

Welcome

This is a brief dispatch for the start of the season. Some late summer news will be stale by the time of the next Newsletter in December. And there are dates for diaries and reminders of things of note. Therefore, without further ado...

Memorial Game

Jerry Stanyard kindly provided a brief report of events on 8 September at PRG (with apologies to those who have read it already).

“Another great day yesterday for the Legends with an 11-5 victory delivered by members of the *Team of the Eighties* blending seamlessly with *Stars of the Nineties* and one or two more youthful Legends.

The H&W club is clearly in fantastic shape, with a huge number of members of all ages from Vets to Juniors, the Women’s 1st XI now in the Premier Division and the Men about to embark on their first European adventure. Things have changed a bit from the Tivoli Road days.”

Diaries

Saturday, 14 September 2019

Opening fixtures of the Premier Division for both H&W teams in Nottingham:

Men’s 1st XI v Beeston at 1400h

Women’s 1st XI v Beeston at 1600h

Saturday, 21 September 2019

First Premier Division home games at PRG:

Men’s 1st XI v Old Georgians at 1330h

Women’s 1st XI v University of Birmingham at 1530h



H&W's GB international trio

[Friday, 6 October 2019](#)

The Men's 1st XI plays its inaugural fixture in the European Hockey League at the Pau Negre Stadium in Barcelona against HGC of Holland.



[Friday, 6 March 2020](#)

The next fund-raising Lunch is to be held at Smith & Wollensky, 1-11 John Adam Street, Covent Garden, London WC2N 6HT. John Adam Street is a short walk from Charing Cross Station. Further details are to follow.

[2019 Oceania Cup](#)

In Queensland, New Zealand's Women came out victorious against Australia and gained the Olympic qualifying spot, outscoring their opponents 6-5 after the three matches

In the Men's tournament, Australia defeated New Zealand twice, with a 2-2 draw in the second match. Australia therefore booked their place for Tokyo 2020.

[2020 Olympic Games Qualification](#)

The FIH met in Lausanne after the games in Queensland and published the new World Rankings. These led to the draws for the Olympic Games Qualification matches.

GB's Men have been drawn against Malaysia and the Women will tackle Chile.

These matches will be played at Lee Valley on the weekend of 2-3 November 2019. Tickets are set to go on general sale on Monday, 16 September.

Great Britain's Women have never played Chile at a major tournament. Chile are currently ranked 18th in the world. Malaysia's Men are ranked 11th. Both GB teams need to qualify separately through the two-legged matches. Being reigning Olympic champions does not automatically qualify the Women for the Tokyo Games.

[Current FIH Rankings](#)

Women top 10

Netherlands, Australia, Argentina, Germany, England, New Zealand, Spain, Ireland, India and China

Scotland = 22nd; Wales = 26th

Men's top 10

Australia, Belgium, Netherlands, Argentina, India, Germany, England, Spain, New Zealand and Canada

Ireland = 13th; Wales = 18th; Scotland= 19th; USA = 24th; Trinidad & Tobago = 36th

H&W's new season

As reported in the last Newsletter, the Club arranged a playing weekend in Belgium on 31st August and 1st September for the Men's and Women's 1st XI's and for the Junior Section of the Club. The Veterans also ventured out, on whose behalf Will Saxby commented that it was hard to summarise the weekend but the Vets played Royal Racing on the Saturday at 8.00pm, followed by Royal Oree on the Sunday at 10.30am

The Vets beat Royal Racing 9 - 3 in the late-night game. "Conditions were very hot, in front of a large crowd – well, at least 20 people! There were some excellent performances all around especially from the Dad coaches – Piran, Edmund and Martin, with a Stupple pass thrown in for good measure.

It was good to see Hans back in a Hampstead shirt again. The Vets entertained the crowd of Men's 1's and Women's 1s, who appeared surprised that Vets hockey was not as poor as they had been led to believe. After gifting the opponents three goals in the first half, we actually strung together some impressive moves and some nice finishes. Racing afterwards praised us for our 'technical skill and lack of mistakes' - they definitely were not watching the same game!!"



HWHC M1s, W1s and Junior teams adulate Mens' Vets after epic 9 -3 showcase win v Royal Racing

“In bed at 2.00 am was not the best preparation for a 10.30 am game against Oree, who had a squad of 14 and looked keen. Old stager Baudoin Delvaux stepped in for Hans, which at least meant we had 12 players. On being offered 17½ or 15-minute quarters, I grabbed the latter, as we set about conserving energy. Fortunately, Oree's looks did not match their play, as they were not that well organised or proficient. It did take us a while to get on top. After half time, we surged ahead. It could have been several more if Chunder had stopped using his stick like a shovel in front of the keeper's pads! Thanks for self-nominating yourself as DoD Chunder and buying the beers!”

Final score 5 - 1 (Bjorn (2), Baudoin (2), Will Saxby)



Slightly jaded Sunday team v Royal Oree

Back row L - R: Baudoin Delvaux, Andy Brookes, Richard Sykes, [] Will Saxby (cap'n) Edmund Papworth, Chris Handford.

Front row L - R: Boudewijn Dierick, Francois Churlaud, Andrew Harrington, Matt Stupple, Bjorn Schwarz

The Men's 1st XI were missing a number of players rested because of international commitments but won both their games against Royal Racing (2-1) and a strong Royal Oree (3-2). The Women's 1st XI won one and lost one.

Remiss

To redress a concern that the last Newsletter did not cover the Vets' Belgian tour at the end of May 2019, here are the details.

To coincide with the 75th anniversary of D-Day, Chris Somes-Charlton, otherwise known as the Supreme Allied Tour Commander (SATC) and several Bars returned to Belgium with a brigade of merry men armed only with hockey-cum-walking sticks.



Out host Michel, with Martin Cramer

Most team members travelled ensemble in the same Eurostar carriage, but some departed for the buffet car at the earliest opportunity in order to get in some early training in Belgian 'courage'.



We arrived in Brussels on time and made swiftly for Bornem, the Supreme Commander having plotted the path ahead. Thanks to his expertise in Belgian railways, no men were lost in the push for Bornem. On arrival at a deserted station, our leader pointed to the nearby hotel. As luck and the Supreme Commander's oversight would have it, however, we were berthed in a sister hotel, a good training run away on an industrial estate. It was more a case Toys R Us meets Travelodge. Worse, the venue could only be reached by dicing with death as we traversed a busy dual carriageway, laden with kit.

Dropping bags in our not uncomfortable rooms, we returned to Bornem centre in search of opposition and a bar where we could watch Chelsea's pulverising of Arsenal in the Europa Cup Final.

No sooner had we located a suitable hostelry than out of it flounced the Brothers DoomBar, Donald and Dobbin. We quickly reinforced their position. A nearby restaurant was then occupied, at a table large enough to seat 14 people. Later, the team Sherpa, Richard James, arrived with wife Melinda, bringing up the rear. We ate, watched the match and imbibed copiously.



Bringing up the rear?

The next day, we headed to Antwerp, resplendent in our HWHC touring blazers, to watch the British elite regiment (including our very own Harry Martin, Will Calnan and Sarah Robertson) taking on the Belgians at hockey. Alas, the Red Lions demonstrated why they are currently World Champions, although GB men did raise their game in the second half. The less said about the GB women's game, the better!



Afterwards, in a Tom Cruise incarnation, James Jackson led the troops on a slow meandering crawl in search of a train from Antwerp Zuid back to base. In the process, a big Charlie nearly became the first casualty of the tour with a moped up his backside as he strutted along the pavement. Next we circumambulated Sint Niklaas in a fruitless search for a restaurant bar, only to decide in the end to repair back to Bornem, site of the H & W training camp.

The first game against the Belgian Over 60s (The Old Lions) on Friday morning began in surprisingly vigorous fashion. In a bid to avoid impending impeachment, H & W President "Syko" ran straight onto the pitch, having arrived that morning from Blighty already changed and with Mike Carnill in tow.



Mike Carnill and Anthony Swing

As late as the last quarter, the match was poised at 3-3. Tony the Team Scribe ascribed what happened next to "some interesting umpiring decisions", as defeat reared its head. He could also have observed that the team talisman and Supreme Commander limped off injured when the tourers were still ahead. But he didn't.

In the dossier of dodgy umpiring decisions was the Battle of Henrik's Foot, which nearly created a diplomatic incident and led to a penalty flick. Another decision devolved upon John Imperial-Majesty and his flicking gaily over the bar of a ball bound for the top of his net.

A sightseeing womble round of Antwerp arranged by Michel, our Temse HC host, and led by Carl, an octogenarian Temse stalwart provided a temporary respite from the wall of in-flowing alcohol. Along the way, we passed the Cathedral, the Town Hall, the Jesuit church where Carl married over 50+ years ago, and some delightful old back streets and alleyways. Our walk even included a triangular square or a triangular space which masqueraded as a square, a virgin experience for the well-travelled Supreme Commander. At half time, Carl invited the team for a beer in one of Belgium's classic café bars. Hobbled, but not on a hockey field, Anthony did well to keep pace, encouraged by other slow-moving team members.

Dinner on the last night in Temse took place in a modern restaurant beside the mighty River Scheldt. The Supreme Commander was about to tuck in to his just desserts, when a kangaroo court was hastily inaugurated. In a fetching pink wig of which Rocketman would have been proud, His Imperial-Majesty presided and Stroller strolled, his tail in the air. Otherwise known as the Goa Constrictor (one of 3 Goans in the H&W touring team), Stroller never misses a chance to blow his own D'Sousaphone.



The Goa Constrictor

He endeavoured to smear the Supreme Commander's reputation with every wrong thing he could think of. Happily, the Supreme Commander was not deemed sufficiently guilty as to warrant the sentence handed to poor Admiral Byng RN in a previous century: he was executed 'pour encourager les autres'.



In the Courtroom



The Goan Brethren

Our Temse hockey friends even ferried us back to Bornem after dinner, where some extra late-night training was added to the schedule. After over-exertion by some late on, our second match against the Belgian Old Lions on Saturday morning was not our best and is best forgotten.



In our final match against the Dutch Over 60s, the by-now Superannuated Vets played their socks off, securing a very creditable 1-1 draw (which looked all the more remarkable when the

Dutch beat the Old Lions in the last game). Anyone who could walk, spread-eagled themselves across the pitch and played out of their skins, some literally so.

With the number of walking wounded reaching almost a quarter of the team, the Supreme Commander now beat the retreat. Dobbin the DoomBar sported a shiner after facing off a shot which might otherwise have penetrated His Imperial-Majesty's walking sticks. Even young James was by now lame, but at least Sherpa James ran on regardless.



The "Shiner"

Our host Michel and his wife could not have been more helpful or made us feel more welcome. In a further demonstration of his willingness to go above and beyond, after the umpires' whistles had fallen silent until another tour, Michel loaded up his pick-up with all our kit and cases and drove it to Temse station, allowing the weary to walk unencumbered.

We arrived in Brussels in time to have some warm down exercises before boarding the Eurostar back to St Pancras where everyone gathered to say 'goodbye' before parting. All agreed that it had been yet another stonking Temse tour.

Dramatis personae: Mike Carnill, Martin Cramer, Richard D'Souza, Donald Dunbar, Dobbin Dunbar, Marc Fernandes, John Ingram-Marriott, James Jackson, Richard James, Henrik Kjellin, Charles Packe, Tony Pereira, Chris Somes-Charlton, Richard Sykes, Melinda James & Anthony Swing.

[Hockey Digest 1977](#)

Dear Sir

May I try to clarify my rather fading image of youth by showing everyone, once and for all that Norman Borrett is not Norman Borrett (as depicted on the cover of your last issue)?

Norman Borrett played 30 times for England, is now on the Executive Coaching Sub Committee and is a vice president of the Eastern Counties Hockey Association. His son, Tony, plays for Dulwich

Norman G W Borrett has not played for England but instead is captain of Hampstead (which is not bottom of the London League this year). Norman G W does not have a son but does have a father, Bill Borrett, who is an old Blueharts and Hertfordshire player and currently captains a team of youngsters at West Herts. He also has a brother, Nick, (known affectionately as Knickers Borrett) who was captain of Aston University and now plays for a team somewhere in Nottingham (when his wife lets him).

Would all my friends please note that I still have a full head of hair and that the past few months have not aged me as much as some people think (despite the rather cruel remarks made at the recent Teddington Dinner). As Milt Lilburne keeps telling me, I'm getting old...but this is ridiculous.

Norman Borrett
The Polytechnic of North London
Holloway
London N7

One month later...

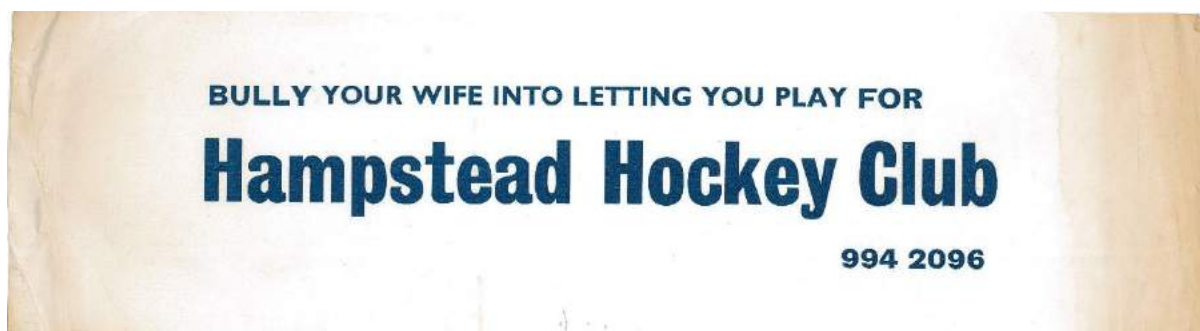
Dear Sir

I should be grateful for the opportunity of replying to N W G Borrett's potted history of the family featured in last month's correspondence page. We must forgive those operating in the London Hockey circle for their ignorance of life in the provinces, but, really, brother, that "somewhere in Nottingham" club, to which you glibly referred, has recently defeated the Benson & Hedges Champions - Nottingham - in all 1st, 2nd and 3rd XI's! South Notts are one of the strongest clubs in the Midlands. Our 1st XI to 5th XI record reads, won 48, drawn 17, lost 17. We recently finished a very close second to Blackheath in the Rotherham Indoor play-offs and we currently provide players for the county 1st XI and 2nd XI and have Martin Gilbody representing Wales.

Finally, just for the record, my wife not only "lets" me play hockey but also supports nearly all home and away matches - a very rare breed these days.

Yours affectionately

N J Borrett (Knickers)
West Bridgford
Nottingham



Next edition

All being well, the next Newsletter will cover the mid-way point in the 2019-20 season. If you have any news or comment, please direct it to mail@velwell.eclipse.co.uk.