

Hampstead
Hockey Club

1894 – 1969

A Short History

FOREWARD

Most hockey clubs regard – and rightly so – their anniversaries as something really important and worth celebrating. Above all these occasions, whether they are the 25th, 50th, 75th or 100th, place on record the gratitude of the current members for the existence of their club and their enthusiasm for the general well-being of the most amateur game in the country.

Hampstead feels that its 75th anniversary calls for special recognition and it is because of this that this short history has been written. The Club was twenty-five years old in April 1919, a time when there was very little to celebrate. The fiftieth anniversary, in April 1944, would have taken place some fifty-five days before D-Day: while in 1954, when we were sixty years old, the club had only just started its journey back to the position it had held in London hockey from 1900 to 1939, and the whole future was extremely uncertain.

Today we have six regular sides, good pitches, and a happy enthusiastic membership who get the most out of their hockey. I believe this history will encourage them to maintain the Club's high standards and so ensure that our Centenary in 1994 will also give cause for special celebration.

P.C. Kay,
President.

September 1969

HAMPSTEAD HOCKEY CLUB 1894 - 1969

THE BEGINNINGS

At a General Meeting of Hampstead Cricket Club, on 12th April 1894, it was resolved 'that the Hockey Section of the Cricket Club cease to exist'. This blunt statement was not as drastic as it may seem: it was, in fact, the expected result of a meeting of the hockey section two days earlier, at which it was agreed to propose to the Cricket Club 'that it is the opinion of this meeting, that in consideration of the wet state of the Cricket Ground, a hockey ground be hired elsewhere for next season'that, therefore, 'the permission of the Cricket Club be asked for the Hockey Section to control its own affairs..... the uniform of the Hockey Section to be as heretofore, a shirt of the Cricket Club colours and a dark blue cap'. The names of the gentlemen present at the meeting, at the 'Eyre Arms' in Hampstead, were Messrs J.G.Q. Besch (in the Chair), C.D.D. McMillin, J.N. Brown, G.W. Ravenor, Giles, J.C. Toller, Rutland, B.Brown, Hale, Lawrence, Mergerstein, Petty, Bishop, Danver, S.Brown, H.R. Lipscombe and Danby, and we can reasonably think of them as the founders of the Hockey Club we know.

By one of those perversities which mark the administration of the best-run sports clubs, it would seem that, though the Hockey Section 'ceased to exist' on the 12th April, the new Hockey Club was never formally constituted at its meeting the following day. But, at this meeting, it was reported that they hoped to play next season at a ground at Elms Farm, near Garden Lane in Acton, with changing accommodation at the 'George and Dragon' nearby. It was also resolved that H.R. Lipscombe be appointed Honorary Secretary and 1st XI Captain of the new club, with J.G.Q. Besch as Honorary Treasurer and 2nd XI Captain and that the Club should affiliate to the Hockey Association.

Though it is clear from these records that Hampstead Hockey Club exists in its own right from this date, it is not clear when the Cricket Club's hockey section first began playing. Certainly, the Cricket Club records indicate that hockey was being played in 1890. But we are indebted to Mr. K. Howells of Teddington Hockey Club who, in the course of his own researches, has come across this report in the Richmond and Twickenham Times of 19th December 1874.

*HOCKEY - Richmond v Hampstead (return) -
This match was played on Saturday in the Old
Deer Park, Richmond, and resulted in a decided
Victory for Hampstead, as they obtained four goals
(three hit by Keer, and one by A. R. Parker) to
nothing. The team was a strong one, and played
well together, while Richmond, in spite of Stopford
and Harmar's excellent form suffered from three
good players not turning up.*

(Those three players who didn't turn up must have been very popular with their fellow Richmond members.)

Since, in those days, almost the only hockey played was by cricket clubs in their off-season, it seems very probable that this was the fore-runner of our present Hampstead Hockey Club. Perhaps, as with other cricket clubs in those early days, hockey was only played intermittently until the 1890's. But, while it is clear that the independent Hampstead Hockey Club dates from those three meetings between the 10th and 13th April, 1894, it is interesting to have this evidence that 'Hampstead' was playing hockey at least twenty years earlier.

EARLY DAYS

The new club, having agreed to play at Elms Farm, began to run into ground troubles – something not entirely known in its later history. On the 6th October 1894, the Committee inspected the new ground and 'refused to take possession as it had not been put in a fit and proper condition for playing Hockey'. However, it was agreed to take the adjacent cricket ground 'provided it could be got into a fit and proper condition'. Presumably it was, since this was where the club began its new independent existence. The first game was played on the following Saturday against Willesden, and the first encounter with a club still on the fixture list took place the following Saturday, when Bromley were the opponents. Other opponents in that first season included Tulse Hill, Teddington, and Southgate – all of them, apparently, new fixtures since the days at Hampstead Cricket Club and all of them still opponents to be reckoned with nowadays.

But the story of troubles with the ground was only just beginning. Three weeks before the next season was due to begin, the Committee heard that a letter had been received from Mr. Blick of Elms Farm to say that he had let the ground to a football club. Fortunately, salvation was at hand and another General Meeting of the Club, four days later, resolved to move to Richmond Athletic Ground – at an annual rent of £15.

HAMPSTEAD HOCKEY CLUB 1896 – 7

TREASURER'S BALANCE SHEET

		£	s	d			£	s	d
By	Balance, 1895-96 ...	2	13	5	To	Rent of ground ...	19	0	0
"	34 Full Members at £1. 1s ...	35	14	0	"	Hockey Association ...	1	1	0
"	Donation (E.Brodie Hoare, Esq., M.P) ..	0	10	6	"	Printing ...	2	13	0
"	1 member (half season) ...	0	10	6	"	Postages, stationery, &c	3	9	9
"	8 Hon. Members at 5/- ...	2	0	0	"	Goal posts and nets	3	1	6
"	Visitors' Tea Fund (20 at 5/-) ...	5	0	0	"	Hockey Balls	1	1	0
"	Collection for Ground Men ...	0	17	0	"	Painting Balls	0	18	0
					"	Corner Flags	0	11	8
					"	Glass, Brush & Comb	0	6	11
					"	Soap	0	2	6
					"	Washing	1	15	4
					"	Ground Boy (24 days at 2/6	3	0	0
					"	Visitors' Teas (see contra)	5	11	3
					"	Present to Ground Man (see contra)	1	10	6
		47	5	5	"	Broken Window	0	5	6
		44	7	11					
		–	–	–			–	–	–
To balance in hand		2	17	6			44	7	11
		=	=	=			=	=	=

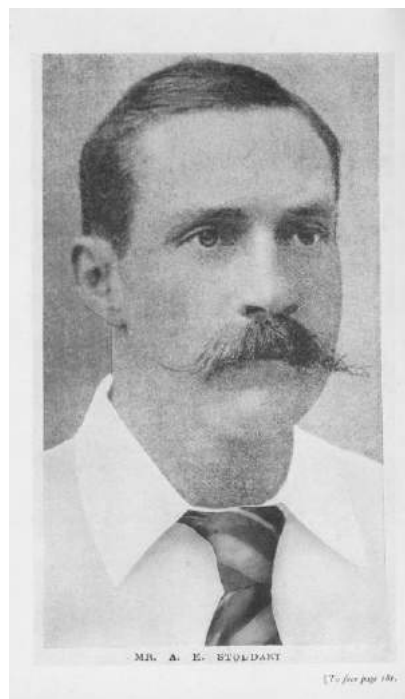
*Audited and found correct, 1st June, 1897:
W.G.A. Ravenor and Edwin G Monro, Auditors. J.G.Q. Resch, Hon, Treasurer.*

Changing accommodation was now at the 'Tulip Tree' (pubs seem to have been very popular with the Club) at a cost of only £4 a season.

This emergency arrangement lasted for 44 years, the Club staying at Richmond until the Second World War. That it was there – nearly ten miles from the natural home in Hampstead – the Club enjoyed so many marvellous years, emphasises the scarcity of grounds in North London which are fit for play throughout the winter compared with south of the river.

At the same General meeting, in 1895, the Club's First President was elected. He was Mr E.Brodie, Member of Parliament. J.G.Q. Besch, who had played such a large part in the establishment of the new Club, was elected its first Vice-Resident and C.D.D. McMillin took over from H.R. Lipscombe as Secretary.

The Club was now beginning the run-up to its great playing days in the early 1900's, much of the credit for which must go to the very fine cricketers who continued to join from Hampstead Cricket Club. At the start of this season the great A.E. Stoddart joined. He was a Hampstead, Middlesex and England all-rounder who also played Rugby 11 times for England. Indeed, he was one of only two men to captain England at both cricket and rugby. In 16 seasons for Hampstead Cricket Club he averaged over 70 with the bat and took 771 wickets at something less than 10 runs apiece. Against the Stoics in 1886 he scored 485 runs in a one day match – at a rate of 78 an hour and including 64 fours. And that after spending the night playing cards! A truly wonderful games player who was a great credit to the club.



But Stoddart was not the only powerful cricketer who played for the Hockey Club. Others included E.L. Marsden, W.S. Hale, S.S. Pawling and H.B. Hayman, all

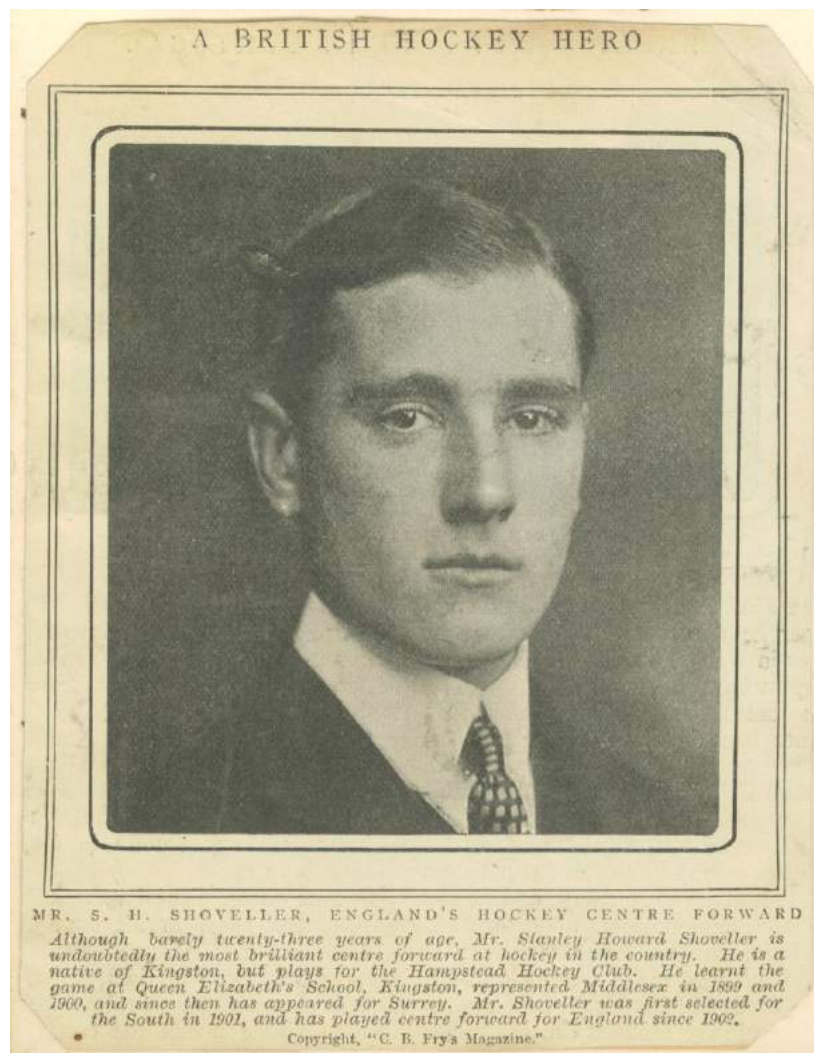


of them Middlesex County players, and there were many other proficient club cricketers who played hockey for the Club in winter. There is a record in the Hampstead Cricket Club history of a match between the two Clubs in 1897. Batting at No.8 for the Hockey Club, J.C. Toller scored 206 and 'Cricket' magazine held the score over for a week, not believing a No.8 could score many runs.

'THE PRINCE OF CENTRE FORWARDS'

By 1897/98 the famous Staines Club first appeared in the fixture list as opponents. They were, at that stage, not quite 'champions of the South' but over the next few years certainly became a power in the land, and the two clubs were to have a number of stirring battles over the next decade.

If this was recognition of Hampstead's growing power, the foundation of its real fame was laid at the start of the next season – on 29th September 1898 to be precise. On that day the great S.H. Shoveller was elected to membership. 'Shove' had recently left Queen Elizabeth's School in Kingston (Kingston Grammar School), where he had excelled himself in games against the leading London Clubs. He was to become known as the 'Prince of centre forwards' and 'the immortal centre', winner of 29 caps for England (at a time when there were far fewer international matches than now – and he was reputed to have declined selection on occasion for business reasons, and to give others a chance). He was, and one may dare to say is likely to remain, the only British player ever to win two Olympic Gold Medals. His goal-scoring ability was prodigious. The records are not entirely complete but a reading of old match reports makes it clear that he must have been responsible for at least a third of all the goals scored by the Club during his playing career. This stretched to the early 1920's, a period in which the Club's 1st X1 scored something like 1600 goals. So we can calculate Shove's contribution at something well over 500, an incredible figure in these days of goal famine, 4-2-3-1 and 'sweepers'.



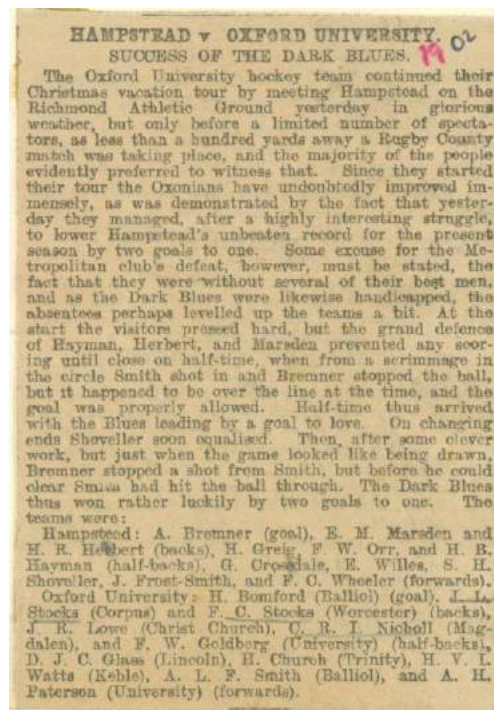
GROWING POWER

1898, too, was the year when H.B. Hayman, one of those illustrious county cricketers, took over Captaincy of the 1st XI. He held this office for six years and must have felt well pleased with his tenure because, by the time he handed over, the 1st XI had run into its period of great playing ascendancy. By this time, too, the Club was running four XI's regularly. It wasn't until 60 years later that more XI's that this turned out regularly.

1899/1900 must have provided a hint to opponents of Hampstead's rising power, spear-headed by Shoveller. Amongst the match records for that season appear victories of 7-3 over Hawks, 7-1 over Surbiton, and 7-1 and 6-1 over Blackheath. As many goals as 1st XI's often score in a whole season nowadays! Perhaps these goal feasts are partly explained by the fact that clubs, around this time, seemed to often to prefer to play with a fourth half-back rather than a goal-keeper, though there is no evidence of Hampstead ever adopting this line-up.

The following season contained further notable events. Oxford and Cambridge Universities appeared in the fixture list for the first time – though the club's

elaborate dark blue, light blue and white shirts are traditionally supposed to hark back to some long-standing link with the two Universities. It is likely that this link derived from the Cricket Club, where the colours seem to have been inherited.

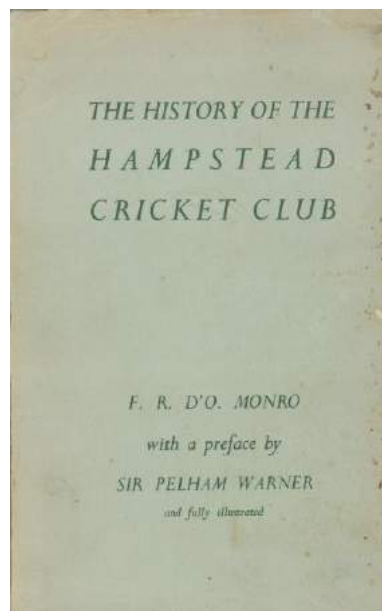


MORE GREAT NEW MEMBERS

October 1900 saw the election of two more new members who achieved distinction for themselves and the game. Again, both were distinguished cricketers. F.W. (Toby) Orr became a power at centre half, and played representative hockey at several levels, including for 'An England XI' touring abroad, although never quite qualifying the full international side. He was also a Hampstead, Authentic and M.C.C. batsman of repute and travelled abroad with M.C.C. touring teams.



F.R. D'O (Freddie) Munro, as a hockey player was not quite in the same class as Orr though he, too, was a cricketer of some repute. His distinction lay more in the administrative field. He helped to found the Occasionals at Oxford and, after the Second World War, became a long-serving President of Hampstead Cricket Club. In that capacity, he set an example to all sports club scribes by researching, compiling and writing a "History of the Hampstead Cricket Club", a model of its kind based on compelling material.



At this time, as at others, not all the fun was on the field of play. At a General Meeting in September 1900 "Mr McMillin argued at considerable length upon the advisability of substituting alcoholic liquors for tea". It is clear that the entertainment after the game was considered as important as that during it.

Autumn 1902 marked two more notable elections. Mr Brodie Hoare, having served seven years as the Club's first President, resigned and his place was taken by Mr S.S. Pawling, an ex-player and yet another notable Hampstead and Middlesex cricketer. Then Gerald Logan, like Shoveller an old boy of Queen Elizabeth's School at Kingston, was proposed by Shove and elected to membership. Logan went on to become an inside forward of note. He gained six caps for England and became another of the select band of Englishmen to win an Olympic Gold Medal.



Over the years, the minute books cast an interesting light on changing attitudes to the competitive side of club hockey. In 1902, for instance, the Secretary was asked to arrange another game with Oxford University or 'failing that, with Berkshire Gentlemen'. Hardly, one would have thought, a quid pro quo, unless the Gentlemen were not as relaxed a side as they sound.

A MAGNIFICENT TEAM

By this time, the first XI was beginning to stake its claim as the leading side in London hockey. The beat the famous and all-conquering Staines side in 1901/2; Staines were then unbeaten for four years until Hampstead beat them again in 1905/6. But it would seem, from the records, that four of the intervening six meetings between the two clubs were cancelled, which must have been a considerable disappointment to both of them. At this period the Club could boast nine players of county standard or higher in the 1st XI. Its record from now until the First World War is worth presenting in detail:

	P	W	D	L	Goals	
					F	A
1902-03	24	16	4	4	91	45
1903-04	21	15	5	1	100	34
1904-05	20	13	2	5	100	35
1905-06	20	10	3	7	58	49
1906-07	22	12	5	5	83	53
1907-08	20	17	2	1	75	24
1908-09	24	17	4	3	92	33
1909-10	23	18	2	3	105	31
1910-11	27	22	4	1	120	32

1911-12	19	16	-	3	71	32
1912-13	20	15	2	3	76	29
1913-14	20	10	3	7	64	48

The grand total was 181 wins out of 260 games played and 1035 goals against 445. This record was achieved under several Captains: first Hayman, then 'Tonkie' Hill (who, to judge from his photograph, was a most forbidding goal-keeper), then Toby Orr and, finally, for the last five years before the War (and for three afterwards), the great Shove.

The greatest of these seasons were 1907/8 and 1910/11. In 07/08 the 1st XI was 'unbeaten by any other Metropolitan Club' – the only defeat being that of a weakened team against Northampton in April.

This season included such impressive wins as those of 5-0 over Wimbledon, 6-1 over Surbiton, 6-1 over Blackheath, 7-1 over East Sheen and 7-0 over Bromley. In 1910/11 – a season also notable for the fact that not a single game was cancelled – the 1st XI was also 'unbeaten by any other Metropolitan Club', this time the single defeat being that of an under-strength team against Marlborough College. This season was also impressive for its goal record of 120 goals for and 32 against – Shove must have really enjoyed himself that year.

STAINES v. HAMPSTEAD.

This return match was played on Saturday at Staines, and for the second time this season Hampstead had the distinction of lowering the riversiders' colours, the score on this occasion being four goals to two. The ground was rather on the soft side, but despite this a fast and interesting game took place, and it was not until well in the second half that the North Londoners placed the issue beyond doubt. Neither team was at full strength, Hill and Burns being absentees from the Hampstead team, while Playford is still out of the Staines' team and is not likely to pay again this season. From the bully-off Staines went off with a rare dash, and were only just pulled up in time by Marsden and Sherwell, who transferred the game to the centre, but it soon returned to the Hampstead "25," and for some time the visitors were very hard pressed and Staines were rather unlucky in not scoring. At length the Hampstead forwards got going, but found Freeman and Pimm very safe, and for the next quarter of an hour play was of a give-and-take character. Towards the end of the first half the visiting forwards broke away and Shoveller opened the scoring for Hampstead with a rather soft shot. Shortly afterwards the whistle went for half-time with Hampstead leading by one goal to nil. On restarting the visitors had rather the best of matters, but the home team were very persistent, and eventually Pimm equalised matters by beating Houlder at the second attempt. This roused the North Londoners, and in less than a minute they had regained the lead, and playing with any amount of dash added two more goals and thus led by 4-1. The home team now made desperate efforts to reduce the lead and fairly penned their opponents, and eventually succeeded in scoring from a penalty corner, but this was the last point registered and the whistle went shortly afterwards, leaving Hampstead the winners of a strenuously contested game by four goals to two. For Hampstead Houlder, in goal, was very safe, and was well supported by Sherwell and Marsden, at back, the former in particular playing very finely. Orr was the best of the halves. The forwards at times combined well, but their goals were chiefly scored by Shoveller with individual efforts. Logan got through an immense amount of defensive work, and Cobb was good at outside left, and was well fed by Preston. For Staines Freeman and Pimm was hardly as sound as usual. Mansbridge was the best of the halves, and Green and Rigden the pick of the forwards. Teams:

Staines: H. S. Freeman and C. Pimm (backs), C. T. Freeman, C. L. Freeman, H. Carter, and H. Mansbridge (half-backs), L. R. Notley, S. F. Rigden, N. M. Reid, E. Green, and R. Pimm (forwards).

Hampstead: A. Houlder (goal), M. Sherwell and E. L. Marsden (backs), C. H. Eiloart, F. W. Orr, and C. R. Nichol (half-backs), R. H. Eiloart, G. Logan, S. H. Shoveller, R. S. Preston, and H. E. Cobb (forwards).

1907-08

It might be worth recalling the names of the 1st XI in those two vintage seasons:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 1907/08 | R.A.Hill; E.L. Marsden, M. Sherwell; C.R.I. Nicoll; F.W. Orr (Capt.), J.N. Burns; C.H. Eiloart, R.H. Preston; S.H. Shoveller, G.Logan, R.E. Eiloart. |
| 1910/11 | N.B. Dearle; G.R. Ashton, J.H. Bennett; F.W. Orr, E.W. Page, C.H. Eiloart; H.L. Shoveller, C.Eastman, S.H. Shoveller (Capt.), G.Logan, R.E. Eiloart. |



In addition to Shoveller and Logan, this latter team contained three other English internationals: Ashton, Bennett and C.H. Eiloart.

FAMOUS ENGLISH CLUBS.

HAMPSTEAD, 1911-13.

By virtue of their fine playing record last season, Hampstead were regarded as the strongest team in the south.



Top Row—G. F. FARMILOE. A. B. OSMOND C. EASTMAN. G. R. ASHTON. N. B. DEARLE.
(Umpire).
Sitting—R. E. EILOART. S. H. SHOVELLER. C. H. EILOART. H. L. SHOVELLER. A. N. PRENTICE.
J. H. BENNETT. H. Z. CHURTON.

SOCIAL EVENTS

As befits any hockey club, and particularly one with such close connections with Hampstead Cricket Club, all was not seriousness during those great years. An Annual Dinner had been instituted, generally held at the Trocadero. In 1906 the menu card

MENU

Hors d'Œuvre Variés

Potages

Consommé Sarah Bernhardt

Fausse Tortue Liée

Toast List

H.M. The King

The Hampstead Hockey Club

Proposed by THE CHAIRMAN

Response by MR. W.G. RAVENOR

Poissons

Filet de sole Mornay
Eperlans Frits au Citron

Relevé
Contrefilet Flamande

Roti
Canard Sauvage Sauce Porto
Pommes Chips
Salade de Saison

Legume
Asperges en Branches Se. Hollandaise

Glace
Bombe Trocadéro

Bonne Bouche
Croûte Royalé

Dessert

Café

The Chairman Proposed by MR. E. L. Marsden

GOD SAVE THE KING

At the Piano Mr Arthur Godfrey

J. Lyons & Co. Ltd., Caters

reveals that Mr C.D. D. McMillin was in the Chair and, for the princely sum of 7/-, members enjoyed eight courses from Hors d'Oeuvre to Bonne Bouche plus Dessert and Coffee, with the added attraction of Mr Arthur E. Godfrey at the Piano.

HAMPSTEAD HOCKEY CLUB.

SEASON 1905-6.

ANNUAL DINNER

AT THE

"Trocahero,"

On Tuesday, February 20th, 1906,

At 7.15 for 7.30 p.m.

EVENING DRESS.



HAMPSTEAD HOCKEY CLUB.

SEASON 1905-1906.



Annual Dinner



OAK ROOM,

TROCADERO RESTAURANT,

PICCADILLY CIRCUS, W.



Tuesday, February 20th, 1906.



C. D. D. McMILLIN, Esq.

In the Chair.

Dinner Sub-Committee:

J. T. ASH. R. A. HILL. R. LEIGH IBBS.

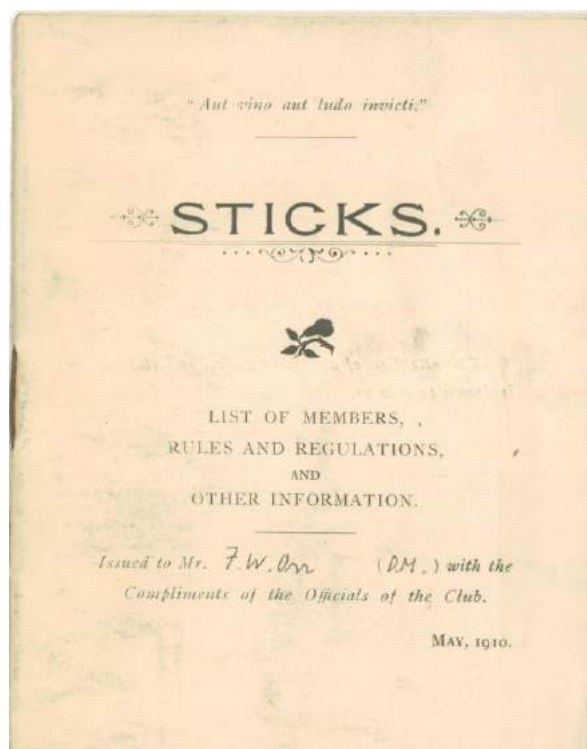
Perhaps the membership of H.M. Tennent (who was a regular member and captain of Blackheath but an 'occasional' member of Hampstead for tours etc.) helped with the arrangements for the entertainment: could he have been

anticipating the role of the famous impresario? This 'H.M.' was Honorary Secretary of the Hockey Association at the time and one of his appearances for the Club was on its southern tour in April 1907. This tour included a game against Folkestone and may well have formed part of the very first Folkestone Festival.

One entry in the minute book for this period provides an interesting commentary on the way we are pampered by modern communications. Richmond Hockey Club kindly offered a share of their board at Waterloo Station on which a notice was posted stating whether the game was cancelled or not. There was no picking up a telephone and asking Answerings in those far-off days!

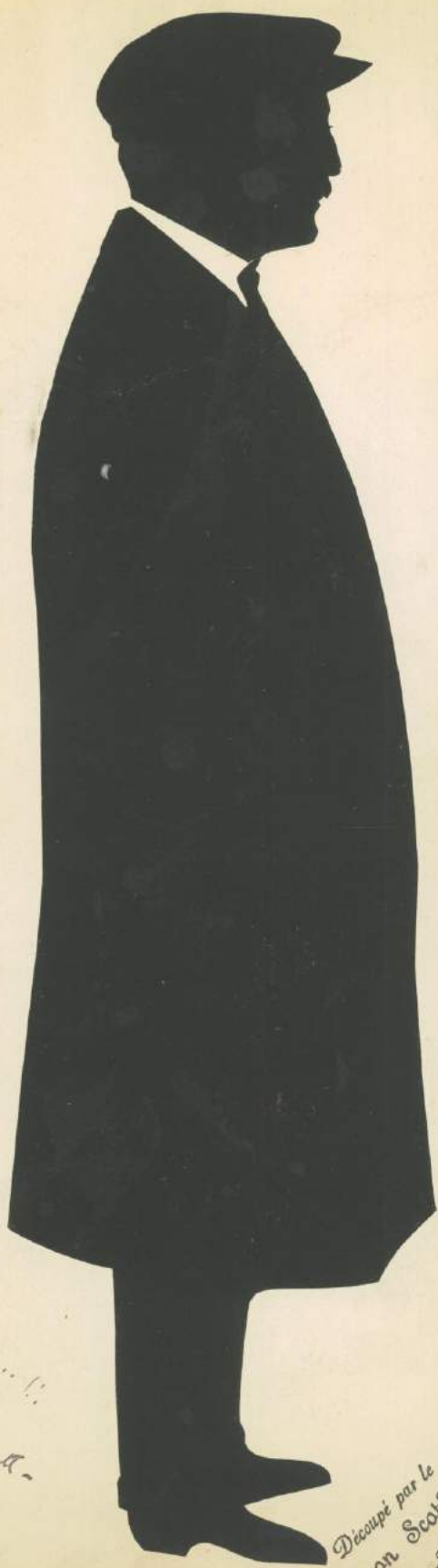
LIGHT-HEARTED HOCKEY

The 10th March 1908 saw the formation of one of the earliest 'occasional' clubs. This was known as the 'Sticks' and included a fair representation of Hampstead players amongst its founder members. The Sticks had much in common with modern 'occasional' clubs in not despising the pleasures of the flesh. The idea of the club was born on the 31st March 1907, when a dozen gentlemen, including H.M. Tennent, 'Shove', 'Tonkie' Hill and 'Toby' Orr, met at the Russell Hotel for a 'lengthy discussion of food and liquid', and afterwards adjourned to the Empire Theatre 'where some adventures were met with'. The evening terminated in a 'short further discussion over important subjects' at the Trocadero. The Club was formally inaugurated the following March at Hatchetts Restaurant, where 'the health of the new club was drunk with much enthusiasm in Scotch ale, this being recommended by Mr Shoveller as a sound training beverage. The Sticks played their first game against Folkestone in April 1908, and won 3-0. Although social considerations were to the fore, there were many other notable victories over the years. The details of the Sticks' existence are lost in the mists of alcohol and time, but it seems that they merged into the Acrostics after the First World War.



THE OLYMPIC GAMES

1908 was notable for another event on the field of serious play. In October, hockey was included in the Olympic Games for the first time. They were held at the White City in London and, apart from the four home countries, France and Germany were the only other entrants. England won the Gold medals with the convincing total of 24 goals against 3. We must presume that Shove earned his Gold Medal with a bagful of goals because 'all agreed that England's centre-forward was the best hockey player in the world'. Gerald Logan was also in the England team and Hampstead had collected its first two Olympic Gold Medals.



"Jackie" !
J. H. Bennett
14/10/10

Découpi par le
Baron Scalford
Bruxelles-Kermesse

ANOTHER GREAT NEW MEMBER

Another auspicious event for Hampstead had happened quietly a month before, in September. J.H. Bennett came down from Captaining Oxford University and was elected a member of the Club. His hockey-playing career was already remarkable in that he went up to Oxford as a 'Harrow Rugby' player and, finding that game not played there, decided to try his hand at hockey. Thereupon he promptly got into the University team! He was to become the great 'Jack' Bennett, a magnificent left-back, winner of 31 caps, Captain of England and another Gold Medallist.

Success breeds success and a stream of high-class players sought election to membership during those vintage years. September 1911 saw another fine batch, which included C.T.A. Wilkinson, H.A. Eiloart and A.C. Eiloart. The Eiloarts must match the Edrich-es of the cricket world; amongst the Club records there are references to C.H., F.R., R.E., H.A., A.C., G.M., F.E., and I.R. Of these, F.E. was President of the Club for the long inter-War term of 1921-1939, C.H. was Secretary for the five years immediately before the First World War and won two caps for England, and R.E. played for Middlesex. Altogether, the Eiloarts have made a notable contribution to the Club's history.

A SAD BREAK

At the end of 1913/14 season, the Club was unfortunate in losing Gerald Logan who, after playing for twelve years, left to live and work in the Malay States. Shove and C.H. Eiloart could not have known, as they saw him off at Liverpool Street station, that none of them would be playing for the Club for another five years. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting in September record that 'in consequence of this country being in a state of war with Germany, and owing to the fact that nearly all the members of the Club without, and some with, family ties were serving their country, either in Lord Kitchener's army, or in the Territorials, or in some other equally useful capacity, it was found to be impossible to carry out the fixture list'. Six members were killed in service during this War, including the Secretary, C.H. Eiloart, and the famous 'Tonkie' Hill. The great Shove became S.H. Shoveller, holder of the Military Cross.

RESUMPTION

After the War, there were inevitably several changes in the officers of the Club. Toby Orr took over the Presidency for a couple of years. Shove carried on where he had left off, as Captain of the 1st XI; Jack Bennett was elected Vice-Captain and also Secretary/Treasurer 'under strong protest from the victim'. It was also at the Annual General Meeting in this year that it was resolved 'the Captain and Hon. Secretary each year of both University Hockey Clubs, and also of Marlborough College, be elected Hon. Playing Members of the Club while at the University and College respectively' – a privilege which must have been counted a considerable honour in those illustrious days, and a tradition which was revived in the early 1960's.

The experience of the Great War had not diminished the Club's appetite for taking its hockey with a touch of nonchalance. For instance N.B. Dearle, 1st XI goal-keeper, is recorded as amongst those present at a Committee meeting in October 1919, though he 'did not know a meeting was in progress'. Perhaps because the Club was indulging its penchant for public houses by holding this meeting at the Greyhound Hotel. This was, in fact, exactly 50 years ago, so we may charitably suppose that the Committee may have been celebrating the Club's 25th Anniversary without the benefit of the presence of the other members.

There is, incidentally, in the scrapbook, an interesting side-light on the effect of the War on prices. The Annual Dinner in 1919/20 was held at the Café Royal; it now cost 11/6 per head, and for this sum those attending dined on only six courses.



1920-21 Hampstead 1st XI v Cambridge University

THE OLYMPIC GAMES AGAIN

The Club's greatest players were still going from strength to strength on the field of play. In September 1920 the sixth Modern Olympiad, and the second to include hockey amongst its sports, was held in Antwerp. The opposition was far from what it is today (it amounted only to France, Belgium and Denmark) and England swept through to win the gold Medals again. This time they scored 18 goals to 2 – in only two games because the French team scratched before the final.

Playing in that successful team was Shove (again), Jack Bennett and C.T.A. Wilkinson, all of them current Hampstead players – and C.S.W. Marcon, who became a regular playing member shortly afterwards. Now that hockey is truly world-wide and standards have risen generally, the Club's record of six Gold Medals will not be easy for any club to beat. Shove is the only Englishman to have won two Golds for hockey – indeed, the only player from the British Isles ever to have won more than one medal of any complexion.



Back row: 5th from left Cyril Wilkinson, 6th Stanley Shoveller, 7th Jack Bennett and 9th Sholto Marcon

The continuing strength of the 1st XI was illustrated shortly after the Olympics, when Marcon's application was rejected 'because he couldn't be available regularly'. In the event he wasn't in the cold too long: in the autumn of 1924 his circumstances had obviously improved (and perhaps those of the 1st XI had declined) because he was finally elected to membership, and went on to collect 20 England caps. This, in itself, would have been a considerable feat in those days of few international matches had it not been for the remarkable records of Shove and Jack Bennett. Sholto Marcon has been described as 'probably the greatest inside-left who ever played for England', with an exceptional sense of 'position' and excellent ball control. These qualities found expression in his exploitation of the through pass, of which he was an acknowledged master. Apart from being such a fine performer himself, he was also a very talented coach (at Cranleigh, where he taught until he took Holy Orders in 1936) and a keen writer on the game. Hampstead was fortunate indeed to have another such great forward.

ANOTHER PERENNIAL LITTLE PROBLEM

About this time, it is amusing to see that the committee concerned themselves with another of the Club's timeless little problems. In September 1920, 'owing to

the expense of getting Club Colours made, the question of adopting the new Cricket Club colours of all white was discussed.' The matter was deferred, but the suggestion was subsequently rejected, as it has been on several occasions since. Tradition has always (rightly, most would say) overcome the exigencies of finance).

But the expense of getting shirts manufactured in our complicated design continued to concern the Committee and, two of three years later, and alternative supplied – Messrs. Nuttings – was employed. Nuttings' first batch of shirts was delivered just in time for the start of the 1923/24 season and, after all the effort, the colours had been stitched onto the wrong sides!

MORE EMINENT NEW MEMBERS

This was a time of change for the 1st XI. The admirable Shove rejected all attempts to persuade him otherwise, and finally retired in 1922. His playing career with the Club had stretched over 24 years and, for England, over 19 years. In his 29 international matches he had scored a world-record 79 goals (including 18 in five Olympic matches) and he failed to score for England on only three occasions. Apart from his part in administering the game at the highest level, as Match Secretary of the Hockey Association for six years, he had also been a wonderfully helpful and friendly Club member and, like all the greatest players, a perfect sportsman on the field of play.

On Shove's retirement, Jack Bennett took over as Captain of the 1st XI and, for two seasons, performed the daunting dual role of Captain and Secretary.



Left: B G Lampard Vachell and right Sholto Marcon

But, apart from Sholto Marcon, two other noteworthy players who subsequently became internationals also joined about this time. They were B.G. Lampard-Vachell (26 caps as full-back for Wales) and J.C. Masterman (four at inside-forward for England). These two members had other attributes in common, apart from their hockey – playing skills. Both became eminent academics: Lampard-Vachell as Vice-Chancellor of Exeter University and Masterman – now Sir John – as Provost of Worcester College, Oxford, and Vice-Chancellor of that University. Both also became authors, of works both academic and entertaining. In this respect they were joined by our immediate Past President, Jeremy Potter, with a string of mystery novels – including the only novel to be written about a touring hockey side, whose identity may not be entirely a mystery to some readers!



Lampard-Vachell was certainly a man of many parts. While still captaining Wales he stood for Parliament at Cambridge in 1924 General Election and claimed not to mind being defeated ‘as long as he got his game of hockey on Saturday afternoons’. The Committee, at this time, formally ‘congratulated Messrs J.H. Bennett and B.G. Lampard-Vachell upon the honour of again being selected Captain of the English and Welsh XI’s respectively’ Perhaps this is the only instance of a pair of club backs opposing each other as international captains?

THE RESULTS SLIP

However, despite all these representative honours, the 1st XI was losing its pre-War dominance and was running into a distinctly shaky spell which lasted, on and off, until 1939. In 1922/23 they won only 6 games and lost 13, apparently the first time a season’s record had been in deficit since the start of the century.

But all of the great clubs have been through similar less successful spells. It is one of the more attractive features of London hockey that clubs stand by their old friends at such times: two or three years in the wilderness doesn’t invoke banishment from the fixture list. Opponents reckon there will be a revival in a few years, and it could always happen to them next time. This loyalty to old

opponents is something not to be given up too lightly, even under the pressures for full-blown league hockey. Club hockey would be the poorer without it.

Jack Bennett handed over the Secretary-ship, after a five-year stint, in September 1924. One of his final acts was to record the Committee's vote to censure against the Honorary Secretary (himself!) 'for forgetting to bring along the Minute Book'. This, and many other entries, make it clear that he was not only a great player for Club, County and England, but he also contributed enormously off the field of play and always, it seems, with great humour.

His successor as Secretary was M. Montagu Wyatt, who put in an eleven-year stint up to 1935, the longest term served by any Secretary of the Club to date. So far as one can judge from the records, it was a moderately uneventful eleven years – if running a hockey club can ever be called uneventful! The grand old players retired but budding new ones joined. The results didn't improve much, and there are one or two corkers recorded, like 1-10 against Oxford University and 2-8 against Bromley.

But the members clearly continued to enjoy their hockey, and the Club got stronger numerically so that, by 1928, a 4th XI was a regular feature again. This necessitated a second pitch and, for several seasons, the Committee went to a great deal of trouble and effort to find a suitable one, but without much success.

As was its wont, the Club still dined well – the annual Dinner now usually being held at the Criterion Restaurant or at Paganì's in Portland Place. Six courses still seemed to be the rule, though prices were inevitably edging up from the 11/6 per head recorded immediately after the War. One dare not wonder what the prices on the wine list were like, for fear of dying with envy!

ANOTHER RETIREMENT

Sadly, and despite much persuasion to the contrary, Jack Bennett decided to retire from playing a few years after he gave up the secretary-ship, this is the end of the 1924/25 season. It is said, without authentication, that his retirement was precipitated by the Times, whose reporter reflected 'O God, our help in ages past' after one of Bennett's games. If so, the Press was more generous in commenting on his retirement – 'a magnetic personality.... The finest left-back the game has known'. He retired with what was then a staggering total of 31 English caps. Unlike his great English contemporaries, Shoveller and Marcon, Jack Bennett is still with us and living in South Devon, he is kind enough to write to the Secretary from time to time. Our longest serving Vice-President (44 years), we wish him well and would be more than delighted if he could attend the celebrations with which this brief history is intended to mark.



Jack Bennett, on the right

Bennett's place as first XI Captain was taken by another of the Club's Gold Medalists, left-half C.T.A. Wilkinson. He was yet another eminent cricketer, having captained Surrey from 1914 to 1920, and is one of the very few men still alive to have opened an innings with W.G. Grace. He subsequently became an international umpire and he too, contributed administratively to the game when he became a very long-serving member of the International Hockey Rules Board from 1938 to 1955. In that capacity he is reputed to have contributed as much to the rules of the modern game as any individual.

'C.T.A.' is also still with us and living in south Devon: we hope that he, too, will be able to join our celebrations.

It was, incidentally, just before 'C.T.A.' took over that the Committee directed that the 1st XI Captain should always choose the strongest XI possible. A truism nowadays, but clearly there was some reason for the resolution at the time – perhaps the thought of six victories against 15 defeats in the preceding season was the spur. Though we see no evidence that there were powerful players in the second XI who were sweeping all before them at the time!

BACK HOME

An interesting development concerning the ground is recorded in November 1925. It was reported that Hampstead Cricket Club was buying the freehold of its ground in Lymington Road and, as it would be levelled and drained, it might then be suitable for hockey. The Hockey Club took up a £5 debenture in the Cricket Club but nothing came of the possible re-association – not, anyway, for another 25 years.

In 1927 it had to be admitted that the Club Rules, which were we believe drafted in September 1895, were nowhere to be found. A Sub-Committee consisted of Messrs. Wilkinson, Wyatt and Trotman (shortly afterwards the 1st XI Captain for a season) was appointed to draft new rules, which were duly accepted at the Annual General Meeting of 1928. These rules, with necessary amendments from time to time, served the club until 1966, when they were substantially re-written to suit modern conditions and changes in practice over the years.

THE BARNARD CUP

The later 1920's and early 1930's were also marked by the election of several members who contributed a great deal to the Club, and on whose efforts our present prosperity substantially depends. In 1924-25 L.L. (Laurie) Barnard applied to join and, 'not being personally known to two members' (as the rules then required), was invited to play in the practice games and subsequently elected.

Laurie Barnard became a very faithful member of the Club and, in 1937, he offered the Barnard Cup 'in memory of his wife; for some feat, the exact nature to be discussed by the Committee'. The Committee decided that this generous donation – a fine silver loving cup – should be kept in the Clubhouse during the season, should be used at the Annual Dinner and Dance and, at the Captain's discretion, after any notable victory. Since it was clear that such a valuable possession was likely to be at risk in the Clubhouse, it was resolved that it should be held, during the Summer, by the Captain of the side with the best playing record for the previous season.

This was the beginning of the traditional competition for the Barnard Cup which, without spoiling the necessary comradeship and co-operation between the XI's, encourages esprit de corps and helps to infuse a little more excitement into each game. The records do not reveal which XI held the Cup in the seasons immediately before and shortly after the Second World War but, since 1954, it has been won by the 1st XI five times, by the 2nd XI twice, by the 3rd XI three times, by the 4th XI three times and by the 5th XI four times. The balance of power has swung from the upper to the lower XI's over recent years, and the 4th and 5th XI have taken the Cup six times between them over the last five seasons, including the first ever tie in the 1968/69 season.

Laurie Barnard was elected a Vice-President of the Club in 1965 but, sadly, died only two years later.

MORE NOTABLE MEMBERS

Another noteworthy election at this time was that of the famous R.L. Milsted, in October 1927. Ruari Milsted never played for England, though he has been described as the greatest English player who never did, and he did practically everything else in the game. He played for the South when he was in the Club's 2nd XI. He captained Middlesex for eight years, and the South for four. He was invited to play for England in 1934 but was prevented from doing so by ill-

health. He was treasurer of the South from 1933 to 1946 and is still a co-Trustee, with Sir Leslie Rowan, of the S.C.H.A.'s Funds. He captained the Club's 1st XI for nine consecutive years (a record – even longer the Shove), from 1930 to the War, and was President from 1953 to 1960. He was a brilliant right-half and would undoubtedly have had an even longer active career if it had not been for the War.

As it was, his greatest feat was the gathering together of a nucleus old Hampstead players in the later 1940's, and reforming the old Club after the War. He had gone to live in South London and was, by this time, captaining Purley's 1st XI. That very friendly club was kind enough to welcome any of Ruari's old Hampstead companions to play at Purley while they took stock and re-grouped. He was able to track down and collect enough old members to make a re-birth possible by 1950. His untiring efforts were finally rewarded when he played in, and captained, the team which represented the Club in its first post-War game on 21st October 1950 – 22 years and a day from the date of his election.

Another splendid election to the Club, shortly after Ruari Milsted's, was that of J.C. Sankey who, like Laurie Barnard, was obliged to play in the practice matches and was duly elected in September 1929. John Sankey was not a star player but, because of his tremendous loyalty, he captained the 2nd XI for a number of years when he had a good chance of a 1st XI place. With S.J. ('Beaker') Saunders, he was one of two other old members largely responsible for helping Ruari Milsted to get things going again after the War. John Sankey also served a term as President from 1963/66, but his really noble contribution has been as umpire, mentor and constant friend to the lower XI's for fifteen years and more. He is reputed to have played his last game for the Club at the grand old age of 56 and will, no doubt, be umpiring still when many younger members have been left far behind.

There were many others from the Pre-War era whom one would wish to remember. J.W.S. Hardy, a superb stylist at full-back, and O.G. Jones collected respectively 25 and 15 Welsh Caps. Wales was also represented amongst the Club's membership by K.H. Ingledew, who became Secretary from 1935-37 and went on to serve the game's administration at the highest level. He recently completed 21 years as Secretary/Treasurer of the Welsh H.A., in addition to serving as Secretary/Treasurer of the British Hockey Board, as a member of the International Hockey Rules Board and of the Bureau of the Hockey Federation. As an active international umpire, he also officiated at the 1952 Olympic Games finals in Helsinki – another record of achievement and dedication of which the Club can be proud.

In 1939, as had happened 25 years earlier, hockey had to take second place to a World War. The last Committee meeting was held in January and the last game played against Hendon in April. Apart from a brave combined effort with the Tramps for one season – the progeny of which was felicitously christened Trampstead – Hampstead hockey came to an end for 11 years.

PHOENIX FROM THE ASHES

The re-birth after this war took much longer. The younger element of London's population had become more mobile and much of the pre-War membership had scattered. But, clearly, a club with a history like Hampstead's could not just be allowed to die because the war had dispersed most of its members. In 1946/47 the indomitable members Milsted and Sankey were respectively captaining Purley's 1st and 2nd XI's and several other stalwarts were tracked down by Ruari and encouraged to play pro tem for that very friendly club. This admirable nucleus of old members was working, with Purley's support and encouragement, towards a Hampstead re-birth and, in the summer of 1950, a meeting was called under Ruari's chairmanship attended amongst others, by John Sankey, 'Beaker' Saunders, and Alec Reid (a subsequent Secretary). This meeting agreed that strenuous efforts should be made to re-start the Club the next season. But, by this time, the Richmond Athletic Ground was no longer available, having been taken over by the geographically much more appropriate Mid-Surrey Club. A Sub-Committee, consisted of Messrs. Milsted, Sankey and Saunders, went into negotiations with Hampstead Cricket Club and were pleased to report, in August, that the Club would re-start there, at its original home at Lymington Road, the following October. It would retain its own identity but ultimately, perhaps, would re-merge into the Cricket Club whence it was born 56 years before – years during which much glorious successful hockey had been played and several of the game's all-time great players had adorned the Club's ranks.

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.Saunders, and J.O.Sankoy, 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 these 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 first post-War match was played on 21 October 1950 at Hampstead, against Teddington 2nd XI. The result was 1-1 draw and the team included Milsted and Saunders, W.J. Fletcher (a subsequent Captain and President) and a very young J.L. Matthews-Lane - reputed to be still actively playing hockey in Bedfordshire.



*1950 Hampstead 1st XI v Teddington 2nd XI
(Front row centre: Ruari Milsted, John Sankey to his left and "Beaker" Saunders to his right)*

The first 'real' XI fixture was against another of London's friendliest Clubs, Bromley, in December 1950 and, from then, it was a long hard haul working up a fixture list comparable to that of pre-War. Other clubs were very co-operative, remembering their enjoyable encounters with Hampstead over the years but the efforts of a succession of hard-working Fixture Secretaries were effectively consummated by R.J. Cummins during his term in the mid-50's. That the fixture list was re-built in such a short time is a tribute to Bob Cummins and his immediate predecessors and to the friendly spirit of competition in London hockey.

Ruari Milsted, having taken up where he left off before the War, soon handed over the reins of the 1st XI Captaincy to W.J. Fletcher, a new member and former Cambridge University Wanderer. Bill Fletcher did a three-year stint, during which, not only was the fixture list growing steadily in depth, but so was the playing strength. In 1952/53 the Club had its first post-War international – I.A.C. Hayward who had played at outside-left for Scotland – and P.C. (Sandy) Kay, who succeeded Bill Fletcher as Captain and is the Club's current President, also played for the South.

ON THE MOVE AGAIN

But the second spell at Hampstead Cricket Club proved to be no more permanent than the first. As in the 1890's, it proved impossible to provide adequately dry

pitches and, in 1954, history repeated itself when it was mutually agreed that the Club should move elsewhere.

A tenancy was taken at the Brondesbury Cricket Club, just off Cricklewood Broadway – not quite so far afield as 60 years earlier. The club was now beginning to attract players of high quality again, particularly from the Universities. W.B. Peeling (Wales) and T.J. Law (East) joined in 1954, as did H.F. Wickham, who subsequently became admirable Secretary and another of the game's top administrators. Also amongst the new members in that year was A.H. Kurtz – noted, not only for his successful goal-keeping and Captaincy of the 5th XI over many years, but for having the longest consecutive playing record amongst current members.

A POWER-IN-THE-LAND

The results, too, were beginning to excel again. With the election of players like C.L. Vye (Great Britain goal-keeper), R.L. Downard (Wales), J.F.A. Deegan (subsequently Great Britain and England) and N.A.F. Cardoza (who had been selected for All-India and was a Pakistan Olympic trialist), it was not surprising that, by 1955/56, the playing record was almost on a par with those halcyon days before the First World War – won 16, drew 2 and lost 3, with 72 goals against 23. Indeed, the 1st XI at full strength contained five internationals –past, present and future – and only one who was not a full county player (and he played for Middlesex 'A' in the heyday of that county's strength).



Noel Cardoza, centred

That one was the Captain of the 1st XI, Jeremy Potter, who has attributed the success of his side ('In Praise of Hockey' in the 'Book of Hockey') to the fact that the same players were keen enough to turn out regularly Saturday after Saturday, rather than to their star qualities. R.J. Mallinson proved to be a high-scoring centre-forward who believed in hitting the ball at goal like a bullet the instant he was in the circle. On his right was Noel Cardoza, directing the attack like the master he was, and outside him P.D. (Peter) Bell, who now Captains the Club's 3rd XI. The backbone of the defence at centre-half was J.N. Bartlett who, says Jeremy Potter, didn't miss a ball for five or six seasons'. Robin Mallinson, John Bartlett and Sandy Kay had been contemporaries at Oxford, at a time when Sir John Masterman did his old Club a great service by encouraging players from Oxford to help in its re-building.



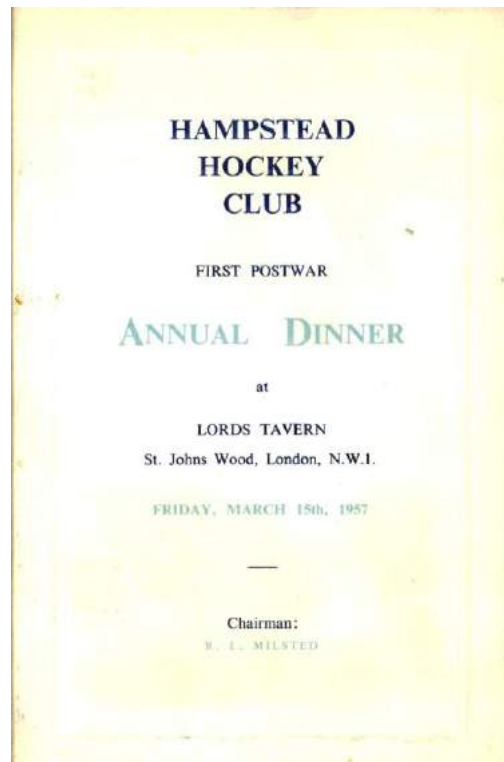
J L Matthews-Lane centred: Noel Cardoza on the left and J L Sturrock to the right

There was strength in depth, too. In this same season, 1955/56, every XI in the Club had a credit record, the 3rd XI, under the tireless and determined Bob Cummins, running the 1st XI very close for the Barnard Cup. It was in this season, too, that the present Secretary and writer applied to join the Club and, researching amongst the old minutes, realizes how close run a thing it was that he managed to scrape in – 'it was agreed that no further members be accepted for the season'. And that was only at the beginning of November.

In summer 1956 the Olympic Games were held in Melbourne – the first truly 'world' championship, with teams from every continent competing. Hampstead was represented again, C.L. Vye travelling with the party. But Archer's form in goal was so good that Luther Vye did not get a game in any of the tournament matches. He finished his active playing career a year or two later as one of those

few players who represented Great Britain without ever representing his country, England. But, at Hampstead, he is mostly remembered as the best goalkeeper we knew who never came out of his goal!

In March 1957, the Club, having re-established itself in very few seasons as one of the best in London, held its first full-scale post-War Dinner. The old Lord's Tavern, where so many of those notable cricketing members must often have taken their refreshment, was a very appropriate venue. Indeed, one of those very early cricketers, the great Toby Orr, was amongst the old members who came along to dine and revive memories on that memorable evening.



THE GROUND – AGAIN!

Unfortunately, the Club's old bogey – the ground – was about to raise its ugly head again. At the end of the 1956/57 season, the Brondesbury Club gave notice to Hampstead to leave, having let their ground more remuneratively to a local school. There was a frantic search for alternative accommodation, practically every worthwhile cricket club in North London being approached during the Summer. None could be found which was suitable or whose owners were agreeable. But, almost on the stroke of time, two very satisfactory pitches were found on a London Playing Fields Association ground at Boston Manor – a ground otherwise devoted to a couple of dozen football pitches.

After 63 years the Club took the road West again, though rather further than Acton this time. Changing and refreshment facilities were again a difficulty, but assiduous searching led to the West Ealing Sports Club, a mile or so away. Since this was, by now, largely a car-owning age, the journey to and from the ground was very manageable. But a club which specialised in bowls and table tennis

wasn't particularly well endowed with hot showers. The knowing would dash into the only two available (and one of those was in the Ladies' Cloakroom), leaving the un-knowing to the cold water which ran all too soon. Changing took place in the Billiards Room. But those who played there remember the West Ealing Club as having some of the best-kept beer in London, and the Club and its opponents enjoyed a very sociable atmosphere there for a couple of years.

GOOD RESULTS ON THE FIELD – AND SADNESS OFF IT!

The enforced stay in the remoteness of Boston Manor led, perhaps, to difficulties in recruiting good players and, subsequently to another down-turn in the Club's playing record. But, if so, it wasn't noticeable during the first year there, when the 1st XI again had the admirable record of 13 wins against 4 losses. W.N. Livingstone, a playing member while on vacation from Oxford University, and I.C. Burnett played for Scotland. Both in this season and the next the Club managed to hold the all-conquering Hounslow side to a draw – the only London club to do so. Indeed it is reported that, had the 5th XI goal-keeper, standing-in for a late arrival, not missed an open goal, that very illustrious un-beaten scalp would have been taken.

But 1959 was also a sad year. During its course, both S.H. Shoveller and C.S.W. Marcon died; two great players and great gentlemen who had graced the Hampstead and England colours on so many occasions. Club, and probably Country, could do with their like in the forward-line again, but perhaps that can never be in such a fiercely competitive age.

REV. C. S. W. MARCON

Mr. C. B. Blackshaw writes:—

I would like, if I may, to add to the tribute of my friend Douglas Goodbody which appeared in *The Times* of December 2.

Sholto Marcon was probably the greatest inside-left who ever played for England at hockey, for whom he gained, I believe, 24 caps and eventually captained the side. He was one of the famous trio of inside forwards—S. H. Shoveller, who died in February of this year, S. H. Saville, who recently retired from being president of the H.A., and himself—who were automatic choices for England in the early twenties. His last appearances for England were when he was nearing the age of 40.

Educated at Lancing and Oriel—the son of the founder of Marcon's Hall in Oxford—he won his Blue as a freshman and captained the Oxford side just before the First World War. After his war service, he taught at Cranleigh until 1936, when he left to be ordained. During the Second World War he served as a chaplain in the R.A.F. and after the war he was vicar of Tenterden.

He was passionately fond of hockey and, apart from being a brilliant performer himself, he was a magnificent and inspiring coach and wrote a good deal about the game. He was also a more than useful cricketer and a very keen fisherman. Above all, though, he was a great Christian and a loyal and charming friend.

BACK NORTH AGAIN

1959 also saw yet another move! As a result of having Summer hockey played on its ground, the Hornsey Club, another famous and historical cricket club, expressed interest in having Hampstead as a winter tenant and, with various negotiations over drainage etc. completed, the Club moved there at the beginning of 1959/60 season. And there, at the ground in Crouch End, the Club remains after 10 years, our longest tenure except for the years at Richmond.

Steady fund-raising and investments, together with the efforts of an efficient groundsman at Hornsey over then last few years, has led to much drier pitches than on our arrival and to a rapidly improving playing surface. The helpfulness of the local Education Committee has made available a shale pitch at the school next door to the ground. This, in its turn, has enabled the Club to accept more of the new applicants who regularly apply for membership so that, by 1967/68, six XI's were fielded regularly every Saturday.

In 1960 there were several changes of officers. The Club having satisfactorily come to anchor again in North London, two tireless workers over recent years resigned; Bob Cummins, who had done wonders as Fixture Secretary, became a Vice-President of the Club, and Hugh Wickham, who had been Honorary Secretary for five eventful years, took over the post of Fixture Secretary. And Ruari Milsted, after seven years formally as President, but several more before that when he was the acknowledged successor to F.E. Eiloart, resigned from this office.

Apart from his term as President, Milsted had been the first XI Captain for nine successive years before the War, and the compliments and gratitude expressed at the Annual General Meeting in 1960 were certainly heartfelt. His successor as President was Bill Fletcher, another former 1st XI Captain. The Club decided, at this time, that it was desirable that a higher proportion of its admirable Vice-Presidents and other old members should have the opportunity to hold the highest office, and a Special General Meeting agreed to a change in the Rules to the effect that the Presidency should be by election for a three-year term. So, with Ruari Milsted's retirement, another era came to an end.

ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE AGAIN

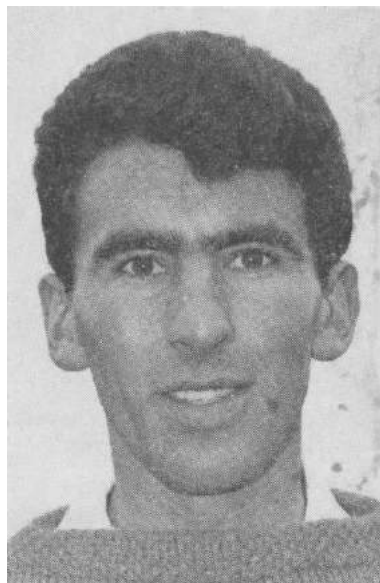
The highest representative honours continued to be won with regularity. Neil Livingstone, having by now captained Oxford University, went to the Olympic Games in Rome in 1960 and played in four matches at left-half. Great Britain came away without a medal, but they only just lost 0-1 to India in the Semi-Finals (after playing 57 minutes' extra time in the quarter-finals against Kenya). Livingstone also went on to captain Scotland in 1961/62, when Jim Deegan was first selected and F.C. Welles for Scotland. John Matthews-Lane also played in the final Welsh trial that year.

But representative honours did little for the fortunes of the 1st XI. Livingstone was, by this time, studying at St Thomas's Hospital and was rarely available.

Deegan and Welles were often required by the RAF or Combined Services, those still being serve airmen. Thus, in 1962/63 the 1st XI had a marginally adverse record, but the continuing recruitment of new members resulted in every other XI, from 2nd to 5th, being in credit.

The change in the Rules enabled the Club to express its gratitude to another of those hard workers who had done so much to revive its fortunes in early 1950's, when John Sankey was elected for his three-year term as President in 1963. It was at this time, too, that the 75th Anniversary was first mooted, the General Committee deciding that, regardless of when hockey was first played at Hampstead Cricket Club, the appropriate date to celebrate was 1969, the anniversary of our independent existence as a club in our own right.

The time was rapidly coming round to another Olympic Games, to be played in Tokyo in October 1964. Jim Deegan had looked a certainty for selection a year earlier, but appeared to lose favour with the selectors. At the last moment he had just scraped into the party when Ireland was unlikely enough to injure a knee which responded too slowly to treatment.



Jim Deegan

It was a happy reprieve. In this Olympics, Great Britain lost its 'top-four' ranking amongst the rapidly improving nations of the world for the first time (losing to Australia 0-7 in their opening match!). But Deegan was one of few British players to come out of the Games with his reputation enhanced. Beginning at left-half, he was 'promoted' to centre-half for several games. By all accounts, he was physically and emotionally well attuned to the rough and tumble of much modern competition and this, combined with a considerable degree of skill, stood him in good stead then and for several years of representative hockey since.

Unfortunately, after one more season, Deegan decided that 11 years was long enough with one club and decided to join friends at Surbiton. He had been a

tower of strength for the 1st XI and has, by now, accumulated 24 England caps and 29 for Great Britain – including also the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. A formidable total, even in the days of proliferating international tournaments and overseas tours.

A NEW CLASS OF MEMBERSHIP

1965 marked two other notable events. The General Committee decided to revive the old practice of awarding Honorary Membership. Unlike in its previous existence, some 60 years earlier, this was to mean really Honorary and not just a euphemism for ‘reduced subscription because non-playing.’ Deegan was one of the first to be appointed a Honorary Member on his resignation as a playing member, and the list was built up of many others who had helped Hampstead, or the game of hockey generally, in the past, or who had won honours and recognition for the Club on the international field of play. It also incorporated a list of ‘Ex Officio’ Honorary Members, appointed while they held particular offices which, by their nature, benefited us and hockey clubs generally – the Secretaries of the Hockey Association, the South, and Middlesex, and of the Southern Counties’ Umpires – and it included our old Oxford, Cambridge and Marlborough tradition.

This new class of membership was formally brought within the Club’s constitution by a revision of the Rules in 1966, and it has provided the means to recognise and thank many who have helped the Club, and the game generally, both from amongst our own old members and others. The list currently stands at some 60 friends of the Club and continues to grow gradually.

BETTER NEWS ON THE GROUND

Another happy event of 1965, after protracted negotiations, was the signing of a 5-year tenancy agreement with the Hornsey Club. This meant greater security of tenure than the Club had known since the War – and it provided for investment in ground improvements by both parties. This investment has slowly and surely paid off in drier and improved pitches over the last few years. The financial terms were, not un-naturally, somewhat stiffer than previously in view of constantly rising costs. This increased rental, and the raising of the necessary sums for investment in the ground, has been a financial strain on the Club, and a worry to its officers. But fund-raising efforts have enabled a balance to be struck, with a certain amount of ingenuity, and much hard work and generosity from all sides.

The security given by this tenancy agreement was a particular pleasure to John Sankey, who had contributed much towards it in his presidential capacity. He was tireless in chairing Committee meetings, A. G. M’s and Annual Dinners and umpiring lower XI games and encouraging younger members on the field and in the bar. For his efforts, the General Committee (ever mindful of the Club’s historical record on social events) were delighted to entertain him and Mrs Sankey to a small dinner party in West End at the end of his three-year term of office in April 1966.

Perhaps here we have started yet another pleasant tradition because his successor, Jeremy Potter, and Mrs Potter was similarly entertained at the end of his term in Spring 1969. The General Committee took the opportunity to combine this latter dinner party with a 'Senior Officers' celebration of the 75th Anniversary much nearer our actual birthday date than the official programme in October. Not surprisingly, the Committee conscientiously lived up to their predecessors' high standards over the last 75 years, and wined and dined themselves in high style on this auspicious occasion!

UP TO THE PRESENT

As the years tick by events seem to come thicker and faster in the hockey world. The last three years have been full of incident for the Club. At random one remembers – that we had started to play Summer hockey on weekday evenings; that R.P. Salisbury has acted as editor for the publication of the official H.A. Coaching Manual; that we have renewed and improved the drainage at Hornsey; that we have had our first representative in a Champion County side (goal-keeper McCammon playing for Wiltshire in their true championship seasons); that we have introduced a regular programme of social events – one a month throughout the winter season; that a Middlesex Club Championship has been inaugurated. Hampstead was just 'pipped on the post' in the first-ever final of this Championship in April 1969 – on the very weekend which marked our 75th Birthday!

Now a new London club League is on the horizon for 1969/70, and it looks as if Hampstead may well make history again by taking part in the first ever League match against Hounslow, on 27 September 1969. We wish that venture well – so long as it doesn't diminish the enjoyment and friendly character of London club hockey – and we look forward to Hampstead making its mark in the new league.

Amongst all the frenzy of activity on the field of play, there is still time for the kind and thoughtful gesture off it. Two generous ex-players, M.L. Pecker and V.Wood (two more of our accomplished goal-keepers), re-donated part of their prize – winnings from a Club draw 'for something of lasting value to the Club'. These donations were invested and the donors agreed that the income should be used to present a trophy annually, at the President's nomination, to the member who had contributed most to the Club, in any capacity, in the preceding season. The trophy itself was appropriately christened by a Committee wag 'Wood-Pecker Tankard' and it has been awarded for the first time for the 1968/69 season. The recipient could not have been more appropriate – R. W. Clarke, the Captain of the 1st XI for the last three years. When Richard Clarke took over the captaincy in 1966/67, at a depression in the Club's playing fortunes, the 1st XI had just two wins in a season. By infusion of effort and esprit de corps, he has raised the team to a point where they can again look any club in London in the face with more than a chance of winning and can go into the new London League with a reasonable degree of confidence.

Hockey affairs are getting busier for players and administrators alike. This, surely, all to the good of it provides more sporting exercise, enjoyment and comradeship to all the young men who turn to us every year and who, we believe, enjoy their time in this friendly club, as their predecessors have done over the last 75 years. Hampstead is a cosmopolitan and migrant area, without the solid, life-long populace of other London suburbs. Inhabitants of bed-sitters and chummeries come and go with the seasons and this has resulted in a turnover in membership much higher than some of the clubs. The traditional university element is liable to blend with that from the Commonwealth – represented at present, for instance, by almost enough ‘kiwis’ to field an Auckland University XI.

We can look back to the famous seventeen who gathered in the ‘Eyre Arms’ in April 1894, and to the many hundreds who have passed through Hampstead Hockey Club’s ranks since – illustrious and anonymous – and thank them all for their part in this splendid institution.

With acknowledgements to my predecessors as Honorary Secretary, without whose care in keeping the archives this history would not have been possible, and to others, inside and outside the Club, who have checked the facts and helped to edit the text.

Colin Greenhalgh
September, 1969

POSTSCRIPT

The best works of scholarship always have a contribution by that well-known busybody, Another Hand. This one is necessary to point out a grave omission. The lynchpin of Hampstead Hockey Club for the past decade is someone who has barely received a mention in this otherwise excellent history. Colin Greenhalgh is coming up for his tenth year as a devoted and indefatigable Honorary Secretary. The amount of time he gives to Club affairs is heroic. His annual intervention at the Club Dinner, if not always printable, is a highlight of the London season. No one in the last 75 years has deserved the praise and thanks of members more.

A TAILPIECE – SOME REMINISCENCES

Jack Bennett

'On coming down from Oxford, after two years with a Hockey Blue (only a half-blue in my day) in the summer of 1908, I applied (as a probably self-conceited youngster) for membership of a well-known London club. The answer was 'Thank you for applying for membership of our club, but we already have two full-backs which we do not propose to change. Why not try Hampstead?' This, naturally, I did – hence my life-long association with Hampstead, who very kindly gave me a job in their 1st XI.

The Sticks club was merged, I think, after World War One, with what is known as the Acrostics, to whom I still pay a non-playing membership fee of 5/-. I may be the sole survivor of that original Stick Club who were always sworn to secrecy regarding their doings. But I think, and hope, time has granted a dispensation from that oath. At any rate, I will risk it! The membership was restricted to 25, the necessary qualifications being (i) an international cap and (ii) a good dinner. Our motto – 'aut ludo aut vino invicti'. We played one game a year against Folkestone and lived up to our motto on all occasions.

I always thought I was responsible for the membership of Sholto Marcon, John Masterman and Lampard-Vachell. A Brigadier who lives here, being injured playing rugger, thought he would like to try hockey and also joined Hampstead. He has lately told me it was the greatest mistake he made – 'I found the Club so full of b..... internationals. I hadn't an earthly!'

Ruari Milsted

"Saturday in the hard times of the late 20'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 1st XI. Pre-war Hampstead was not a mere dedicated bunch too poor to sin or get tight; we often did both.

In the 30'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 V.P'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".

John Sankey

"As 'a very small minnow in a pond of big fish' I find it difficult to reminisce about my playing days adequately and briefly.

Having had the privilege, during my forty years as a member, to have met and sometimes played with some of the illustrious members mentioned in this history, I have always been impressed with the approach of the game of hockey by the members, and the sportsmanship and social spirit which has always prevailed.

Of all the leading London clubs Hampstead was unfortunate for so long in not being able to find a suitable ground in North London for a secure tenure. One must therefore say that the loyalty of the Club's members over the years, despite moves to different grounds, has enabled the Club to keep going and still attract splendid new members.

May I congratulate the Club on its splendid history now being commemorated on its 75th anniversary and wish it continued success in the years to come.”

Bill Fletcher

“It was typical of Hampstead Hockey Club that I became one of the fourteen (I think it was) players of the re-formed Club in the summer of 1950, simply by virtue of a telephone call from G.P. (Guy) Walker, with whom I had been right through prep school, Marlborough and Cambridge. Guy’s father had, by all accounts, been a most loyal and jovial member of various XI’s of the Club and was famous for having a Sunbeam car, of which the outside as well as the inside (so the story goes) was utilised for ferrying members to and from matches.

By such means did Ruari Milsted and his helpers recruit new members but, during the period of my 1st XI Captaincy, it was above all through the efforts of our President, Sandy Kay, with his Oxford, Cambridge, and other hockey contacts, that a strong enough 1st XI was built up to enable us to gradually get back all our old fixtures. (At one stage the 1st XI was, I believe, composed entirely of blues, Oxford Occasionals and Cambridge Wanderers, which was very much in keeping with the Club’s strong historical connections.)

Meanwhile the lower XI’s, which were so important, not only in building up club spirit, but also in obtaining block fixtures with our old first-class opponents, were gradually formed during this time and the donkey work put in by Alec Reid, the Secretary at the time, should not go un-mentioned. His hard work and gay spirits went a long way in helping to maintain the loyalty of members in the face of many disappointments over the perennial problem of wet pitches at Hampstead.

Mention has been made elsewhere of our Annual Dinners and I would recall but one of many amusing incidents during these enjoyable occasions. In December 1961, with such a distinguished guest and brilliant speaker as Sir John Masterman, after whom I had to speak as President that year, I had more butterflies than usual. However, having said my piece, the evening was quite made by the gentleman from another club, in reply with an excellent speech for the guests and thanking Sir John *Wolfenden*, which our honoured guest took part.

Playing for such a famous club, after it had just re-started, with all the stimulus of trying to make it a success and with such excellent men as companions throughout the Club, made those years some of the best remembered of my life. Equally, I am most honoured to have followed Ruari Milsted, not only as 1st XI Captain but also for a three-year term as President, and to still find my name among the Vice-Presidents. But, above all, my greatest pleasure to see how well the Club still flourishes through the devotion of its officials and the sportsmanship of its players. Long may Hampstead continue, whether ‘sticks’ are allowed or not, and whatever astronomical heights may be reached by the price of beer!”