

Hampstead and Westminster Hockey Club

Newsletter May 2009

Keeping Vice Presidents and Friends in the know

Welcome

This is our third of the series of revamped Newsletters and marks the end of the 2008/9 playing season. There will be news of the pitch replacement at Paddington Rec and the linked issue of funding and of course the Club's success on the playing field, culminating in the seventh spot in the Premier Division secured by the Men's 1's, where there was the increasingly traditional H&W fight back, when matters seemingly had reached a low ebb. The Women's 1st XI finished strongly in the middle of the South League, the stepping stone to the National League.

Administratively there has been much activity, culminating in the negotiations with Westminster City Council over the replacement pitch and the Club's longer tenure at Paddington Recreation Ground. Dan Fox's selection by England for games in Germany on 9 and 10 May will hopefully boost the Men's 1's: we offer Dan all the congratulation this deserves.

In their Memory

John Matthews-Lane

We were saddened to learn of the death a few months ago now of John Matthews-Lane, who died peacefully at Airedale Hospital, aged 76. John had been living in Bingley and upon renewing contact with him in recent times, he became an enthusiastic correspondent and supporter.

John was the 1st XI centre-forward when the club re-formed after the War and led the forwards until the mid-late 1950's. He featured in the photograph (included in the Club's History of its first 75 years) of the team that played in the first post-War game against Teddington. Such was John's reputation as a goalscorer that wingers knew all they had to do was get the ball into the circle and in large measure leave the rest to him.

John had been a playing member of Ben Rhydding Hockey Club until but a few years ago and was also a much respected Vice President of that Club.

Bill Fletcher

Colin Greenhalgh has reported former Club President Bill Fletcher's death on 19 April at the nursing home where he had been resident for some 12 years. Bill joined the Club (as Hampstead Hockey Club) after distinguished war service and at Cambridge University, when it re-formed after the Second World War in 1950.

He played for the 1st XI and took over the captaincy from Ruari Milsted soon after joining. He continued in that position until the end of the 1952/53 season, when he gave up playing. He was then elected a Vice President in 1956 and followed Ruari as President in 1960. At the same time, the Club Rules were changed to limit the President's term of office to three years, so Bill served until 1963, when he, in turn, handed on to John Sankey. Bill continued to extend his conscientious support to the Club over the years (including his continuation as a Vice-President)

Bill participated in Colin's History of the first 75 years of the Club in his own words, which, with Colin's leave (we trust), we replicate below.

"It was typical of Hampstead Hockey Club that I became one of the 14 (I think it was) players of the re-formed Club in the summer of 1950, simply by virtue of a telephone call from 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!"

End of Season Activity

International Honours

Dan Fox of H&W, a central defender, was selected to represent England for two games against Germany on 9 and 10 May. (This followed Dan's showing in the GB Super Leagues, reported upon below).

On 9 May the game saw five players make their debut and James Tindall make his 100th international (GB and England combined) appearance, England lost 2-0 to current Olympic and World Champions, the first of two matches in Hamburg. A strong partisan crowd was present to cheer on the host side on a sunny day with the thermometer tipping 26°.

Germany's midfielder Christoph Menke opened the scoring when he followed up on a save from James Fair to slot home the rebound and the one goal advantage remained until the break. He doubled his side's advantage five minutes into the second half when he deflected the ball high into the net from the top of the circle.

England had a good shout for a penalty stroke turned down with eight minutes to go when Tindall's stick was taken when he was preparing to strike, but the pleas were turned down and a corner was awarded instead. England could find no other openings.

England Manager Pete Nicholson commented "*Although Germany probably had the lion's share of possession, we are pleased our performance. The debutants all put in good performances, but they are at the start of their international careers and are playing against the World and Olympic Champions. The senior players were there to help them out a lot today. With everyone fit, we are looking forward to tomorrow's match.*"

Team Starting Line Up

Jonty Clarke (Reading), James Fair (Cannock), Dan Fox (Hampstead & Westminster), Martin Jones (Beeston), Glenn Kirkham (East Grinstead), Richard Mantell (Reading), Barry Middleton (HGC), Rob Moore (Surbiton), Richard Smith (Loughborough Students), James Tindall (Surbiton)

On the Sunday, the second game was drawn 3-3, after England had taken the lead in the second half. Dan came on as a sub in the first half and the team will now continue with its training camp exercises. That sounds like hard work.

GB Super Leagues

The GB development squads take the focus for the top players at the end of the season and saw several of the Men's 1's in action. There were six regional teams, with a shortlist announced at the end of the playing season, from which six squads were formed. The GB Super Leagues were formed three years ago with the stated aim of identifying future talent and to act as a showcase for players, coaches umpires and officials regarded as having the aptitude for future participation at the Olympic Games.

The current GB U21 side forms one such team, the Saxon Tigers and H&W's goalkeeper Ian Scanlon is in possession between the sticks. The squad is formed around the current U21 training squad, as they continue their preparations for the 2009 Junior World Cup in Malaysia and Singapore in June. The coaching staff hoped that the experience of playing against the best players in Great Britain would prove invaluable in the squad's preparation, recognising that with the presence of many of the GB squad from Beijing in the GB Super League this year, this was a tough challenge for the young group of players.

Three other H&W players featured for the Wessex Leopards team, Dave Cooper, Dan Fox and Will Naylor. Peter Swainson, who joined H&W this season from Reading HC, was selected for the Celtic Panthers, along with former Hampstead striker Andy Cornick, who joined Surbiton this season. Harwinder Chima, who has now recovered from injury and who joined H&W this season was also named in the original squad for the Wessex Leopards but was not called upon to play.

The League took place with three separate events, starting in Cardiff on 18 and 19 April, with midweek evening fixtures on 22 April and a final weekend at Cannock HC on 25 and 26 April.

On 19 April, Wessex Leopards defeated Caledonian Tigers 4-0 and H&W's Will Naylor opened the scoring in the 46th minute. Dan Fox and Dave Cooper were in the Leopard's starting line up. On 22 April at Bisham Abbey, the Leopards trounced the Celtic Panthers 7-0, with Will Naylor on the scoresheet again, and where all three H&W players earned a start. Andy Cornick featured for the Panthers.

On 25 April at Cannock, the Celtic Panthers narrowly defeated the Caledonian Cougars 2-1 and the Wessex Leopards secured another resounding win, by defeating Saxon Tigers 8-4 when, it should be added, H&W's Ian Scanlon was not in goal for the Saxons. Dan Fox again won a starting berth for the Leopards and Will Naylor came on as a sub. The goals in that game were predominantly Surbiton-scored, with four from current GB international Matt Daly and three from his fellow international, James Tindall.

On the final Sunday, the Celtic Panthers were held to a draw by the Caledonian Cougars, who pulled two back in the second half to make it 3-3. H&W's Peter Swainson was in the starting line up for the Panthers. Later that day, the top two teams in effect played off and the game was narrowly won by the Wessex Leopards over the Pennine Pumas, by 2-1. Will Naylor and Dan Fox again featured in the starting line up for the Leopards.

The final League standings saw Wessex Leopards undefeated with 5 wins from 5 and 15 points, the Pennine Pumas second with 12 points, the Celtic Panthers in fourth, with five points and the

Saxon Tigers at the foot with just the single point. This was always regarded as a tough assignment for the U21 squad.

Slazenger EHL League

The new participants in the Men's Premier Division of the Slazenger EHL League for 2009/10 will be Brooklands MU from Manchester and the University of Exeter, following the Promotion Play Offs at the University of West of England at Frenchay, Bristol over the May Bank Holiday weekend. Some former Hampstead & Westminster players were in action, including John Bell, also in a coaching capacity for Brooklands, and Justin King and Richard Arscott for Oxted, where Justin is player coach.

Under the new format of the three regional National Leagues below the Premier Division, the Play Offs are now a round robin event, held over three days, with the penultimate team in the Premier League playing the three regional winners. The other participants were Havant from the Premier Division and Oxted, winners of the East Division.

Brooklands' win in the first game on Monday meant success, too, for the University of Exeter, as Oxted could not then overtake them and Havant had already been eliminated from possible Premier League retention by the results on the preceding day..

The scores were as follows

Saturday

Oxted 1 University of Exeter 2

Havant 2 Brooklands MU 3

Sunday

Brooklands MU 3 University of Exeter 3

Havant 2 Oxted 3

Monday

Brooklands MU 5 Oxted 2

Havant 2 University of Exeter 0

Bill Felton, a Match Official at the Tournament and an old friend of H&W, was also on hand to bring news of his son Clive, who played for us in the late 1990's and who is still in action, helping Marden Russets to promotion in the Kent and Sussex Leagues and doing some coaching himself.

Bill regretted having to become part of the action himself in the first game of the Play Offs on the Sunday, when a yellow carded Brooklands' player, sitting in the allocated chair alongside the pitch, refused, after three requests, to stop cursing his ill-luck in being sent off and on the fourth occasion was reprimanded by a five minutes extension of his suspension by Bill. This had to be communicated to the Umpires and held up play much to the confusion of the spectators on the other side of the pitch (many, including the benches being ignorant of this within the Rules). Despite being two men down in that game Brooklands salvaged a draw with the University of Exeter.

Havant's game with Oxted was a curious affair, played at a slow, deliberate pace in the first half and little sign from Havant of their potential for Premier League nous and incisiveness that the gap in quality between the Premier and Regional Leagues is renowned for. Oxted were three up by the half and with meagre defending required. In the second half Havant must have realised that their Premier League survival depended upon it and upped the pace. Tim Davenport scored an impressive drag flick corner on 56 minutes, which was followed by a close range diverted shot from Nathan Palmer that set up the final 10 minutes.

Urged on by their tall, strong running Egyptian international Ezz Mohammed (who had earlier caused H&W some trouble in the Premier Division fixture in February), Havant laid siege on the Oxted goal and won several corners but were repulsed. Oxted retreated generally, stopped playing hockey effectively and resorted to the long aerial out of defence, as if just to gain a

breather. Davenport pulled a Havant corner wide in the final minute, probably their best chance of an equaliser.

On the final hooter there was confusion, as the Umpire had stopped play, possibly for another corner or hit on the edge of the dee with three seconds left on the clock, which nonetheless ran on and led to the hooter sounding. The Umpire was surrounded but eventually blew his whistle and that was that. Such is the inevitable bad luck of the relegated teams (though the opportunities to equalise had been many). With that result, Havant were consigned back to the regional National League.

London League Finals

Hampstead had three finalists this season's Men's Cup competitions and came away with two League Cups, for the Men's 2's (over Southgate) and Spaniards XI (defeating Richmond Lions XI). The Men's 3rd XI lost out to Spencer in the Division 1 final, but only on penalty flicks by 7-6! The four best placed in each League play off for each League Cup, with two semi-finals and the final a week later, when all levels of Leagues are represented on the same day, save for the Veterans who had their own mini-tournament on a League basis.

On the Pitch

Men's 1st XI

Hopefully news of the win against Southgate on 15 March found its way to our readership with e-mail access. This virtually secured Premier League survival for the season that became a reality at the next game at Cannock, a week later, news of which was posted to the VP page on the website (regrettably not open at the present).

This game ended in a 2-2 draw after Hampstead had taken the lead with one minute left on the clock, after sterling work by Mike Williamson up the inside left channel and Harwinder was on hand to poke the ball home. As the visitors celebrated, but not at all in Barclays Premiership style, the Umpires let the game re-start with several Hampstead players still in the Cannock half, leaving us a little exposed at the back and, as luck always tends to have it with Cannock, Harry Jawanda steered home an equaliser in the last minute. The niggly game then became worse even with such little time left and three yellows were shown. At the final whistle the arguing continued.

There had been news as the game started that Havant had been beaten at Loughborough in a game that started 90 minutes earlier, not that this was known to all members of the team. That result ensured H&W's survival in the Premiership, regardless of the result of this game and the final fixture a week later.

In that final fixture the visitors were second placed Beeston, who must have eyed the title, with East Grinstead facing a tricky game against Surbiton at Sugden Road. Beeston were only a point behind, so a win and loss by EG would have done it for them. Instead, H&W pulled out all the stops, rode their luck and scored three, all from Will Naylor, one of them a special that followed a quality cross field pass that Dave Cooper managed to hang on to, control, turn at speed and fire across where Will was on hand. There was then news that EG had come from behind against Surbiton and won 5-3, so theirs was Championship, their first.

Final Placings

East Grinstead	41pts
Reading	38
Beeston	37
Cannock	32
Surbiton	31
Loughborough	24
H&W	17
Bowdon	14
Havant	12
Southgate	5

H&W Success Rate

0/6pts
0/6
4/6
1/6
1/6
3/6
3/6
3/6
3/6

Customarily the difficulty has been in taking points off the top four teams. With the success against Beeston, in this aspect this season's results showed an improvement. However, the two games against Reading proved less fruitful than in earlier seasons and the two losses against Havant and Southgate gave the team no breathing space.

If there was a theme this year, as with earlier seasons, it was the inability to see off teams that were not as good in quality or playing as well but prepared to work hard right to the end. The game at Havant really showed this to be the case, where the opposition somehow came back to equalise and then ran off with the points. As with the England rugby team, however, when the metaphorical chips are down, the 1's respond with unexpected results and gain much self belief: We salute them and in particular Coaches Soma Singh and Rob Turner - despite increasing susceptibility to cardiac arrest for some long suffering supporters and spectators!

Men's 2nd XI

The 2's ended in third position in the Premier League but won the League Cup. Surbiton won the League and beat the 2's by 5-0 on the penultimate Saturday when East Grinstead, who finished second, also lost to Indian Gym by 7-3. The final League places are as follows:

Surbiton	W18, D1, L3	55pts
East Grinstead	W16, D0, L6	48pts
H&W	W14, D3, L5	45pts
Southgate	W14, D1, L7	43pts

Men's 3rd XI

The 3's won Division 1, after a resounding 5-0 victory over Surbiton in a re-arranged fixture on the final Sunday and, as mentioned, were narrowly beaten on flicks in the Cup final. The final League places are as follows:

H&W	W14, D5, L3	47pts
Southgate	W14, D3, L5	45pts
Spencer	W12, D4, L6	40pts
Old Louts	W12, D4, L6	40pts

Mens 4th XI and Zak Hond XI

In Division 2, Zak Hond finished in 8th and the 4's found it tough going and finished in last place. The League was won by Tulse Hill & Dulwich 2nd XI, with Wimbledon 3rd XI in second and Guildford 3's in third. Ironically the last week of the season saw the 4's defeat the Hond 7-2 but Southgate 3A's, who were playing Richmond 2A's (and were beaten 2-1 in the process) clung on to eleventh place, a point ahead of the 4's, who has a far superior goal difference (in fact, the eighth best in the League).

Men's 5th XI (Hammers) and Men's 6th XI

In Division 4, the Hammers came fourth, behind Old Loughtonians Foresters, Spencer and Teddington Saplings. The 6's were in ninth, one place beneath Oxford University 3rd XI.

Men's Thirsts XI

The Thirsts ended the season in fifth place (of 10) in Division 7. The League was won, on goal difference, by London Wayfarers Vikings XI over HAC Sutlers, both on 36 points, with Spencer Titans in third, two points back.

Men's Spaniards XI

As reported, the Spaniards came away with silverware in the League Cup, having finished in third place in the League, eleven points off the top of the table and later defeating Blackheath 3-2 in the Cup semi-final. The final League places are as follows:

Richmond Lions	W13, D3, L2	42pts
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Blackheath Ravens	W13, D1, L4	40pts
H&W	W10, D1, L7	31pts
Reading Rascals	W9, D1, L9	28pts

Men's Veterans XI

The Vets secured third place in the Vets East Division, largely following a Sunday outing at Southgate who beat them 8-4 in the final League game. The final League places are as follows:

Bromley & Beckenham	W13, D2, L1	41pts
Southgate Flagons	W12, D2, L2	38pts
H&W	W11, D2, L3	35pts
Surbiton Jokers	W10, D0, L6	30pts

Men's Super Veterans XI

In the Supervets League, won by Spencer by nine clear points from Indian Gym, H&W were tenth out of 12, six points clear of Staines in eleventh and 11 points clear of Southgate Magnums in twelfth place.

Women's 1st XI

As mentioned previously, the Women's 1's consolidated themselves mid table in Division 1 of the South League, won by Buckingham who go into the National League next season. In spite of a handsome 5-2 H&W defeat of Oxford Hawks, the latter kept hold of fourth place. The final League placings are as follows:

Buckingham	W13, D4, L1	43pts
Southampton	W11, D5, L2	38pts
Epsom	W12, D2, L4	38pts
Oxford Hawks	W6, D5, L7	23pts
H&W	W6, D4, L8	22pts
Havant	W5, D4, L9	19pts
Woking	W4, D6, L8	18pts
Reading 1A	W4, D5, L9	17pts
Harrow	W3, D6, L9	15pts
Wimbledon	W3, D5, L10	14pts

Women's 2nd XI and 3rd XI

The 2's were undefeated champions of the Middlesex Premier League, by a clear margin of four points and the H&W 3's were in ninth slot, with 11 teams in the League. On the penultimate League Saturday, the 2's and 3's battled it out and the 2's won by the odd goal in five.

H&W	W18, D2, L0	56pts
PHC Chiswick 1's	W17, D1, L2	52pts
Eastcote 2's	W16, D0, L4	48pts
Teddington 3's	W11, D2, L7	35pts

Women's 4th XI

In Middlesex Division1 the 4's ended in third place behind Eastcote 2's and Staines 3's, ten points off the top of the table.

Eastcote 3's	W14, D3, L1	45pts
Staines 3's	W14, D2, L2	44pts
H&W	W11, D2, L5	35pts
Southgate 3's	W11, D1, L6	34pts

Women's 5th XI

In Middlesex Division 2, consisting of ten teams, the 5's were in seventh place with 20 points, some way off the leaders, Staines 4's, who stayed on top of the table to the end, with 42 points and behind them were Imperial College 1's on 42 points and Teddington 4's with 40 points.

Women's 6th XI

League Winners of Middlesex Division 3 were Gymkhana 1's with 47 points (and three deducted!). The 6's came in third, ending their season with a flourish, beating Winchmore Hill and Enfield 3's by 8-1. The final four League placings are as follows:

Gymkhana 1's	W16, D1, L1	47pts
PHC Chiswick 3's	W15, D1, L2	46pts
H&W	W13, D1, L4	40pts
Southgate 5's	W9, D1, L8	28pts

Women's 7th XI

Regrettably the 7's ended their season still at the foot of the Middlesex Division 4, despite winning more matches than the teams above them but having suffered the fairly ubiquitous points deduction, seemingly more prevalent in the Women's Leagues. This League was won by Teddington 6's who were unbeaten and with a staggering goal difference of 140.

2009 Memorial Game

Last season's success with the Borrett/Flasjner Memorial Game (HWHC v Legends) has encouraged the organisation of a similar event this summer. A date is now being fixed but it is hoped to convene for a game at PRG and to retire to the Carlton afterwards. Efforts were being concentrated for a Friday in June and there may be more progress since this section of news was prepared (and those in the know will soon correct any mis-statements here).

Website

The Club's website has been re-launched with an improved format. However, not all sections are yet in full working order and the Vice President's page is one of these. There are hopes that the VP page will shortly be available for more frequent postings (and without the previous requirement to engage the skills of Richard Chapman as Honorary Pagemaster).

The links to *Fixtures Live* are to be maintained to allow for immediate access to results and fixtures. To gain a flavour of what the site will offer once fully functional, please visit and review the pages on the Junior Section on which efforts were initially concentrated, to accompany the closing stages of the Club's application for *Club's First* accreditation.

Pitch Replacement

The search for the right type of replacement pitch has continued to the end. A fortnight ago the Club Chairman, accompanied by Men's 1's player and next season's coach of the Women's 1's, Mike Hughes, travelled to Germany with Emma Stocken on behalf of the Women's 1's to view a probable comparable surface, as it is recognised that the predominant requirement at PRG will be for a hard wearing surface, given the combined usage that it will get week in week out. Discussions also continue with Nuffield, who have taken over the management of the PRG facilities for Westminster City Council.

Funding

So far the Club has raised £110,000 and Club Chairman Oz Rankin is continuing to investigate matched giving opportunities through players' employers and others. He had concluded that there are probably too many strings attached to grant aid through the usual providers but charitable status for the Club is still being progressed from the legal perspective. As the new website indicates, a big value raffle is now underway, with substantial prizes, apparently many of vinous quality, so please do not express surprise if you are approached to buy a ticket, reasonably priced at £2.00 each. Oz is hoping to circulate the Friends of H&W and this is likely to follow shortly. He will be more able to report the true, up to date position.

From the Annals

We have delved back to 1982 for some comparative insights. How much of this is familiar?

31 October 1982

	1 st XI	2 nd XI	3 rd XI	4 th XI	5 th XI	6 th XI	Vets
Maidenhead	1 - 0	1 - 1	0 - 3	1 - 2	0 - 3	2 - 1	2 - 0
Cambridge	Cancelled						

The 1st XI were expecting a tough match against Maidenhead but it didn't materialise and Hampstead should really have won by more. Plenty of chances were created but the forwards could not score; the solitary goal was scored by Guest.

The 2nd XI were in arrears from an early Maidenhead short-corner but they eventually took control of the midfield and equalised shortly afterwards. An exquisite through pass from Borrett, at a "set piece", put Delaney through for a superbly taken goal. The second half saw Hampstead tire and they were thankful to settle with one point.

The 3rd XI found it difficult to adjust to the Market Road Astro turf whereas Maidenhead settled down very quickly. Maidenhead played good, short passes and were too strong for Hampstead. The 4th XI, playing on a Maidenhead cow pasture, dominated the first half of the game and took the lead with a Goodwin goal. The opposition equalised soon after half-time when the 4th's defence left the ball to each other! Maidenhead increased their attacks and a slack defence let in the winner when no real danger existed.

The 5th XI suffered their third successive defeat after being in control of the first half. A lucky goal was scored by Maidenhead early in the second half and after this the 5th's lost their control of the game. The 6th XI, with goals from Davey and Bamford, beat Maidenhead in a hard but fair game. The winning goal was scored five minutes from the end.

The Vets, also playing on an appalling pitch, beat a brute force and speed approach with skill. Shaw and Boizot played well with both goals coming from Schroeder.

Indoor Results – Rank Xerox National Knock Out

British Airways	Harrow	Staines
4 - 2	4 - 3	7 - 4

Hampstead's problems were mainly internal, with continual bickering between the players in all three games. Wilmot harangued the team after the second match and in the night's final everyone was quiet for the first half. Hampstead took a 3 - 1 lead and looked safe until Dixon was given the yellow card in the second half for verbal abuse of the umpire. Staines levelled the scoring at 4 - 4 in this period. For the last few minutes, Hampstead again played hockey and the Staines revival was stopped with three more goals.

7 November 1982

	1 st XI	2 nd XI	3 rd XI	4 th XI	5 th XI	6 th XI		Vets
Hawks	1 - 1	1 - 0	0 - 1	2 - 3	2 - 0	2 - 3	Hayes	3 - 3

The 1st XI's match should have been one of the easier games of the season but they found it difficult to settle and panicked in midfield quite often. Hawks opened the scoring in the first half and Dixon had a goal disallowed for dangerous play. Hampstead also had a large number of short-corners, which they could not convert and Smith had two good shots saved. Chapman saved the match by converting a penalty flick with six minutes to go.

The 2nd XI had the majority of the play but could not convert their chances into goals. The short-corner problem still persists and Edyvean was called upon to make two or three good saves from Hawks breakaways. The game was won for Hampstead when Borrett scored 12 minutes from the end after a good move down the right flank also involving Kok, Flack and Jones. Catley and Banting were both very sound in defence.

The 3rd XI suffered their fourth defeat, although most of the match was spent in the Hawks half. Quite a few chances were created by Hampstead but they were unable to score. Benson and McIlwaine played well. The 4th XI had control of the first half, with some fine work by Barnes. Hale scored from a short-corner (could he be promoted?) and Hampstead never looked in trouble. The second half saw Hawks come into the game more and sloppy defence let their forwards break away and score two goals. Goodwin dubiously equalised and then another Hawks break away lost the match for us.

The 5th XI were exuberant after their win, both goals coming from Gregory. I do not think there was anyone at Hawks who was not talked through the first goal, which was into the roof of the net. Hawks were awarded a penalty flick before Hampstead had scored but Graham stared -out the player who took it and the ball went wide. The 6th XI were unlucky to lose, especially after fighting back from 2 - 0 down. Holman and Bamford scored the goals to bring the score to 2 - 2. Hawks scored their third goal with only five minutes to go.

The Vets also had to fight back from 2 - 0 down within 20 minutes. At half-time the score was 2 - 2 and they dominated the second half, eventually taking the lead. Goals came from Schroeder (2) and Henderson (1). Hayes were a hard, uncompromising side though and equalised with the last hit of the match. Stan Elgar in goal played well.

Spaniards v Gerrards Cross - Cancelled.

Team Records	P	W	D	L	F	A	%
1 st XI	9	7	1	1	18	6	83.3
2 nd XI	8	3	3	2	6	3	56.3
3 rd XI	7	2	1	4	6	12	35.7
4 th XI	7	3	2	2	15	12	57.2
5 th XI	7	3	0	4	6	8	42.9
6 th XI	6	2	2	2	14	13	50.0
Vets	5	4	1	0	24	6	90.0

15 Years Ago

The Men's 2nd XI success in recent years brings back memories of 1994, when this was not as commonplace, at least for H&W teams.

CHAMPIONS! CHAMPIONS!
Mens 2's 2 Weybridge Hawks 1

We collected the three points required to guarantee the Pizza Express London League First Division Championship but it was not the most stylish of performances. However, even great teams like Manchester United sometimes have to graft for points away from home.

A bobbly beach surface and at St George's College, packed to the rafters, baying for the blood of our heroes, meant that this was a day for the lions of the team. The likes of Ince (Hick), Hughes (Strong), Keane (Bourne) and Irwin (Tucker), came to the fore. The more flamboyant performers,

Giggs (Holder), Kanchelskis (Wrigley), Cantona (de la Hey), and Bruce (?!!) (Richard James) took a back seat and waited for the avalanche of goals!

Unfortunately Schmeichel (Forte) was wrong footed by a short corner which ricocheted off Bruce's stick and we were grateful to "Sparky" Strong who rifled yet another goal to take us to the halftime "cuppa" on level terms. Short corners and open play chances went begging (as well as a Kanchelskis penalty) before Ince thundered in at the far post to fire us ahead. Unstoppable!

Mens 4th XI v Old Kingstonians

1 - 1 draw

OK's pulled out all the stops for this one, providing a quietly charming team, a pitch worthy of the Lord's Outfield and some inspired umpiring. Particular mention to Kevin for his clean tackling and beatific manner. But like the Murphys...

Mawson scored early and was so pleased that he tried to rape his team-mates and substituted himself in shame of his outrageous performance. A second goal seemed likely but never quite came and OK's equalised in the second half from a short corner at which they were clearly onside. The umpires then controlled the game into our half but Johnson at least managed to throw himself into the back of their goal - shame about the ball really.

Mens 5th XI v Indian Gymkhana

2 - 5 lost

No goalie and a bumpy pitch made for a bumpy game... Scorers: Dent and Latter

Ladies 2nd XI v Potters Bar

2 - 0 won

The opposition's umpire had the jumper and the stay pressed polyester slacks but not the umpiring skills to match. But we managed to overcome some horrendously bad decisions to slot two quality goals home. The first came from a penalty corner and was wellied home by Barbara. The second, a wonderful reverse stick flick past the goalie's blind side by Sally. We should have scored a lot more than two, with notable misses from Stig and Captain Janice. Keeper Kate only attempted to touch the ball once but was foiled, and flattened, by Barbara.

Ladies 4th XI v NPL

2 - 1 won

All the league victories in the club seem to have rubbed off on the performance of the Ladies 4's. A scrappy yet aggressive game, hampered by dubious umpiring, a multitude of prehistoric NPL hockey sticks, combined with a particularly unfriendly opposition.

Hampstead took an early lead with an Adelaide-Leone goal in the tenth minute (although NPL tried to disallow it because Leone was wearing a green shirt!) Although we dominated the first half, NPL managed to slip one in the goal (well, we didn't have a goalie).

The second half some great manoeuvres from the 4's, yet again dominating the play. The last five minutes saw Fiona head-butt an NPL stick with a goal from Wendy in the last minute giving the 4's a well deserved victory.

M H Tennant

Researcher *extraordinaire*, Ian Hayward has been researching this subject and shared his results recently with Colin Greenhalgh, apparently after re-reading the mention of Mr Tennant's name in the Club's 75 years History over the report of the Club's Annual Dinner - at the Trocadero.

We shall follow this up next time. Ian also came across details of the Cambridge University Bicycle Club founded in 1874 and discontinued after 1902. The matches against Oxford University on 21 July 1888 (won by Oxford) and 18 July 1889 (won by Cambridge) were held at PRG of all places!

Next Letter

Hopefully the next edition will mark the start of the new season. If you have any news or views, please send by e-mail to ian.smith@otb.uk.com or mail@velwell.eclipse.co.uk.

If it is fit to print, it will be!