

RESULTS	1stX1	2ndX1	3rdX1	4thX1	5thX1	6thX1	Vets	Spaniards
Purley	1-0	2-3	0-0	2-1	0-0		2-1	
Old Granleighians						6-2		
Asford (Middx)								2-0

REPORTS

The 1stX1 (Bill Taylor 1) controlled much of the game at Purley, but were slightly fortunate when the opposition failed to convert a penalty flick. Our winning goal was controversial (see note below). Hampstead over the past few years seem to have always had the 'luck' against them, but I'm a great believer in a side making its own luck, and the spirit and determination of the present first team exemplifies this.

In league hockey you must take your chances, and also be tight at the back. The 2ndX1 (Tony Fawley 2) learned this lesson on Saturday. Despite a brilliant performance by Harvinder Kilar, we were level at half-time instead of having the game sewn up. The Purley winner was a penalty flick which the umpire (new to SCHUA) admitted in the bar was a mistake on his part.

I'm afraid Doug Nicholson wasn't too complimentary about the 3rdX1 match. It was a scappy affair which we should have won, but the side failed to make full use of the wings.

I thoroughly enjoyed the 4thX1 match (Robin Francis 1, Bob Hale 1). The game was skilful, competitive with a good spirit on both sides, and would have been a credit to higher teams. Robin's goal was a cracker, and there were superb displays from Nigel Rix and Steve Nickson. The side had to defend stoutly at the end to keep their advantage.

Despite a fine first half the 5thX1 had to defend desperately in the latter stages to gain the draw. Another fine display from Steve Griffith, a good first display from Pat Flanagan and Sean Starr kept up the fine tradition of Hampstead goalkeepers.

I was delighted to hear the result of the 6thX1 for two reasons. Firstly because the side consists of many newcomers and secondly because of Richard Cresswell the captain. The team (Tony Barry 2, Peter Hornsby 2, Rony Coonan 1, Martin Garrett 1) were twice behind, after fifteen seconds and shortly after half time. However a brilliant last thirty minutes brought a handsome victory. I'm told not to mention any individuals but to say fantastic to the whole team. I look forward to meeting the new faces (you're just names at the moment) when you play at Hornsey.

I am also delighted to see the spirit of the Vets (Stuart Brown 1, Ron Hart 1) return this season and also the success. Last year I criticised the team as a result of which I received some mild abuse (scopy a bit strong). I now give full praise to Mike Sadler-Forster and his cronies. The side went ahead through a short corner move which had been practiced all morning, both on the phone and in the 'Flagit'. Ron's goal was brilliant, a Stuart centre hit first time into the goal. Towards the end against much younger opposition the side were once again grateful to Stan Elgar in goal. Guy Mayers had a bubbling first half (does that mean he was drinking champagne, or running all over the place). John Haynes gave a perfect example to his pupils on how not to take a penalty flick and was congratulated on his excellence of instruction.

The Spaniards had a very enjoyable match with the goals coming from a Steve Thomas rocket and a brilliantly taken Nigel Fletcher flick (he phoned John in the am)

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LOST last Saturday after the matches at the club.... a Karachi King hockey stick with RHF scratched on the white part.... belongs to Robin Francis. (End of the Robin column)

UMPING POINTS The 1stX1 score.... Purley protest vigorously that it hit the Hampstead foot umpires confer..... virtually ask Hampstead if it hit the forwards foot goal given..... game restarted..... Purley sticks flying.....

Purley 4thX1 score..... Ball from diving goalkeeper on to Purley foot... goes to another player who nets.... goalkeeper exclaims feet umpire..... umpire (a Mr Wainwright) signals goal... goalkeeper shuts up... game restarts in friendly fashion.

Lessons to be learned in my view. Firstly an umpire can only give what he sees. He looks to the other umpire in case he has seen anything (so why confer). Players must at all times accept the umpire's decision (so why ask players). If I was umpiring at Purley I would be concerned with the manner of the protest and what happened after the re-start. Has the game descended to the level where any debatable decision means players crowding umpires, umpires conferring, umpires asking players what happened. If that is the case we shall need floodlights at Hornsey. AN UMPIRE'S DECISION IS FINAL, AND CORRECT.