

# Hampstead and Westminster Hockey Club

Newsletter December 2008

*Keeping Vice Presidents and Friends in the know*

## Welcome

This is the first in a new style newsletter following Colin Greenhalgh's second or third (or even more numerous) retirement(s) from the post of News Distributor *par excellence*. The Club is once again grateful to Colin for his unstinting efforts to keep us all informed and the attempt to reach his standards starts here. Colin needs time to devote at last to family and other things in his busy schedule and the baton needs to be passed.

If you have a different slant on what is reported or, perhaps better still, have your own news, perhaps of former players and Club members then please send it through.

## Club Chairman

Richard Chapman has decided to step down as the Chairman of the Club and Oz Rankin has offered himself to stand in the post, which the Club's Committee has been pleased to confirm. This takes immediate effect.

These pages cannot adequately express the massive contribution made by Richard during his tenure for far longer than had been anticipated at the outset when Nick Coleman handed the reins to Richard some 6½ years ago. The Club has continued to grow and faced increasing challenges during Richard's chairmanship and he coped with all thrown at him with a calm clarity and judgement. His support of the Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI has been immense and the team's continued position in the highest competitive league in England is, in no small part, testament to that.

The Vice President's Dinner was one opportunity for those assembled to pay tribute to Richard (*please see below for a more detailed report*)

## On the Pitch

### Men's Section

The Men's 1's have had a mixed set of results after a promising start, when in their opening fixture against Reading the vaunted home team realised that they had a game on their hands and only pulled away in the final five minutes. The highlight has been the defeat of Surbiton in the Cup, with a golden goal in overtime, followed by a 4-4 draw in the League when Andy Cornick, who left H&W to join Surbiton in the close season, scored in the 66th minute to equalise. To date, the results have been as follows

### 2008/9 Premier League

Reading 4 Hampstead 1	Naylor
Hampstead 2 Havant 0	Bevan (2)
Bowdon 1 Hampstead 0	
Hampstead 4 Surbiton 4	Perry Naylor Ambridge Little
East Grinstead 5 Hampstead 1	Hussain
Hampstead 5 Loughborough Univ 2	Bevan Eakins (3) Naylor
Southgate 3 Hampstead 2	Ambridge Holt
Hampstead 0 Cannock 3	

The Men's 2's have enjoyed big success in the London League Premier Division over the past three years, beating a fancied list of opponents, mainly the second string of slightly higher ranking National League teams. This season sees them, at the time of printing, in third place behind East Grinstead, who have a 100% record after eight games and Surbiton, in second. The leading scorer this season is Jamie Edington, already with 13 goals (excluding this last weekend).

### 2008/9 London League Premier Division

Spencer 1 Hampstead 1
Hampstead 1 Surbiton 1
Indian Gym 2 Hampstead 4

Hampstead 3 Guildford 0  
Old Georgians 2 Hampstead 6  
Hampstead 12 Richmond 0  
Reading 2 Hampstead 4  
Hampstead 3 Southgate 5  
Hampstead 7 Bromley & Beckenham 2

The unbeaten Men's 3's are second in the London League Division One to Surbiton, having won 6 and drawn 3, including a 7-1 demolition of London Wayfarers 2's and 13-0 of Bromley & Beckenham this last weekend. The Zak Hond XI are fifth in the London League Division Two, having only lost one and where, in that League, there is only 4 points between first and sixth. The 4's are in the same League and lie in tenth spot after two wins two draws and five defeats. The 5's (Hammers XI) and the 6's are both in London League Division Four. Two points separate them, the 6's shading it marginally over the 5's. The 6's have 10 points and the 5's are with 8 points (3-1-3 record against 4-0-4, respectively).

We have no information on the 7's but the 8's (the Thirsts) are in London League Division Seven, standing sixth, with 7 points after a 1-4-2 season (draw specialists). The Spaniards are in a higher League, the London League Division Six, where they are third. The Vets are sitting atop the London League Vets East Division, with 13 points and a goal difference of 20. Surbiton are hot on their heels. The Supervets are in the Supervets League (perhaps not surprisingly) and have a playing record of 3-1-2 that means seventh spot.

#### Women's Section

Women's 1's are up to fifth place in the South League after this weekend's games, with a playing record of won 2, drawn 3 and lost 3. The winner of the League secures access to the National League play offs and the last team is relegated to Division 2. The scores have been as follows:

#### South Clubs Division One

Hampstead 2 Reading 1  
Oxford Hawks 3 Hampstead 3  
Hampstead 1 Havant 1  
Hampstead 1 Southampton 3  
Woking 1 Hampstead 1  
Hampstead 2 Wimbledon 3  
Buckingham 4 Hampstead 1  
Hampstead 2 Epsom 1

The Women's 2's are in the Middlesex Premier and in second spot, with a current record of 5-1-0. Their 16 points puts them behind Eastcote, who have a perfect record after 6 matches. The 3's are in the Middlesex Premier Division, where they are in ninth. They have won 1, drawn 2 and lost 3. The 4's are in fourth in the Middlesex Division One (with a playing record of 3-1-2). A record of 2-1-3 from the 5's sees them fifth in the Middlesex Division One. The 6's are in Division Three, in second spot, having won 4, lost one and drawn one. The 7's are in the Division Four, with one point. Despite a record of won 1 drawn 0 and losing 6, the team is recorded as having suffered 2 points' deduction by the League in unspecified circumstances.

#### VP Old Members' and Friends' News

We were saddened to learn of the death of Geoff Porter. Colin Greenhalgh remembers him.

Geoff Porter died aged 92, in a nursing home in Barnet. Having lost touch when he moved into the home some months earlier, we were able to track Geoff down via a golfing contact of John Chaumeton's. He sent his thanks for the end of season newsletter and his best wishes to the Club before he passed away in September.

Geoff joined the Club in the Hampstead CC days (when the Hockey Club re-formed after the hiatus of the Second World War) having come down from Liverpool to practise in his own accountancy firm in London. He captained the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, very successfully, for three seasons from 1953 to 1957, during the migration from Hampstead CC to Brondesbury CC. He was a Committee member and latterly Chairman from 1954 to 1961. During that period, he rendered two vital services to the Club. First, he

extended the use of his offices off Moorgate to the General Committee and (then) weekly Selection Meetings. Secondly, he was instrumental in re-writing the Rules of the Club at a time of some turmoil over the office of President.

Geoff gave up playing hockey in the mid-1960's. He had broken his neck by driving under a lorry, after falling asleep on the way back from the Bournemouth(?) Festival. He became, instead, a loyal and long-serving member (and one-time Captain) of Hendon Golf Club. His funeral in Hendon was attended by Tony Bailey (who was articulated to Geoff in Liverpool before he, too, migrated south), Peter Bell, John Chaumeton and Colin Greenhalgh.

## Memorial Match

The Club had lost Wendy Flajsner and Norman Borrett within a few weeks of one another. Both were hugely influential in the development of the Club but, more importantly, were people who added fun and laughter to the lives of all who met them.

A memorial game was organized at Battersea Park for them and ended in a pulsating 1-1 draw. The canny hockey brains of the Legends comfortably soaked up a degree of pressure from the considerably more youthful but headless current players.

Many reminiscences and anecdotes were shared in the more important part of the evening after the game, organised excellently by Jane and Jerry Stanyard. Supporters on the sidelines included Cyril and Wendy's family, families Waugh and Guest, Ian Catley, Jo Edmondson, Caroline Brooke, Peter McIlwaine, Melinda McDougall and a cameo from Ron Hart. Shirin Borrett sent a note of thanks with apologies that she could not attend because she had a prior commitment in Yorkshire to present a golf prize in Norman's name.

### Legends (average age 52.6)

Steve Pennington; Stewart Waugh, Dave Dixon, Brian Guest, Keith Roberts, Jon Roberts, Cyril Flajsner, Tim Dixon, Ali Alibhai, Roger Rookes, Christof Lampert and Jerry Stanyard

### Current (average age 49.8)

Philip Sudell; Mike Carnill, Andy Brookes, Nick Stevens, Ben Reynolds, Chris Elliott, Shaffiq Amin, Stuart Brown, Peter Tallboys, Richard Chapman, Chris Somes-Charlton and Henrik Kjellin

### Umpires

Arthur Soares and Tony Elliott **Third official** Morley Pecker.

## 2008 VP and Friends' Dinner

*For those without access to the VP page on the Club website....*

The final Old Members, Friends and VP Dinner convened at The Cricketers took place on 31 October and was attended by the Club President, Emeritus President and numerous past officers of the Club. Guests included the Chairman elect, Oz Rankin, the Club Captains and the captains of the Club's 1st teams.

The meeting regretted that the immediate past Chairman, Richard Chapman, was unable to attend, as there was a universal and sincere wish to record the substantial contribution that he had made in so many different ways during his Chairmanship of the Club and to thank him and salute him for his achievements. Richard's generosity in many areas has known few bounds in the Club's history.

After the loyal toast, Nick Coleman, presiding, then invited Oz Rankin, as Chairman elect, to comment on the Club's present position. Oz explained the position following Richard Chapman's retirement as Chairman and the steps taken by the Committee in the interim. He mentioned, in particular, the Club's continued ability to attract members and provide facilities to support 19 teams, a feat well beyond the comprehension of many present.

Pitch allocation is a current difficulty, given the decision by the Middlesex Hockey Association to ban competitive games on the Tigerturf used on the "original" caged pitch. The London League (Men's) has agreed that League games could continue there but the ban left the Women's section in a quandary and alternative venues were having to be found. Oz reckoned that the Club was generally

in good heart, assisted by the greater certainty that now prevailed over the use and ownership of the Carlton.

The single issue of grave concern was the funding contribution towards the replacement surface of the water based pitch, which was now beyond its useful life. The Club was aiming to register as a charity that would assist matched funding. Coupled with the resurfacing were questions of tenure at PRG: essentially, it was crucial to secure the funding in return for which the City of Westminster would extend the current Agreement by which the Club enjoys block bookings the weekend. Those with fundraising skills or initiatives (or sheer enthusiasm) were now being encouraged to come forward - and that invitation was extended to those present at the Dinner.

The Club Captains each reported on their sections. The Women's playing arrangements, hampered by the decision to ban use of the original caged pitch, were giving rise to either very early or rather late starts on Saturdays. However, there was still considerable interest and this season was again seeking seven teams regularly appearing in Women's League fixtures.

Ed Bevan outlined the position of the Men's 1's, briefly mentioning the experience of the Play offs at the end of last season to retain a place in the Premier League and the eagerness to place that firmly in the history book. In their second season under Soma Singh as coach, there is genuine competition for places in the team, that had already managed a win against Surbiton in the HA Cup and a 4-4 draw against them in the League, facing opponents with six GB players returning this season from the Olympic games. There has been a good influx of players and there was likely to be others wanting to join shortly from other substantial Clubs in the League, including Reading. This was a testament to the quality of the team and the Club as a whole.

Helene Wehrmann explained the situation of the Women's 1's, who were mid table in the South League, one step short of the national English League, promotion to which remained the team's goal. Competition remains tough and matches are played all over Southern England. This was her first season as skipper and she wanted all to be aware of the considerable contribution by Jill Goodier as the Women's Club Captain in such trying circumstances this season.

Nick Coleman briefly introduced those attending to the guests. This was an opportunity for Hugh Smith to describe briefly the history of the Vet's International Touring Blazer, to record that Ali Alibhai was now well established as a member of the Arsenal FC medical team (in a largely honorary capacity, Dr A hastened to add) and to mention that there would be a need to allow time for Colin Greenhalgh to address the meeting towards its conclusion. For Colin's conclusion, see below!

In attendance: Messrs Coleman, S Brown, Elliott, Sykes, Hugh Smith, Ian Smith, Alibhai, McDougall, Rookes, Edmonson, Mayers, Greenhalgh, Boizot, Shaw and Pecker

#### *Guests*

Oz Rankin, Ed Bevan, Paul Clements, Jill Goodier and Helene Wehrmann

## Future Dinners

The Cricketers will no longer be available as venue for the VP and Friends' Dinner. It has been suggested that the next Dinner should therefore take place on a Saturday and offer an opportunity for those from afar to travel and watch some hockey at the same time. Owing to Halloween and school half term, it has also been suggested that the date be pushed forward a week to Saturday, 7 November 2009. This is still open to debate and agreement: if you have any views or opinions, please send them to Nick Coleman ([Njcolema@aol.com](mailto:Njcolema@aol.com)) or to Melinda McDougall ([melindamcdougall@btinternet.com](mailto:melindamcdougall@btinternet.com)), who has kindly offered help in convening the Dinner.

There seem to be two competing venues (which is a rather grand way of mentioning that two possibilities have been aired) and their CVs are as follows (if that helps in making an assessment).

### The Fox Club

The Fox Club London; 46 Clarges Street London W1J 7ER

In the late 18th century The Fox Club was once home to Mrs Armistead, a leading courtesan. She was the mistress and later wife of the renowned statesman and political giant, Charles James Fox. Mrs Armistead entertained many prestigious gentlemen at her home, including Lord Dorset, Lord Bolingbroke and George IV and the bedrooms at the Fox Club are named after her famous lovers.

Charles James Fox was a notorious womaniser but deeply fond of Mrs Armistead. He later claimed her as his wife and they lived in blissful happiness at 46 Clarges Street, where he remained devoted to her. Charles was a flamboyant character and a heavy gambler but also a brilliant orator. He was a great believer of freedom of speech and spoke openly about civil and religious liberty. His last major speech was on the abolition of slavery.

The club is tucked away on Clarges Street, a stone's throw (allegedly) from Green Park and Buckingham Palace.

### East India Club

16 St. James's Square London SW1Y 4LH

The East India Club, in the heart of London's Clubland, has a long tradition as a gentleman's home from home.

Founded in the middle of the 19th century, its original members were 'the servants of the East India Company and Commissioned Officers of Her Majesty's Army and Navy'. The legacy of those early members, home on furlough from far flung lands continues today. As a private club, only open to members and their guests, the Club still provides a refuge and meeting place for busy young men and their more seasoned seniors.

Since those early days, the Club has amalgamated with the Devonshire, the Sports and the Public Schools Clubs and also welcomed members of the Eccentric Club. The amalgam has been a happy one, possibly because together, as their titles suggest, the component parts reflect the very best diversity of English tradition. The Club retains its international dimension through its reciprocal arrangements with similar clubs throughout the world.

### The Carlton

Following the sale of the pub Lease by Peter Boizot to GPS, (three intrepid H&W members) developments have moved apace. The interior has been refurbished, the back room has been opened up, the garden has new furniture and has been in part laid with decking and food will soon be offered from the newly restored kitchen.

It is important for the Club to help develop the Carlton as its clubhouse and our position has been secured there until 2017. In order to foster the social side of the club, team captains are encouraged to integrate their teams with others at the Carlton after matches. This includes setting the expectation, as a selection criterion and otherwise, that team members socialise after games rather than disappearing quickly on other pretexts.

### The Realm

Possibly the greatest challenge facing the Club presently is the need to replace the Water based surface at Paddington Rec.

Westminster City Council used Football Foundation money to replace the surface of the original caged pitch and the resulting Tiger Turf variation was more appropriate for the playing of football. It is a rubber crumb pitch and the pile length means it is suitable only for lower level games. The pitch has been referred by Middlesex to England Hockey as unsuitable for competitive hockey. The pitch is reported to play reasonably well, albeit slowly, and indeed reminds several of our more experienced hockey players of days of playing on grass (and, in some cases, Hornsey grass)!

As for the water based pitch, Westminster are aware of the need to avoid a similar difficulty and we will be looking for a top quality surface, given the levels of hockey played. The Club would like to put down a London 2012 pitch but the Olympic surface remains undecided at present.

Following discussions with Westminster, they have agreed in principle to extend our legal agreement for the use of PRG and that they will be replacing the water base with a new water based surface, provided the Club contributes 50% share of the cost. The Council will be going to tender on the new surface on 8 December 2008. Tenders are then due back 9 January 2009 and an order will be placed on 20 February 2009.

Start of works is scheduled for Monday 20 April 2009 and then, weather permitting, the testing of pitch and handover will be concluded on 29 May 2009.

The Council has also agreed that the tender needs to include water cannons for the middle of the pitch. Any policy of the City Council not supporting the replacement of the pitch would have constituted a major problem because the Club would have no basis for agreeing its tenure at PRG, regardless of how playable the pitch is. The Council has indicated that it wants H&W to agree and sign a new legal Agreement with them in January 2009.

## Fund Raising

A fundraising task force has produced an action plan that is now being implemented. A first priority is to raise money from corporate sources in order to qualify for matching Sport England funds. Each team in the club will also be set a target. To help bridge the gap between what we have at present and what we raise from these other sources we shall be looking for any assistance that our Vice Presidents and former members may be able to give. Oz Rankin will be issuing a note with this Newsletter to explain how this might be achieved

There is a lot of work to be done on this. One of the first things is that H&W will move to become a Registered Charity (Ian Brown and Peter Finding are now leading this) as this will allow us better inroads into a number of the large companies for whom many players work. To date we have found companies generally are not interested in sponsorship or giving grants *per se*: they do, however, offer Matched Giving or Matched Fundraising to employees for Registered Charities. This is an important area for the club and one which we will need to utilise if we are to get the funds in place for the new tenure agreement and new pitch. Every current player in the club is being approached to establish whether their employer offers Matched Giving or Matched Fundraising.

A substantial raffle is to be launched at the end of January 2009, with ticket sales in February/March. In terms of social fundraiser events, the *Bollywood Party* will be the main event. It has potential to raise a few thousand pounds if supported properly. The club has decided against the promotion of a series of smaller events, recognising that raising money from others within the club is not feasible or practical.

Applications for Grants with the likes of the Lottery, Sports England, National Sports Federation, as well as various other smaller grants as well are now being co-ordinated by Jamie Perkins

## State of the Nation

An important current aim is to achieve England Hockey's Clubs 1<sup>st</sup> accreditation. This is a condition for receiving funds from English Hockey (EH). Unfortunately EH's facilities funding strategy is being reviewed and their new plans will not be agreed until January 2009, until which time decisions are on hold.

Clubs 1<sup>st</sup> is the club accreditation scheme England Hockey. It is a kite mark for clubs that can demonstrate that they are working towards minimum operating standards, especially in relation to junior hockey development. It is aligned with the Sport England Clubmark accreditation that is recognised nationally by non governmental bodies, local government, education and the sporting industry. In its simplest terms, the process ensures that a club has a safe, effective and child friendly environment. County Sports Partnerships and Funding agencies are increasingly recognising these clubs and choosing to work with them as a priority.

## Networks

H&W's community involvement primarily involves making hockey available to juniors. But the Club is also participating in a Community Sports Action Network, a government sponsored system across the country to get people taking more exercise. We recognise that to sustain our position we must integrate ourselves more with the community around our ground.

The Club is working in partnership with the Westminster Sports Unit and local schools to increase the number of junior players and our long term aim is to have junior teams being successful in regional and national tournaments. We are also seeking to convince England Hockey to help us market and develop the Westminster locality as one of the country's "hot spots" for hockey.

On the senior club playing front, we are conscious that partnerships with colleges and universities are a key component to success and growth. There is a suspicion that we may miss out on player recognition as we are not a delegated Centre of Excellence in national terms and if we want to break into the top four clubs we would dearly love to progress this aspect.

Accordingly we have agreed relationships with Imperial College and with the London Metropolitan University. Some former players may remember in the days of Greg Carr the closer ties with the University of London that saw players move on to join HWHC. Naturally college players moving to London forge groups and this has led to new blood being introduced. We have seen this with the University of Durham in the past decade but not on any formal basis.

The Club's Director of Coaching has been at the forefront of these arrangements. As a guiding principle, we aim to lay the ground for possible adoption by England Hockey of the partnership as a Centre of Excellence academy for high performance hockey players.

## Archive

[Something from Hockey World of 27 March 1925](#)  
[Memories of AB Osmond](#)

**"AFTER** a five years' absence from winter games, owing to a bad smash at Rugger, I was induced by my Hampstead cricket friends who used to practise hockey on the cricket ground in the late August and early September evenings to take up the stick game.

In those days (1896) Hampstead were a somewhat poor side, and had to crawl on their knees to obtain fixtures with such clubs as Wimbledon, Surbiton, Bromley etc.

At that period the amount of talking and appealing that took place during a game would have, I think, competed successfully with a ladies' Dorcas meeting. I remember, after playing a couple of matches with our second team, being "pushed" up to the First XI and in my first match being reprimanded by the skipper for talking and when I explained to him that I thought the qualification for the first team was a "well-oiled jaw", being pushed *down* to the second team. However, after a fortnight I was once more pushed *up* and played for the first team for some two or three seasons."

[*Dorcas Meeting?* Dorcas meetings were named after the woman of Joppa who made garments for the poor (Acts 9 v36). They brought parishioners together in 'domestic sewing classes and prayer in aid of local causes or benighted heathens']

Now you know!

## And Finally...

*well almost*

Colin Greenhalgh's contributions at VP Dinners are legendary and this year's was no less so.

He initially bemoaned his inability to be counted as the longest serving attendee, given the presence of Morley Pecker. He recollected his days as Club Secretary and the brief history that he has compiled for the Club's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1969. Colin admitted that in 1969 he did not have the benefit of internet search engines but armed with them today, he had carried out some research on one illustrious player of the early days, A E Stoddart, who had the rare distinction of having captained England at cricket and rugby – as well as being an elected Hampstead HC member.

Colin recounted that A E Stoddart had also featured in a record scoring spree whilst playing for Hampstead CC. Apparently he did not take to cricket seriously until 22 years of age, when he became associated with Hampstead CC. He was in a rich vein of form, scoring five separate centuries and before the end of the season of 1885 he had a trial with Middlesex.

In 1886, for Hampstead against the Stoics, Stoddart scored 485, which, at the time, was the highest individual score on record. What had endeared him to Colin was the manner in which he had gone about it!

It was in a one-day match on what was regarded as the "large Hampstead ground" then at Lymington Road. Reading from extracts of David Frith's book *My Dear Victorious Stod*, Colin outlined how Stoddart and his companions spent the night before the game.

On Tuesday night, "Stoddart and some of his friends went dancing and afterwards got to playing poker 'just for half an hour". It was after midnight when they commenced, and when the well-dressed young stockbroker (now sometimes called 'The Masher' for his elegance) found himself winning an appreciable amount of money, he played irresistibly on, mesmerised perhaps by the pattern of play, reluctant to leave the table with his friends' losses. He gave them generous time to recover: one round of jackpots followed another and his play grew wilder each hand, but he kept winning. As dawn broke they decided stumps ought to be drawn!

There was hardly any point in going to bed this fine summer morning, so it was warm baths all round then a cab to the swimming baths to freshen up ... and this great day, after a hearty meal, it was a case of ambling straight down to the ground, where the wicket was pitched in the centre of the expanse.

Stoddart and his partner, Marshall, went out to open the Hampstead innings at 11.30. After Marshall was bowled for 6, Besche came out and together with Stoddart set about the bowling. The score was 150 for one after an hour; and when Besche was caught for 98 the total was 242. Another wicket soon fell but Swift was quickly into the thick of the attack along with Stoddart. The luncheon interval arrived, mercifully for the bowlers and fielders, when Hampstead were 370 for 3. That was after 2½ hours' play. Even Stoddart - 230 not out - probably needed a breather by then.

Three o' clock and they were out on the field again. Stoddart and Swift, enjoying themselves immensely, took up where they left off; the ferocity continued unabated. Their adversaries toiled under the mid-day sun but stuck manfully to their work. Stoddart and Swift remained together for well on three hours; the total passed 400, passed 500, passed 600; passed 650 before one of Swift's blows located a fielder, dismissing him eight short of his hundred.

By now the 23-year-old Stoddart was but a few runs from the world record of 419 not out made by J. S. Carrick the previous year. Stoddart gave his only chance upon passing the record; at 421 he drove very hard to mid-on, who dropped the ball and no doubt consoled himself with the happy thought that this game was nearly over. Stoddart raced on past 450 and was urged to go for his 500 - although the close was approaching. At 485 he miscued the ball high to leg, swirling in the wind as it came down, and Stoddart gave 100-1 against anyone holding it; but the ball fell into the hands of Kelly at deep point. Five minutes and two runs later the innings ended for 813, the last man being absent, Hampstead had batted on for the whole of the match, Stoddart creating a record for one batsman and the side a record for a total in a one-day match.

Stoddart's scoring strokes were an eight (four from an overthrow), three fives, 63 fours, 20 threes, 36 twos and 78 singles. He had batted for six hours ten minutes, throughout which the bowling was good and accurate; there was one wide bowled and no no-balls. His personal rate of scoring was 78 runs per hour.

It was once suggested that this must have left him feeling very anxious to get some sleep, to which he replied, 'Well, perhaps I was, but we had a lawn tennis match, a four, on that evening, so I had to play that. Then I had another tub, and had to hurry too, because we had a box at the theatre and a supper party afterwards. But after that I got to bed all right, and it wasn't nearly three!'

## Next Letter

Hopefully this will be ready for issue at the conclusion of the playing season, in March or April 2009.

As mentioned, if you have any news or views, please send by e-mail to [ian.smith@otb.uk.com](mailto:ian.smith@otb.uk.com) or [mail@velwell.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:mail@velwell.eclipse.co.uk).

If it is fit to print, it will be!