

1934

# Hockey

## GETTING READY FOR THE SEASON

### HAMPSTEAD'S TRIAL GAME

### NEXT SATURDAY'S TEAM

By C. S. W. MARCON

This is a time of year when summer and winter games can be played on the same day. But, on Saturday, the cricket stumps which I saw erected on a well-known pitch near Thames Ditton were not likely to be disturbed by any ball, as the rain was coming down in torrents. It had little effect, however, on football and hockey grounds, and at Richmond, to the accompaniment of loud cries of "Wasps! Wasps!" from an adjoining ground, where the London Scottish lost by the odd point, Hampstead H.C. played their second trial match, prior to opening the season against Dulwich next Saturday.

As I saw the familiar—to me especially familiar—blue and white shirts, my thoughts turned to pre-war days when S. H. Shoveller was in his prime. With "Shove" in the attack, partnered by G. Logan, and with the support of such players as C. H. and R. E. Eiloart, J. H. Bennett, G. F. Farmiloe, the Hampstead side must have been a terror to most London teams.

Certainly, at Oxford, round about 1909, whenever S. H. S. was seen leading his men on to the old 'Varsity ground in the Parks, near South Parks-road, one knew the fight would be especially grim, and if the 'Varsity centre-half failed to shadow his famous opponent all would be lost.

The ground was very hard below the half inch of moist soil occasioned by the rain, and, owing to the dry summer, some bare patches were to be seen, though the ball ran well. I might mention that the indefatigable honorary secretary, M. M. Wyatt, told me that it is hoped to acquire shortly an adjoining ground, for the use of the second eleven.

### TWO SERIOUS LOSSES

The players seemed very fit, but it was a pity that few of the old first eleven members were able to turn out. I understand, however, that most of them will be available this season, the two most serious losses, perhaps, being B. Trimmer, the goalkeeper, and J. F. Alston, the old Cambridge outside-left. The latter, I hear, has joined Bromley, though this rumour was not confirmed. If it is true, it will mean that the Kent team should be especially strong, as it will include J. B. Bisseker, C. E. Wyatt, J. E. Slade, and J. F. Alston. To replace Trimmer Hampstead hope to have the services of H. E. Ascoli, now down from Oxford, while Alston's place will probably be filled by D. F. Kerr, a Cambridge Wanderer, and a new recruit.

In Saturday's game Colours' forwards were far the better line, and were well led by J. C. Sankey. Kerr did well on the left wing, and is a fast runner. Closer ball control, and the abolition of the reversed stick centre, will help to improve his game. Sanders, an Old Lawrentian, and left-half, supported Kerr closely, and demonstrated the value of the cross pass to the right.

On Whites' side "Captain" R. L. Milsted, who played for the "Rest" v. England last year, turned out and set a good example to some of the younger members of the club by his tackling, positioning, and passing. The backs were recruits from a school eleven and when they have learnt to be much quicker on the ball should be useful.

So far as next Saturday's game is concerned Hampstead will probably call up H. E. Ascoli, S. Fickling, A. E. Leggett, R. L. Milsted, B. M. Bird, O. G. Jones, A. G. Hardie, C. A. Hinds Howell, J. G. Chappell, I. M. Milsted, D. F. Kerr. It is hoped that by next March there will be more "W's" on the fixture card, and not so many "D's" as last season, when 12 games were drawn!