

Hampstead and Westminster Hockey Club

Newsletter July 2010

Keeping Vice Presidents and Friends in the know

Welcome

This is the fifth in our series of revamped Newsletters and at mid year looks back to the last season and on to the next. Last season's highlight was the Club's special day out at the EHA Men's Cup Final on 15 May in Nottingham when the support for the team was beyond expectation and made for a day that all who were there will remember.

Sad News

We start, however, with the sad news of the death of another well-respected Club member and Super Veterans XI player, Steve Blackney, who died in July, quite unexpectedly. We send commiserations to Sally and her family. Richard Chapman was able to represent the Club at his funeral and on behalf of the team that was an integral part of Steve's life. Others from the team were able to attend a larger service of commemoration held later.

Richard reports that Steve was only ill for a short time and this was little known. He was a stalwart of the Vets over many years, especially lately. He had spells away, coaching at Tulse Hill HC and doing everything for his local club, Rickmansworth, but always returned to us.

He joined in 1986 and played, we believe, mainly for the 3's. He then went to Tulse Hill as their 1st XI coach, based upon his Melbourne University credentials. He then returned to play for the Veterans for a while but then left when family and work commitments grew heavy. But he was seen turning out for Rickmansworth in many guises in that period. He returned to HWHC again for a spell in the Super Veterans, where he was a commanding presence at the back. His main aim was to fire it up the pitch, grass style, at enormous velocity. Although a midfield by-passer with such style, he was a true team man and a frequent and enthusiastic tourer. There is no shadow of doubt that he will be missed. Sally asked all to raise a toast with some good Australian wine in the glass

Memorial Match

Memories of friends reminds us to bring news of the third Memorial Match that will be played at PRG on Sunday 12 September starting at noon. The teams will be playing for the prestigious Legends Trophy kindly donated in 2009 by Harry Watson. All are welcome obviously and in large part, at the Carlton before (possibly for some, during) and certainly afterwards.

Richard Chapman was drumming up support at a birthday celebration shared with Stuart Brown in the summer that involved rather a lot of golf but was an opportunity to catch up on the fitness of Hugh Smith, Nick Coleman, Chris Elliott, Ali Alibhai, Roger Brown, Keith Sheffield, Brian Pycock, Pat Coy, Kim Hansen, Guy Chapman, Peter McIlwaine, Colin Nash, Christ Waites, Philip Sudell, Geoff Turk, and John Seear. That sounds like at least one XI to us!

Dan Fox World Cup

H&W's Men's 1's skipper Dan Fox found himself suddenly on a 'plane in March and off to the World Cup in India, to play in front of 18,000 spectators. Upon arrival, he was thrust on to the bench in England's second game against South Africa. We cannot do justice to it all other than to rely on the report filed to the English Hockey Board

In the 500th match to be played in the history of the hockey World Cup, England and South Africa contested an entertaining ten goal thriller at the Major Dhyani Chand Stadium in Delhi on Tuesday. A double from Richard Mantell sandwiched strikes from Rob Moore, Ashley Jackson, Nick Catlin and Iain Mackay as England recovered from an early set back to win 6-4.

In a change from Sunday's squad, England head coach Jason Lee brought Hampstead & Westminster defender **Dan Fox** on to the bench with Reading's Jonty Clarke resting a tight hamstring in the stand alongside reserve goalkeeper and club teammate Nick Brothers.

England were clearly keen to start in a more attacking manner than against Australia two days ago but two early circle entries came to nothing before Surbiton forward James Tindall received an early green card and a two minute suspension.

James Fair, the hero for England on the opening day, was called upon in the seventh minute as he came off his post to narrow the angle with Thornton McDade pulling the trigger. Three minutes later, Fair could do nothing to stop Marvin Harper from opening the scoring from close range after good work by Justin Reid-Ross along the baseline.

As against Australia on Sunday, England immediately rallied from their set-back. Bowdon's Alastair Brogdon looked to have been crowded out inside the South African circle but his cutback found its way to Glenn Kirkham and the East Grinstead man's shot found the foot of a defender. Before Kirkham could pull the corner in from the baseline, South African Lloyd Norris-Jones broke the line and was sent to the halfway line by the umpire. Facing a now depleted South African penalty corner defence Richard Mantell executed a well placed low drag flick into the bottom right corner, which hit the backboard via the stick of Lloyd Madsen on the post for 1-1.

In the 20th minute South Africa were reduced to ten men with the temporary suspension of Wade Paton, although the green card should have been shown to his teammate Paul Blake.

England were beginning to assert their control on play and in the 23rd minute Surbiton's 28 year old midfield forward Rob Moore robbed South African captain Austin Smith in the middle of the pitch. Bursting forward at pace, Moore entered the circle and fired a blistering shot through the legs of Erasmus Pietersen in goal to give England the lead. It was the 15th England goal of Moore's international career.

No sooner had England gone ahead than South Africa responded, albeit with some good fortune favouring the attacking endeavour of Norris-Jones. Playing the ball across the face of goal from inside the right of the England circle, the former Canterbury player's cross was nowhere near a South African colleague but a defensive error gave South Africa an equaliser. In attempting to stop the ball Richard Mantell deflected it under the body of his goalkeeper Fair and into the goal; 2-2 with 25 minutes played.

The goal seemed to boost the Africans' confidence and Fair soon had to save on his post from the reverse stick effort of Julian Hykes, who was looking to add to his goal against Spain on the opening day.

South Africa had been level with Spain at half time in their opening match on Sunday before going down 4-2 and they began the second period intent on preventing a repeat. Within a minute of the half beginning Julian Hykes had South Africa's first sight of goal but under pressure from Richard Alexander he squeezed his shot wide of Fair's right post.

There then followed a period of patient possession play before England re-took the lead in the 43rd minute. Good work in the midfield from **Dan Fox**, playing in his first ever World Cup match, saw him find Captain Barry Middleton on the left of the circle. Middleton drove around Lloyd Madsen before cutting back to the diving Fox on the near post. Fox's effort was heading towards the far post where Jackson was on hand to knock home from a metre out to make sure of the goal.

Two well worked goals in as many minutes then looked to have put England in control. In the 50th minute Nick Catlin deflected Richard Alexander's hard pass onto the target but Pietersen pulled off a good reaction save. Not to be thwarted, the 20 year old Loughborough Students player followed up to add a World Cup goal to the one he scored against Korea at December's Champions Trophy.

And a minute later Catlin was involved again as England stretched the lead to 5-2. Breaking with Richard Alexander and Iain Mackay in a three-on-one, Catlin drew the goalkeeper before sliding the ball right to the diving Mackay to knock the home for his fifth England goal.

On 53 minutes a good piece of skill from Marvin Harper at the other end of the pitch pulled one back for South Africa as he dived to connect mid-air at the back post, meeting a cross from the South African right for 5-3.

With South Africa trying to force a comeback Richard Mantell restored England's three goal cushion with his second of the match and his 45th goal for England in 90 appearances. Given another opportunity from a penalty corner Mantell flicked home just above the backboard between the goalkeeper and the man on the post.

With Mantell having taken England's penalty corners, HGC's Ashley Jackson had his first set piece sight on goal with just over an hour played. Erasmus Pietersen was equal to it though and kept the flick out with a gloved save above his right shoulder. There then followed a delay while South African defender Justin Reid-Ross was treated for an injury sustained in a collision with Jackson after the youngster's effort.

Entering the final period, England upped the ante with Jackson breaking through the top of the circle and forcing another save from Pietersen. With five minutes remaining James Tindall won England another penalty corner after a failed South African referral to the video umpire. Richard Mantell's shot was on target but comfortably kept out by the goalkeeper, who proceeded to clear dangerously and concede another corner. Jackson's effort next up flew with pace but wide of the left upright.

At the other end, South Africa countered and forced another goal to take them to within two of England with just three minutes remaining. Austin Smith's pass to the middle of the goal was met by James Fair's stick but he could not prevent Thornton McDade's follow up and after an appeal to the video umpire the goal stood.

With two minutes remaining Loughborough Students' Richard Smith received a suspension for a foul in the 23 metre area and from the next move South Africa were awarded a penalty corner. Gareth Carr though failed to find the target and after the ball flew over Fair's crossbar the clock ticked down on another England victory.

Speaking about debutant Dan, who was only called up to the squad last Friday after Simon Mantell withdrew with a foot injury, match manager Andy Halliday said: *"We're pleased with Dan's contribution today. Ashley nicked a goal off him when Foxy thought he'd scored. Four days ago he was expecting to be teaching year seven pupils about plate tectonics and now he nearly scores inside 30 seconds of coming on for his first game at the World Cup."*

Cup Final

Sadly your correspondent was in York Minster on the day and only able to keep in touch with events by mobile phone on silent mode. For a match report we therefore rely on that provided to the EHA, which appears objective but offers an invitation to those who disagree to get in touch and offer an alternative view.

Preview

About an hour before the game coach Todd Williams was interviewed by Peter Savage, who runs Talk Hockey Radio (which is available on download) to ask in a somewhat teasing manner why Hampstead and Westminster were in the final at all? Peter had been on hand to report on the earlier rounds against Chichester and then Brighton & Hove. The latter was won by Hampstead with golden goal in the second period and evidently Peter reckoned H&W were fortunate to be where he reckoned as rather bluntly "we had played rubbish".

Todd Williams admitted that immediately and did not deny that the result against Brighton & Hove had been fortunate. It probably had the home side still scratching their heads. But Hampstead had hung in when the going was tough and at other times might well have lost such a match. However, the team had been focusing on the League performance, where there had been a marked improvement since the February restart.

This improvement was then reflected in our Cup performance where we had played really well against Old Loughtonians in the quarter finals and perhaps not as well but effectively against Sevenoaks in the semi final, where once again we had hung in. By then the team had seen where it needed to be and felt unfortunate to draw with Reading in the final League fixture, where a win would have meant entry to the League play-offs. So, there was still lots to play for in the Cup Final. He expected that Beeson would be equally eager for success, given their season which had seen highs and lows and Todd hoped the pressure might be more on the home players than his own charges.

Beeson 2 Hampstead 1

Beeson lifted hockey's Men's Cup in glorious sunshine at Highfields Sports Club thanks to two goals in the final eight minutes of a competitive tie against England Hockey League Premier Division rivals Hampstead & Westminster.

Chris Seddon's winning goal three minutes from time broke the hearts of the Cup Final debutants from London who had enjoyed the best of the first half and who had taken the lead midway through the second.

Cheered on by a vocal travelling support, Hampstead & Westminster took the lead through Andy Cornick's diving deflection at a penalty corner but Beeson equalised inside the last ten minutes through Jamie Parker. Seddon wrapped things up on the 2008 Cup winners with a low reverse stick shot from the top of the circle with four minutes remaining.

Beeson mustered the first circle entry after just two minutes but Sam Ward, falling off balance, failed to hit the target. At the other end, a minute later, Hampstead & Westminster won the game's first penalty corner and David Eakins drew an excellent save from England international George Pinner in the Beeson goal.

Hampstead & Westminster enjoyed the best of the opening 15 minutes and had a further chance to open the scoring just before the quarter of an hour mark when Jamie Gonzalez-Laguillo Garcia squeezed the ball through to Jordache Rawson on the penalty spot. Pinner though was out smartly to smother at close range.

Beeson's Sam Dixon blazed over the bar after an excellent passing move by the Nottingham side that spanned the length and breadth of the pitch and they won a penalty corner shortly after. Andrew Monte's flick from the top of the circle was comfortably saved by England under 21 goalkeeper Ian Scanlon.

As the half wore on Beeson began to assert themselves and their best chance fell in the 30th minute. Jamie Parker received the ball in space at the back of the circle. With time to set himself he unleashed a powerful low shot that forced the scrambling Scanlon into an excellent low save, preventing a certain goal.

Playing on their home pitch, the Bees won a second corner just before half time. This time it was Chris Seddon with the flick low to Scanlon's right and the Hampstead * Westminster goalkeeper did well to tip the ball onto his post as he dived to keep Seddon's effort out.

Beeston came out with renewed passion at the start of the second half, winning more ball and controlling better possession than they had in the first. Despite their efforts though, they had nothing to show for it when the Londoners won a penalty corner at the other end with 15 minutes of the second half played.

From a switch at the corner, Andy Cornick dived courageously to deflect the ball high into the net beyond George Pinner to give Hampstead & Westminster the lead with 51 minutes on the clock.

The goad riled Beeston but still they struggled to penetrate Hampstead & Westminster's defence. The Londoners squandered an opportunity to double their lead just before the hour, firing a penalty corner over the crossbar and it was to cost them as Beeston turned the game on its head in the final ten minutes.

On 62 minutes and with Hampstead * Westminster on the back foot, Beeston appealed for a penalty corner at the top of the circle. As the defence stopped and with no whistle coming, Jamie Parker took full advantage of the lapse to slot home beyond Ian Scanlon for 1-1 and set up an exciting final few minutes.

As Beeston piled on the pressure, Martin Jones then forced Scanlon into a good save with his left glove and it was not long before Beeston netted their late winner. Breaking from Midfield Chris Seddon took the ball into the circle at pace before shooting on his reverse underneath the onrushing goalkeeper to secure the 2010 Men's Cup and return it to Highfields following its year long stay at Reading's Sonning Lane.

Beeston 2 (0)

Jamie Parker 62 (F)

Chris Seddon 66 (F)

Hampstead & Westminster 1 (0)

Andy Cornick 51 (PC)

Premier Division Summary

As for the Men's 1's League performance, we have a few summaries, including the final League table, reflecting Todd's comments above and a review of how our points were won, where the aim is always to obtain points against the top four.

Table

1	Reading	18	12	5	1	49	26	41pts
2	East Grinstead	18	10	5	3	69	48	35
3	Surbiton	18	10	3	5	59	47	33
4	Beeston	18	7	7	4	45	36	26
5	Loughborough Univ	18	6	5	7	30	35	23
6	Hampstead & W	18	7	2	9	30	39	23
7	Cannock	18	5	4	9	43	45	19
8	Bowdon	18	4	7	7	41	44	19
9	Brooklands MU	18	4	3	11	31	50	15
10	Univ of Exeter	18	3	3	12	26	43	12

Opposition Points won

Reading 1/6
East Grinstead 0/6
Surbiton 0/6
Beeston 3/6
Loughborough Univ 0/6
Cannock 3/6
Bowdon 6/6
Brooklands MU 4/6
Univ of Exeter 6/6

Results and Goalscorers

Reading 2 Hampstead 0	
Hampstead 2 Surbiton 5	Cornick Eakins
Bowdon 0 Hampstead 1	Naylor
Univ of Exeter 1 Hampstead 3	Naylor Cornick Eakins
Hampstead 0 East Grinstead 3	
Beeston 5 Hampstead 2	[Fox] ¹ Roberts
Hampstead 2 Loughborough Univ 3	Eakins (2)
Cannock 2 Hampstead 1	Eakins
Brooklands 2 Hampstead 2	Perry Naylor
Surbiton 2 Hampstead 1	Naylor
Hampstead 2 Bowdon 0	Rawson Cornick
Hampstead 1 Univ of Exeter 0	Smith
Hampstead 3 Beeston 0	Cornick Naylor (2)
Loughborough Univ 2 Hampstead 0	
East Grinstead 6 Hampstead 2	Naylor (2)
Hampstead 5 Cannock 4	Roberts Folsom Naylor Cornick Rawson
Brooklands 0 Hampstead 1	Eakins
Hampstead 2 Reading 2	Eakins Naylor

Past years' Premier League Position

As we approach a tenth year in the Premier Division, a feat that may well sound unbelievable to those with memories of struggles in the London League (when it only covered the 1st XI), we thought a review by comparison with the past seasons might be intriguing.

2001/2	8 th	5	2	11	17pts
2002/3	8 th	5	1	12	16
2003/4	5 th	7	4	7	25
2004/5	8 th (of 12)	8	4	10	28
2005/6	5 th	6	4	8	22
2006/7	7 th	3	7	8	16
2007/8	9 th	3	5	10	12*
2008/9	7 th	5	3	10	17*
2009/10	6 th	7	2	9	23

* points deducted

Next Season

The fixtures for 2010-2011 have been announced. Last season's symmetry in the opening and closing fixtures is repeated: this season the fixtures are shared with Cannock, starting with a trip to the Morris Ground on 19 September

¹ There is a rumour that although Dan is reported, nationally, to have scored the opening goal, it may have been a case of mistaken identity by the Match Official. Arbitration continues!

19.09.10	Cannock v Hampstead
25.09.10	Hampstead v Canterbury
02.10.10	Brooklands v Hampstead
09.10.10	Hampstead v East Grinstead
17.10.10	Loughborough Students v Hampstead
23.10.10	Beeston v Hampstead
07.11.10	Hampstead v Bowdon
14.11.10	Reading v Hampstead
20.11.10	Hampstead v Surbiton
28.11.10	Canterbury v Hampstead
05.12.10	Hampstead v Brooklands
13.02.11	East Grinstead v Hampstead
20.02.11	Hampstead v Loughborough Students
26.02.11	Hampstead v Beeston
00.03.11	Bowdon v Hampstead
14.03.11	Hampstead v Reading
19.03.11	Surbiton v Hampstead
27.03.11	Hampstead v Cannock

As will be seen, there are a few more Saturday matches.

Team Manager

Have you ever wanted a stress-free, unpaid weekend job? Well then, apply to be a National League Team Manager. These are the jobs the League will expect from you as a minimum. Form an orderly queue...

Pre-Match

Contacting opposition/officials

The first duty is to contact the opposition liaison officer, umpires, match official and any other personnel appointed to the game i.e. umpire selector, assessor, coach. This must be done no later than the Tuesday prior to the match day. Emails are allowed as an accepted communication method but you must ensure that the opposition and officials know to confirm receipt of the email. If they do not reply by a specified time, a phone call to the individual/s will need to be made to ensure they have received the information.

Details that should be confirmed when contacting the opposition are:

- Venue (name/address) and type of pitch surface;
- Directions to the venue;
- Location for pre-match refreshments. If pre-match refreshments are served at a different venue, full address and directions should be advised;
- Match start time;
- Colours of both teams;
- Obtain lists of players for programme;
- Facilities available at the pitch for changing/showering etc;
- Match day bad weather procedures and emergency telephone number;
- Any other useful information ie. If there is a ball patrol during the game etc;

Details that should be confirmed when contacting the umpires and officials are:

- All the above, plus
- Pitch peculiarities, such as very narrow run-off areas etc;
- Travel arrangements – are they travelling by train? If so, do they require transport from the station to the venue? If by car, is it possible to provide reserved parking space?

Match Day

Pitch facilities checklist

On arrival at the venue, you should check the following:

- Is the pitch clean/clear of rubbish and debris? In autumn is there a problem regarding leaves on the pitch specifically within the circles? Brooms/brushes may be required;
- Is the pitch-clear of other equipment, such as football goals or other hockey goals on the sideline?
- Are there available a suitable table and chairs for the match official, plus additional chairs for any suspended players?
- Provide a towel or paper towels to dry down table and chairs after pitch watering (if applicable);
- Are there dugouts at the pitch? If not benches will be required for the teams;
- Check goal nets for holes or gaps behind crossbar and posts. Are there spare goal nets available in the event that the nets supplied are not adequate?
- Are there corner flags readily available to be put out?
- Is there a separate area for spectators? Are there stewards/programme sellers available to assist?
- Do you know who the contact person is at the venue (if not your own club) in order to assist with any problems such as to allow access to the pitch in the event that an ambulance may be required? Do you know the access point to the pitch for emergency vehicles? Is it unlocked?
- Do you know how to switch the floodlights on if requested and how to get the pitch watered?
- Do you know the contact details/directions to the local hospital in the event of a serious injury?

Equipment required for the game

- Plenty of ice available: 'no ice – no game';
- A well stocked first aid kit;
- A supply of good quality match balls of the same type and colour;
- In the event of blood injuries, appropriate equipment to remove blood from the pitch (water/alcohol, surgical gloves, cloth or paper towels).

Match duties (Team Manager)

If a team has a coach but not a manager, and if no-one else is available or prepared to assume the duties of a Manager, then the coach must assume the role of the Manager. Managers are not permitted to coach:

- Not fewer than 30 minutes before the match your team sheet must be passed to the match official along with adequate copies of the match day programme, and a print out of the team's online pitch-side list – showing all registered players;
- Not fewer than 10 minutes before the match inform the match official of your starting 11 players;
- Both teams must be given adequate space to warm up i.e. half a pitch each.
- Substitutes are to wear coloured bibs/tops different from the colours of the players and umpires on the pitch. They should remain seated for the most part;
- If players are wearing cycle shorts or long sleeved tops under their playing clothes they must be of the same colour as the corresponding item of clothing shown on the team sheet.
- The captain is to wear an identifying armband or similar distinguishing article.
- Co-operate with the match official; be readily available if and when required.
- Co-operate with the match official and umpires in escorting (if safe) a player with an injury, or with blood stained clothing, from the pitch; any blood on the pitch must be dealt with.

- Inform the match official of any substitutes during the game and on commencement of the second half.
- At the end of the game check and sign the EHL match report sheet.

After the Match

- Thank umpires, match official, opposition and any other personnel appointed to the game;
- Ensure that the opposition and officials have access to changing/shower facilities;
- If refreshments are not at the pitch venue ensure that all have clear directions to the venue and where necessary , lifts are available for those without their own transport,
- Clear away any match equipment (as appropriate);
- Ensure that umpires and match official are offered refreshments;
- Communicate with the opposition and match official whilst eating [but presumably not with your mouth full?]

Heck!!

National League Play offs

How do they work these days? The play-offs are used to help determine which teams are promoted and relegating in the EHL. The winners of the three Conferences (North, East and West) play off at the end of the season with the ninth placed team in the Premier Division with two places in the top Division up for grabs – the bottom team in the Premier Division having automatically been relegated.

EHL Premier Pay Offs

In the EHL Promotion Tournament the three winning Conference sides join the team finishing in ninth place in the Premier Division for a four team round robin tournament with the top two teams claiming Premier Division places for the next season.

This past season, the Premier League Play Offs involved the Conference winners and Brooklands, whose loss to Hampstead on the wet and bleak Saturday in Manchester in March, had condemned them to ninth spot. The other participants were Deeside Ramblers who had stormed the north Conference in their first season, Canterbury and Bath Buccaneers.

The somewhat odd sequence of results was

1 May 2010

Bath Buccaneers 2 Brooklands 1
Deeside Ramblers 0 Canterbury 9

2 May 2010

Brooklands 7 Deeside Ramblers 2
Canterbury 4 Bath Buccaneers 3

3 May 2010

Canterbury 4 Brooklands 1
Deeside Ramblers 3 Bath Buccaneers 1

Canterbury are therefore promoted back to the Premier League and Brooklands, despite two (but narrower) losses, are the team that retain their position, despite being beaten by the team below it in the standings.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Canterbury	3	3	0	0	17	4	13	9
Brooklands MU	3	1	0	2	9	8	1	3
Bath Buccaneers	3	1	0	2	6	8	-2	3
Deeside Ramblers	3	1	0	2	5	17	-12	3

Conference Play Offs

The bottom (tenth placed) side in each Conference is relegated with a play off between the three ninth placed teams to determine who stays up and who is relegated. The top team in this play off stays up in their Conference and the other two are relegated to their respective regional league. The five regional league winners are promoted

The three teams finishing in ninth place in the Conference play off for League survival. The winner of the three team round robin will stay up. While the two other sides are relegated to their respective regional league, along with the three sides that finished bottom of the Conferences. The play-off matches are played at home venues over three weekends.

The teams promoted to the Conference for this season include a few familiar names. Some re-emerge, including St Albans, with whom H&W had closely-fought tussles in the 1990's, as they followed us up to the Premier Division. Others are Olton & West Warwick, Ben Rydding, Cheltenham and Soma Singh-coached Wimbledon, who won the South League with some room to spare and have a talented squad. Belated but warm congratulations to Soma.

As mentioned, matches start as soon as 19 September.

Umpiring Premier League

The League keeps a watch on discipline statistically and perhaps the annual review with last year dispels the notion that it far worse each year. There is not a great deal of difference with the last season. The 1s' concerted campaign to bite the proverbial tongue appears to have worked this season, with fewer cards than in previous years and a healthy mid-ranking in the League performance on this score.

League 2009-10

Yellow Cards	108
Mean per club	10.8
Ave per game	1.2
Highest Club No.	18
Fewest Club No.	5
Suspended Players	1

Players finishing on 4 yellow cards	2*
Players finishing on 3 yellow cards	3
Players finishing on 2 yellow cards	21
Players finishing on 1 yellow cards	49

*one player received 4th yellow card on the final day of the season.

League 2008-09

Yellow Cards	97
Mean per club	9.7
Ave per game	1.1
Highest Club No.	12
Fewest Club No.	7
Suspended Players	2

Players finishing on 4 yellow cards	2
Players finishing on 3 yellow cards	4
Players finishing on 2 yellow cards	14
Players finishing on 1 yellow cards	49

Differences between 2008-09 & 2009-10

Yellow Cards	11+
Mean per club	1.1+

Ave per game	0.1+
Highest Club No.	6
Fewest Club No.	-2
Suspended Players	-2
Players finishing on 4 yellow cards	0
Players finishing on 3 yellow cards	-1
Players finishing on 2 yellow cards	7+
Players finishing on 1 yellow cards	0

Fair Play League?

As with football, compare this with the League standings?

Bowdon	5 yellows
Surbiton	6
University of Exeter	8
Cannock	10
H&W	10
Beeston	11
Loughborough St	11
Reading	17
Brooklands	17
East Grinstead	18

Women's Teams

Women's 1st XI

The Women's 1's had a storming end to the season and managed a very credible fifth in South Division One. The League was won by Surbiton, whom H&W beat 3-2 at the end of February but who still progress to the National League. H&W posted 33 points this last season and were beaten into fifth place only on goal difference by Southampton, who they had beaten earlier in February.

The turn about for the team was the new year.

6 Feb	Harrow	W	1-0
13 Feb	Southampton	W	2-1
20 Feb	Havant	D	2-2
27 Feb	Surbiton	W	3-2
6 Mar	Oxford Hawks	W	1-0
13 Mar	Rover Oxford	W	4-0
20 Mar	Woking	D	0-0
27 mar	Epsom	W	2-1

Women's 2nd XI

The 2's ended in tenth spot in South League 3A, after 6 wins and 6 draws and unaffected in terms of League placement by an unwelcome points' deduction by the pedantic League officials. The team will start again in the same League in September.

Women's 3rd XI

The 3rd XI came third in the Middlesex Premier Division, after 12 wins and three draws and only deflected by a points' deduction but not enough to sway the placings.

Eastcote	18	14	3	1	45pts
PHC Chiswick	18	13	2	3	41pts
H&W	18	12	3	3	37pts

Women's 4th XI

The Fours sailed into the Premier Division to join the 3's next season after clinching second spot in Division 1 this last season

Staines 3	18	16	0	2	46pts
H&W 4	18	15	0	3	45pts
Southgate 3	18	14	0	4	42pts

Women's 5th XI

The fifth team came third in Middlesex League 2 last season but will play in Division 1 next season.

Gymkhana 1	17	13	2	3	41pts
Aces 1	18	12	4	2	40pts
H&W	18	11	6	1	39pts

Women's 6th XI

The 6s had a magnificent season and crunched their way into Division 2 with goal difference of exactly 100, only conceding 11 in the whole season, sweeping all; aside. We salute them!

H&W	18	16	1	1	49pts
Eastcote 41	18	9	3	6	30pts
Teddington 6	18	10	1	7	29pts

Women's 7th XI

The 7th XI had a much improved season this year and ended in seventh spot, with six wins and three draws (and a single point deducted). In Middlesex League 4 only six teams escaped censure (which may well tell a tale!)

Summary

For lovers of percentages the best performance amongst the Women was that of the 6's, not surprisingly, and according to the statisticians, it was with 90.74%. We think these proportions may take into account games other than pure league fixtures, so you need not switch on your calculators.

6 th XI	90.74%
4 th XI	83.33%
5 th XI	73.68%
3 rd XI	72.22%
1 st XI	56.99%
2 nd XI	36.00%
7 th XI	33.33%

London League

The performance of the season was that of the Men's 2nd XI. They won the Premiership once again with a sustained surge at the end of the campaign and then won the Cup when, to the great dismay of the League organisers, Surbiton threw in the towel and ducked the challenge. The only slight disappointment was to have to send a much weakened team to meet Loughborough Students in the semi finals of the National 2nd XI Cup, where they narrowly lost 2-1.

H&W	20	15	3	2	97	31	48pts
Surbiton	20	14	1	5	89	38	43
East Grinstead	20	12	4	3	74	45	43
Southgate	20	11	3	6	64	64	36
Bromley & Beckenham	20	11	2	7	63	51	35

Division 1

The 3's managed fifth place in a League in which they compete predominantly with other clubs' 2nd XIs

Old Loughts 2	22	18	2	2	71	28	56pts
Surbiton 3	22	15	5	2	76	39	50
Wimbledon 2	22	14	1	7	80	48	43
Spencer 3	22	12	3	7	55	42	39
H&W 3	22	11	2	9	72	47	35

Division 2

Zak Hond XI stayed the course well to end in ninth spot, with seven wins and five draws, ending with 26 points, in a League won by Teddington 2nd XI. It again would mystify H&W players from even as late as the 1980's and early '90's that our fourth ranking team would be locking horns with Teddington's second.

Division 3

H&W have two teams in this League. The 5's ended in second place, with the 4's two back in fourth.

Southgate 4	20	14	4	2	87	48	46pts
H&W 5	20	13	2	5	61	30	41
Old Loughts 3	20	12	4	4	77	39	40
H&W 4	20	10	3	7	54	25	33
Reading Refills	20	9	1	10	43	60	28

Division 4

Two H&W teams once more. The 6th XI finished in fourth in a League won by Bromley & Beckenham 4th XI, who only lost one game. The Hammers were in eight spot with 20 points.

Bromley & Beckenham	20	17	2	1	91	32	53pts
Wimbledon 4	20	17	0	3	79	21	51
Oxford Univ 3	20	13	4	3	72	27	43
H&W 6	20	9	6	5	63	48	33
London Wayfarers	20	9	4	7	44	50	31
Wimbledon 5	20	7	4	9	40	48	25
PHC Chiswick	20	6	4	10	50	57	22
H&W Hammers	20	6	2	12	45	80	20

Division 6

The Spaniards managed a successful fifth place in a League, where two Reading teams were last (with two points) and penultimate (with 20)

London Wayfs Vikings	18	13	2	3	55	25	41pts
HAC Sutlers	18	9	5	4	40	36	32
Spencer Titans	18	8	5	5	39	36	29
Southgate 5	18	8	3	7	50	45	27
H&W Spaniards	18	18	8	3	7	31	29

Division 7

The redoubtable Thirsts held on to sixth out of eighth, in a League of 21 matches with six wins, three draws and 21 points.

Vets Division One

The Vets secured seventh spot with 23 points. The League winners were Reading Rustlers, who lost just one game and amassed 55 points, to win by 16 in a canter with such a gulf of class a

goal difference of 81, when the second placed team's was 12! The Vets record was six wins, five draws and nine defeats, scoring 62 but conceding two more. This is an increasingly competitive League.

[Supervets League](#)

The SV's ended in a notable fourth place, with an admitted gap on third spot held by Eastcote. It was hammer and tongs for the two leading teams, with second-placed Gymkhana outscoring the winners but making up for it with the League Cup win later in the season.

[Touring](#)

[Beerschot Veterans' Tournament; 11-13 June 2010](#)

Hampstead's participation over the past 5 years at the Veterans' tournaments in Antwerp, owes its thanks to H & W Vet (and former Belgian international) Thierry Calewaert, whose brother Michel is a member of Temse HC, a local sister club of Beerschot HC.

The Belgians called a general election on Sunday 13 June. It being compulsory for all Belgians to vote, or be fined, a few teams had to cancel. The HWHC International All Stars were not going to be lightly put off, however.

A splendidly quick journey to Brussels, then a local train to Antwerp, followed by a taxi ride took us to the Hotel Ter Elst described by the organisers as '2 minutes away from the club house'. I don't know whether this was left over from the last tournament which was held next door to the hotel at the Royal Victory Club when the Beerschot site was being redeveloped, or whether it was timed in a Ferrari, but it turned out to be at least a 20 minute walk.

HWHC's first game was at 10am on Saturday morning on the hosts' main pitch, on which the Australian national team will train for a week in July, so good are the facilities.

Hampstead only had 8 players notwithstanding the inclusion of such legends as Richard James (and Melinda of course) and Nick Openshaw, turning up from all corners of the UK; Morley Pecker, our only international (umpire) was also present. In the first game against the Royal Victory Club, the Scottish Veterans Over 50 side came to the rescue by providing players on a rolling basis: their first game was the next one on. The score was 1-1.

Initially Nick Openshaw was the only person with a warm up routine, whilst the Scottish Vets not only had a warm up routine but a warm down routine. It wasn't clear whether Nick's routine was based upon walking in a straight line or whether he was practising his legendary dance routine.

In the course of the Saturday afternoon, HWHC won all three remaining matches, helped by various volunteers, and giving us equal billing at the top of the leader board alongside the Scottish Over 50 squad and Beerschot's Vets A team.

There was a greater trepidation in the HWHC ranks on the Sunday, as we had now to play the top two sides. The Scots had been scoring 7 or 8 goals per game and instead of playing a 35 minute per game, those on the Sunday were to be two halves each of 25 minutes. The Scots declined the HWHC offer of a shorter game, as the tournament was a selection weekend and they wanted more pitch time.

However with help from their friends, Hampstead rose to the occasion. Baudouin played with assurance and his friend Didier Lodewyckx performed miracles in goal, including saving a penalty flick. The final score was 2 – 1. The Scottish goalkeeper suggested that their conceding a goal had probably cost him his place in their team.

HWHC now stood against the home side's winning its own tournament. The hosts included a former Belorussian international and introduced another, whom it was rumoured had just 'retired,' having been the top player in Belgium for the last 10 years.

Baudouin continued to perform heroics, in spite of injury and another guest player, Mumu, upped his game. HWHC could not hang on, alas, and valiantly lost 0-2.

All in all, it was a(-nother) really satisfying and enjoyable Belgian tour weekend!

Self Pass Rule

For those who have not encountered the workings of the rule change last season and witnessed the pace at which the game can now be played, it may be interesting to read what the Daily Mail's football correspondent Martin Samuel had to say after watching Reading play Beeston.

The rule penalises the defender far more effectively by not stopping play to allow the defence to re-group. The player frustrated by a foul can just take a tap to himself or herself and run on. The defender has to retreat five yards, so cannot get in the way

Hockey has the answer for getting football up to speed

"In January, hockey introduced a self-pass rule for free hits. Basically, in the event of a foul, when the play restarts (with the equivalent of a free-kick in football), the player does not have to pass to a team-mate but can choose to dribble the ball instead.

The penalised team must not be within five metres when he takes his first touch and off we go. I saw this experiment in action on Sunday and tried to find a reason why it is not used in football: so far, I have none.

I expected the self pass to make the game quicker and therefore more exciting, which it did — and hockey is substantially faster than football already — and I liked the idea of living additional advantage to the injured party. The third benefit, which I had not considered, was that the self pass improves discipline by making it foolish in the extreme to argue with the referee. If the opposition can just put the ball down and play on, only an idiot would risk being out of position disputing the decision. There truly was no downside.

The match I watched was Reading versus Beeston, first versus third in the Men's Premier Division of the England Hockey League, so it was of high quality.

As in football, teams at that level are too well organised to allow players to run with the ball uninterrupted, so the self-pass rule did not unleash a series of mazy dribbles around the pitch. Often a player took a couple of touches and laid it off, as he would in normal play.

What changed was the speed with which a team could get on with the game. When a foul occurred, the ball was placed — it has to be stationary — tapped and the attack began. The five-metre rule says that an opponent should not be within that distance but, if he is, he cannot play the ball, so there is no question of failing to retreat to delay the restart.

Nobody waited for a whistle to be blown, either. Once the foul had been awarded it was up to the team with the free hit to begin the play and often this happened so quickly there appeared no break in the action.

Football could learn a lot from hockey, not least from the traffic light system of awarding cards. Green cards are a warning; two green cards make a yellow card and a minimum of five minutes in the sin bin; a player can receive two yellow cards for different offences but the second sin bin

punishment is substantially longer; two yellow cards for the same offence make a red card, expulsion from the game and a lengthy ban.

One umpire told me: 'If I show a yellow card, your team won't see you for a few minutes; if I show a red card they won't see you for a few months.'

By having more *wriggle room*, hockey umpires can use more discretion than football referees. It is ludicrous that in football an ill-judged goal celebration carries the same penalty as a potentially leg-breaking tackle.

Strange, too, that football seems so resistant to change".

[Hampstead HC at Lord's?](#)

It is probably little known but in 1982 former Club Chairman and sadly missed Stan Elgar, along with John Haynes, raised with the MCC the difficulties that Hampstead HC were encountering with the pitches at Hornsey. This coincided with the discussions with Hampstead Cricket Club to consider a move to their ground that led eventually to our move to Paddington Rec.

At the General Meeting of the MCC in May 1982 an expensive programme of works was approved but the proposal partly to finance this by the admission of 2,000 Associate Members was defeated. There was a plea from the floor of the Meeting for greater year-round use of the facilities at Lord's. Thinking that time might be right, John Haynes, who knew the MCC's Secretary, Jack Bailey personally, had written to him and explained the difficulties at Hornsey, Hampstead and North London generally and Stan and John discussed these with Jack Bailey.

Stan did not hold out much hope but thought that we might be offered one pitch on the Nursery Ground, with teas in the indoor cricket school. The matter was referred to the MCC Grounds Sub Committee. It was estimated by Stan to cost in the region of £50 per week and suggested that the Club would only pay if it played. Until they heard from the MCC, Stan felt that there was little point bringing this to the general knowledge of the Club (ie HHC) but did refer it to Peter Boizot, who, Stan felt, had long been an advocate of such a move (and had promised a substantial contribution towards the expense).

Stan reckoned there was little chance of being able to play on the main pitch (left largely for internationals in those days) and because of the square and the nets the Nursery Ground would only take one pitch and even if the Club were offered such a facility, it would need to consider whether it wanted to move its headquarters to Lord's for a trial period (say, for five years) when only the 1st and 2nd XIs would expect to play there regularly. He felt that we might have achieved two matches there in October, as the ground staff would be highly professional, with other HHC teams playing at Coram's Fields and any other grounds available in North London.

[From the Annals....](#)

[Shirt Numbers?](#)

[From the Minute Book in July 1986...](#)

Alan Delaney said that Peter Boizot is making some provision for shirts for the Men's 1st XI. Peter thinks that the London League will require 1st XIs to wear numbered shirts next season. Following a long discussion Peter, Alan and Andy Nicholson will investigate the best way of providing and distributing shirts to the 1st XI.

[10 Years Ago](#)

[Floodlighting](#)

In January 2000 Nick Coleman summarised the discussions with the City of Westminster, who had previously indicated that floodlighting a second pitch was unlikely to gain any support.

Mark Fisher the City's Leisure Contracts Manager had written to the Club
I have spoken to the planning department regarding the proposal to install floodlighting on the site. They informed me that a number of years ago a similar exercise was pursued, resulting in a vociferous rejection of then project from the local residents. Jackie Cutts' letter of 21 July 1998 to Peter Boizot made it clear that there was little possibility of planning permission being given to floodlight the track pitch.

I understand that you are keen to implement floodlighting to provide an improved training facility and extend the hours of possible use. However, the needs of the local residents must be taken into consideration. In addition the Council does not have any available funds that could be allocated to the project.

Nick wrote to the Chairman of the Environment and Leisure Committee.
You will see that we have sought the views of the Council regarding the question of floodlighting the water-based pitch at PRG, a subject close to the heart of Hampstead and Westminster Hockey Club and touched upon last September at the official opening of the pitch.

As you know, HWHC are anxious to advance this project for you will appreciate that the hockey club would wish to train on the water based pitch after dark in the winter months and during the playing season. HWHC would not want to change the current regulations that surround the use of the floodlights on the non-water based pitch. As you will no doubt be aware the lights have to be turned off at 9.00pm.

It is worth noting that if floodlights were installed on the water-based pitch, there would be significant revenue advantage to the Council and also the company that manages the Contract (currently Cannons Health & Fitness). This is apart from the obvious advantages to the community that would be afforded by the floodlights to the pitch.

As you may know floodlighting technology has advanced by leaps and bounds in recent years. For example, low level directional lighting reduces glare and yet affords extended use. These were some of the objections when the matter was canvassed some years ago. Our research suggests that no planning application has in fact ever been submitted.

Jeff Austin, the Director of Environment and Leisure replied
Whilst I understand HWHC's interest to install floodlighting on the water based pitch, the needs of the local residents must be taken into consideration. Although there have been huge improvements in the technology of floodlighting, reducing the amount of spillage light and noise levels would undoubtedly increase with extended hours of use.

You are correct that an extension of hours would indeed result in increased income from the facility. However it is essential that a balance is achieved that satisfies both users of PRG and local residents. The balance that is currently in place would be upset should a scheme of this nature proceed, possibly resulting in a detrimental impact on PRG and its personal relationship with local residents.

For information, a number of years ago, a report outlining the implementation of floodlighting on the site of the new water based pitch was withdrawn before going to Committee as a result of a vociferous response from local residents.

I do understand that HWHC desires to grow and develop particularly with your successes on the pitch. However I am sure that you will understand the Council's perspective in ensuring that local residents' needs are taken into account.

Such apparently insurmountable difficulties were evidently overcome and the rest is history. Interestingly, the officers of the Council tended to concentrate on the residents' *needs* as opposed to their *wishes*.

20 Years Ago

Fund Raising Report

A Newsletter of March 1980 reported on the Campaign for Pitch Drainage at Hornsey, described by John McCabe as a novel enterprise (newsletter, that is, as opposed to funding!)

"The ball started rolling with the successful Marathon Run for Masochists in June 1979. This brought in some £1,500 and has since been followed by the excellent Drain Supper (£500) a Jumble Sale (£200) and a Fund Raising Disco (£200). The Bandit Cards and Fruit and Video machines are both proving profitable. There is no doubt that a momentum is being sustained and a great deal of thanks is due to you, **the members**.. By the end of the month the Fund should be well into £3,000, excluding the Grand Draw.

The Grand Draw will culminate with the prize-giving on the evening of the Club's Annual Dinner and Dance. The success of the Draw depends on our ability to sell raffle tickets and as only half the available amount has been distributed there is a great need for our efforts to continue. By now most of you will have sold the 15 books sent through the post and you are therefore reminded that monies counterfoils and requests for further books of tickets should go to Messrs Earp, Stobart, Walker, Francis and McCabe. Please do your best for the sake of the Club.

This, we think, is a new departure for the Club. At the Annual Dinner there will be good food guest speakers and music to dance away the hours. Confirmation has just been received that the venue will be the Lord's Tavern in St John's Wood on 9 May 1980.

Robin Francis is running a Jumble Sale stall on Saturday mornings and is looking for material to sell, with proceeds to the Fund.

Tracksuits and sweaters are now available. The tracksuits are in Club colours, with the name on the back and cost £12.00 if ordered in bulk and £12.50 if ordered individually. They are better than Lillywhites' cheapest at £14.65 and must be outstanding value. The sweaters are dark blue with Hampstead HC across the top left and £13.75 each in various sizes. They have the drawback that gorgeous women rip them off your body in haste. C'est la vie!"

Letters to the Editor

Not to this Newsletter or the Club but to the Hockey Digest in 1978...

Sir:

Umpires are, I fear, all too often forced to comment adversely on the behaviour of players on the field and in particular about verbal abuse. It is pleasing therefore to be able to record a word of praise for a skipper who does not allow this to happen. At Folkestone Viji Vijendan, who was captaining Hampstead, set an example which others might follow – he sent off one of his own team for *verbals* and for the remainder of the game the discipline of his team was an object lesson to their opponents, who, in this respect, were the worst side I have seen this year.

Yours
Peter Harms
Northwood
Middlesex

Next Letter

The next main edition will report the end of the season in April or May 2010. If you have any news or views, please send by e-mail to mail@velwell.eclipse.co.uk. *If it is fit to print, it will be!*