

IF the Hampstead Hockey Club cannot boast of having pioneered the game in the South of England, it can at least claim to be one of the very oldest of Southern clubs. Originally the club was an offshoot of the Hampstead Cricket Club, under whose tutelage it remained up to eight years ago, when it broke away from the parent club and assumed an independent existence. The distinctive feature of the club has always been the strong cricketing element in its various teams. The Hampstead Club is, indeed, a striking illustration of what is now a recognised truth, namely, that hockey is essentially a game for cricketers, and that the physical attributes that make for success in the one make also for success in the other. Most famous of all Hampstead's cricket-hockey players was

A. E. Stoddart, who played as a wing forward, and with the same skill that marked his cricket, his football, or any game to which he turned his hand. Then there were H. B. Hayman (who retired from the game last season), G. Crosdale, W. Danby, S. S. Pawling, all of them good cricketers and enthusiastic and successful hockey players. The present team includes many cricketers, chief of whom are F. W. Orr and E. L. Marsden. The club has never been so healthy and vigorous as in the present season, the membership being so great as to necessitate the playing of four teams every Saturday.

Last season Hampstead sustained one defeat only, at the hands of Ealing; no match with Staines, the champion club of the South, being played. If a classification of Southern clubs for the past few seasons were attempted, second place would probably be accorded Hampstead. Certainly there are few stronger combinations in the country than the Middlesex club.

It goes without saying that the bright particular star of the Hampstead team is S. H. Shoveller. Without him the team are much in the same case as Samson was when shorn of his locks. With Shoveller Hampstead are always a formidable side, a team of dangerous potentialities. There is no more pleasing sight in hockey than one of those electric runs with which Shoveller delights his comrades and paralyses his opponents. All this is by no means to say that the other ten members of the team are of only ordinary merit. G. Logan and R. Manser, who play on either side of Shoveller, are sound and skilful performers, and have both earned the distinction of playing for the South. J. Ford Smith, who got his half-blue at Oxford, and his South cap in 1902, is another strong link in the forward line; while F. Ferrers is a capable winger. **Combination and Shoveller** are the main characteristics of the Hampstead team, and more especially of the forwards, who pivot round their centre, making him, as it were, their objective. But there are days when Shoveller is so carefully marked down by his opponents that even his genius is stifled, and then it is that the other forwards have an opportunity of showing their individual abilities and resourcefulness. In R. A. Hill Hampstead possess a brilliant and intrepid goal-keeper, to defeat whose skill is, more often than not, the unfulfilled desire of the attacking forwards.