

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

A glove (see below)

What infuriates you most about Hockey?

The Cold!

Your most amusing incident on a Hockey pitch?

5th XI away at Beckenham with snow on parts of the pitch. Paul Vann rushes head down at inside right, crosses the ball (only just) but run outs of pitch, sees a large, stationary cricket roller looming, jumps over it but immediately disappears from view, headfirst into an obscured open ditch (with stream) all with a mighty splash and cartoon equivalent sound effects

Which team do you least look forward to playing against?

Slough

Which other Club do you most admire?

Richmond

Except for Hockey, which sport gives you most pleasure?

Golf

WINE WIZARDRY

The Club has the benefit of Wine wholesaling expertise in the guise of last year's 6th XI captain, Will Higgins. We spoke to Will in the hope of bringing you a pre-Christmas list of recommended tipples for the discerning palate. This will now have to become a New Year's Refreshment Programme but of *du vin* variety, of course. We are sorry that the outlets mentioned are limited to the UK!

Will's recommendations are for a white wine, the Laroche Grande Cuvee, which has won the International Wine Challenge of the Year and which can be obtained (for those in the UK only, admittedly) from Majestic, Oddbins and Waitrose at £4.99. For Reds' aficionados (and not related in any way to the Cincinnati baseball franchise) he recommends Houghton Wildflower Ridge Shiraz available from Davisons at £6.49, somewhat unusually, a Western Australian wine.

Bubbly? Try the Bouvet-Ladubay Saumur Brut available from Majestic at £7.99. Dessert Wine also features and Will has mentioned the Tokaji Szemorodni from Domaine Disznoko available from Oddbins at £5.99. For those wanting more at the end of the day/meal and were always taught to pass to the right, for a Port, the Delaforce Late Bottled Vintage 1988 (available from Oddbins) comes recommended. Good drinking!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LONDON, 2nd December 1996

Sir,

I have been a member of the Club for several years now and am aware of some of its illustrious history. One thing really does intrigue me, however: how did Beaky Saunders ever obtain such a nickname?

Yours etc

HARRY WATSON

Ed: Can anyone help Harry out of his misery on this one?

NEXT EDITION

We hope to issue the next edition in mid February, possibly to coincide with the Men's 5th Round HA Cup clash with Sunalbans.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS!