

HAMPSTEAD HOCKEY CLUB

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Held at The Hornsey Club on May 4, 1988

1. Apologies for Absence

were received from Peter Stoughton-Harris and Charles Fillingham.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

were accepted although it transpired subsequently that there was an error in the 5th XI Captain's Report in that Bromley failed to beat Hampstead in the 1986-7 season.

3. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere in the Agenda

None. S. Elgar commended the previous Secretary, S. Purnell, for the fulsome minutes.

4. Secretary's Report

As the captains would report later, the club's strength showed mostly in the lower sides, although the men's 1st XI results did not reflect their efforts. The ladies were still improving, with 2 teams in leagues. The season had seen the inception of colts hockey.

On the social front there had been three major events:

- the dinner/dance, successful and well-attended; thanks to Kim Fleming who is retiring as organiser;
- the Christmas party, with live music and a pantomime;
- the Mexican night, both excellent evenings for which Nick Stevens was due thanks.

The continuing dreadful state of the grass pitches at Hornsey was forcing us to book astros all over north London, sometimes at odd times. This was having a detrimental influence on the social life of the club, since many oppositions (and several of our own) did not come back for teas. The Secretary pointed out that if we wanted to maintain the social cohesion of the club, and if we wanted to achieve the stated aim of getting into the National League, then the club would very shortly have to face up to some fundamental questions as to how and where we want to run the club.

The Secretary thanked the committee members, particularly those who were stepping down, and particularly Richard Chapman, who had been acting as Club Captain since the departure of Norman Borrett.

5. Subscriptions and Match Fees

were explained with the aid of the attached schedule.

6. Sponsorship

The committee stated that no firm action had been taken but various options were still being worked on. It was pointed out that there was no objection to a team finding an individual sponsor. S. Elgar asked whether sponsorship could affect our relations with the Hornsey Club. The Secretary replied that the point had been discussed at a Hornsey committee meeting and any sponsorship benefits obtained by the hockey section would be for the section's benefit only. P. Boizot said that Peroni Beer had made an offer to sponsor the South League and had already offered £1,000 to HHC. Peroni would probably not be too demanding on what it could obtain in return. Richard Sykes asked why the committee had not taken up the offer earlier. J. McCabe asked whether the hockey section could keep cash if we arranged small-scale advertisements in common parts. The Hornsey committee would have to be approached on this matter although Hilary Matthews pointed out that the cricket section had obtained sponsorship for each Saturday and that this money was going direct to the Hornsey Club. S. Elgar reminded the meeting that P. Boizot was also the sponsor of the London League and had been given a standing ovation at the recent League Dinner. Whether or not the committee should appoint a Publicity Officer was referred to the next committee meeting.

7. Coaching

The men's 1st XI had been coached this season by the HA London Development Officer (and Dutch international) Bram van Asselt, and financed by P. Boizot, at the Arsenal training centre. As a result of our advertisement placed by the club, the committee is negotiating with an Australian in Sydney as a part or full-time coach. A. Nicholson asked about the cost. The club would have to find accommodation/job/flight for the Australian. P. Marshall said that coaching was needed throughout the club, a view supported by J. McCabe who suggested that the club could finance an HA training course. R. Sykes pointed out the shortage of training facilities last season. The committee agreed and were already looking for more extensive facilities next season.

S. Brunton asked whether the coach would mean increased fees to members. The coach would obviously have to be paid for but the committee were investigating ways of defraying that cost.

M. Miley asked for umpiring training. The committee will investigate the possibility of an evening training session.

8. Pitches

S. Dawson reported that the grass pitches at Hornsey were simply too sodden to come into serious consideration. He hoped to arrange 5 home games each week on the two astros at Paddington, plus one evening a week for training, all subject to negotiation with Westminster City Council.

N. Coleman asked about the possibility of an astro pitch at Highgate Wood School. S. Elgar had studied the possibilities, but on the grounds that Haringey Council would not provide any money at all, then the cost would be too much for Hampstead to bear; we could not afford the repayments. R. Chapman reminded the meeting that drainage of the grass pitches had been discussed at the Hornsey AGM; a cost of £20,000 for the Pavilion Pitch and substantially less for remedial work on the far pitch, but even then the pitches would be well short of ideal. P. Marshall asked what would happen to the bar takings if we were to play 5 games at Paddington; the committee were aware of this aspect and were looking into various possibilities.

S. Dawson pointed out that Westminster CC had agreed to better allocation of usage of the pitches at Paddington, which would in effect reduce the cost of hire to us.

9. Fixtures

Melinda Bennett, for the ladies, expressed the hope that the ladies 3rd XI had a better deal this year, and promised an even better one next season. No league games had been permitted on astro this season, although the subject was up for discussion at the Middlesex Ladies HA AGM in May.

David Blakemore said that the National League would remove 7 or 8 1st XI fixtures. The London League will take up 16 fixtures, not necessarily in the same blocks as before, leaving a few gaps for which fixtures must be found.

P. Marshall asked about the unhappy history of matches with Slough. D. Fleming stated that the games with Slough had always been unpleasant and that he and others had no intention of playing against them again. It had been discussed in committee beforehand and agreed that P. Boizot would speak to the Slough President on the matter, but no appropriate opportunity had arisen. H. Thomas suggested that we should play them this year but precede the fixtures with notice of the club's feelings. P. Boizot would convey this to the Slough President.

10. Captains Reports

Mens 1st XI: M. Hick read a letter received from A. Delaney, who said that the season had been statistically unsuccessful but enjoyable. The team had displayed pride and determination in adversity. He thanked the coaching of Bram van Asselt and (and P. Boizot's generosity) from which confidence grew and some good results were achieved finally. He identified fitness and match planning as key areas for next year.

Ladies 1st XI: In their first season in Middlesex Div. 2 they had finished 6th of 8, well-clear of relegation and only a point or two from the three teams above them. The team lacked goal scorers. Fitness and coaching were necessary and lack of umpires was a problem.

Mens 2nd XI: Mike Blanning compared this season to last; he had only been sent off once this season. The team had beaten all the top sides and had been a stable, committed team. They had excellent results until Christmas, but poor ones afterwards.

Ladies 2nd XI: Debbie Sammons reported a very average season in the league debut: W2, D2, L2. Goal scoring had again been a problem but the defence was sound. A satisfactory seasons with a settled, social team, which ought to train more.

Mens 3rd XI: Nick Stevens was disappointed with the season. They had lost games despite dominating them. He blamed celibacy and temperance.

Ladies 3rd XI: Melinda Miley's team were all forwards, hence some odd scores, mostly conceded. A good social team, despite not having a home game until January 30.

Mens 4th XI: Andy Latter felt the season had been enjoyable but frustrating. They beat good teams and lost to poor ones in coming 7th in the League. The side contained several 3rd team players from previous years and J. Stanyard's goal scoring was welcome. Man of the Season: Christopher Soames-Charlton.

Mens 5th XI: Nick White said he felt that the season had been the best ever; the team had played very well. The team conceded fewer goals than anyone else but could have scored more. Definitely the first win against Bromley.

Mens 6th XI: Stuart Brunton mused on aspects of the vanishing captain, and detected two distinct advantages; no other team could nick your players and you were never short of players because there was no-one to cry-off to. Everyone had been a star.

Veterans: Chris Elliott reported a season of fun. On Wednesdays they were 3rd in the League and were the highest scorers. Saturdays were enjoyable although the results were erratic. Some teams were arranging 'Masters Conference' sides next season of a high standard and Chris will be looking for key players for those games.

Mixed: Peter Marshall said it had not been much of a season since they had only played 2½ games.

Indoor-Crystal Pal: Stuart Cunliffe reported a good season in which they came 2= in Div 2. The divisions were being restructured so it was not yet clear what would happen next year.

Indoor-Watford: In the absence of captain Charles Atkinson, Dirk Fleming reported that the side might even win the League if they could find out when the last game should be. It had been fun winning. This League was also restructuring next season.

Colts: Nick Coleman tabled a report. He reminded the meeting that the colts were open to girls and boys and that they needed more children. He asked for 1st team star players to turn up now and then to encourage them.

11. Election of Officers

In addition to the attached list, Stuart Cunliffe will be Indoor (Crystal Palace) captain and Sue Cunliffe will be a Hornsey Rep. Howard Thomas was elected mixed team captain by 20 votes to 12 over Sam Taylor/Jenny Johnson.

12. Presentations

Golden Sticks	Ladies Sally Openshaw Men Andy Latter/David Harper
Barnard Cup	Mens 5th XI (Nick White apologised for boring everyone since Christmas with his determination to win the cup)
Woodpecker Trophy	Melinda Bennett (the first lady winner)

13. Any Other Business

- Nick White asked about the season's membership problems. The Secretary explained that indications of numbers for next season showed that we could only admit players of 1st XI quality and others only in extenuating circumstances. The same applies in the Ladies section.

- Middlesex Cup. National League sides are granted automatic entry to the National Cup. Therefore this season's competition, where we were knocked out by Southgate, has been reactivated and a fixture must be played with WLIHE by 1st October.

- Tony Elliott was disappointed with the absence of scores in the bulletins. The Secretary explained that next year it was intended to produce a newsletter every 6 weeks or so containing more information.

- Nick White proposed an intra-club 6 a side tournament. Nick White, Giles Cavanagh and Chris Soames-Charlton to organise.

The Meeting closed at 10.20 pm.

RWR/dar
5.4.89

HAMPSTEAD COLTS

With the great assistance of Richard Chapman, John McCabe and Jim Atkinson we have completed our first half year as the Hampstead Juniors. We have met every Sunday morning in term time between 9.30 and approx 11.30 a.m. using both the grass surface and, when too wet, the tennis courts by courtesy of the Tennis Section.

We have acquired a small stock of sweatshirts appropriately coloured and marked and the boys are very proud of their new identity as HAMSTEAD JUNIORS. We have competed in three tournaments with commendable enthusiasm and success even if we have put a few over-age players into the fray. We have however been carrying a few 7 year olds at times and all these youngsters show some real promise. One or two 14/15 year olds have already played for the 5ths and Vets and one young lad from Highgate Wood school shows some real promise for next season. I hope he can be properly encouraged next year with a paternal eye kept upon him by the selection committee.

YET IT NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME THAT WITH ALL OUR CONTACTS AND EFFORTS WITH THE LOCAL SCHOOLS WE HAVE NOT MADE THE STRIDES WE SHOULD HAVE DONE. If you have child who may be interested or are a teacher with some influence please send your boy or girl along (indeed come with them and help us) and we will begin to show some signs of real success. Nevertheless I am a fervent believer in little acorns producing the right product(!) and we now have a keen hard core of about 8-10 youngsters which I hope will form a useful springboard for our efforts. We have some good instructors so send us the bodies! I think that with a little effort next Autumn we will have a good number to work with

For this term I hope we can persuade the odd 1st XI player to come and parade himself from about 10.00 a.m. and I hope to persuade a goalkeeper to come and give a skills, training and equipment session with the boys. We have 2 or 3 who reckon they are budding goalies!

NICK COLEMAN