

HAMPSTEAD AND WESTMINSTER HOCKEY CLUB

16 Church Street,  
Hampton,  
Middx.,  
TW12 2EG  
(Telephone: (081)-979 5809  
or Answerphone and Fax: (081)-941 1151)

26th January 1993

Dear Old Member,

You haven't heard from me this season. That is because my twice-yearly newsletters were proving to be very unproductive: very few of you were coming to important club matches or supporting other functions, so it didn't seem worthwhile. However, I have decided to make an exception with this 'one-off', to let you know about one very important (and potentially exciting) match on Saturday, 6th February.

The 1st XI has had a very good run in the Nationwide Anglia Cup (the national knock-out competition) this year: they beat Neston (a National League 1st Division side) in the last 32, and Northampton Saints in the last 16, so they are now pitched against East Grinstead, one of the best 5 or 6 teams in the National League, in the quarter-finals. (In fact, we are the only non-National League side to get through to the quarter-finals of the cup.)

The match is to be played at home (i.e. at Paddington Recreation Ground) on Saturday, 6th February, 'push-back' - as it is now called - at 1 o'clock. Your support would be very welcome: if we get a good turn-out, we can have a bit of a reunion in the clubhouse afterwards (or, I imagine, before the game, if you are thirsty - the Paddington Club has a continuous snack-bar open.)


By the way, since I am writing, I will take the opportunity to mention three more dates:

- a) The 1st XI is, in fact, unbeaten at this stage of the season and is, therefore, challenging to win the Peroni South League - as, you will remember, we did for 3 successive years in the London League, which has now been absorbed into the South League. Yet again, that could lead to promotion to the National League, in time for our Centenary next year. In fact, if we hadn't drawn four matches - some of them against very moderate opposition - we would be steaming away to promotion by now. I believe (it's difficult to be categorical since one never sees the detailed league table), that the last league match of the season, against Maidenhead on 6th March, could well be the crucial one which determines the league title and, therefore, promotion. (In other words, an exact reprise of the situation against Surbiton 2 years ago!) So make a note of that date in your diary (also at Paddington, at 1 o'clock): give me a ring during the preceding week if you want to check whether it is, indeed, going to be the crucial match for the league title or not.

- b) The Club runs a 'Golf Day' every year nowadays. This year's is to be at the North Middlesex Golf Club (in North Finchley) on Thursday, 8th March. £50 for the day, to include morning and afternoon golf, snack lunch and 3-course dinner, and prizes. The notice says 'only 30 places available'. Maybe they are all taken up by active members but, if you are interested, there is no harm in asking. Ring the organiser - Stuart Cunliffe, on 081-883 8225 (H.) or 071-408 0030 (O.) - to enquire.
- c) Saturday, 10th April, is in the fixture card as 'Club Day'. I don't know what form that will take: I think, last year, they had a competition between mixed teams (i.e. 7-8 men and 3-4 ladies) made up from all the XI's in the club. Maybe, too, that's the day they will have the 1st XI against an invited President's XI - I don't know. But, if you are interested, again give me a ring during the preceding week and I should know, by then, what form it is going to take.

Hope to see you cheering the 1st XI to a famous victory a-week-on-Saturday.

Yours aye,



COLIN GREENHALGH