

# HAMPSTEAD HOCKEY CLUB IN THE FIFTIES

Revival and Resurgence

*Hampstead and  
Westminster  
Hockey Club*

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## Introduction

Of its three transformative decades, that of the 1950's is probably the most significant and possibly underestimated by the members of Hampstead Hockey Club (and latterly Hampstead and Westminster Hockey Club).

This record seeks to put the decade into proper perspective, for it 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.*

This record will review the recurring difficulties over the condition of pitches, the moves of ground and clubhouse, the gradual generation of fixtures and the playing record over the course of the decade. Having played at one venue for 44 years up to 1939, the Club was to experience four different grounds in ten years.

*The sources for this account are the Minute Books of Hampstead Hockey Club, Colin Greenhalgh's Short History of Hampstead Hockey Club published in 1969 and the Scrapbooks of Hampstead Hockey Club 1900-1975, now deposited with the National Hockey Museum.*

## Re-formation

What was described as a Hampstead Hockey Club sub-committee of Hampstead Cricket Club 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 was 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. A copy of a letter inviting members to join that was circulated in August 1950 is replicated on the following page.

## Invitation

August 1950

### HAMPSTEAD HOCKEY CLUB

Dear

You will remember that earlier this year an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Hampstead Hockey Club was called to discuss the future of our Club.

The feeling at this meeting was that the Club should continue if this was a reasonable possibility.

It was reported that tentative approaches had been made to the Hampstead Cricket Club for the use of their club's ground and or some form of amalgamation and that these had not been repulsed.

The meeting appointed a sub-committee consisting of Messrs. R.L. Milsted, J.S. (*sic*) Saunders, and J.C. Sankey, with absolute powers to act on their behalf and in accordance with their general sentiments and, in the case of the Hampstead C.C., to take steps to re-start the club in Hampstead if they considered a satisfactory agreement could be reached.

The meeting on being told that Hampstead H.C. still had funds amounting to approximately £85 felt that these should, in the first instance, be available for initial capital and other expenditure.

The 19 members who were present at the meeting undertook to pay £2.2.0d each for three years and, in addition, one member offered to guarantee a bank overdraft, if this became necessary.

Your committee are now pleased to report that negotiations with the Hampstead Cricket Club have been successful and the following has been agreed: -

1. That the Club shall play on the Cricket Club ground and shall, while retaining its identity, be treated administratively as a section of the Cricket Club with a large measure of autonomy, and with the proviso that until the Hockey Club is properly established the Cricket Club will not expect more than £40 per annum for the use of the ground.

2. If the experiment is successful after 3 years, then the balance of the funds of the Hockey Club shall be paid to the Cricket Club and the subscriptions of members of the Hockey Club shall be paid to the Cricket Club, who will deal with the finances of running the hockey section.

It is thought that those arrangements are most satisfactory and much good will has been shown by the Cricket Club.

To those who do not know the Hampstead C.C, it can be said that we shall enjoy amenities better than those in almost any hockey club in London.

The ground should be good and changing accommodation, teas and the bar are all first class.

Progress has been made in getting together a modest fixture list for the first season and some twelve fixtures in addition to practice games have so far been arranged, but much spade work remains.

Now equipment and general running expenses will eat far into our small capital. At the same time, we feel it is essential to preserve the entire independence of the Hampstead H.C. until such time as we can, with easy minds, make over the funds to a permanent body both willing and capable of assuring the lasting future of our ancient Club.

We ask for your aid to re-start the Hampstead H.C. and to return it to its old and rightful position.

You can help in any one or more of the following ways: -

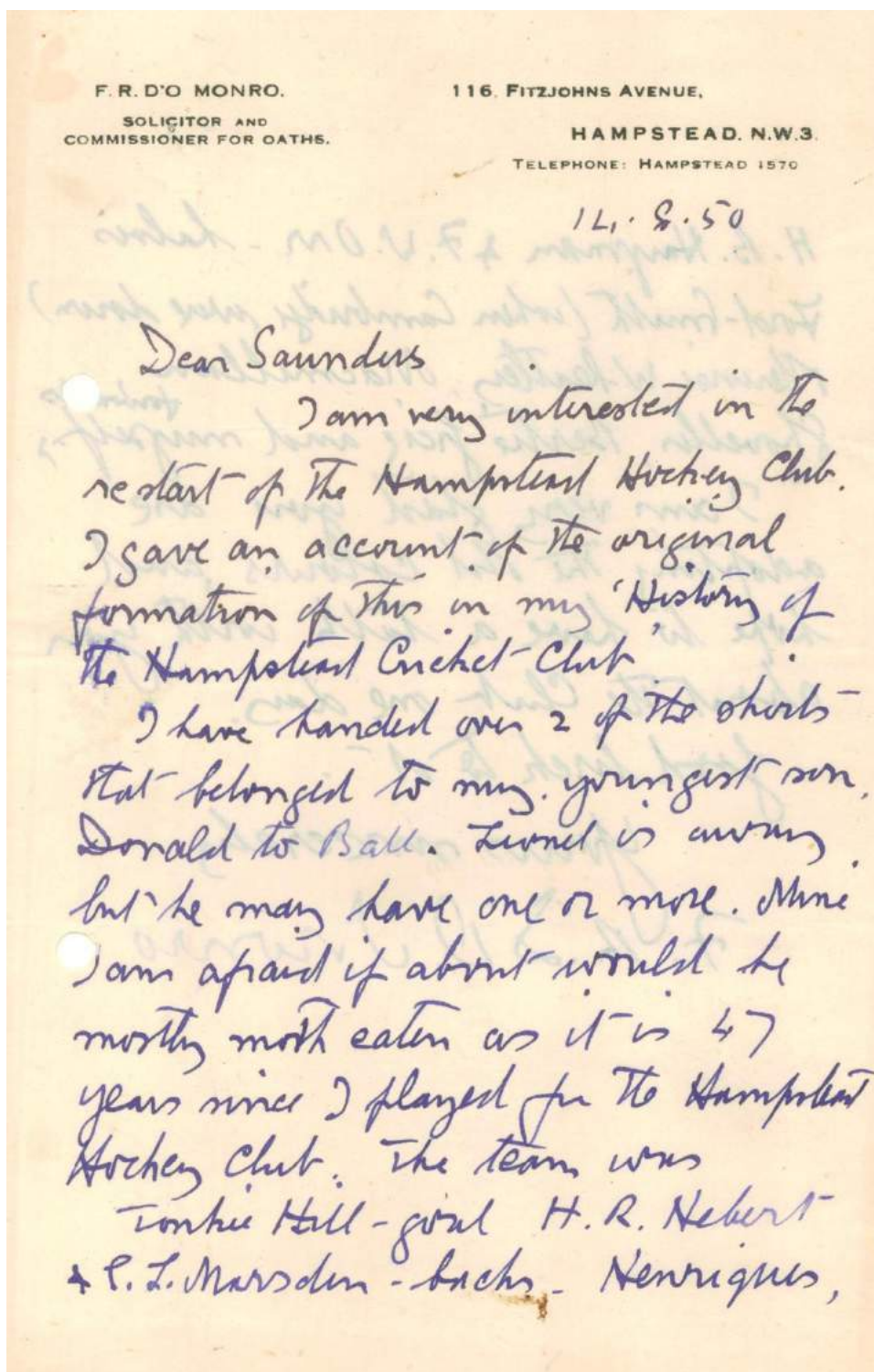
1. By re-joining yourself, either as an honorary or playing member.
2. By donations or subscriptions (it is anticipated that the playing subscription for the first season will be as low as £2.2.0d.
3. By getting other hockey players to join.
4. By publicising the venture.
5. By sending us your old Hampstead Hockey shirt if you have given up the game. A supply of shirts will be vital until we can get new ones at reasonable cost and, provided it is well marked, your shirt will be returned as soon as possible if this is your wish.
6. By getting us suitable fixtures.

WILL YOU HELP?

Yours,

Rory Milsted  
"Beaker" Saunders  
John Sankey

## And one response...



H. B. Hayman & F. W. O. M. - halves  
Ford-Smith (when Cambridge were down)  
Herwise Wheatley, Macmillan  
Shoveller, Bertie Feig and myself.<sup>London</sup>  
I am very glad you are  
adopting the old colours, and  
hope to have a talk with you  
about the Club one day.  
Good luck to it.  
Yours sincerely  
F. R. S. O. M. M. M. M.

Freddie Monro was a member of both Hampstead Hockey Club and Hampstead Cricket Club and played at 1<sup>st</sup> XI levels in both in the early 1900's. He is renowned for his *History of Hampstead Cricket Club*, referred to in his letter. He was an opening batsman for the Cricket Club and a winger for the Hockey Club, prior to World War One.



## The problem with pitches

It has to be assumed that the exigencies of the moment dictated a start at Lymington Road under the banner of Hampstead Cricket Club. For here was being repeated essentially a relationship that has begun in at least 1890 and ended in breakdown four years later.

The Hockey section then disaggregated to form its own club, predominantly because the pitches were so waterlogged in winter that it was “useless to arrange fixtures”. It was also because owing to insufficiency of players, non-members had to be brought in to fulfil hockey matches that Hampstead Cricket Club had earlier agreed to. The Cricket Club had admonished the hockey section for the latter, whilst agreeing that the outstanding fixtures had to be completed.

It is perhaps not surprising, therefore, to read that it was not long before complaints over the underlying pitch conditions began to recur. In 1894, it had led to what was described as a *temporary measure* that saw Hampstead Hockey Club play its matches in Richmond for 44 years.

Those with experience of the grass pitches in North London and able to draw comparisons with the greater reliability of the today’s artificial surfaces might better understand the continuing quest for reliable pitches encountered throughout the 1950’s. However, it will seem perverse to many that the Club would locate itself where it was more likely than not to discover arrangements that would prove unsatisfactory.

The decade saw moves from its original home, first to Brondesbury CC in Cricklewood, secondly in untimely haste, to Boston Manor in Acton and thirdly to Tivoli Road, Crouch End. There were frequent assertions, possibly more in hope than expectation, that the pitches encountered at each ground would mark an improvement on the past. However, both Cricklewood and Tivoli Road were far from level in elevation. Geologically, both were underlain by London Clay. Boston Manor was part of a larger agglomeration of sports facilities acquired and let for laudable benevolent reasons – and possibly, therefore, not always available to optimum performance.

As subsequent history shows, in spite of considerable investment by club members at Hornsey it soon became apparent that the sceptre of waterlogged pitches would not disappear. Frustration began to grow. Ironically it was once suggested that the Club should move to another North London cricket club instead, as if history might repeat itself for a third time.

This proposal was ultimately rejected largely on the inability to accommodate a second full-sized pitch on the cricket ground. This may have been a blessing in disguise, for it precipitated the search for new artificial pitches that led to use of Paddington Recreational Ground in 1983 that was later established in the following year. That arrangement ultimately enabled the Club to find a more permanent home, second only in duration to the allegedly temporary arrangements at Richmond, mentioned earlier.

In summary, the pitches used in the decade were:

1950-51	Lymington Road	1954-55	Brondesbury CC	1957-58	Boston Manor
1951-52	Lymington Road	1955-56	Brondesbury CC	1958-59	Boston Manor
1952-53	Lymington Road	1956-57	Brondesbury CC	1959-60	Hornsey CC
1953-54	Lymington Road				

## 1950 The First Match

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, R H Matthews, J L Matthews-Lane, 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.

## Down to Business

In January 1951, it was agreed that a sub-committee would meet on Mondays at the Surrey Tavern, Surrey Street in order to select teams. Difficulties were being encountered in arranging fixtures with the Hockey Club's old opponents. It was hoped to convene a meeting of match secretaries at Bill Fletcher's house to explore how such fixtures might be regained.

Bill Fletcher was elected captain of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI and John Sankey of the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI. Alex Reid was appointed Team Secretary and John Sankey as Match Secretary.

### *Lymington Road Pitches*

The first Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the reconstituted Club took place on 18 April 1952 at the Lymington Road ground, under the chairmanship of Ruari Milsted. Drainage of the pitches was a key element of the Chairman's report. The possibility of locating a second pitch at the ground was being investigated but it would need to be smaller. A captain and vice-captain were elected for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI.

It had been agreed that the committee would only meet when required. In July 1952, the location of the second pitch was once again under consideration, alongside concerns of drainage to the surface attributed to football use in winter (and in particular, to the hockey pitch scoring circles). An accommodation was also needed to preserve the integrity of the bowling green. The hockey section was urging the demolition of a brick wall, to assist the dimensions of the so-called No 1 Pitch. Drainage in the north east corner of the ground remained a problem, where the turf was breaking up.

The hockey section had been told that there was a long established contract with the Cricket Club for football use. From the Cricket Club's perspective, it was inevitable that the playing of football would encroach on the hockey playing area. The particular concern was that holes installed for football goal posts ought not to be located in the hockey circles but possibly moved back, to be behind the hockey goals.

By then eleven fixtures were being obtained for a 3<sup>rd</sup> XI.

The 1953 AGM was also held at Lymington Road. Bill Fletcher reported on the teams' results (but none was recorded). He did mention that Sandy Kay had been selected for the South, Ian Hayward for Scotland and Robin Mallinson for Middlesex. By now four XI's were playing but the membership was not fully sufficient to fulfil all fixtures, leaving the 4<sup>th</sup> XI frequently short of players.

The condition of the pitches remained a serious concern. The meeting heard that all possible had been done to make improvements but the "effect of the war and lack of finance" had prevented much in the way of progress.

The 1954 AGM was held on 2 April 1954 and followed the annual supper in the club house at Lymington Road. The Club had gained in popularity in the 1953/54 season and had regularly fielded four elevens, with occasional fixtures for a 5<sup>th</sup> XI. In his report, P C Kay, the captain of the

1<sup>st</sup> XI had emphasised the significant advance by the lower elevens and paid tribute to the captains, R J Cummins and J Jagger.

Every club team had won more games than it had lost. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI had gained a fine defensive record. There remained large difficulty in organising block fixtures, which, he mentioned, took many years to bring about. For the next season, matches against Richmond, Beckenham, Hounslow and London University would be added to the fixture list.

At that meeting, R L Milsted had reminded the meeting that Vice Presidents had in previous years been elected “from club men who had brought honour to the club and the game and also others thought wanting of that honour”. Accordingly, it was proposed that A B Osmond, S H Shoveller, J H Bennett, F W Orr, E E Trotman, J C Masterman and C S W Marcon be reappointed as Vice Presidents and this was approved.

He went on to propose the appointment, too, of S J (*Beaker*) Saunders and J C Sankey. These nominations, “were received with applause and carried unanimously”. Jeremy Potter was elected captain of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI.

## Brondesbury Cricket Club

The AGM of 2 April 1954, referred to earlier, discussed a change of playing venue for the Club. The significant problem confronting it at that time, once again, was the condition of the pitches at Lymington Road. This had led to a proposal to move to Brondesbury Cricket Club for the 1954/55 season.

There was considerable discussion at the meeting, as one might expect, following which a special sub-committee was formed to conduct final negotiations with Brondesbury Cricket Club. The meeting stressed the need for Hampstead Hockey Club to retain its own entity and therefore to seek a one-year tenancy. This was regarded as “preferable to handing over all subscriptions”.

Mr Blane, the Chairman of the Committee of Management of Hampstead Cricket Club was present to explain the difficulties of the Cricket Club in maintaining playing conditions at Lymington Road for the elevens each Saturday. If there were to be a move, Mr Blane wished to retain a pleasant relationship that had been established between the Cricket Club and Hockey Club. Both R L Milsted and J C Sankey (no doubt all too aware of past difficulties) emphasised the need for the retention of that relationship. Ruari Milsted summarised the discussions and “expressed the general reluctance to leave Hampstead”.

The decision to move grounds was made in the summer. An EGM was called on 23 August 1954 at the East Indian Club, London SW1. The Club Secretary confirmed that he was due to meet the representatives of Brondesbury Cricket Club as late as 28 August 1954 to discuss “minor details concerning match days”.

The meeting evidently took particular attention to arrangements for the showers. It was important for them to be properly installed by the start of the season on 2 October 1954 and that, in addition, beer, hot tea sandwiches etc should be made available after the practice games on 29 and 3 September.

The Treasurer reported that Brondesbury Cricket Club were “intending and able to provide cooked meals after matches”. The type of tea requested was left for the members generally to choose. The Cricket Club did not retain a regular secretary or steward and it was therefore recognised that team captains might well have to confront minor administrative matters themselves on the day of each match.

*The Times* reported on 17 September 1954 that “The Hampstead Club that is gradually regaining the high standard of before the War, will play on the Brondesbury Cricket Ground at Cricklewood”.

The ground was at Harman Drive, Farm Avenue, Cricklewood, London NW2. The directions given in the fixture card appear a little quaint when looked at today. It was suggested that the ground was approached by turning from Farm Avenue that was off Cricklewood Lane. It could be reached by travel on the Bakerloo line of the London Underground to Willesden Green and

then by Trolley Bus 660 to Farm Avenue, or by the Northern line to Golders Green and either the 645 or 660 Trolley Bus to Farm Avenue.

By train, the journey was from St Pancras to Cricklewood and then by bus along Cricklewood Lane to Farm Avenue. The 113 bus service was an alternative, to Hocroft Avenue, Hendon Way, followed by a five-minute walk or the 28 bus to Fortune Way, taking the footpath through the cemetery that was said to require seven minutes.

#### *Problems recur*

Pitch conditions at Brondesbury were not entirely satisfactory as early as May 1955. The Secretary reported that arrangements were being made “to prevent subsidence on the far pitch during the summer” and that there ought to be a pre-hockey season inspection in conjunction with the President and Secretary of the Cricket Club.

This led to a contribution by the Hockey Club of £25 to be spent by Brondesbury on the sanding of the ground. However, in October 1955, it was felt that the pitches were not very good “but [this] recognised that on his return from holiday, the groundsman had been admitted to hospital.”

In those days, teams were selected at Committee Meetings. On 14 October 1954, for example, the Chairman had enquired whether any player was considered “worthy of promotion”. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI representative spoke well of Law, who had played well for that team in his first game and he was selected for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI.

Despite the expressed wishes of Messrs. Sankey and Milsted to maintain a cordial relationship with Hampstead Cricket Club, a disagreement had developed after a demand that the Hockey Club reimburse the Cricket Club £17-2-0 for balls purchased for the previous season.

This was considered capital expenditure and therefore for the account of the Cricket Club, something the Cricket Club had rejected upon its interpretation of the Agreement between the two clubs. Recollections of the assistance provided by the Cricket Club in the re-establishment of the Hockey Club led to a proposal that the Hockey Club should make a financial contribution towards the cost. This was accepted. The matter was eventually settled by the Hockey Club’s contribution of a one half share of the cost.

Applications for membership were numerous. The inability to raise fixtures for a 5<sup>th</sup> XI meant that insufficient existing members were able to play in any case. It was therefore agreed to place applicants’ names on a waiting list. At a meeting on 14 February 1955, Ian Hayward on behalf of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI mentioned a new potential member, one M Eager, aged 20, who had played for the Navy. He was told that there were already four names on the waiting list: to propel someone straight into 1<sup>st</sup> XI would penalise a member of the 4<sup>th</sup> XI or 5<sup>th</sup> XI.

After lengthy discussions, it was agreed that this type of introduction to membership was in accordance with the Club’s rules. The Chairman of that meeting agreed that there were difficulties in this instance, given the large playing strength of the club. “He would like it recorded, however, that if Mr Eager eventually became an international, he, the Chairman, had

proposed him for election the club". It was left for the Chairman to try to persuade Mr Eager to apply to join next season!

### *Shirts*

The cost of club shirts was also exercising the membership. The Treasurer reported that the cost was to increase to £2-18-9. This was felt to be too expensive and the suggestion was that cotton fabric be used instead. John Sankey pointed out that cost was not really dependent on the material used but instead the intricate design. A certain discount would be obtained only with a bulkier order.

The secretary, Bob Cummins, obtained a quotation from Hope Brothers to produce cotton shirts at a price of 27/6 each. They would also accept a minimum order of 12, instead of the more usual 48 or 72. The Chairman wanted to see a sample but the Secretary felt that would be difficult to procure in the absence of a reasonable certainty of an order.

There was a general opinion that it would be retrograde to introduce an inferior shirt and, in the chairman's opinion, it would be "most unsatisfactory" for players in each team to wear club shirts of different types.

Mr Cummins was later successful in obtaining a sample that was presented to the AGM on 1 April 1955 but after further lengthy discussions, it was decided to refer the question for determination by the Committee. By the start of the 1955/56 season the twill cotton shirts were not available "and wool shirts would be ready" for the start of the season.

In November 1954 concerns were raised over the continuation of the fixtures against Cambridge University. The captain of the 4<sup>th</sup> XI "stated that in his opinion, it was a thoroughly unsatisfactory fixture "and not enjoyed" by any member of his team. Apparently the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI "did not care" for the game. It was agreed to put the fixture on a short list for being discontinued in the future.

### *Playing Numbers*

Frustration at 4<sup>th</sup> XI level surfaced again at the 1955 AGM. The skipper proposed the formation of team pools, as his side had lost over half of its games. As with the shirts' issue, this was referred back to the Committee for deliberation over the summer.

In May 1955, it was agreed to field five XI's, with the final two called a 4A XI and 4B XI and run in "*pari passu*". As an experiment, pools were introduced: -

1 <sup>st</sup> XI	12 players
2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	15 players
3 <sup>rd</sup> XI	16 players
4A XI	18 players
4B XI	18 players

However, after criticism, it was discontinued on 10 October 1955, to allow for players to be selected on merit. A proposal that it be scrapped altogether was defeated.

Luther Vye, a goalkeeper and later to represent Great Britain but regrettably not at the Melbourne Olympic Games, was elected as a member on 26 September 1955. N R Lockhart and Stan Elgar followed on 3 October 1955. Sadly for him “Mr J M Dann was unanimously rejected”. No reasons for this decision are recorded.

On 14 November 1955 the Secretary was asked to compile “a rough pool” for the following week, which was later accepted by the team captains. In early January 1956 the Secretary reported that instead of a playing straight of 80, indicated by the Club’s records, only 66 were consistently available. It was therefore agreed to relax the restrictions previously in place for new applicants to membership.

#### *Pitch deterioration*

Complaints followed in the first week of January 1956 that the pitches had not been rolled and that a meeting with the groundsman was required. Later, a sub committee was formed to meet corresponding representative of the Cricket Club to discuss pitch conditions.

The sub committee reported on 20 February 1956 that the groundsman would be leaving at the end of the following weekend. It was suggested that the Match Secretary of the Hockey Club should be elected to the Cricket Club’s General Committee and that the Hockey Club pay a proportion of the cost of a spiker for the mid-season.

#### *Brondesbury’s football option*

A suggestion that two games could be played one after the other on the same pitch had to be rejected because of underlying ground conditions. In April, the Cricket Club was seeking a meeting with the Hockey Club. It was eventually discovered that the Cricket Club had received an offer from a school for use of one pitch for football in the winter and cricket in the summer. Rumour was that the school had offered a payment of £500, well in excess of that paid hitherto by the Hockey Club.

The Cricket Club sought what it called a compromise with the Hockey Club. An expert’s opinion was sought on the condition of the ground and six leading Committee members of the Hockey Club were appointed to a sub-committee to discuss arrangements with Brondesbury C C “to discuss the possibility of a more permanent contract”.

The AGM was held at the Cricket Club on 12 April 1956. The secretary of the Cricket Club had been invited and mentioned that both clubs had their financial difficulties but hoped that “friendly relations existing would see them through difficult times ahead”. John Sankey urged “unstinted support” to overcome the financial difficulties in the hope that Hockey Club members would support their own club and Brondesbury by acting as hosts after games.

The Match Secretary, David Smyth, added that the Hockey Club only provided 10% of the running expenses of Brondesbury Cricket Club and hoped that hockey members would realise that they were “required to more than just play their games”, which would include support of the various entertainments organised by the Cricket Club. He added that the absence of the groundsman since Christmas had led to the cancellation of a number of games.



## Termination and Alternative Pitches

There is no indication of what must have happened over the subsequent three months. But a Committee Meeting on 16 July 1956 noted the “termination of the Agreement at Brondesbury on 1 April 1957”. Members of the Committee were left to make approaches for possible grounds for the future and the club agreed to place an advertisement in *The Cricketer*. There was little time available.

Six grounds were under consideration, University College Ground at Shenley; London County Council at Victoria Park, Hackney; Boston Manor Playing Fields in Brentford (run by the London Playing Fields Foundation<sup>1</sup>); Wyatt’s Farm in Totteridge<sup>2</sup>; Mill Hill Cricket Club<sup>3</sup> and Old Cholmeleians<sup>4</sup>.

It was agreed to inspect Victoria Park, Boston Manor and Totteridge, to await a further reply from the owners of the University College, London Ground and to investigate further the proposal of Old Cholmeleians. Mill Hill Cricket Club was rejected.

### *Boston Manor*

No further detail of the deliberations is available until February 1957 when the Committee decided, after long discussion, to accept a proposal to share with Mid Surrey HC, should that become available. But in the meantime “it was unanimously agreed that Boston Manor should be accepted for one season only”.

This was on the understanding that should a better ground become available, it should be accepted, in which case the Club would endeavour to relieve itself of the arrangement at Boston Manor or, failing that, to lose £90 and/or (it is not clear which) use one of the Boston Manor pitches as a third pitch (even though, it would appear, a decision on where the eventual home might be was yet to be determined).

The AGM held on 5 April 1957 made no comment on Boston Manor but the Match Secretary apologised for the state of the ground and explained that petrol rationing had added to the difficulties encountered by the groundsman “who had co-operated throughout admirably”.

### *West Ealing Clubhouse*

By late September 1957, playing arrangements were again being discussed and it “was left to the Match Secretary to contact the groundsman”. It was also reported that West Ealing Club in Merry Road London W13 were prepared to accommodate the club at 10/- per member and provide showers, teas and usual bar facilities, which proposal was agreed to be satisfactory.

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<sup>1</sup> The London Playing Fields Society (now known as the London Playing Fields Foundation) was formed in 1890 by visionary Victorian philanthropists against a backcloth of rapid urban expansion. They were concerned about loss of green space in London and the need to provide sport and recreation for current and future generations. By helping to protect London’s playing fields from the threat of development, as a charity it was able to maintain the public’s enthusiasm for sporting pursuits. This led to the grant of a Royal Charter in 1925.

<sup>2</sup> Wyatts Farm Open Space on the edge of the Dollis Valley, adjacent to the Northern Line of the London Underground

<sup>3</sup> At Burton Hole Lane, Mill Hill, home to Mill Hill Village Cricket Club.

<sup>4</sup> Former pupils of Highgate School are known as Cholmeleians or Old Cholmeleians, after the school’s founder, Sir Roger Cholmeley.

A little perversely, it was suggested that if the changing accommodation appeared to be reasonable “opponents would be authorised to go direct to West Ealing”. On 7 October 1957 the 1<sup>st</sup> XI pitch at Boston Manor was reported to be satisfactory but wire netting (presumably to restrain balls leaving the pitch) would be sought. Arrangements at West Ealing were described as “satisfactory although not sumptuous”. General club equipment was to be moved from Brondesbury to Boston Manor.

#### *Richmond Athletic Ground encore?*

On 25 November 1957, the Committee heard of progress with regard to the ground at Richmond, then let to Mid-Surrey HC, on a *season by season* basis. Changing accommodation was available at the local swimming baths, with teas taken at the Station Hotel, Richmond. Top soil had been applied this season at a cost of £150.

Other Committee members had inspected the facilities. The changing accommodation was regarded as cramped, the ground poor and a strong possibility that the second pitch would be used as a car park in the future. The Station Hotel was regarded as only suitable to entertain guests until 7.00pm. The bar did not open until 5.30pm and other local alternatives were very limited. It would also be necessary to raise the subscription to 5 guineas (from 4 guineas) for full members in order to use the pitches.

A formal motion was (unusually) put to the meeting

“that the general opinion of the Committee is that the arrangements at Mid Surrey are unfavourable but that authority be given for the Captains and Secretary to convene a meeting of the Ground Committee if deemed necessary, to meet Richmond Athletic Club”

and this was carried, with two dissenting votes.

The Committee heard that arrangements for additional showers for the 1958/9 season were under consideration and that the billiards room could be available for changing. In March it was also agreed not to progress further the possibility of using the ground at Richmond.

#### *Boston Manor confirmed*

The possibility of using the Carreras ground was discussed<sup>5</sup>. However, a report presented to the AGM on 11 April 1958 mentioned the Committee’s unanimous decision **not** to move to Richmond Athletic Ground and that next season’s fixtures would take place at Boston Manor. Improvements were being made at the West Ealing Club.

The Boston Manor playing fields are located at Boston Gardens, Brentford where Boston Gardens runs parallel with Boston Manor Road. The fixture card confirmed that the ground could be reached by the Piccadilly line of the London Underground to Boston Manor Station. After turning right out of the station a turning right then led into the grounds. The 655 bus also

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<sup>5</sup> This was in Stanmore at Northwick Park and acquired for use by the company’s employees. It is more recently known as Whitchurch Playing Fields. The site is between Abercorn Road, Old Church Lane, Loughborough Road and the very aptly named Marsh Lane. It had been compulsorily purchased by Middlesex County Council (as it then was) in 1960 to be used as playing fields. It comprises 60,000 m<sup>2</sup> on a flood plain.

travelled to Boston Manor Station and was reportedly available from “Acton, Ealing, Hanwell, Brentford, Kew Bridge, Chiswick, Hammersmith, Fulham, Putney, Wandsworth and Clapham Junction”. The club house and changing rooms of the West Ealing Club were in Mervyn Road London W13.

#### *Hornsey Cricket Club*

In spite of these developments, on 29 September 1958, the Secretary reported interest from Hornsey Cricket Club in order to discuss the possibility of using their facilities<sup>6</sup>. It was agreed that he and the Match Secretary would initially meet to consider Hornsey’s proposals. Notwithstanding the move to Boston Manor, it was noted that goal posts and nets were still stored at Brondesbury and they were to be inspected and found a home.

The Treasurer was authorised to negotiate with the West Ealing Club to pay 25% towards the cost of erecting a new tank in the showers. The actual cost was £35 and arrangements for a sharing of the cost were postponed until the end of the season.

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<sup>6</sup> These were the cricket ground and pavilion at Tivoli Road, Crouch End, London N8.

## Hornsey Cricket Club

In January 1959, Geoff Porter and Hugh Wickham were appointed as a sub-committee to approach Hornsey Cricket Club with a proposition: -

- to offer a rent of £150 per annum. (This was to be subject to negotiation but not to exceed £200).
- to offer £100 towards the cost of mole draining of the pitch and the purchase of a spiker.
- for a three-year term, with an option to renew, an assurance that the ground would be spiked and a further assurance that the groundsman would give sufficient time to the preparation of the pitches.

It was also suggested that an approach might be made to the National Playing Fields Association on behalf of both Clubs for a grant towards drainage costs. Failing this, money should be raised by loans from members.

By the AGM in April the Club had concluded negotiations with Hornsey. It had received the Bingley Report that recommended perimeter drainage, fertilisation and the liming of the ground, as well as the purchase of a spiker for aeration.

The Match Secretary thought “that the ground would provide a good hockey surface” although presciently perhaps, suggested that there “might be difficulties in the first season”. Any capital expenditure was to be shared equally by both Clubs and financial assistance would be sought from the National Playing Fields Association. It was hoped that functions would be organised in the pavilion to help raise £100 to cover necessary expenditure.

The meeting also agreed to send a letter to West Ealing Club expressing its appreciation of its hospitality over the past two seasons.

### *Commitment to Hornsey*

The Agreement with Hornsey was due to be signed in early June 1959. The Club had signed the counterpart of the Agreement in September 1959 and awaited the copy signed by Hornsey. Arrangements for drainage were said to be in hand by then and an old car and spiker had been acquired<sup>7</sup>. Guidance on pursuing grant aid was to be obtained from Blackheath, Mid Surrey and Richmond Hockey Clubs.

Rather mysteriously, the London Playing Fields Society had written to the Club asking it to renew its tenancy at Boston Manor. It was concluded within the Hockey Club that there must have been some misunderstanding, as there was no firm arrangement in place. This met with a frosty reception by the Society that claimed in September that it was the Club’s responsibility to find an alternative tenant if the Club was not proposing a renewal of the tenancy. No responsibility was accepted.

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<sup>7</sup> The car was intended to pull the spiker, apparently

An informal summer visit to Hornsey was proposed and tentative arrangements canvassed for a dance there on 24 October 1959.

The summer drought had made it impossible to excavate the proposed drains or to carry out the application of lime and fertiliser. The ditch was to be deepened by nine inches once the ground was softer and an application had been made to the local authority to open a culvert at the bottom of the ground. There was concern that the pitches were likely to be unsatisfactory at the end of the hockey season if not drained.

Any decisions on cancellation of games were to be reached after a joint inspection by the Match Secretary and an official of Hornsey. With regard to the grant application, it had been concluded that it would be best for this to be made through the Cricket Club and seeking a Lord's Taverner's Fund contribution via Middlesex County Cricket Club.

In September 1959, the Match Secretary reported that the Hornsey groundsman had been ill and therefore a detailed statement on how the £100 quotation was to be spent was still outstanding. It had also been discovered that the drain from the school to the north of the ground was of insufficient capacity to allow a surcharge from the pitches, which would not enable compliance with the terms agreed with Hornsey.

The Match Secretary had therefore asked the groundsman to start work on the top and side drains. Hornsey had still not proffered its signed part of the Agreement and this was being pursued. Hornsey's application for the grant from the National Playing Fields Association was now not to be dealt with through the Cricket Club but Middlesex County Cricket Club. However, it was learned later that the maximum amount awarded was usually 20% of the amount applied for, owing to heavy demand on available funds.

The opening fixtures of the season took place on 3 October 1959 with matches against Old Kingstonians. By December 1959, the Match Secretary was able to report that the ground had played well in the opening games of the season. The spiker had been used effectively: it was agreed to buy a tow-bar to facilitate its use<sup>8</sup>. Improvements to the drainage of the school had led to a slight improvement of the ground.

#### *Deterioration*

In March 1960, it was noted that the Hornsey groundsman had died. Perhaps not surprisingly, neglect and failure to carry out agreed work had led to serious compaction, after years of the grass having been rolled, coupled with root deterioration, caused in large part by the lack of fertilisation. The assistant groundsman at Highgate School had been retained as a consultant by Hornsey.

The Hockey Club's Match Secretary, Hugh Avey, had also inspected the Hornsey ground in some detail and reported that the second pitch was too short and the drainage undertaken so far was of no value. A resident groundsman was necessary. The ground had to be opened up, gypsum inserted and then mole drainage undertaken.

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<sup>8</sup> See earlier footnote

This report was welcomed and the Club Chairman authorised to send its contents to the Hornsey Club, with the suggestion that a Hockey Club member should sit on the Hornsey Ground Committee. The Match Secretary was authorised to pay £20 in respect of work already carried out.

Hornsey Cricket Club had responded by 28 March 1959. It said that the work undertaken accorded with the recommendations in the Bingley Report. The culvert would not be opened by the local authority and the temperate Autumn weather had delayed work to the surfaces. The death of the groundsman had had a marked effect but a local nurseryman was applying fertiliser. Removal of surface water, digging of perimeter drains and discharge of water through the main drains remained as major problems. Mole drainage<sup>9</sup> was still being recommended.

The Committee was turning its thoughts towards an alternative pitch to Hornsey and a suggestion was made that the pitches might need to be rested for the 1960/61 season.

Perhaps of little surprise, there was a complaint at the AGM held on 1 April 1960 regarding the state of the Hornsey Ground. The Match Secretary requested that the matter be left to Hugh Avey to pursue with Hornsey. The efforts of Basil Wright of the Hornsey Cricket Club were formally recognised.

Sadly, little progress was achieved during the summer and David Smyth and Geoff Parker both resigned from the Hockey Club's Ground Committee, to be replaced by Hugh Avey. It was recognised that poor communications with Hornsey were a factor in the lack of progress.

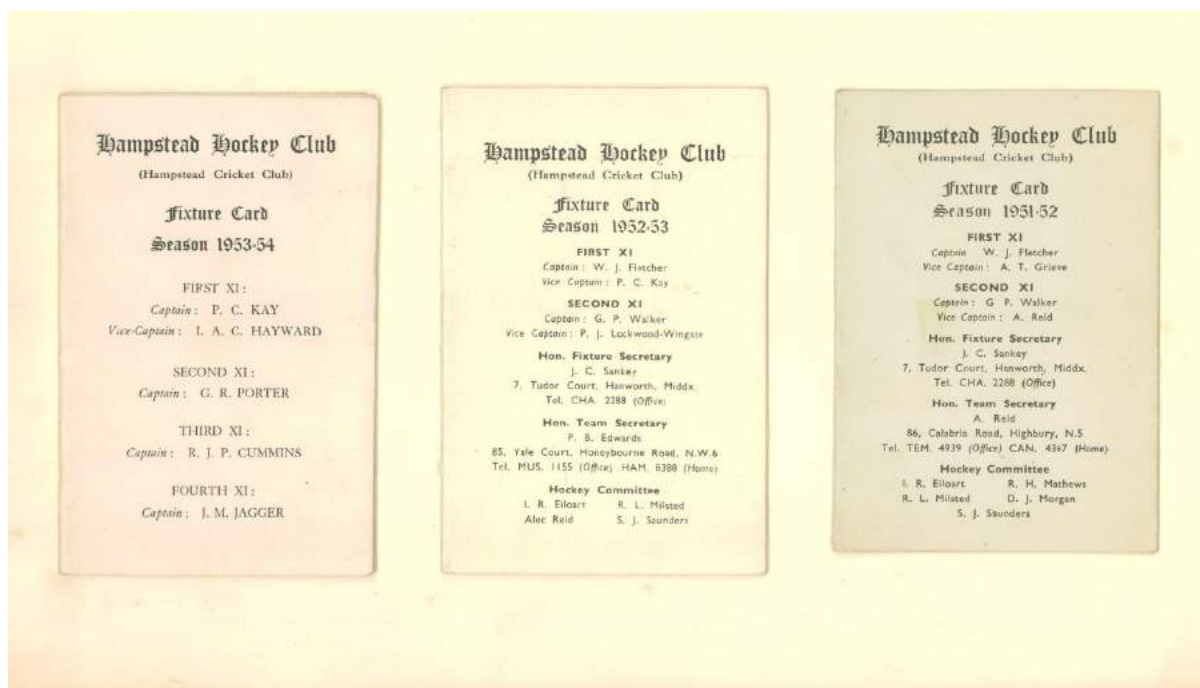
It was suggested that a joint Ground Committee might be formed, which was achieved later. Hornsey Borough Council (as it then was) told Hornsey that it would need to lay an 18" drain across the pitches as part of building works for the new school, with work to start at the end of the cricket season (and not, it had to be noted, the end of the hockey season) but allegedly not to inconvenience the Cricket Club at all and the Hockey Club as little as possible. The main culvert at the bottom of the ground would now be opened up and enlarged, which, it was felt, would renew the possibility of mole drainage being implemented.

The problems of drainage that dogged the club until its move to Paddington Recreation Ground were not about to disappear.

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<sup>9</sup> Mole drainage comprises unlined channels formed in clay subsoil by pulling a ripper blade (or leg) with a cylindrical foot (or torpedo) attached on the bottom through the subsoil. A plug (or expander) is often used to help compact the channel wall. Mole drains are used in heavy soils where a clay subsoil near the moling depth (400 to 600 cm) prevents downward movement of ground water. Mole drains are a more sophisticated drainage system than open drains. Mole drains do not drain groundwater but remove water as it enters from the ground surface

## On the Pitch



### 1950-51

With the exception of the 1-1 draw with Teddington 2<sup>nd</sup> XI in the opening match of the season, no results have been recorded.

Further fixtures were arranged with:

20 October 1950	Spencer A	(h)
4 November 1950	Wimbledon 4 <sup>th</sup> XI	(h)
11 November 1950	Mid Surrey 3 <sup>rd</sup> XI	(a)
18 November 1950	Bank of England 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	(h)
25 November 1950	Barclays Bank	(a)
9 December 1950	Bromley	(h)
30 December 1950	Old Cranleighans	(h)
6 January 1951	Teddington	(h)
13 January 1951	Rugby School	(h)
14 January 1951	Purley	(a)
20 January 1951	Spencer	(h)
4 February 1951	Bandits	(h)
10 February 1951	Old Kingstonians	(h)
11 February 1951	Beckenham	(a)
24 February 1951	Tulse Hill	(h)
3 March 1951	Old Cranleighans	(h)
10 March 1951	Spencer	(a)

Several 2<sup>nd</sup> XI fixtures were also obtained against Spencer 4<sup>th</sup> XI, Purley 4<sup>th</sup> XI, Old Cranleighans 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, Teddington 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, Old Kingstonians 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, Purley, Old Cranleighans and Bromley 2<sup>nd</sup> XI,

although there is no certainty as to the actual playing strength of the teams fielded by the Club's opponents on the days in question.

### 1951-52

Again there are no recorded results or match reports for the season. But the fixture card displays a lengthening (and some may argue a strengthening) of the fixture list, including provision for five Sunday matches.

	First Eleven	Second Eleven
6 October 1951	Teddington 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	National Physical Laboratory
27 October 1951	Barclays Bank	Barclays Bank 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI
3 November 1951	Guildford	Guildford 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI
10 November 1951	Queen's College Cambridge	
17 November 1951	Bank of England 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	Bank of England 3 <sup>rd</sup> XI
1 December 1951	Dulwich	
8 December 1951	Bromley A	
15 December 1951	Rickmansworth	Rickmansworth 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI
29 December 1951	Old Cranleighans	Old Cranleighans 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI
19 January 1952	Staines	Staines 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI
26 January 1952	Tulse Hill 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	Tulse Hill 4 <sup>th</sup> XI
2 February 1952	Surbiton	Surbiton 3 <sup>rd</sup> XI
16 February 1952	Queen's College Cambridge	
23 February 1952	Cambridge City	Bromley 4 <sup>th</sup> XI
1 March 1952	Old Cranleighans	Old Cranleighans 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI
8 March 1952	Spencer 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	Spencer 4 <sup>th</sup> XI
15 March 1952	Wimbledon 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	Wimbledon 3 <sup>rd</sup> XI
22 March 1952	Reigate	Reigate 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI
5 April 1952	Southgate	
12 April 1952	St Albans	

The Sunday fixtures were against Old Aldenhamians, Southgate, Siphons and consecutive games against Bandits on 10 and 17 February 1952.

### 1952-53

This season witnessed a further extension of fixtures and the rise of matches for a 3<sup>rd</sup> XI. Regrettably no results are recorded and no reports have been retained.

For the 1<sup>st</sup> XI, the fixture card read: -

11 October 1952	Purley
18 October 1952	Teddington 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI
25 October 1952	RMA Sandhurst
1 November 1952	Merton
8 November 1952	HAC
15 November 1952	Ashford
22 November 1952	Oxford Occasionals
29 November 1952	Lensbury
6 December 1952	Barclays Bank



13 December 1952	Rickmansworth
27 December 1952	Old Cranleighans
10 January 1953	St Barts Hospital
17 January 1953	Staines
24 January 1953	Bromley
31 January 1953	Surbiton
7 February 1953	Southgate 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI
14 February 1953	Oxted
21 February 1953	Guildford
28 February 1953	Old Cranleighans
7 March 1953	Spencer 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI
21 March 1953	Reigate
28 March 1953	St Albans
11 April 1953	Lloyds Bank

### 1953-54

Results are recorded for a part of the season, up to (and including) 23 January 1954. This season saw fixtures for a 4<sup>th</sup> XI, in addition to seven for a "Sunday (Spaniards)" side.

For the 1<sup>st</sup> XI, under the captaincy of Peter Kay, the recorded results were: -

10 October 1953	Hampstead 1 Purley 1
17 October 1953	Hawks 2 Hampstead 1
24 October 1953	Hampstead 2 Grimsby 2 ( <i>sic</i> )
31 October 1953	Cambridge City 2 Hampstead 3
7 November 1953	RMA Sandhurst 1 Hampstead 2
14 November 1953	Hampstead 0 Oxford City 0
21 November 1953	Oxford Occasionals 0 Hampstead 2
28 November 1953	Lensbury – drawn
5 December 1953	Barclays Bank 0 Hampstead 2
12 December 1953	Rickmansworth 1 Hampstead 0
19 December 1953	Hampstead 1 St Albans 1
2 January 1954	Hampstead 1 Schoolmasters 3
16 January 1954	Hampstead 2 Staines 4
23 January 1954	Hampstead 2 Bromley 3

Later unrecorded matches were against: -

30 January 1954	Surbiton
6 February 1954	Spencer 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI
13 February 1954	Cambridge Wanderers
20 February 1954	Guildford
27 February 1954	Old Cranleighans
6 March 1954	HAC
13 March 1954	Indian Gymkhana
20 March 1954	Reigate
27 March 1954	St Albans
3 April 1954	Lloyds Bank

## 1954-55

*The Times* and *The Observer* each announced the start of the new season in their editions of 17 September 1954 and 19 September 1954, respectively. *The Times* referred to Hampstead “gradually regaining the high standard of before the war” and mentioned the move to Brondesbury. *The Observer* added that “the Hampstead Cricket Club ground was never really suitable for winter hockey”.

Both mentioned the strengthening of the fixture card, with matches organised against Beckenham, Hawks, Hounslow and Richmond. R J Potter was to lead the side that would be strengthened by Welsh international, W B Peeling “and one or two players from the Universities”. Five teams were to be run.

In one of these new fixtures: -

### **Hawks rally beats Hampstead Hawks 3 Hampstead 2**

R L Hollands: *Daily Telegraph* correspondent

The first hockey match between the first elevens of Hawks of Surrey and Hampstead, now becoming once again a power in Middlesex, was won literally on the post by the Hawks.

With only a few minutes to go, the Hampstead goalkeeper, Michael Mayer, who had up that point defied Hawks on the wing and Hawks in the centre with astonishing ease decided that a loose ball could safely be allowed to go by.

That was his one mistake. It hit the goal post, rebounded, and the Hawks inside left, Ferris, following up scored the goal that won the match.

Hampstead’s left winger, Ian Hayward, following up a penalty corner shot from Potter, flicked the visitor’s first goal and P M Bacon hit the second.

This goal roused the Hawks. K S Daniels took friend and foe by surprise by coming through from left half to score the first of their goals. A cross pass from Ferris made the opening for Moore to hit the second and finally favoured Ferris in putting the finishing touch to final victory for the Hawks.

In an accompanying large-scale cartoon, drawn by Bill Wright (and in large part containing caricatures of the Hawks’ players) entitled *‘Awks ‘Arry ‘Ampstead*, the narrative mentions that Hampstead’s keeper Meyer (*sic*) “led with his chin in the more critical moments but his 5 o’clock shadow fooled him when Ian Ferris placed No 3 for the Hawks victory” and that “Hampstead’s Laddies chased the Hawks for the final whistle and their score of two against the Hawks *Hive of Talent* proved their worth! By the way, the Hawks boast more talent than a Moscow factory team picked to meet The Arsenal!!!”

At Easter the Club sent a representative team to the Folkestone Festival, photographed on page 25. The team lost to Bacchanalians and to Old Dragons, drew with The Sappers and defeated Cliftonville.



Touring Hampstead at Folkestone

Back Row (left to right): R J C Mallinson, S H Turner, J N Bartlett, M Meyer, I C Holder, P Ray R J Potter  
Front Row: P C Kay, P T J Mann I A C Hayward J M A Parker

### 1955-56

Under the captaincy of Jeremy Potter, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI results showed an unprecedented improvement, to levels not witnessed since the so-called *golden years* in the 1900-10 era. Success was not limited to the 1<sup>st</sup> XI, as the table summary on page 28 confirms.

The 1<sup>st</sup> XI played 21 games, of which they won 16, drew 2 and lost 3, to RMA Sandhurst on 5. November 1955 by 1-3, by 1-2 to London University on the following Saturday and on 26 November 1955 by 0-4 to Hounslow (November evidently having been a bad month). Five matches were cancelled.

### Hampstead 3 Reigate 0

21 January 1956

#### *Sound Defence*

Hampstead have been one of the most successful sides in London this season and, indeed, only Hounslow has a better record of leading clubs. Their defence has been extremely sound. In 16 matches only 19 goals have been conceded and on Saturday the defence was too good for Reigate, who were soon in difficulty. Hampstead playing downhill scored three times through Matthews-Lane (2) and Bacon from centres from the outside right, Bell. In the second half

Reigate improved and the half back line, which again included Rathbone, gave its forwards good support. Twice Reigate got the ball into the Hampstead net but each time were given off-side.

### **Beckenham 1 Hampstead 2**

*11 February 1956*

One of the few other games possible was at Beckenham where Hampstead won 2-1. In very difficult conditions both sides took time to settle down and the game was even until just before half-time. Then a quick pass from the Hampstead right back Graham sent Bell away down the right wing. Bell cut in and passed across the front of the goalkeeper and Cardoza made no mistake and walked the ball into the net. After half-time Beckenham attacked hard and, in spite of fine play from the Hampstead goalkeeper and Potter at left back, scored an equalising goal. Play then remained fairly even with both sides trying hard for a deciding goal. Finally, Hampstead broke away five minutes from the end. Mallinson, who followed up a shot, scored off the goalkeeper's pads

### **Bromley 2 Hampstead 3**

*25 February 1956*

J Bartlett, the Hampstead centre half played a large part in his side's 3-2 victory at Bromley. His long reach enabled him to stop almost infallibly and invariably he distributed the ball well and promptly, which set his forwards into swift motion. His opposite number Whitmarsh-Knight occasionally moved up too far, so that with the wing halves also playing well up the field, there was often a gap in the centre. For Bromley Grose at left half was outstanding and kept a tight hold on the Hampstead right wing.

Hampstead soon took the lead after a weak clearance by the Bromley goalkeeper and for 20 minutes had most of the play but could not add to their lead. Early in the second half, Horgan equalised after a short corner, but Hampstead promptly went ahead again when an intended hard shot described a gentle parabola over the goalkeeper's head. Ten minutes from the end Hampstead scored their third goal after a good run by their outside right and although Horgan retaliated soon afterwards with an individual goal, it was too late for Bromley to save the game.

### **Hampstead 1 Richmond 1**

*17 March 1956*

Hampstead drew 1-1 with Richmond, who attacked from the start and soon were pressing the Hampstead goal. Some fine play by the defence, particularly Potter, however, kept Richmond out and Hampstead then got into their stride. Their forward line swept down the field frequently with all the forwards touching the ball, but they were unable to score. Richmond's attacks were more direct but at half-time neither side had scored and, indeed, there was little to choose between the teams. Soon after the interval a quick free hit on the Richmond 25 was deflected by Bell and chased by Mallinson, who centred and Matthews-Lane scored a neat goal. Richmond rallied almost at once with a breakaway by their centre-forward: he ran through and scored a good goal through the advancing goalkeeper's legs.

On the back of the season's playing success, an attempt was made to attract interest from the national press. A release was drafted that made its way into at least one newspaper, the *Manchester Guardian*, as it then was, on 15 March 1956 but with intriguing editing in some instances.

Mile Spent  
**HAMPSTEAD'S RICH HISTORY** 16/3/56

The changing fortunes of one of London's oldest hockey clubs came to light recently when a former secretary of Hampstead discovered the earliest records, which had long since been considered lost.

These show that the club was started in 1890 as a section of the Hampstead Cricket Club at Lymington Road, and joined the Hockey Association in 1893. During the following year, the ground at Hampstead proved too wet and a new ground was found at Acton. Unfortunately, this ground was not satisfactory and in 1895-6 a move was made to the Richmond Athletic ground and the club played there until the outbreak of war in 1939.

In the early days many well known Hampstead and Middlesex cricketers were associated with the club. The most famous of these were A. E. Stoddart, an international cricketer and Rugby footballer, H. D. Hayman, S. S. Pawling, E. L. Marsden, F. W. Orr, and F. R. D. Munro. The earliest fixtures were with Staines and Ealing, and these were followed by games against Bromley, Tulse Hill, Teddington, and Southgate in 1894. In the days of Staines's supremacy, Hampstead became their great rivals and defeated them in the season of 1901-2; from that match Staines remained unbeaten until December, 1905, when Hampstead won again.

In 1899 S. H. Shoveller, who won 29 caps for England, joined the club and the succeeding ten years were the most glorious in its history. In 1903-4 only one match was lost, and in 1907-8 and 1910-11 Hampstead was undefeated by any other London club. In 1910-11 there were five English internationals in the side: G. R. Ashton, J. H. Bennett, C. H. Eiloart, Shoveller, and G. Logan. J. H. Bennett, who was secretary from 1919 to 1924, won 31 caps for England. In 1920 Hampstead achieved the record of having four representatives who won gold medals in the Olympic Games at Antwerp: Shoveller (who had, with Logan, played for England in the 1908 Olympic Games final), Bennett, C. S. W. Marcon, and C. T. A. Wilkinson.

### The War Years

Almost every member of the club was engaged in some form of active service during the Second World War. Though an attempt was made to continue by amalgamating with Teddington, hockey had to be abandoned for the seasons 1940-44. During the war it was not possible to rent the ground at Richmond, and at the beginning of the season 1945-6 Hampstead were without a home. In an endeavour to keep together and eventually re-form the club, a number of members joined the Purley Hockey Club and in fact in the season 1946-7 R. L. Milsted and J. C. Sankey were captains of Purley first and second elevens respectively.

These two players, together with S. J. Saunders, were instrumental in re-forming the club in the season 1950-51 at the old home in Lymington Road. From one team, amid innumerable difficulties, the club expanded, and for the season 1954-5 moved to the Brandesbury Cricket Club ground at Hazman Drive, Farm Avenue, Cricklewood. The move to Brandesbury was necessitated by the old trouble of the wet ground at Lymington Road. A number of members have given invaluable service to the game off the field, and these include Bennett, Shoveller, and Wilkinson, vice-presidents of the Hockey Association, and K. H. Ingledew, late secretary of the British Hockey Board and international umpire. R. L. Milsted was for many years treasurer of the Southern Counties Hockey Association, and is now a vice-president.

Now in 1955-6 Hampstead members can reflect with pride on the achievement of their predecessors. The club is most grateful to its pre-war opponents for restoring the old fixtures, and this has been justified by the impressive record so far this season. With five teams in the field each week, the results to the end of January were:

	P	W	D	L	Goals
					F A
First eleven .....	13	12	0	3	57 18
Second eleven .....	15	10	1	4	41 26
Third eleven .....	15	10	1	4	52 26
Fourth A eleven .....	15	10	1	4	61 34
4th B eleven .....	14	8	1	5	34 27

The editing left undisclosed that the discovery of the records of the Club thought lost were only found on a spring-clean of his offices by P G Smith, the former Club Secretary in the pre-War years. It was an edition of *Hockey* published by The Isthmian Press that had revealed that the Club had joined the Hockey Association in 1893, prior to its formation as an independent Club.

It also omitted that during the 1920's and 1930's a number of other Club members had gained international honours including three who represented Wales, B G Lampard Vachell (26 caps), J W S Hardie (25 caps) and O G Jones (15 caps).

The newspaper report, reproduced (almost in entirety) on page 29, added, of its own initiative, that although an attempt had been made to continue hockey during World War Two by amalgamating with Teddington, playing had to be abandoned between 1940 and 1944. It added that it had not been possible to rent the ground at Richmond and at the beginning of the 1945-46 season, "Hampstead were without a home"<sup>10</sup>. This was said to have led to R L Milsted and J C Sankey joining Purley HC and becoming captains of their two leading elevens, covered earlier in this account.

The Club's paying record *to that date* was added to the article and merits inclusion here: -

	<i>Goals</i>					
	P	W	D	L	F	A
First Eleven	15	12	0	3	57	18
Second Eleven	15	10	1	4	41	26
Third Eleven	15	10	1	4	52	26
Fourth A Eleven	15	10	1	4	61	34
Fourth B Eleven	14	8	1	5	34	27

At 1<sup>st</sup> XI level, the season's results were: -

West Herts 1 Hampstead 2

Hampstead 3 Purley 1

Hampstead 2 Hawks 1

Hampstead 5 Old Creightonians 0

Cambridge City 1 Hampstead 9

RMA Sandhurst 3 Hampstead 1

Hampstead 1 London University 2

Oxford Occasionals 2 Hampstead 5

Hounslow 4 Hampstead 0

Royal Engineers 0 Hampstead 2

Rickmansworth 0 Hampstead 5

Old Cranleighans 1 Hampstead 4

Hampstead 8 Wimbledon 1

Hampstead 3 Schoolmasters 0

Hampstead 3 Reigate 0

Beckenham 1 Hampstead 2

Bromley 2 Hampstead 3

Hampstead 3 Metropolitan Police 0

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<sup>10</sup> The provenance of these statements is unknown and not corroborated by the Club's current records

Hampstead 1 Richmond 1  
Hampstead 1 Lensbury 1  
Hampstead 5 Woking 0

This is the photograph of the 2nd XI.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI's results were as follows: -

Hampstead 6 West Herts 0  
Hawks 0 Hampstead 3  
Hampstead 3 Hendon 4  
Hampstead 3 Cambridge City 2  
Bank of England 1 Hampstead 5  
Windsor 4 Hampstead 0  
Hampstead 2 Hounslow 1  
Hampstead 2 Blackheath 0  
Hampstead 2 Rickmansworth 1  
St Albans 1 Hampstead 2  
Wimbledon 3 Hampstead 1  
City of London College 1<sup>st</sup> XI 4 Hampstead 2

Reigate 3 Hampstead 3  
Hampstead 2 Bromley 4  
Metropolitan Police 2 Hampstead 3  
Richmond 4 Hampstead 0  
Lensbury 4 Hampstead 2  
Woking 3 Hampstead 4

(In summary, played 20, won 12, drawn 1, lost 7; Goals for 52, Goals against 43).

### **1956-57**

This season's preview was recorded in *Hockey News* (probably thanks to promotion by the Club's Secretary, Hugh Wickham).

### **Full List for Five Teams**

Hampstead HC enjoyed a most successful season last year, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI losing only three games and drawing two. This season a full list of matches has been arranged for the five elevens, as well as the Spaniard's, the Sunday side.

The full 1<sup>st</sup> XI from last year will be available, although the club will miss C L Vye early in the season as he will be at Melbourne with the British Olympic team. R A Downard, who played in all the Welsh internationals last year will be available, together with former Blues, I A C Hayward and R J C Mallinson. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI will again be captained by R J Potter.

## **Hampstead's Fast Attack**

### **Hampstead 3 Royal Artillery 2**

10 November 1956<sup>11</sup>

Hampstead have begun the season in stirring fashion and, although they only won 3-2 on Saturday, came close to outplaying the Royal Artillery.

Many sides are going to have trouble in holding a lively attack which has now scored 27 goals in six matches. The strength in the game had its roots in some beautifully quick constructive play by Cardoza; the eager response to his finely judged passes by the ever thrustful Bell, who was a constantly menacing wing, and the threat twice superbly realised, of Mallinson's hard first-time shooting.

The pitch at Cricklewood with its deep slope and uneven surface is not conducive to accurate hockey and the ball often reared violently but Hampstead, who are seeking a new home for next season, began at a considerable pace downhill. Within five minutes they were two up. Both goals were scored by Mallinson, who hit very hard indeed. The first crashed in from the edge of the circle whilst the Artillery defence was expecting a pass and the second was brilliantly taken from Cardoza's pass. Then Bartlett had a fine first-time shot and it was good to see the ball hit so decisively and quickly near goal.

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<sup>11</sup> This report is believed to have appeared in the *Manchester Guardian*



During this early spell it was fortunate for the Artillery that their backs were in stout form. Howard's stopping and hitting of the erratically bouncing ball was of a high order and Truell as ever was uncommonly hard to beat. Finesse may not be the dominant theme of his play but he is immensely effective none the less. Shelley also did some capable defensive work but with only moderate help from the wing halves was unable to give much support to an attack which depended almost entirely on Burnett for its occasional openings.

Hampstead's third goal was finely fashioned with a crisp interchange of passes between Cardoza and Bell which the inside right completed with a quick shot. Shortly before half-time Croft's persistence in the face of several defenders was rewarded with a clear opening for Burnett. This goal just kept the Artillery in the hunt and when a fine shot from Selley was only deflected at the last second by Kay it seemed that his side in its turn might capitalise the advantage of the hill. But it was not to be and Cardoza was soon darting and weaving through once more.

Then a good move between Burnett, Smith, and Robb, who for once was on side, confused the Hampstead defence and gave Burnett a second goal. He would have equalised soon after had Potter on the line not saved splendidly a vicious shot from a short corner. This was only justice, for the Artillery scarcely deserved to draw. Hampstead were still attacking hard and Hayward should have eased his colleagues' minds by accepting one of the chances which came his way. Even then Hampstead might have scored several more but for Voxall, who kept a most capable goal in the absence of M P Waters.



*R J C Mallinson on the attack: Noel Cardoza is on the far left and J L Sturrock behind the attacker's shoulder*

(In the opening game of the season, from which the photograph above was taken, Hampstead faced West Herts and won 9-1).

That season, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI had a pedigree of player that was improbable for a club that had re-started only five years previously.

GK	CL Vye	Great Britain, England B, Oxford University, the South, Middlesex
RB	P C Kay	South, Buckinghamshire
LB	R J Potter	Middlesex A
RH	M J Pailthorpe	West, Dorset, Oxford University
	J A L Sturrock	
CH	J H Bartlett	Sussex South triallist
LH	R A Downard	Wales. Middlesex
RW	P D Bell	Buckinghamshire
IR	N A F Carodza	All India triallist, Middlesex
CF	R J C Mallinson	Oxford University, Middlesex
IL	J F Deegan <sup>12</sup>	RAF, Combined Services, Middlesex
LW	I A C Hayward	Scotland, Cambridge University Kent

Club members had a range of County representations, for Middlesex, Essex, Buckinghamshire Sussex Kent Somerset Warwickshire and Suffolk.

The *Daily Telegraph* had covered an earlier game at Hawks, in its edition of 22 October 1956.

### **Improved Form by Hawks**

#### **McGugan Scores Twice**

Hawks hockey team, confirming reports of a better aim and purpose among the forwards and livelier step all round, defeated Hampstead at Byfleet by two goals to one.

The quickness of centre-forward A McGugan and his long stabbing lunge brought him two goals in the first 10 minutes. Hawks should have had many more afterwards. Their new and youthful inside-right, Peter Jones, moves both himself and the ball briskly.

Hugh Gold, making his first appearance for some years in the first eleven, used stickwork and sidestep with telling effect. As a result, the Hawks penetrated farther and faster than Hampstead, whose attacks relied unduly on N F Cardoza. It was he who scored their goal in the second half.

Hawks had the best half-back on the field in I Ferris, whose unfailing interceptions pulled Hampstead up short time and again.

Hampstead settled down well after a start calculated to try the mettle of any side and were giving knock for knock in a rousing finish.

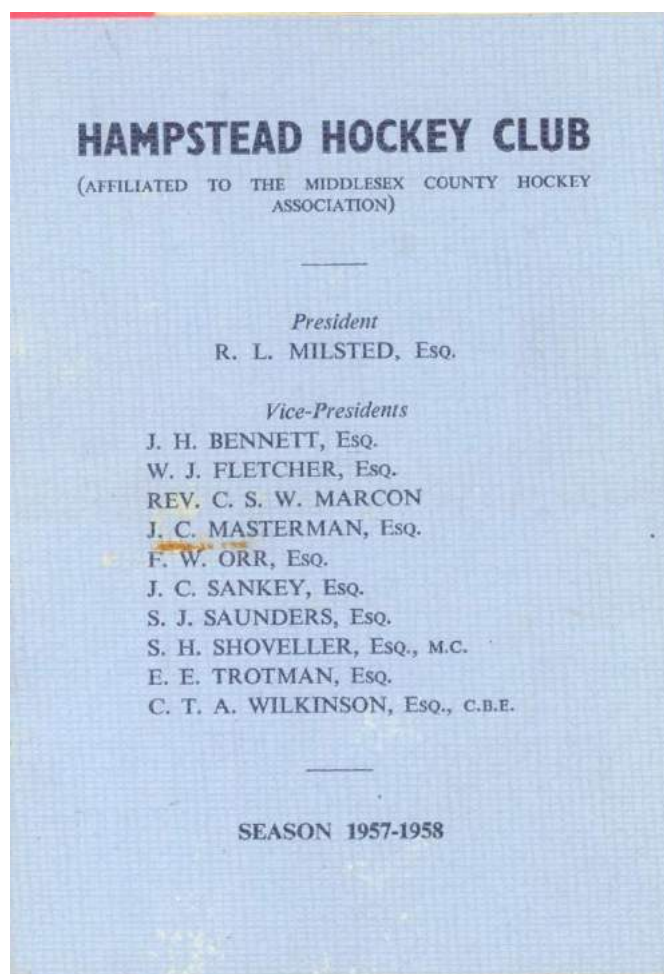
In the next fixture on 27 October 1956, Hampstead entertained Cheam.

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<sup>12</sup> Later to represent Great Britain in the 1964 Olympic Games, whilst still a Hampstead HC member

Hampstead enjoyed their best game of the season in beating Cheam 4-2. Short and long passes were used with equal effect and the first goal by Mallinson was the result of a fine through pass, which Bell at outside right reached and centred. Cardoza scored the second goal and towards the end of the first half made an opening for Deegan, who was playing at inside left for the first time. Unfortunately, many chances were missed but soon after half time, Hampstead scored again. Then a reorganised Cheam attack bestirred themselves and Hampstead were sorely tried on a number of occasions. In the last quarter of an hour, Cheam scored twice.

## 1957-58



*Hockey News* reported the start of the season with its headline: -

### **P C Kay Takes Command.**

"Hampstead will be playing this year on the Boston Manor Paying Fields, Brentford, and despite the difficulties always attendant on change of ground, are looking forward to another successful season. They will run four elevens, as well as the Spaniards, their Sunday side.

The 1<sup>st</sup> XI has lost the services of Luther Vye, who is no longer playing, and R J C Mallinson, who has left London. The new captain is P C Kay, captain of Buckinghamshire and the vice-captain is R A Downard, who again played in all the Welsh internationals last season. I A C Hayward and

the Combined Services player, J Deegan are again available and one of the new members is the Oxford blue, M Pailthorpe<sup>13</sup>.

The Club's headquarters this season will be at the West Ealing Club, Mervyn Road, only five minutes from walk from their ground".

The Club's records do not contain any reports of matches for this season but the 1<sup>st</sup> XI ended the season with 13 wins, six draws and four losses, scoring 55 goals and conceding 37.

Hampstead 0 Purley 0  
Hampstead 2 Hawks 1  
Cheam 6 Hampstead 2  
Royal Military Academy 1 Hampstead 3  
Royal Artillery 4 Hampstead 1  
Hampstead 4 London University 3  
Hampstead 1 Polytechnic 2  
Hounslow 1 Hampstead 1  
Royal Engineers 1 Hampstead 2  
Hampstead 1 St Albans 1  
Hampstead 6 Old Cranleighans 2  
Hampstead 2 Wimbledon 1  
Lensbury 1 Hampstead 1  
Dulwich 3 Hampstead 1  
Hampstead 3 Reigate 1  
Hampstead 2 Surbiton 2  
Mill Hill School 1 Hampstead<sup>14</sup> 4  
Hampstead 5 Beckenham 4  
Guildford 0 Hampstead 1  
Bromley 1 Hampstead 4  
HAC 1 Hampstead 4  
Hampstead 2 Blackheath 2  
Hampstead 3 Richmond 0  
Hampstead 4 Mid-Surrey 0

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI won five matches, drew four but lost 12, conceding 65 goals and scoring 38. The 3<sup>rd</sup> XI record was not dissimilar, with four wins, a single draw and 13 losses, scoring 22 but having conceded 58.

Interestingly, the first Spaniard's Sunday fixture of the season was an away match at Leicester. This was followed a fortnight later by the trip to the coast to play Middleton and there was room for another coastal venture, this time to Bournemouth at the end of February 1958.

## **1958-59**

*Hockey World* again announced the start of the season, with the banner

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<sup>13</sup> Although named as a player in the successful side the previous season under Jeremy Potter

<sup>14</sup> The Hampstead team comprised 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> players and appears discounted in the season's tally

### **Boston Manor Boys**

Hampstead will again be playing at Boston Manor Playing Fields and using the West Ealing Club at Mervyn Road W13 as headquarters. The pitches at Boston Manor played well and there have been few cancellations.

The 1<sup>st</sup> XI, which lost only four matches last season, will be captained by R A Downard, who has played in all the Welsh internationals for the past three seasons. P D Bell of Buckinghamshire will be vice-captain. Scottish internationals I C Burnett and I A C Hayward are again available.

The season opened on Saturday, 4 October 1958 with a new fixture against Old Kingstonians at Boston Manor. The pre-War fixture with Cambridge University has been renewed and will be played at Cambridge on 18 October 1958.

This is the newspaper report of that last mentioned game.

### ***Cambridge University 5 Hampstead 1***

Hampstead proved no match for Cambridge, who gave a good exhibition of speed, control and interception. However, the game marked by a high standard of umpiring, was an enjoyable one. In the first half, Cambridge, using the through pass to the wings and the cross pass quickly became three goals up through Morris, Cunningham and Clegg. Although sometimes Hampstead looked like scoring after runs by Bell and Matthews-Lane, their attacks generally were repulsed by decisive tackling.

Shortly after the interval, Matthews-Lane scored for Hampstead and then Cambridge came to life again and Legerton scored from a centre from the right. The other goal came from Jones, who was very sound at centre half, from a long corner and from Cunningham, who completely outpaced the defence in a good run.

Things improved a month later when Hampstead entertained high flying Hounslow.

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

Hounslow's scoring machine was checked for the second time in succession by Hampstead, who held them to a 1-1 draw at Boston Manor on Saturday. This was the first hockey match Hounslow had failed to win this season.

The pitch gave little help to the Hounslow forwards' approach play and, in fact, a policy of *hit and run* would, in the circumstances, probably proved more profitable. However, in the first ten minutes, three or four shots were well saved by Elgar in the Hampstead goal and, in all, he was about the only player to emerge with any credit from the game.

Soon after half-time, a long roll-in from the right brought the ball across the Hampstead goalmouth and Kittrell deflected it past the goalkeeper. A little later, Bell, the Hampstead outside right received a long clearance from Matthew-Lane, stormed his way into the Hounslow circle and equalised. Following this, Hounslow laid siege to the Hampstead goal, but without success. Eventually this pressure was relieved when Hampstead forced two short corners, but by this time the chances of scoring from such a position were small indeed.

That day there was equal drama for the Hampstead 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, remembered by Morley Pecker, currently the Club's most senior member, having been elected in 1954.

*I had been promoted (no doubt because there was no-one else!) to keep goal for the 2nd's (my usual team then was the 3rd's). This I did, wearing my deer-stalker hat and thin and torn old office gloves on the Hounslow ground. All five XI's played against the same club on the same afternoon in those days, alternatively home and away.*

*The Hounslow 2nd's were then as good as many other clubs' 1st's. I recall well, in what was the most exciting game that I personally played in throughout my short playing-career, that we entered their circle just twice in the match, both in the second half, resulting first in a penalty corner and later a penalty bully.*

*Our brilliant (and charming) Eastern-European inside forward Ilia Suster scored from both. The rest was frantic defence by all of us, led by our captain Geoff Porter. Most unusually, I conceded just one goal, in the first half. We won 2-1 – to produce the second element of the shock of the day. An evening to remember when we joined the 1st's later!*

This season was not as successful as the two immediately preceding it. For the 1<sup>st</sup> XI, of 23 matches played, there were nine wins, an equal number of losses and five draws, scoring 43 and conceding 53. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI won 11, drew two and lost seven, scoring 52 against one fewer conceded. The 3<sup>rd</sup> XI won five of their 16, drawing on four occasions and losing seven. They scored 34 goals but let in 48. Finally, the 4<sup>th</sup> XI had a dire season, losing all but one of their 15 matches: the one remaining was a win. The team conceded 72 goals in scoring 24 times.

### **1959-60**

There are hardly any published match reports for the season.

#### **Cambridge University 4 Hampstead 3**

Cambridge had a hard fight with Hampstead and only won in final minutes when Morris shot home from a rebound after Andrews had centred well from the right. The game opened uncertainly and with hard, fast conditions, defenders on both sides were early in error due to over-committing themselves and consequent slowness to recover. Cambridge were soon two up but were then checked and overtaken.

During this period a fast Hampstead forward line held the upper hand. Lobo went through on his own; Potter added another goal with a crisp shot from a penalty corner and Matthews-Lane also scored. Just on half time Gidney brought the scores level.

In the second half both defences tightened their game and, although frequently pressing, the University were nearly foiled in their bid for victory.

### **1960 Olympic Games**

The party of 18 players for Great Britain's participation in the Olympic Games in Rome in the summer of 1960 was selected. It included W N Livingstone of Hampstead (and Oxford University) under the captaincy of D J Carnill of Cheltenham. The squad comprised only two

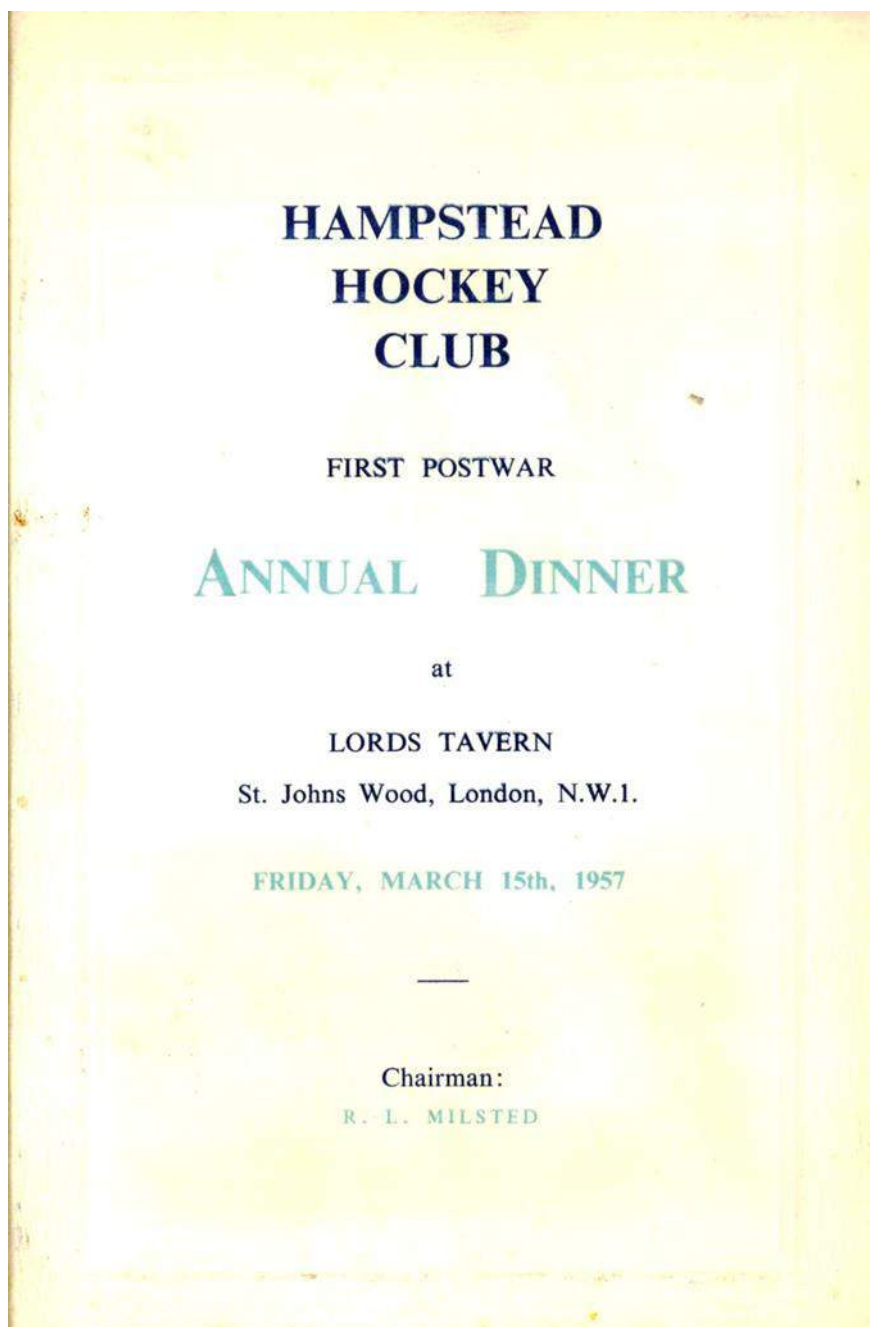
with prior experience of the Olympic Games. Prior to departure (and perhaps somewhat ominously) “the team was to train at Aldershot”.

At the AGM on 1 April 1960 held at the Hornsey Cricket Club. Noel Cardoza summarised it as “a disappointing season, both as regards results and the condition of the ground at Hornsey”. He congratulated W N Livingstone on his selection for Scotland and captaincy of Oxford University, J F Deegan for the RAF and J Matthews-Lane, P D Bell and R M Perks for Buckinghamshire. He added that the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI contained promising members and the Club had “high hopes for the following season”.

The playing record was as follows:

	P	W	D	L
First Eleven	18	6	0	12
Second Eleven	18	7	3	8
Third Eleven	18	8	1	9
Fourth Eleven	17	4	1	3
Spaniards Eleven	5	1	1	3

## Annual Dinners



### ***Another Revival***

The Club's first post-War Dinner was held at the Lord's Tavern on 15 March 1957. On the menu was Crème Forestière, followed by Filet de Plie, with Sauce Tartare, then Côtellets d'Agneau, Haricots Verts and Pommes Frites. The dessert was Bombe Glacé, followed by Café.

Seventy members and guests were present. R L Misted was in the Chair and the principal guest was Mr R Grove, the Honorary Secretary of the Middlesex County Hockey Association. *Hockey News* had access for the following report.



“Proposing the toast of “The Club”, Mr Grove referred to the past glories of Hampstead, mentioning among the very earliest members, A E Stoddart, who was both a cricketer and rugby international and another cricketer F W Orr, who was a member before the turn of the century and was present at the dinner that evening<sup>15</sup>.

Mr Grove mentioned also a club record that was unlikely to be equalled of having four Gold Medallists playing in the Olympic Games at Antwerp in 1920, J H Bennett, S H Shoveller C S W Marcon and C T A Wilkinson. He said that the President Rory (*sic*) Milsted, who he played in front of on many occasions, was one of the finest players never capped for England.

Referring to the present, Mr Grove recalled that C L Vye had been with the Olympic team at Melbourne and that R A Downard was unable to attend the dinner as he was travelling with the Welsh team to Limerick.

The President in his reply thanked the many old members present and those who had been prevented from coming but who had sent contributions towards the function.

The toast of “The Guests” was proposed by Mr Jeremy Potter, who announced that the Club had decided to move next season to Boston Manor Playing Fields. There was 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.

The toast was responded to admirably by Mr H M Lindley-Jones the Hon Secretary of Bromley HC who said that they all appreciated Hampstead’s difficulties with grounds and wished them well in their new location next year.”

### **1958**

A second Annual Dinner was convened on 26 March 1958 at the RNVR Club at 38 Hill Street, London W1. From a playing membership of 65 there were 51 members in attendance. Ruari Milsted presided once again. The toast of “The Club” was proposed by Mr W Comben Longstaffe, the Honorary Secretary of the Hockey Association, who said that he had the happiest recollections of playing against Hampstead in bygone years, when such players as C T A Wilkinson, C S W Marcon and S H Shoveller were in the side.

### **1959**

The Club held another Annual Dinner on 8 April 1959 and returned to the RNVR Club, close by Grosvenor Square. Once again Ruairi Milsted acted as Chairman and S H Savile OBE, the President of the Hockey Association, responded.

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<sup>15</sup> Toby Orr had in fact joined Hampstead Hockey Club in October 1900 and after W B Hayman retired, he captained the 1<sup>st</sup> XI from centre half, having been elected to that position at the AGM on 12 September 1906

## Obituary

Sadly, the end of the decade coincided with the deaths of two of the Club's most illustrious members, each a winner of an Olympic Gold Medal (and in one case, two). They were Stanley Shoveller, described as the *Prince of Centre Forwards*, who died in March 1959 and Sholto Marcon, who had joined Hampstead after the 1920 Games in Antwerp, to play alongside other medallists, Shoveller, Jack Bennett and Cyril Wilkinson. Stanley Shoveller's previous gold medal was won in the admittedly truncated games in London in 1908.

### ***Stanley Shoveller***

From September 1898, Shoveller played club hockey for Hampstead. He was captain from 1909. In 1899 he represented Middlesex but from 1901 played for Surrey. He was selected for England against Wales at Kersal in March 1902. He marked his international début with a goal, dribbling single-handed from the half-way line before finishing. He was to make 37 international appearances over 19 years. He 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.

He retired from regular club hockey in 1922. He had scored in excess of 500 goals for the Club. He was a Vice President of the Hockey Association from 1921 until his death, and was an England selector in the 1930s.

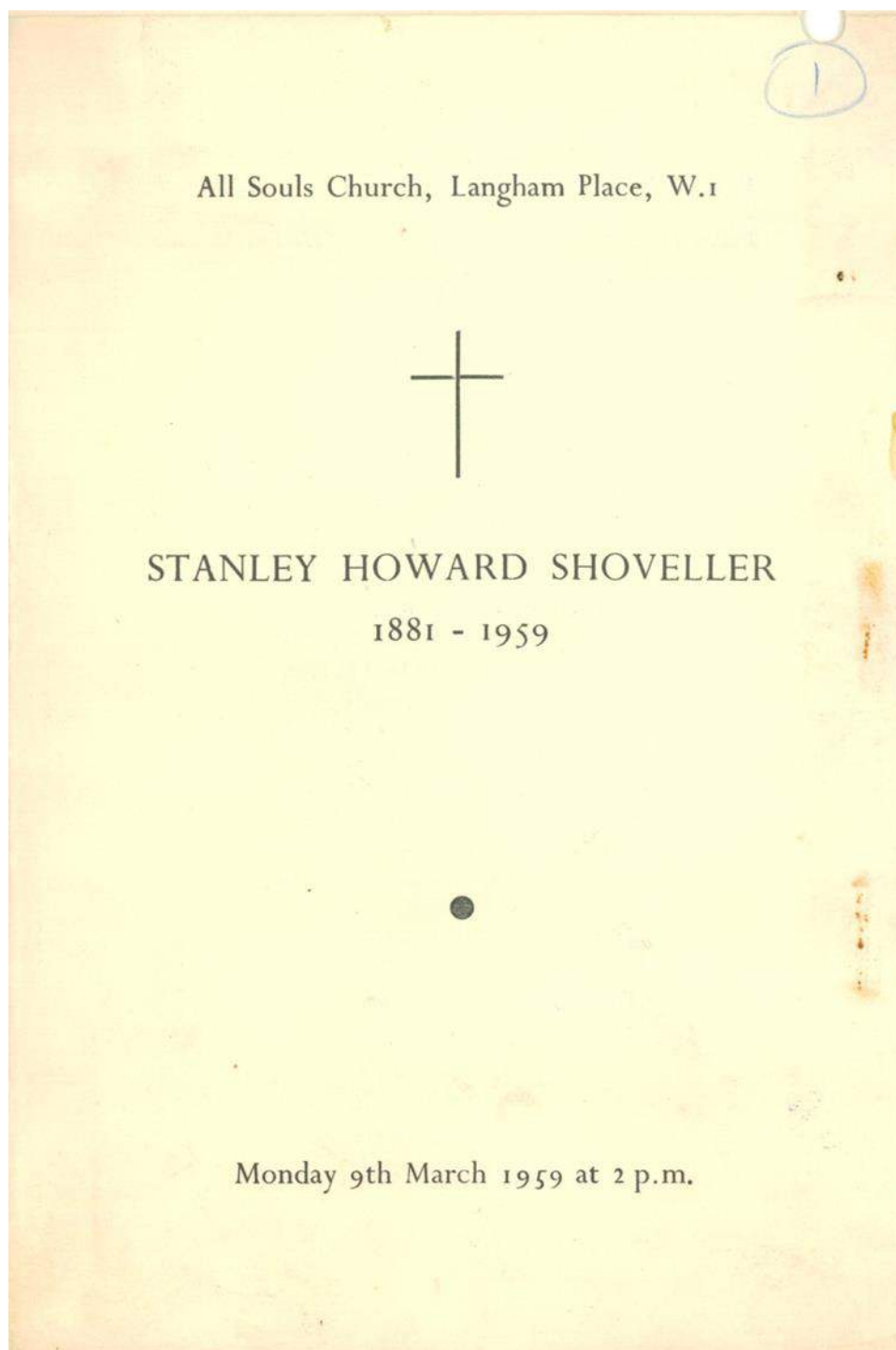
Shoveller - or *Shove* as he was widely known in the game because others were uncertain how properly to pronounce his surname - dominated hockey over two decades. Likened to W. G. Grace, he was regarded as the supreme exponent of the sport. Contemporaries admired his stickwork, ball control, and bursts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

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.*

Fellow Hampstead player Cyril Wilkinson commented that *Prince of Centre Forwards* was a title 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.*

A Memorial Service was held at All Souls Church, Langham Place, on Monday 9 March 1959.

### **Sholto Marcon**

C S W Marcon was first selected for England in 1913 and went on to win 23 international caps. In the 1920's, Stanley Shoveller, S H Saville and he were virtually automatic choices for England. He had 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. He was elected to Hampstead Hockey Club on 5 September 1924.

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 and took up county hockey in Sussex. In 1921, was appointed to a teaching post at Cranleigh School and became its first coach of hockey. He continued to play representative hockey until 1935, aged 45, when he then left to become ordained. Sholto Marcon also wrote several tutorial books about the sport and for *Boys Own Paper*.

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.

On his death, Douglas Goodbody wrote in *The Times* of 2 December 1959 that Charles Marcon (as he described him) *was one of the finest hockey players of his or any subsequent generations. He obtained a Blue at Oxford before the First World War and thereafter represented England on numerous occasions.*

*I had the good fortune to play in his company in the period between the two wars and his stickwork 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. For many years a schoolmaster he entered the Church very late in life.*



*Sholto Marcon is on the right and B G Lampard-Vachell on the left, in the tackle  
in this photograph from the 1920's*

## Epilogue

At the AGM held on 1 April 1960, the Chairman read a letter that had been received from the President of the Club, R L Milsted that had requested that his name should not be put forward for re-election as President.

The Chairman pointed out that this marked the end of an epoch for Hampstead Hockey Club.

He added that Ruari had joined the Club in 1927 and had played for the South whilst in the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI. He had captained the Club from 1930 until 1939, had captained Middlesex for eight years and the South for four years. In 1934, although invited, ill health had prevented him representing England. He was Treasurer of the South from 1933 until 1946 and was at that time a Vice President of the South and a co-trustee with Sir Leslie Rowan of the Hockey Association.

In 1945, Ruari captained Purley and with John Sankey and other members of Hampstead, induced Hampstead Cricket Club to take the club back and he played a great part in renewing the fixtures. He had been an ideal holder of the Presidential Chair.

The Chairman proposed that his resignation be accepted with great regret, which hardly surprisingly in the circumstances, was carried.

Colin Greenhalgh's *Short History of Hampstead of Cricket Club* published in 1969 contains reminiscences provided by Ruari, in response to the Club's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They reinforce the conclusion that the Hockey Club was just as eager to enjoy success off the pitch as on. Annual Dinners were held high in importance.

Ruari recollected that: -

*Saturday in the hard times of the late 1920's gave us, the poor and young, something we could both enjoy and afford. The lower XI's we often played with a man famous in hockey who had thought nothing of dropping down a side as he got older. Our standards were high and it was possible to have played in Divisional games before commanding a regular place in the 1<sup>st</sup> XI. Pre-war Hampstead was not a mere dedicated bunch too poor to sin or get tight; we often did both.*

*In the 1930's, Annual Dinners were occasions. One, at a place in Leicester Square (R.E. Jones), comes to mind. It was quite a night. I have a vivid memory of one of the present highly respect VP's who, while insisting on making a speech (not on the card), suddenly found himself on his back and under the table. He was kept there for a considerable period by feet and a few able marksmen armed with soda water siphons, while the meal proceeded with due decorum.*

*After dinner, some of us found ourselves in Jermyn Street, talking to girls who somehow in those days always happened to be there or thereabouts. Our disposition towards them was kindly but not wishing to break up our party, or theirs, we organised some Jermyn Street Olympics, with les girls running races for a 10/- prize. It was a stupendous success and good clean fun for 2 a.m. Unfortunately, owing to the crowd that had gathered, the police (very friendly) brought the sports to an end before the grand finale of a lap of honour round St. James's Square.*

*We enjoyed nearly all our games and London Hockey, played in a restricted circle of first class clubs, meant that the majority of our opponents were known and friends. 'After matches' on*

*occasion extended to Sunday. The old Teddington Cricket Club pavilion was one place known to have slept Hampstead players round a stove after the last bus and train had gone.*

*Nearly all of us had to work on Saturday mornings and it was often difficult to get away in time. A good example was afforded by one right full-back. He was in Holy Orders and, at short notice, got landed with having to conduct a funeral. Thanks to a sympathetic undertaker and co-operative driver of the hearse, our worthy member's hockey bag rode under the coffin to the cemetery. After the service, and with the blind down, our man changed in the hearse which then drove him to the ground. His arrival, changed and just in time, was a sensation. This episode must constitute some sort of a record. The driver stayed for the game (surely we must have won!) and much beer before departing, as he came, in his hearse.*

*Of many famous games there is one I remember in particular. Sports reporters of The Times, the Morning Post, the Sunday Observer and other papers had come to Richmond to see the victory they all foretold of a star-studded Bromley side. That must have been the fastest game we have ever played and proved to be a 3-1 Hampstead victory, by eleven very fit men. Then even the ranks of Tuscany could scarce forebear to cheer. The subsequent articles made good reading.*

*I look back with the utmost pleasure to my Hampstead playing days and the grand men that were my friends. Perhaps with greatest joy it is a fact that the Club survived and I was still there and able to hand over to Bill Fletcher after the War.*

## Appendix

### *Those who made all this possible*

#### **1950-51**

Ruari Milsted, John Sankey and S J *Beaker* Saunders

#### **1951-52**

1 <sup>st</sup> XI Captain	W J Fletcher
Vice-Captain	A T Grieve
2 <sup>nd</sup> XI Captain	G P Walker
Vice-Captain	A Reid
Fixture Secretary	J C Sankey
Team Secretary	A Reid
Committee	(additional to office holders) I R Eiloart, R H Matthews, R L Milsted, D J Morgan S J Saunders

#### **1952-53**

1 <sup>st</sup> XI Captain	W J Fletcher
Vice-Captain	P C Kay
2 <sup>nd</sup> XI Captain	G P Walker
Vice-Captain	P J Lockwood-Wingate
Fixture Secretary	J C Sankey
Team Secretary	P B Edwards
Committee	(additional to office holders) I R Eiloart, R H Matthews, R L Milsted, A Reid, S J Saunders

#### **1953-54**

1 <sup>st</sup> XI Captain	P C Kay
Vice-Captain	I A C Hayward
2 <sup>nd</sup> XI Captain	G R Porter
3 <sup>rd</sup> XI Captain	R J P Cummins
4 <sup>th</sup> XI Captain	J M Jagger
Fixture Secretaries	P S J Moon and C J Allen
Secretary	A Reid
Committee	(additional to office holders) R L Milsted, J C Sankey, S J Saunders, D C Smyth

#### **1954-55**

1 <sup>st</sup> XI Captain	R J Potter
Vice-Captain	I A C Hayward
2 <sup>nd</sup> XI Captain	G R Porter
3 <sup>rd</sup> XI Captain	R J Cummins
4 <sup>th</sup> XI Captain	J M Jagger
Spaniard's Captain	S H Turner
Fixture Secretaries	P J S Moon and M Cross
Match Secretary	D C Smyth
Secretary	R J Cummins



Treasurer P J Lockwood-Wingate  
Committee (additional to office holders) P C Kay, D N Graham, H T Young, J C Sankey

### 1955-56

1<sup>st</sup> XI Captain R J Potter  
Vice-Captain I A C Hayward  
2<sup>nd</sup> XI Captain G R Porter  
3<sup>rd</sup> XI Captain R J P Cummins  
4<sup>th</sup> A XI Captain H T Young  
4<sup>th</sup> B XI Captain D N Graham  
Spaniards XI B T Westhead  
Fixture Secretary R J Cummins  
Secretary H F Wickham  
Match Secretary D C Smyth  
Treasurer D H Meacock  
Committee (additional to office holders) P C Kay, J C Sankey, P H A Leake,

### 1956-57

1<sup>st</sup> XI Captain R J Potter  
Vice-Captain I A C Hayward  
2<sup>nd</sup> XI Captain D D N Graham  
3<sup>rd</sup> XI Captain A M K Alexander  
4<sup>th</sup> A XI Captain H T Young  
4<sup>th</sup> B XI Captain F Mocatta  
Spaniards XI B T Westhead  
Fixture Secretary R J Cummins  
Secretary H F Wickham  
Match Secretary D C Smyth  
Treasurer S N Elgar  
Committee (additional to office holders) P C Kay, G R Porter, J C Sankey

### 1957-58

1<sup>st</sup> XI Captain P C Kay  
Vice-Captain R A Downard  
2<sup>nd</sup> XI Captain D D  
N Graham  
3<sup>rd</sup> XI Captain C J Myburgh  
4<sup>th</sup> XI Captain H T Young  
Spaniards XI M L Pecker  
Fixture Secretary R J Cummins  
Secretary H F Wickham  
Match Secretary P D Bell  
Team Secretaries D C Smyth (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XIs) A B Kay (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> XIs)  
Treasurer S N Elgar  
Committee (additional to office holders) I A C Hayward, R J Potter, G R Porter, C L Vye

### 1958-59

1 <sup>st</sup> XI Captain	R A Downard
Vice-Captain	P D Bell
2 <sup>nd</sup> XI Captain	D D N Graham
3 <sup>rd</sup> XI Captain	N L Philip
4 <sup>th</sup> XI Captain	F Mocatta
Spaniards XI	R A Downard
Fixture Secretary	R J Cummins
Secretary	H F Wickham
Match Secretary	P D Bell
Team Secretaries	R A Vartan (1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> XIs) A H Kurtz (3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> XIs)
Treasurer	S N Elgar
Committee	(additional to office holders) P C Kay, I A C Hayward, C J Myburgh, C Greenhalgh, G R Porter, R J Potter

### 1959-60

1 <sup>st</sup> XI Captain	N A F Cardoza
Vice-Captain	P D Bell
2 <sup>nd</sup> XI Captain	R A R Vartan
3 <sup>rd</sup> XI Captain	G R Porter
4 <sup>th</sup> XI Captain	R A Bailey
Spaniards XI	R A Downard
Fixture Secretary	R J Cummins
Secretary	H F Wickham
Match Secretary	H P Avey
Team Secretaries	P D Bell (1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI's), R J Cummins (3 <sup>rd</sup> XI), E J Thatcher (4 <sup>th</sup> XI)
Treasurer	S N Elgar
Committee	(additional to office holders) P C Kay, C Greenhalgh, D C Smyth, G R Porter

It should be noted that the actual composition of the Committees after 1955 may not be accurately recorded, above. There are instances of nominations for posts made prior to an AGM not being filled at the start of the following season and where subsequent appointments of different persons were ratified at a later stage.

In addition, there is some inconsistency where members who have been requested to attend Committee meetings (for example, the vice captains of the lower XIs) are recorded as being in attendance, whereas, in other instances, are mentioned as members of that Committee. It is interesting that prior to the 1958-59 season a ballot had to be called at the AGM, as there were more candidates for the Committee than vacancies.