

HAMPSTEAD HOCKEY CLUB

Rosemary House,  
16 Church St.,  
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TW12 2EG

12th November 1987

Dear Old Member,

This is my first newsletter for the 1987/88 season - though those of you who requested a fixture card should have received that from me. (If you didn't receive it, let me know, so that I can make good that omission.)

The first, and most important, item is to tell you of the 'Old Members' Day' at Hornsey on 28th November. As usual on that day, John Haynes will be raising what is laughingly called his 'International XI' (he really does have a couple of Dutch guests who usually come over specially to play!) - leavened with a couple of oldies like Peter Bell and me - against the Club's Veterans XI. Last year's result (in typical Hornsey mud) was a 1-1 draw, with the skipper scoring the equalising goal - his first for something like 25 years! Anyway, on that day, we like to have a little re-union of old members: last year, eight old boys came along (Andrew Alexander, Berry Bermingham, Don Morphew - still playing regularly for Southgate (no, not their first XI!) at 70+ - Morley Pecker, Geoff Porter, David Smyth, Brian Westhead - who demonstrated the ancient wisdom of carrying your kit in the car-boot and, thereby, got a game - plus 'Honorary Old Member' Dick Cheston). I hope we shall see as many of you as possible at Hornsey on that day (2.30 push-off - bully-off to you).

Two little admin. points if you are thinking of coming: (a) it isn't essential, but please drop the attached tear-off slip to me, or ring, if you are planning to have tea ('bangers-and-mash' etc. nowadays, not fairy cakes) - because that will help with the catering arrangements; and (b) if the weather is at all doubtful, ring the Veterans Captain (Chris Elliott) anytime after 11.30 a.m. - on 348 6730 - when either he or his Answerphone will tell you whether or not the game is on. If the weather is dicey, it may be switched to one of the miscellaneous all-weather pitches we use nowadays (addresses in the fixture card).

Now, what have we in the way of news?

The new season hasn't started too well for the 1st XI. They are without a win, as yet, in the London League (competition is extremely tough nowadays), but they have drawn against Maidenhead and Hawks over the last two weeks, and had a 3-0 win against British Airways in the 1st round of the Middlesex Cup, so all is not too bleak. (By the way, we finished last season 22nd in the League - but still ahead of Wimbledon, Hawks, Mid-Surrey and Cheam).

The Veterans won the Barnard Cup last season (13 wins, 2 draws, 5 losses) - with the narrowest possible margin over the 4th XI. In fact, all the XI's after the 1st and 2nd's - including all three

ladies' XI's - finished with healthy credit balances. Between them, they won 90 games and lost only 49 - so there is still plenty of strength in the club, except at the very top of the male department.

The Vets have also started this season like a train - 9 goals against Teddington (or was it 10?). They are also playing in a midweek floodlit league at Orpington (yes, Sir, the game has changed since your day!), where they had a very laudable victory against a strong Surbiton Vets. XI a couple of weeks ago. Speaking as an occasional umpire of theirs (when they are in this part of London), I can say that they really are worth watching. And a credit to our President - Peter Boizot - whose vision they were as long ago as 1968 or so. (I suppose it does take that long to create a veteran hockey player - it occurs to me that some of them were still at school when we started the first tentative experiments.)

We have had a Club Captain for several years, now. The present incumbent is Norman Borrett (no, not that Norman Borrett). He has been an indefatigable member of the Club, a former Secretary, and 15 years in one or other office. But now, regretfully, he is leaving at Christmas to take up a job outside London. A great loss to us: may he be replaced as Captain by somebody else with the Club's interests so much at heart. (It isn't all that easy to keep up your enthusiasm when your own team's results disappoint from year to year, as some of us know.)

Now, finally, some admin. points about our Old Members' list:

The following returned their tear-off slip for 1987/88 and asked to stay on the list: Geoff Brooks, Bill Fletcher, Tony Greener, Sandy Kay, David Lowden, Donald Meacock, Morley Pecker, Geoff Porter, Kip Stafford, Tony Swing, Hugh Wickham.

The following didn't return their 1987/88 slip, but they are receiving this newsletter anyway, because they 'joined' last year: Andrew Alexander, Berry Bermingham, John Chaumeton, Ian Hayward, Niel Livingstone, Don Morphew, Beaker Saunders, David Smyth, Brian Westhead. But, if you are on this list and you want any of the other goodies (fixture card, or even the fortnightly bulletins), please do return the tear-off slip this time - else, obviously, you won't get them.

There are a few other old members who haven't responded at all to previous mailings, but I appreciate that they may have been too busy to put pen to paper, or may have mislaid those newsletters. So, here is one last try. If they want to receive the goodies, would they, too, return the tear-off slip. But, if they would just like to receive these newsletters a couple of times a year, then either return the tear-off slip or, at least, just give me a ring.

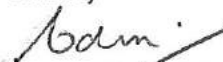
There are a few previous newsletters which may have never reached their targets because the address I had was out-of-date. If you happen to have an up-to-date address for any of the following, would you be good enough to give me a ring and let me know: Ilya Suster, Alec Reid, Robin Mallinson, Dennis Graham, Peter Revell,

Martin Sealey, Andy Gregory (Kenya?), Graham Still (Hong Kong?), Alan Kurtz, Richard Clarke, Philip Conway, George Banting.

And, finally, if you can think of any obvious candidates for this 'Old Members' list, whom I haven't mentioned anywhere above, then also let me know - particularly if you have a reliable address for them. I may have approached them, and it may be clear that they aren't interested, but there are probably plenty of others I haven't thought of, so I'd be happy to have a go.

End of lecture! I hope to see plenty of you at Hornsey on the 28th - it was a very congenial get-together last year.

Yours,



COLIN GREENHALGH

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HAMPSTEAD HOCKEY CLUB

\* DELETE AS APPROPRIATE

\* I would like tea at the Old Members' Day on 28th November.  
(This is only for guidance - don't let it tie you, one way or the other - and 'phone me if it's easier.)

Please return (or 'phone) if you haven't already done so for this season and:

\* I would like to continue to receive the Old Members Newsletters

And complete and return if any of these items apply:

\* I would like a copy of the 1987/88 fixture card. (Minimum donation £2, please)

\* I would also like the fortnightly team sheets and Club bulletin. (Minimum donation, an additional £3, please)

\*I enclose a total donation of £.... (made out to the Club)

Name:.....

Address:.....

..... Tel No:.....

(NO NEED FOR YOUR ADDRESS IF YOU HAVE RETURNED PREVIOUS SLIPS AND IT HASN'T CHANGED. OTHERWISE, PLEASE COMPLETE SO THAT I HAVE UP-TO-DATE POSTCODES ETC.)