

STAINES v. HAMPSTEAD.

This return match was played on Saturday at Staines, and for the second time this season Hampstead had the distinction of lowering the riversiders' colours, the score on this occasion being four goals to two. The ground was rather on the soft side, but despite this a fast and interesting game took place, and it was not until well in the second half that the North Londoners placed the issue beyond doubt. Neither team was at full strength, Hill and Burns being absentees from the Hampstead team, while Playford is still out of the Staines' team and is not likely to pay again this season. From the bully-off Staines went off with a rare dash, and were only just pulled up in time by Marsden and Sherwell, who transferred the game to the centre, but it soon returned to the Hampstead "25," and for some time the visitors were very hard pressed and Staines were rather unlucky in not scoring. At length the Hampstead forwards got going, but found Freeman and Pimm very safe, and for the next quarter of an hour play was of a give-and-take character. Towards the end of the first half the visiting forwards broke away and Shoveller opened the scoring for Hampstead with a rather soft shot. Shortly afterwards the whistle went for half-time with Hampstead leading by one goal to nil. On restarting the visitors had rather the best of matters, but the home team were very persistent, and eventually Pimm equalised matters by beating Houlder at the second attempt. This roused the North Londoners, and in less than a minute they had regained the lead, and playing with any amount of dash added two more goals and thus led by 4-1. The home team now made desperate efforts to reduce the lead and fairly penned their opponents, and eventually succeeded in scoring from a penalty corner, but this was the last point registered and the whistle went shortly afterwards, leaving Hampstead the winners of a strenuously contested game by four goals to two. For Hampstead Houlder, in goal, was very safe, and was well supported by Sherwell and Marsden, at back, the former in particular playing very finely. Orr was the best of the halves. The forwards at times combined well, but their goals were chiefly scored by Shoveller with individual efforts. Logan got through an immense amount of defensive work, and Cobb was good at outside left, and was well fed by Preston. For Staines Freeman and Pimm was hardly so sound as usual. Mansbridge was the best of the halves, and Green and Rigden the pick of the forwards. Teams:

Staines: H. S. Freeman and O. Pimm (backs), C. T. Freeman, C. L. Freeman, H. Carter, and H. Mansbridge (half-backs), L. R. Notley, S. F. Rigden, N. M. Reid, E. Green, and R. Pimm (forwards).

Hampstead: A. Houlder (goal), M. Sherwell and E. L. Marsden (backs), C. H. Eilcart, F. W. Orr, and C. R. Nicholl (half-backs), R. H. Eilcart, G. Logan, S. H. Shoveller, R. S. Preston, and H. R. Cobb (forwards).