

Welcome

This is the sixth in our series of revamped Newsletters. This looks forward to the 2010/11 season and no doubt optimism will prevail. The early season fixtures are listed and there is news of players joining the Men's 1s for the Premier Division campaign, a prospect that Todd Williams looks forward to. There are rule changes in the Premier Division this season too. The close season has reportedly seen unprecedented levels of spending by some National League clubs on coaching and lateral hires of players. Some changes seem likely this year in the fortunes of the top four clubs, which suits teams like H&W. The Commonwealth Games will also have an impact on team selections.

Memorial Match

A brief reminder that now (and not with much notice remaining) the third Memorial Match is to be played at PRG on Sunday 12 September for the Legends Trophy donated by Harry Watson.

Vice Presidents and Old Members Dinner

This is to notify those wishing to attend that this year's Annual Dinner will held, once again, at the East India Club on Saturday 29 October 2010 at 7.30pm, by dint of Alan Kurtz's invitational and organisational expertise, for which we thank him once again.

The East India Club 16 St James's Square London SW1Y 4LH

All are welcome and those intending to join the gathering should please contact Nick Coleman (njcolema@aol.com) to confirm, so that we do not exceed the accommodation provided.

People News

We send belated congratulations to the Men's 1st XI and Club's coach Todd Williams on his marriage to Jo in Las Vegas in the summer. "We were just dropping by....". They are now well settled in Oxford as Todd has taken up a coaching role at Magdalen College School, as well as for cricket at a lower level in the school (well, for the moment, that is).

On the Pitch

Champions Trophy

Over the Summer, H&W's Men's 1's skipper Dan Fox has continued his international duties in Germany with England at the ABN AMRO FIH Champions Trophy in Mönchengladbach. England progressed to the Final for the first time in the history of the competition.

Germany 4 England 2

31 July 2010

Jackson 45. 65

A slow start and a devastating ten minute period just before half time in which Germany showed their class with three penalty corner goals sent England to a 4-2 defeat in the opening match of the tournament on Saturday.

England rallied in the second half as they took the game to the Germans. Two penalty corner goals from World Young Player of the Year Ashley Jackson reduced the 4-0 half time deficit to 4-2. England had further chances to reduce the gap but Germany held out. Barry Middleton's withdrawal from the squad in the week with a broken toe saw Bowdon's Alastair Brogdon called up.

Their young opponents Germany finished runners-up to Australia at the World Cup having beaten England 4-1 in the semi final in Delhi. Germany had also sustained a late injury blow when Christopher Zeller limped out of training on Friday and missed the opening match.

England's young defender Andy Bull sat out the game in the stand alongside goalkeeper Nick Brothers, while Middleton's replacement, 22 year old Brogdon, started. East Grinstead's Glenn Kirkham took on the captaincy.

As the match ran into its final ten minutes, Dan Fox was presented with a gift of an opportunity by the German defence on the penalty spot. Unmarked, he was able to turn and shoot from the middle of the circle. Sadly, however, he fired just wide of the right post.

Started

James Fair (Cannock), Adam Dixon (Beeston), Ben Hawes (Surbiton), Richard Smith (Loughborough Students), Alastair Wilson (Beeston), Nick Catlin (Loughborough Students), Ashley Jackson (HGC), Glenn Kirkham (C) (East Grinstead), Alastair Brogdon (Bowdon), Simon Mantell (Reading), Rob Moore (Surbiton)

Substitutes Used

Richard Alexander (Surbiton), Dan Fox (Hampstead & Westminster), Iain Mackay (Reading), Jonty Clarke (Reading), James Tindall (Surbiton)

Afterwards, Team Manager Peter Nicholson said England were happier with their second half performance after a slow start: *"We obviously had a very slow start,"* he said. *"We weren't up with the intensity of the game in the first 20 minutes and that put us on the back foot. We made individual errors in the first half, turning the ball over and putting ourselves under a bit of pressure.*

"In the second half we played much more like we can. We built good momentum and actually missed a couple of good opportunities to score but it was always going to be difficult to pull the goals back."

Spain 3 England 3

1 August 2010

Kirkham 3, Mackay 5, 54

Going into the match, England were looking for a vastly improved start following their slow opening against Germany on Saturday while Spain too were aiming to get points on the board following the opening their opening day defeat to the Netherlands.

Two goals from Reading's Iain Mackay and a wonder strike from East Grinstead's Glenn Kirkham gave England three goals against Olympic silver medal winners Spain on the Sunday but three second half Spanish strikes meant the points were shared on day two of the tournament.

18 year old Brooklands MU defender Andy Bull was handed a first senior England appearance as he started alongside Loughborough Students' Richard Smith at the back. Dan Fox joined reserve goalkeeper Nick Brothers in the stand.

Kirkham and Mackay had given England the best possible start with goals in the opening five minutes but Spain pulled it back to 2-2 midway through the second half.

Mackay netted again to put England 3-2 in front but a moment of genius from Gabriel Dabanch earned Spain an equaliser seven minutes from the end.

Australia 3 England 2

3 August 2010

Jackson 28 J Clarke 65

England's men pushed World Champions Australia to the finish in their third game of the Champions Trophy on Tuesday afternoon. Despite Reading forward Jonty Clarke setting up a thrilling finish with a goal five minutes from time, the world's top ranked team held on for a 3-2 victory.

Australia coach Ric Charlesworth made five changes from the team that beat the Netherlands 6-3 on Sunday while Jason Lee brought Hampstead & Westminster's **Dan Fox** back into the side with Beeston's Adam Dixon sitting out.

England played well for much of the match and were slightly unlucky in the manner in which they fell behind after quarter of an hour after Simon Orchard's shot looped up off the stick of captain Glenn Kirkham and over James Fair into the back of the net. Matthew Swann's goal two minutes later might have been the spark for Australia to go on a goal scoring spree as they had against New Zealand and the Netherlands on the opening weekend but England rallied and Ashley Jackson pegged on back just before the half hour mark.

The Kookaburras restored their two goal advantage just before the break and in the second half both sides passed up opportunities to score before Clarke fired England back into contention five minutes from time. There was still time for Australia to threaten the English goal, for Iain Mackay to be kept out by Nathan Burgers and for England to make a last gasp referral to the video umpire but Australia held on for the win.

Started

James Fair (Cannock) Andy Bull (Brooklands MU) Ben Hawes (Surbiton) Richard Smith (Loughborough Students) Alastair Wilson (Beeston) Ashley Jackson (HGC) Glenn Kirkham (C) (East Grinstead) Iain Mackay (Reading) Simon Mantell (Reading) Jonty Clarke (Reading) Rob Moore (Surbiton)

Substitutes Used

Richard Alexander (Surbiton) Dan Fox (Hampstead & Westminster) Nick Catlin (Loughborough Students) James Tindall (Surbiton) Alastair Brogdon (Bowdon)

Did Not Play

Nick Brothers (Reading) GK, Adam Dixon (Beeston)

England 4 Netherlands 3

5 August 2010

Alexander 3, 63 Mantell 18 Clarke 37

England's men performed something of a rescue mission on Thursday evening as they came from behind to take victory over the Netherlands.

Having twice been ahead in the first half through Surbiton's Richard Alexander and Reading's Simon Mantell, the English found themselves behind at the break after goals from Rogier Hofman, Jeroen Hertzberger and Mink van der Weerden gave the Dutch the lead.

The Netherlands came out for the second half intent on impressing their game on England, who had to play for lengthy periods without possession. With less than quarter of an hour remaining the tide turned as Loughborough Students' Nick Catlin probed at the Dutch defence, winning a free hit outside the circle. From the set play, Ashley Jackson found Reading's Jonty Clarke and his pass across the face of goal was turned in by a Dutch defender for 3-3.

England were grateful to goalkeeper James Fair for his intervention soon after before Catlin against caused trouble for the Dutch, linking well with James Tindall to set up Richard Alexander on the back post to prise victory for England from the hands of the Netherlands.

England had never before beaten the Netherlands in their five previous Champions Trophy meetings. Ashley Jackson scored the golden goal winner in the European semi final in Amstelveen 11 months ago that secured England's passage to the final but the Dutch had exacted their revenge in a close fought 4-3 win in the bronze medal match at the World Cup in Delhi in March.

On Tuesday, the Netherlands suffered a shock defeat at the hands of New Zealand on while England had given a good account of themselves against Australia but lost 3-2.

Going into the game, the Netherlands changed their goalkeeper, bringing in Jaap Stockmann while Beeston's Adam Dixon returned to replace Brooklands' Andy Bull in England's line up. After two defeats and a draw England realistically needed a win to keep alive any hopes of playing in a medal playoff on Sunday.

Started

James Fair (Cannock), Richard Alexander (Surbiton), Dan Fox (Hampstead & Westminster), Richard Smith (Loughborough Students), Alastair Wilson (Beeston), Adam Dixon (Beeston), Ashley Jackson (HGC) Glenn Kirkham (C) (East Grinstead), Simon Mantell (Reading), James Tindall (Surbiton), Alastair Brogdon (Bowdon)

Substitutes Used

Ben Hawes (Surbiton) Nick Catlin (Loughborough Students) Iain Mackay (Reading) Jonty Clarke (Reading) Rob Moore (Surbiton)

The victory put England up to fourth in the standings, ahead of New Zealand on goal difference. Coupled with New Zealand's 4-4 draw with Spain earlier in the day, the result gave added importance to England's final pool match on Saturday, when they took on the Black Sticks at 12:00 BST. A win over New Zealand would guarantee England a shot at the medals while a draw would leave them waiting on the outcome of the Netherlands' game against hosts Germany.

England 4 New Zealand 3

7 August 2010

Tindall 1,30; Mantell 21; R Smith 69

A last minute goal from Loughborough Students' Richard Smith sealed a hard fought victory over a determined New Zealand side, who threatened to derail England's medal hopes after they fought back from two goals behind.

Surbiton's James Tindall scored after just 19 seconds to put England ahead in the winner-takes-all clash on Saturday but Andy Hayward levelled from a penalty corner in the seventh minute. Reading's Simon Mantell finished well to restore England's lead out of the blue in the 21st minute and Tindall put England 3-1 up at half time with a goal from close range on the half hour mark.

New Zealand's Andy Hayward hauled the Black Sticks back into the game with his penalty corner prowess as he found the goal with 41st and 65th minute corner efforts but England dramatically responded with a series of late penalty corners, the third of which Smith flicked home low into the bottom right corner.

The victory takes England to seven points and still in with an outside chance of reaching Sunday's final against Australia. No matter the outcomes of the other matches on Saturday, England will at least contest the Champions Trophy bronze medal playoff for the first time ever.

England and New Zealand had never previously met in the Champions Trophy, although the Black Sticks had played Great Britain on three previous occasions. Before the match between the teams ranked sixth and seventh in the world respectively, New Zealand's Ryan Archibald was presented with a bottle of wine (!) to mark his 250th international appearance for the Black Sticks.

After a fantastic week in Germany, the table was incredibly tight going into final pool matches with only Australia assured of the Sunday match, having qualified for the final. For England, a win could still put them into Sunday's final with a bronze medal match the most likely outcome. It all depended on beating New Zealand first. Defeat would consign the losing side to the fifth/sixth playoff.

Dan Fox sat the match out, with 18 year old Brooklands MU defender Andy Bull returning to the side.

Started

James Fair (Cannock), Andy Bull (Brooklands MU), Adam Dixon (Beeston), Richard Smith (Loughborough Students), Alastair Wilson (Beeston), Richard Alexander (Surbiton), Ashley Jackson (HGC), Glenn Kirkham (C) (East Grinstead), Iain Mackay (Reading), James Tindall (Surbiton), Jonty Clarke (Reading)

Substitutes Used

Ben Hawes (Surbiton), Nick Catlin (Loughborough Students), Rob Moore (Surbiton), Alastair Brogdon (Bowdon), Simon Mantell (Reading)

Did Not Play

Nick Brothers (Reading), Dan Fox (Hampstead & Westminster)

Tournament Results

Germany 4 England 2

Australia 9 New Zealand 1

Netherlands 5 Spain 2

New Zealand 2 Germany 5

Netherlands 3 Australia 6

Spain 3 England 3

Australia 3 England 2

New Zealand 3 Netherlands 1

Germany 2 Spain 3

Spain 4 New Zealand 4

England 4 Netherlands 3

Germany 1 Australia 3

England 4 New Zealand 3

Netherlands 1 Germany 0

Australia 3 Spain 1

5/6th Spain 3 New Zealand 2

Bronze Germany 1 Netherlands 4

Final Australia 4 England 0

Forthcoming Season

Todd Williams reports (perhaps non-controversially!) two sides to the Men's 1's *Balance Sheet* as the new season opens. Pleasingly, he sees more credits than debits and is optimistic that a good season should prevail. Duncan Woods, with his international experience, joins Todd as Assistant Coach to the Men's 1's and will be able to add to the technical side, in particular. There is now greater liaison with the Women's top two teams in a concerted effort to propel the Women towards promotion in their regional league that remains the stepping stone to the National League, which has always been a long term aim of the Club.

Last season's players Peter Swainson has left to join Wimbledon and Andy Cornick has accepted a post as an Assistant Coach at National League Oxted, where he will be alongside their coach Justin King, a Hampstead defender of a decade ago who regularly scored from corners, not only for us but for South Africa too. Harwinder Chima also moves from Hampstead to Reading. Wimbledon have aimed for the stars and generated all the close season signing headlines, having secured the services of player/coach and former England and GB International Ben Marsden and convincing current England and GB internationals Ben Hawes and Rob Moore to drop down into Conference East from Surbiton. It was good to see that nonetheless in a recent warm up game, Hampstead put away four goals against them.

Tom Edwards, who has represented Western Australia, will be joining H&W in mid-September as the Women's Coach and is a forward in the Cornick mode. Keiran Roche's brother, Toby, has also signed up from University of Exeter and Todd is delighted to welcome him to the squad. Simon Ogden has also joined us from East Grinstead. He is a 28 year old defender/midfielder of whom much is hoped, with the EG pedigree. Another joiner is French international, Cesar Hauet, who played at Stade Francais. Stephane Vehrle-Smith, a 24 year exciting midfielder, in Todd's estimation, has joined from Holcombe.

Another pleasing signing has been Sam Dixon the brother of current international Adam Dixon, who joins us from Beeston. He is an attacker/midfielder and Todd would not be surprised if he is soon part of the England Under 21 set up. A former Bundesliga player, Lorenz Neff, has joined from HLC Rot-Weiß München and another to sign up is Adrian Palmer, who was England Junior Coach of the year and hails from Hackney. He is a striker and one whom Todd reports simply likes to smack the ball into the net.

So, all in all, it promises well for the first game at Cannock. There are two further friendlies for the squad to iron out the wrinkles, one against East Grinstead and another at Oxted. We wish them all well.

Rule Changes

The new season also sees a change in regulations for the National League Premier Divisions, where the EHL has introduced a two minute suspension for green cards and new rules for breaking the line at penalty corner. These rules are already used in international tournaments.

Green Cards

For any offence, the offending player may be warned (indicated by a green card). Where a green card is issued, the offending player shall be temporarily suspended for two minutes. During the period of temporary suspension of a player, the team shall play with one fewer player. The umpire shall immediately restart the game after the issue of the green card. The offending player must leave the field immediately. If the player interferes with play on the way to the technical table area the umpire will further penalise the player under the normal conduct of play provisions. The two minute temporary suspension shall commence when the player is seated at the technical table area. The timing of the suspension shall be controlled by the technical official on duty at the technical table.

Breaking the line at a short corner

Until the ball has been played, no attacker other than the one taking the push or hit from the back-line is permitted to enter the circle and no defender is permitted to cross the centre-line or back-line.

- For any offence under this rule by a defender other than the goalkeeper, the offending player(s) shall be required to go beyond the centre-line and cannot be replaced by another defender.
- For any offence under this rule by a defending goalkeeper, the defending team shall defend the penalty corner with one fewer player.

- For an offence under this rule by an attacker who enters the circle before the ball is played, the offending player(s) shall be required to go beyond the centre line.
- The player who pushes, or hits, the ball from the back-line must not feint at playing the ball. For an offence under this rule the offending player shall be replaced by another attacker.

Premier League

Hampstead Fixture List

This season's Premier Division fixture list was available with the last Newsletter but we set it out again in the hope of seeing you on the sidelines, home or away. Join the Fox, Scanlon and Naylor families, who regularly are seen supporting the team home and away.

19.09.10	Cannock v Hampstead
25.09.10	Hampstead v Canterbury
02.10.10	Brooklands v Hampstead
10.10.10 ¹	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

National League Conferences

This season's participants are

East

Bromley & Beckenham
 Harlestone
 Holcombe
 Indian Gymkhana
 Old Loughtonians
 Oxted
 Sevenoaks
 Southgate
 St Albans
 Wimbledon

North

Barford Tigers
 Belper
 Ben Rhydding
 Deeside Ramblers
 Doncaster

¹ The game has been re-arranged to Sunday

Harborne
Leek
Olton & West Warwick
Sheffield Hallam Civica
University of Durham

West

Bournville
Cheltenham
Fareham
Guildford
Havant
Stourport
Team Bath Buccaneers
University of Birmingham
University of Exeter
Whitchurch

Early Season Fixtures

Women's 1st XI

25.09.10	Reading 1A (h)
02.10.10	Havant (a)
09.10.10	Southgate (a)
16.10.10	Oxford Hawks (h)
23.10.10	Southampton (a)
30.10.10	-

Women's 2nd XI

25.09.10	Sonning 1(a)
02.10.10	West Hampstead 1 (h)
09.10.10	Southgate (h)
16.10.10	Staines (a)
23.10.10	Witney 1 (h)
30.10.10	-

Women's 3rd XI

25.09.10	London Edwardians (a)
26.09.10	PHC Chiswick 1 (h) ²
02.10.10	Staines (a)
09.10.10	Winchmore Hill & Enfield 1 (h)
16.10.10	Ashford (Middx) 1 (a)
23.10.10	H&W 4 (h)
30.10.10	-

Women's 4th XI

25.09.10	H&W 5 (a)
02.10.10	West Hampstead 2 (h)
09.10.10	Hendon 1 (h)
16.10.10	Southgate 3 (h)
23.10.10	H&W 3 (a)
30.10.10	-

Women's 5th XI

26.09.10	H&W 4 (h)
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² These are pre-League friendlies

02.10.10 West Hampstead 3 (a)
09.10.10 Indian Gymkhana 1 (h)
16.10.10 PHC Chiswick 2 (a)
23.10.10 Harrow 2 (a)
30.10.10 -

Women's 6th XI

02.10.10 Eastcote 4 (h)
09.10.10 Southgate 4 (a)
16.10.10 West Hampstead 4 (h)
23.10.10 -
30.10.10 -

Women's 7th XI

25.09.10 PHC Chiswick 6 (h)
02.10.10 Brunel University 1 (h)
09.10.10 Harrow 3 (a)
16.10.10 West Hampstead 6 (h)
23.10.10 British Airways Hayes 2 (a)
30.10.10 -

Men's Matches

Men's 2nd XI

25.09.10 Reading (h)
02.10.10 Canterbury (a)
09.10.10 Guildford (h)
16.10.10 Richmond (a)
23.10.10 Old Loughtonians (h)
30.10.10 Wimbledon (a)

Men's 3rd XI

25.09.10 Reading 2A (h)
02.10.10 London Wayfarers Heavies (a)
09.10.10 Chelmsford 2 (h)
16.10.10 Teddington 2 (a)
23.10.10 Indian Gymkhana 2 (h)
30.10.10 Wimbledon 3 (a)

Zak Hond XI

25.09.10 Southgate 4 (a)
02.10.10 London Wayfarers 3(h)
09.10.10 Guildford 3 (a)
16.10.10 Richmond 3 (h)
23.10.10 Indian Gymkhana 3 (a)
30.10.10 H&W 5 (h)

Men's 4th XI

25.09.10 Reading Refills (a)
02.10.10 Spencer 5 (h)
09.10.10 PHC Chiswick 2 (a)
16.10.10 -
23.10.10 Old Loughtonians 3 (a)
30.10.10 Wimbledon 4 (a)

Men's 5th XI

25.09.10 -

02.10.10 Bromley & Beckenham 3 (a)
09.10.10 Southgate 3 (h)
16.10.10 East Grinstead 3 (a)
23.10.10 Richmond Griffins (h)
30.10.10 H&W Zak Hond (a)

Hammers XI

25.09.10 Teddington Saplings (h)
02.10.10 -
09.10.10 Wimbledon 5 (h)
16.10.10 Spencer 6 (a)
23.10.10 Oxford University 3 (h)
30.10.10 Reading 3 (h)

Spaniards XI

25.09.10 Spencer Spitfires (a)
02.10.10 London Wayfarers Pirates (h)
09.10.10 PHC Chiswick 4 (a)
16.10.10 Richmond Stags (h)
23.10.10 Old Loughtonians Academy (a)
30.10.10 Wimbledon 6 (h)

Thirsts XI

25.09.10 Richmond Redoutables (h)
02.10.10 Tulse Hill & Dulwich Saracens (a)
09.10.10 Indian Gymkhana 4 (h)
16.10.10 Londeeds OB (a)
23.10.10 Reading Rascals (h)
30.10.10 Tulse Hill & Dulwich Royals (a)

Mens' Veterans XI

25.09.10 Reading Rustlers (h)
02.10.10 Sunbury & Walton Hawks (a)
09.10.10 Old Kingstonians (h)
16.10.10 Richmond (a)
23.10.10 Old Georgians Fire (h)
30.10.10 Oxted (a)

Mens' Superveterans XI

25.09.10 Eastcote Past Masters (a)
02.10.10 Tring h)
09.10.10 Staines (a)
16.10.10 Richmond Rogues (h)
23.10.10 Indian Gymkhana (a)
30.10.10 Old Loughtonians (h)

National League Administration

Other Side of the Coin in 2000

In the last Newsletter we tried to give an insight to what is required of clubs by the organisers of the National League. In a compilation for HWHC's match programme for National League games in the 2000 season, Stephen Barlow, the EHL Administrator at Milton Keynes, was asked to keep a week's diary to give a flavour of what his job entails.

Saturday

Check weather is OK and hope that no matches will be postponed. Sod's law means that any postponements are either

- where a team and umpires have travelled overnight and we will have to pay two lots of accommodation; or
- it involves two Premier Division clubs, both of whom are still in the Cup and one of whom is usually our European Indoor representative, meaning that my legendary (gunboat) diplomacy skills come to the fore as we try to find a suitable date for a rearranged game.

Sunday

Sometimes I choose to go and watch an EHL match. Sometimes I have to go as a last minute emergency delegate as, being centrally placed, with some swapping around, I can cover plenty of different venues.

As I write the rules, I delegate to the letter. This causes consternation in the ranks. "We didn't have to do it last week." is a common riposte. Asking the gentlefolk of Bromley for example to remove blue long sleeved teeshirts under their pink short sleeved tops provoked some mild rebuke.

On the way home, I reflect how it is always a nice way to spend a day off to be advised after the game by all and sundry as to how badly things are run and why don't we do X.Y, Z to improve things.

In the evening I receive all the weekend scores from John Chaplin, our results co-ordinator. This gives me time to compose the text for the EHL Newsletter, usually over a spot of therapeutic ironing.

Monday

Our favourite day - not a day for any strategic planning.

Check newspapers in case I missed any stories. Colleague Anne produces the Newsletter. I annoy her by proof-reading it and picking out the most minutiae of errors whilst missing major ones in the text I have typed up myself.

Check post for any new registrations received prior to cut off point at 10.00am that day. Clubs have been known to travel from all points of the compass to deliver these by hand.

If it follows a knockout competition weekend (which it usually does, given the positive crockery set of events we run - the Mens and Womens Cups, Trophies and Vases, the Timpson Mixed Cup & Plate, the Girls U15 Cup & Plate, the Mens Veterans - Over 40s - Cup and Vintage - Over 50s - Cup) we have to collate results and do the draws for the relevant events.

To dispel any complaints of draw fixing and whilst we get accused of some of the most bizarre conspiracy theories going, I try to find a passing hockey bigwig to do the draw for the cup competitions, using our famous little green bag. For the other events we feel confident of doing it ourselves. Why on earth would we want to fix a draw?

Usually all of this is interrupted by teams who played in a competition the day before, lost 18-0 but blame the umpires and the fact that the changing rooms weren't open on arrival and no hot meal was provided afterwards, so think we should declare the game null and void.

So we then get everything copied and distributed to clubs and press contacts. As we move on in the technological world some of this is e-mailed. This is the upside of the information super-highway. The downside is the need to feed the voracious appetite that is www.hockeyonline.co.uk. Having been self taught in the art of HTML code we then have to put up all the news and draws on the website. The same side who have not submitted anything on time up to now are on the phone by 9.30 am - "Why isn't the draw for Round Two of the Timpson Plate on the website yet?"

Tuesday

A letter arrives with an EHL player registration form. 'Phone up the club contact to advise that the player can't play this weekend. "But we sent it first class Sunday evening but our regular goalkeeper has to go to a wedding you should be trying to help people play not stop them... " As nicely as possible, which I suppose isn't very nice, we explain we are not just firm on this: we are rigid.

Another popular couple of calls are from the representatives of a club side and a school side who have drawn to play each other in the Girls U15 Cup. The club want to play on a Sunday morning, the school on a weekday afternoon. Patiently we ask them to sort it out between themselves.

Wednesday

A contender in the Harrod UK Rankings for the leading scorer e-mails us. It says on the website that Smith scored the 66th minute corner but it was really him why have we got it wrong? Check the matchsheet and the manager has signed to say that Smith scored..*moan about incompetent managers*

Wednesday is a popular day for meetings. This could be any one from Competitions Committee or its Sub groups - Indoor, Priority List, Youth, Regulations, Finance; EHL Committee, EHL Umpires Panel, Planning meetings for forthcoming events. You hope you'll get some work done before the meeting but people always arrive really early and just want to talk to you about their pet subject for an hour beforehand.

Thursday

With just a couple of days to go until the weekend a team realises that it is booked into Sunderland for an overnight stop but they are going by train and need to switch it to Newcastle. So, a call to the long suffering people in the Choice Hotels Group Sales Department - no-one lasts long there, any more clients like us and they would be driven mad - sorts this out.

Then a club 'phones up to say we've got the Newsletter wrong. "It says that we're playing at 2.00 pm at the University this Saturday but we're actually playing at 1200 noon at the Leisure Centre." Explain about the mandatory fine for late notification of change. Receive volley of verbal abuse. Contact major press people, CEEFAX and update website with change. We know it only takes one person to arrive at a venue just as a game is finishing to have Mr Angry of Tunbridge Wells incandescent with rage on the phone on a Monday morning "but it said in The Telegraph that it was a 2.00 pm start, you blithering idiot!"

Friday

A Delegate cries off for Harlestone for the following day. You have a reserve who lives in Bristol. Do you

- try and persuade someone local to stand in - "I'd love to do it but Ipswich Town are at home tomorrow"; or
- move the Bristol delegate to Oxford, the Oxford delegate to St Albans, the St Albans delegate to Harlestone. With numerous messages on ansaphones left we usually get it sorted.

Only one game out of 582 games we only had one delegate-less match in 2000-01 when the Sunderland delegate cried off at 5.45 pm on a Friday evening.

As far as possible prepare things for Monday. Set up the Newsletter with the following week's fixtures, do envelopes etc. We did once have a colleague who thought Mondays were too busy. "Why don't we do the tables on Friday to save all the rush on Monday" she asked she didn't stay long.

EHA Cup Reflection Twenty Years of the Cup

The EHA Cup goes back to at least 1973. Recent success has been limited to a few clubs, as the table below will testify. Interestingly a few big names are yet to win it...

2009-10	Highfields Hockey Centre	Beeston	2	1	Hampstead & Westminster
2008-09	Highfields Hockey Centre	Reading	3	- 1	Beeston
2007-08	Highfields Hockey Centre	Beeston	4	- 3	Bowdon
2006-07	Reading	Cannock	1	- 0	East Grinstead
2005-06	Reading	Reading	5	- 3	East Grinstead
2004-05	Canterbury	Cannock	2	- 0	Loughborough Students
2003-04	Cannock	Reading	2	- 1	Surbiton
2002-03	Canterbury	Reading	4	- 1	Cannock
2001-02	Milton Keynes	Cannock	7	- 0	Belper
2000-01	Milton Keynes	Guildford	2	- 1	Reading
1999-00	Milton Keynes	Reading	3	- 2	Old Loughtonians
1998-99	Milton Keynes	Reading	4	- 4	Cannock
1997-98	Milton Keynes	Cannock	4	- 1	Beeston
1996-97	Milton Keynes	Teddington	2	- 1	Reading
1995-96	Milton Keynes	Reading	2	- 2	Old Loughtonians
1994-95	Canterbury	Guildford	4	- 1	Teddington
1993-94	Birmingham	Teddington	1	- 0	Old Loughtonians
1992-93	Milton Keynes	Hounslow	4	- 1	Teddington
1991-92	Milton Keynes	Hounslow	3	- 2	Teddington
1990-91	Luton	Hounslow	3	- 2	Havant
1989-90	Luton	Havant	3	- 0	Stourport

Talking of the Cup and the Final in May...

[Beeston Ten Years Ago?](#)

National League Div One

24th November 2000

[Beeston 1 Hampstead 2](#)

Hampstead always anticipated that this would be a tough fixture, travelling to Nottingham for a mid morning start against a team that had enjoyed success a few seasons ago in the Premier Division.

Owing to flood damage, the game was switched to an exposed pitch at Bingham in the Nottinghamshire countryside and the weather conditions during the game were some of the worst experienced in the view of Hampstead's skipper Rob Turner.

Within the first minute and with Hampstead trying to adjust to the windswept conditions, they had goalie Steve Dodson to thank for a spectacular save with his outstretched stick, managing to deflect the ball wide. The game then settled down and was nip and tuck, with Beeston proving to be a well-organised and committed team, difficult to break down.

It remained scoreless to half time. The turning point came in the second half when Matt Hetherington was fouled by a rough tackle from a Beeston forward, who was immediately yellow carded, following an earlier official warning. Hampstead made the man advantage work and in

the 60th minute, Soma Singh took a quick free hit collected by Craig Carolan, who rolled the ball to the far post, where Mike Williamson was on hand to put the ball in from a short distance, a goal that he particularly enjoyed, scoring against the team he had trained with as a junior.

Then in the 64th minute Simon Moffat who had come on from a very cold bench, given the driving rain, won a short corner. Matt Hetherington's flick was palmed away by the goalkeeper but poked in by Moffat from in just in front of goal.

Beeston scored from a short corner with two minutes to go, as the pitch threatened to become waterlogged so incessant was the rain but Hampstead held steady for the three points.

With Chelmsford and Brooklands (in second and third places respectively) both losing, a six-point gap has now opened at the top of Division One. Hampstead's next opponents are East Grinstead whom they meet at 12.30pm on Sunday at Paddington Rec. The season then has a winter break and will re-start on 4th February.

Team

Dodson; von Mayer, King, Boucher, Matthews; Williamson, Singh, Land; Bretten, Carolan, Hetherington

Subs

Moffat, Turner, Arscott, Meakin

Espionage

Greenhalgh the Researcher

At the end of August, a Times' headline [Cricket and Espionage: an Ideal Partnership](#) by Ben MacIntyre caught Colin Greenhalgh's attention. It mentioned Sir John (J.C.) Masterman - a member of Hampstead HC in the mid-1920's.

He was renowned as a distinguished academic and possibly Provost of Worcester College, Oxford, as well as an author and sportsman. He was an England hockey international but also shone in lawn tennis and cricket.

However, it appears that he was also a leading light in British espionage. Colin tried to unearth more. Apparently Masterman ran an operation during the Second World War called *Double Cross* that subverted masses of German agents and turned them into double agents for the Allies, which, in its turn, turned the tide of the War and made the invasion of Normandy into a success when it could have been a disastrous rout.

This article very much caught Colin's eye because, as a fairly new Secretary, in 1961, he recruited Sir John to speak at the Club's Annual Dinner at Pimms Restaurant off Moorgate having earlier attempted to coax Sir John Wolfenden to speak, who instead attended the 75th Anniversary Dinner.

Because he felt hopelessly out of touch with modern hockey (and Hampstead, in particular), Sir John (Masterman) invited Colin to lunch at his retirement house in Oxford to bring him up to speed. The Puritans happened to be playing their annual game against St Edmund Hall, so it was quite convenient. Colin recalls that they were served by his old college butler, who had retired from Worcester College with him. The conversation (so far as Colin can remember it) was entirely about the (then) modern hockey scene - not at all about spying!

85 Years Ago

From *Hockey Digest*
25 September 1925

A Famous Full-Back Retires J Hadfield Bennett

MR. JOHN HADFIELD BENNETT has said farewell to the hockey field as a player. He tells us that this step is urged by the fact that he is "Too old! too slow! and getting bad-tempered!" Those were his words to us when we asked if he would not reconsider his decision.

His exit from the playing arena will be a wrench not only to himself but also to those who admired his classic artistry. We have never disguised our opinion that Mr Bennett is the most renowned left full-back the game has known. He retires laden with playing honours. He achieved an easy record in international hockey by playing for England on 31 occasions. No other British full-back has played so many times for his country.

Educated at Harrow, and subsequently going up to Oxford University Mr. Bennett obtained his "blue" in 1907 and 1908. We remember writing of him in 1907 – when we saw his first game – that "hockey promises to have a recruit who will probably make history". And Mr. Bennett has certainly made history as a player. Becoming a member of the Hampstead H.C., he quickly won his way to the international side and made a big reputation.

Besides his playing record for England, Mr. Bennett has played twenty-six times for the South in trial matches, also in the later English final games. His general play always showed that priceless gift of anticipation; he almost, by natural instinct and ripe knowledge, seemed to divine which way a forward meant to travel or to pass. His tackling was clean, sure and sound, while his ball hitting was usually judicious and restrained. One seldom or never saw Mr Bennett slog – the ball was tapped here and there and then despatched unerringly to a half or forward in position to receive it. Rarely did one see him waste a single pass; his combination with his left-half was of rare precision and judgment as C. T. A. Wilkinson can well testify when playing with him the Hampstead side.

A fine all-round sportsman, a low handicap golfer, the famous English international always obtruded on the field by virtue of his magnetic charm, fairness to opponents, and his kindly urbanity and cheeriness.

All young and aspiring full-backs could well accept Mr. Bennett's full-back play as being a classical model from which to copy. He revealed one point – that pace was not always the be-all and end-all of a full-back's duties, but to use one's brains in summing up the strategy and skill of one's opponents. His playing up well behind his half-backs when his side was attacking was a feature, and yet he rarely failed to get back to position when needed. We shall certainly miss him.

There is more gleaned from Hockey Digest on the illustrious Mr Bennett from October 1923 on the News section of the Club's website www.hwbc.co.uk

40 Years Ago

The death was announced of [Cyril Wilkinson](#), Vice President of the Club on 16 December 1970. His life was one of extraordinary achievement.

Frequently referred to as CTA, he was one of four Hampstead players to win an Olympic gold medal for hockey at the 1920 games. He was a county cricketer and then an international hockey umpire and member of the International Hockey Board from 1938-1955. He also held a high ranking post in the High Court from 1936 until 1959.

Cyril Theodore Anstruther Wilkinson was born at Elvet Hill, Durham on 4 October 1884.

His father, Anthony John Anstruther Wilkinson had also been born in Durham in 1835 and he, too, was a cricketer. He played for Middlesex for a decade from 1864 and then for Yorkshire from

1865 until 1868. He scored 1,351 runs in total, over 103 innings and his best first class bowling performance was 6-52, with a bowling average of 22.62.

Cyril was educated at Blundell's School at Tiverton, Devon and represented the school certainly at cricket in 1902. No records are readily available concerning his schoolboy hockey prowess. His first class cricketing debut was when he represented Gentlemen of England in 1908, opposing Surrey, whom he later joined as a player in 1909.

His captain in that game was W G Grace, with whom he must have batted, especially in the second innings, when they followed on. Wilkinson, coming in at number 4, when WG opened the innings, scored 39 in a total of 130, handing a win to Surrey by an innings and 41 runs.

His first game for Surrey was in the 2's against Wiltshire at the Oval in June that year and he played for the second team between 1910 and 1913.

His hockey playing at club level started with Norwood but when they disbanded, he joined Hampstead in 1911. He represented the South and Surrey. He won 4 caps for England and went on to represent Great Britain in the Antwerp Olympics, along with Stanley Shoveller, Sholto Marcon and John [J H] Bennett (*mentioned above*).

Interestingly, Marcon's application to join Hampstead HC was initially rejected on the grounds that he could not guarantee to be available to play regularly. This was in the time when the Club Committee had to resolve that the 1st XI Captain was required to select the strongest possible XI. Colin Greenhalgh reported in his club history that there was no evidence that the 2nd XI was out-performing the 1st XI and concluded that the issue was possibly more the playing record of six wins and 15 losses in the previous season. (Marcon went on to be admitted to full membership in 1924. He won 20 caps for England and was described as the "greatest inside left to play for England").

As a cricketer Cyril Wilkinson captained Surrey when they won the County Championship in 1914 and again in the first two seasons after the First World War, in which Wilkinson saw military service. He had to miss a number of games owing to business commitments.

In 1914, in which he was awarded his county cap, *Wisden* said of him that "he proved himself a real leader, keeping the side under firm control and managing the bowling with sound judgement" It has to be remembered that Surrey's team included Jack Hobbs as well as Andy Sandham³ and Percy Fender⁴, both soon to be capped by England against Australia, and must have required some skill and fortitude!

His highest first class score was 135, scored in 2 hours only, with 19 fours and a six against Middlesex in 1914 at the Oval. Surrey scored 544 in the first innings. Middlesex replied with 267 and followed on, with J W Hearne hitting 191 not out in a total of 393-5, to avoid a loss.

³ Sandham once held the world Test record, making the First Test triple-century in his 40th year, a 10-hour innings of 325 at Kingston, Jamaica, when England piled up 849 off the West Indies bowling. He had to borrow his captain's long-handled bat and Hendren's shoes (which occasionally slipped off as he scuttled a single); and when England batted again, he went in at No. 7 and made 50. His match aggregate of 375 was a Test record until Greg Chappell beat it at Wellington 44 years and 543 Tests later. (*Wisden*)

⁴ Percy Fender was the last survivor of those who had played county cricket regularly before the Great War: more important, he was one of the most colourful figures in the cricket world for many years after it and was widely regarded as the shrewdest county captain of his generation. In a career of 26 years he scored 19,034 runs with an average of 26.66, took 1,894 wickets at 25.05, made 21 hundreds and caught 599 catches. He did the double six times. Throughout his career Fender's policy was to hit fiercely, regardless of the state of the pitch or the quality of the bowling. He was a tremendous driver and also delighted in the pull. He cut or slashed ferociously outside the off stump and once crashed the ball over cover and out of The Oval. His century in 35 minutes against Northamptonshire in 1920 remains a record. (*Wisden*)

In 1920, he passed 1500 runs in first class cricket, when he scored 106, coming in at number 8, against Hampshire, also at the Oval. He followed this up with 56 not out in the second innings, to securing a win for Surrey by two wickets.

Overall, his first class record was 1773 runs scored in 78 innings at an average of 25.32. He took 23 wickets with slow left-arm orthodox bowling at an average of 31.47.

He represented the MCC at Lord's in 1921 against Buckinghamshire. Having dismissed the visitors for 66, CTA opened the batting with 127 in a total of 403. He then took 5-126 in the County's second innings of 434. He went on to open the Club's second innings with an undefeated 59 out of 100-1 in 17 overs, to win by 9 wickets.

His final (recorded) game (not ranked as first class) was against the West Indies in 1928, when he represented the Civil Service in a two day game, which was drawn, CTA scoring 42 out of 197, to which the tourists replied with 330.

Cyril did not stop there. He retired to Devon and was known as great club cricketer. Every August turned out for Sidmouth CC. In 1953, at the age of 69, he scored 50 and took all ten wickets in a match against The Nondescripts.

In his professional life he was a Registrar of the Probate Divorce and Admiralty Division⁵ of the High Court from 1936 until 1959 and for many years was a joint editor of the seventh edition (published in 1958) of standard text (over 1300 pages!) of the procedural workings of what became the Divorce Division of the High Court.

CTA remained in regular contact with HWHC, corresponding at least annually with the club Secretary. As well as sitting on the International Hockey Board, he was a Vice President of the Hockey Association. This all led to his award of a CBE for services to hockey in 1954. He died, aged 86, in Honiton.

[25 Years Ago](#) [Team Selection](#)

Some names from the Men's 1st XI selection for November 1985 will be familiar: others perhaps not so much? *Where are they now?*

Farr; Watson, Derbyshire, Stoughton-Harris: Leafe, Kirkpatrick, Flajsner, Chapman; Shrimpton, Cowans and Wickremaratne.

[20 Years Ago](#) (well, more or less.....)

[Hampstead German Boost](#)
[Indian Gymkhana 5 Hampstead 2](#)
27 January 1989

Hampstead's disappointment at losing this friendly at Feltham on Saturday was more than compensated by the debut showing of West German centre forward Andreas Schulte-Westof. Schulte-Westof, who formerly played for a top German side Flottbeck, has moved to Chalk Farm and should be available for the rest of the season.

Hampstead Captain Mike Hick said, "He looks a pretty good player and should certainly help us to overcome the loss of players like Don Broughton and Scott Fitzpatrick, who left us at

⁵ Renowned, to students of law, as the Division of Wrecks, of lives, marriages and ships.

Christmas." Hick was further encouraged by his side's very respectable showing against a club currently lying fourth in Division One of the National League.

Hampstead took the lead as early as the second minute when Hugh Evans crossed from wide on the right and Mick Halaby slotted home first time. Within five minutes Indian Gymkhana were level after Kulbir Bhaura, the former Great Britain player, forged a way through the Hampstead defence.

Hampstead deservedly regained the initiative through a 12th minute short corner strike by Jeff Gibson - only to be pegged back again ten minutes later. This time the defence failed to clear after Mike Quirk stopped a penalty corner and an Indian Gymkhana forward followed up to score.

The high quality exchanges continued in the second half until Bhaura struck a superb shot into the far corner from the left-hand side. That took the stuffing out of Hampstead and they lost their way in the last 20 minutes. Even so, the home side took time to press home their advantage and the fifth goal did not come until the last second of the game.

Team

Quirk; Gibson, Burnley, Blandford, Hick; Wilkinson, Carr, Mellor; Evans, Schulte-Westof, Halaby

10 Years Ago

[Hampstead Eager to get Going](#)

National League

Hampstead open their season in English League Division One next Sunday with an away trip to Lewes (1.30pm start at Southdown Club, Lewes), who led the Division for virtually the whole of last season before being pipped by Loughborough Students for the sole promotion place. It would be difficult to devise a more testing opening game for Hampstead.

Lewes have had the better of the previous encounters with Hampstead, winning 3-2 on the last away trip and 5-4 when last at PRG, with an overtime winner from a twice-taken short corner.

Hampstead will therefore be eager to put the record straight and hope to do so with new signings Justin King and fellow South African Gary Boucher at the heart of their defence. England U21 forward Mark Darbon has also joined from Oxford University and will probably start on the right side of the Hampstead attack. It is also hoped that George Bretten will have been signed from Premier outfit Guildford in time to join the squad.

Hampstead are in good heart after encouraging warm up games against Premier Division opposition, with wins of 3-0 against Southgate and 5-2 against Old Loughtonians in the last fortnight.

Offside

In the last Newsletter, we covered the *Self Pass rule* and its recognition by the football press. The recent FIFA World Cup has put technological assistance high on the agenda, following an apparent reversal of opinion by Sepp Blatter, the president of FIFA.

Prior to the FIFA World Cup finals last summer there was talk that FIFA may be considering scrapping the offside rule, as hockey did more than a decade ago. Blatter has held talks with a leading hockey official in Zurich, with a view to determining what football might do about a rule that splits opinion.

"He asked me a lot of questions about it and how successful it was, although he never offered an opinion, so it was difficult to judge what football might do," said Leandro Negre, president of the International Hockey Federation. "But he did seem very interested in how we had implemented it."

The offside rule in hockey was amended in 1987 to apply only to the final 25 yards and was temporarily abolished in 1996 before being done away with altogether two years later. The result has been that the game has become more exciting and attractive to spectators, with play flowing more freely, fewer whistles and more space created in midfield. FIFA amended the offside rule in 2003, but referees and their assistants might welcome a rule change that could rid football of many of its debatable decisions.

Barry Davies, the veteran BBC commentator for both sports, has some reservations about football following hockey's lead. "I would love to see it given a trial in the lower leagues," he said. "It would probably take a long time for players to adjust.

"It's also very demanding physically, but I was amazed at how quickly hockey adapted and there's no doubt the game is better for it. If football adopts anything from hockey, it should be the green warning card where a player is temporarily suspended for two minutes."

The Sceptre of Leagues

Forty years ago the Club was consulted and asked for views on a proposed League to cover the whole of the South Division. It was then proposed as a League of (probably) nine clubs and below that three regional Leagues also of nine clubs. For instance, if Hampstead were to be in the Regional League, as opposed to the Super League, it would involve playing clubs from Middlesex (not then administratively abolished) Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. Below that would be three Area Leagues in each region, with several divisions in each Area, where there were more than nine clubs.

There would be promotion and relegation each season, for example, with three clubs relegated from the Super League and one promoted from each of the Regional Leagues.

At a *straw poll* taken eleven months earlier at the Club, the voting was

- for more competitive hockey 23
- for less competitive hockey 0
- for hockey as it is 20

Applied specifically to 1st XI hockey the voting was

- for more competitive hockey 24
- for less competitive hockey 1
- for hockey as it is 15

Out of all this was the South League eventually formed. The London League has however remained fiercely independent: this season our participants will be:

Premier Division	2 nd XI
Division 1	3 rd XI
Division 2	Zak Hond XI and 5 th XI
Division 3	4 th XI
Division 4	Hammers XI and 6 th XI
Division 5	-
Division 6	Spaniards XI
Division 7	Thirsts XI

Next Letter

The next edition will hopefully report the end of the season in April/May. 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!