

Welcome

This is the eighth in our series of revamped Newsletters. In large measure this looks forward to the 2011/12 season and all the aspirations a new season carries. There is some inevitable reportage and also a look back to previous starts of seasons when things were different, even if some of the same issues seem to recur. On the communication front you can now follow the Club on Facebook and on twitter @HandWHC.

Memorial Match

This season's Memorial Match was held on Sunday 11 September 2011 at Paddington Recreation Ground as mentioned in the earlier circular. On a warm and sunny day, Cyril Flajsner collected the Harry Watson Memorial Trophy after a 3-1 win to the Legends.



International News

In the last edition we promised greater coverage of the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in Malaysia, especially following Dan Fox's participation for Great Britain, the Club's first representative since the mid 1960's and Jim Deegan.

Great Britain got the campaign off to a winning start as goals from Surbiton's James Tindall, Loughborough Students' Richard Smith and Wimbledon's Rob Moore helped them to a 3-1 victory over hosts Malaysia in Ipoh on the opening Thursday.

Head Coach Jason Lee handed Iain Lewers his Great Britain debut in a starting XI that included Reading's Euro Hockey League hero goalkeeper Nick Brothers and saw East Grinstead's Glenn Kirkham wearing the captain's armband. Dan Fox made his GB debut, coming on from the bench.

Team Manager, Andy Halliday summed up a very satisfactory (and dry!) start to in Malaysia. "I think some of the players had forgotten how unforgiving the heat and humidity can be here in Asia (albeit, arctic, compared to the Commonwealth Games in Delhi). I made 59 substitutions throughout the 70 minutes! Physically, it will be interesting to see how we cope with our second game in as many days against India today. The team that played last night (16 players) lost a combined total of 43 kilos during the game so monitoring and refuelling is vital.

There were Great Britain debuts yesterday for both Dan Fox and Iain Lewers. Foxy hasn't had much time to think about it having received a late call up into the squad last week. However, Iain has waited three years. Solid performances from both."

Head Coach, Jason Lee, was fairly happy with the performance. A comprehensive victory in 32 degree heat against the hosts, in which Simon Mantell was named Man of the Match. He said, "I'm very pleased. It was a positive performance in difficult circumstances. I think a few of the players had forgotten how tough this climate is."

Started: Nick Brothers, Richard Mantell, Iain Lewers, Niall Stott, Alastair Wilson, Glenn Kirkham (c), Jonty Clarke, James Tindall, Richard Smith, Rob Moore, Iain Mackay

Substitutes Used: Adam Dixon, Dan Fox, Simon Mantell, Matt Daly, Richard Alexander
Did Not Play: James Fair, Richard Springham

Andy Halliday reported in more length later in the day to record that “the heat and humidity are leaving the players absolutely shattered after each game. Physio Laura Hanna and Team Doctor Graeme Wilkes are both working tirelessly to ensure that the players gain maximal recovery during the important period after the game, including taking on the right recovery products (!). Four games in five days is a big commitment, not seen in many other team sports.

At home, during the players' strength and conditioning preparations overseen by Strength and Conditioning coach Andy Hudson, the players have to nominate a P.R.E. for each session (perceived rate of exertion). This is measured on a scale of one to ten, with one being easy and ten replicating breathing out of your backside.

If there were an 11, most, if not all would have reached it during this competition. The intensity of our game demands it. 64 substitutions yesterday and we have averaged 40 kilos per game, team weight loss.

Halfway through the first half, Ratman (Richard Alexander) inadvertently hooked the TV Cameraman's cable around his leg on the bench. The cameraman then accused the man carrying the cable of not doing his job and slapped him across the face. It then kicked off, cameras down and away they went, many rabbit punches and a few haymakers thrown with me in the middle trying to separate them (after 30 years of it, it happened naturally!). The game carried on, as did the substitutions. I did suggest to the Tournament Director that maybe both should be given yellow cards and made to sit in the "naughty" seats. Would have been interesting to see the TV coverage. I guess this could pop up on Question of Sport in a few years”.

India 3 Great Britain 1

Penalty corners ultimately proved the difference as Great Britain's men lost to Commonwealth Games silver medalists India on day two. While Great Britain saw India's goalkeeper keep out a series of corner efforts, Rupinder Pal Singh scored a hat-trick at the other end to consign GB to a 3-1 defeat.

In truth, it was a low key performance from Great Britain who had performed well in the victory over Malaysia. Head Coach Jason Lee said afterwards that he felt his side would learn a lot from the match after falling short of the performance levels they are capable of. “We're not here to make excuses about the conditions,” he said. “We're here to see how the group performs under pressure and today we were off our game technically and tactically.”

Cannock and England goalkeeper James Fair replaced Nick Brothers in goal and Reading's Richard Springham came off the bench after squad rotation saw him sit out Thursday's match.

In a fairly even contest in which both sides enjoyed spells in the ascendancy it was the Indians who struck first through Rupinder Pal Singh from a tenth minute penalty corner. Despite several penalty corners of their own, Great Britain failed to find an equaliser by half time.

Two more goals in as many second half minutes from the Indian effectively put the game beyond Great Britain, who dominated the latter stages of the match. With eight minutes remaining, Surbiton forward James Tindall bagged Great Britain's consolation after a good move down the right hand side saw the ball fed to him in the circle. Collecting the pass, Tindall fired low into the goal to make it 3-1.

Started: James Fair, Richard Mantell, Iain Lewers, Glenn Kirkham, Alastair Wilson, Adam Dixon, Richard Alexander, Matt Daly, Richard Smith, Simon Mantell, Rob Moore

Substitutes Used: Richard Springham, Niall Stott, Jonty Clarke, Iain Mackay, James Tindall

Did Not Play: Nick Brothers, Dan Fox

Great Britain 3 Pakistan 2

Great Britain beat Asian Games Champions, Pakistan, in their third match at the tournament thanks to a goal from Wimbledon's Rob Moore and two strikes from Reading's Jonty Clarke.

Coach Jason Lee was looking for a reaction from his players following Friday's disappointing defeat to India and he got it within the opening ten minutes. Good work by Simon Mantell along the baseline prompted a melee in the Pakistan circle and Rob Moore was on hand to scramble the ball home from close range.

Following the goal, Pakistan won a series of penalty corners but Reading goalkeeper Nick Brothers was in good form to deny expert flicker Sohail Abbas from the first two.

Brothers could do little about the third though just after the half hour mark when Abbas found his range, hitting the back of the goal low to the goalkeeper's right.

Great Britain played better than they had against the Indians and four minutes into the second half Reading forward Jonty Clarke deflected the ball home to put Great Britain back in front.

Under pressure from Pakistan, GB remained calm and as the game entered its final stages Clarke added a crucial third to give the British men a vital two goal cushion. Diving on to a cross from clubmate Iain Mackay, Clarke connected at the back post to put Great Britain 3-1 up with seven minutes remaining.

Defending an unbeaten start to the competition, Pakistan were not about to lie down and Great Britain were grateful to Beeston's Adam Dixon for a goal line clearance after Nick Brothers was beaten by a bobbling shot from Shakheel Abassi.

Pakistan did pull a goal back through Haseem Khan Abdul a minute later when he fired home powerfully from eight metres out, leaving Brothers with no chance and setting up a nervy final period. But, showing plenty of resilience in the final minutes, Great Britain held on to the lead to win 3-2.

Jason Lee, Head Coach, said afterwards, "It's a very open tournament. We're here to develop as a squad but we'd also like to win the cup if we can."

Started

Nick Brothers; Alastair Wilson; Richard Mantell; Iain Lewers; Niall Stott; Glenn Kirkham; Adam Dixon; Rob Moore; James Tindall; Jonty Clarke; Matt Daly

Substitutes Used

Richard Spingham; Simon Mantell; Iain Mackay; Dan Fox; Richard Alexander

Did Not Play

James Fair ; Richard Smith

Great Britain 3 New Zealand 1

Great Britain moved to the top of the table with a 3-1 victory over Commonwealth Games bronze medalists New Zealand. A first half penalty corner from Reading's Richard Mantell gave Great Britain the lead at half time before two goals in four second half minutes, from Reading teammate Jonty Clarke and Surbiton's Richard Alexander, put GB comfortably ahead. Shay Neal pulled one back for New Zealand with ten minutes remaining but the victory was Great Britain's, making it three wins from four.

Afterwards, Head Coach Jason Lee said he is pleased with how his players are applying themselves. "We've improved well in the tournament so far. The conditions are very testing, which is what I'd hoped for when we came here. We wanted to see if we could play good hockey

in those conditions and the players have really got their heads into it. There's a real intent to push the standards; they're showing good ambition."

Rob Moore and Alastair Wilson both started in their 60th and 40th Great Britain appearances respectively while Cannock goalkeeper James Fair returned to the side.

Richard Mantell's low penalty corner flick handed Great Britain the lead in the 14th minute and Jonty Clarke came close to making it 2-0 when his cross-shot somehow missed everyone in front of goal. East Grinstead's Glenn Kirkham had half a chance just before the break when he dived bravely to reach Simon Mantell's pass he could not make enough of his connection.

Both sides traded early second half chances before New Zealand came close with a penalty corner that flew past the post. At the other end, Iain Mackay looked to have set up Richard Springham but the pass was intercepted before Springham, a late replacement in the squad, could pull the trigger.

Scotland defender Niall Stott and Englishman Simon Mantell combined well to force the penalty corner from which Jonty Clarke netted to make it 2-0; the forward knocking home the rebound after Richard Mantell's initial effort was saved.

And four minutes later Richard Alexander made it 3-0, pouncing on a loose ball at the top of the circle and smashing the ball home through Kyle Pontifex's legs after New Zealand had failed to clear their lines. It was the Surbiton man's fifth goal for Great Britain and put his side firmly in control.

With ten minutes remaining and the heat and humidity beginning to impact of the passages of play, New Zealand pulled a goal back through Shay Neal, who tipped in at the back post. Despite a yellow card for forward Matt Daly late on, it was little more than a consolation for New Zealand as Great Britain saw out the remainder of the match to win 3-1 and leapfrog Australia to go to the top of the standings.

Australian earlier beat Pakistan 5-1 and were due to play Korea on the Wednesday.

Started

James Fair GK; Iain Lewers; Alastair Wilson; Adam Dixon; Niall Stott; Glenn Kirkham; Iain Mackay; Rob Moore; Simon Mantell; Jonty Clarke; James Tindall

Substitutes Used

Dan Fox; Richard Mantell; Richard Springham; Richard Alexander; Matt Daly

Did Not Play

Nick Brothers GK; Richard Smith

Great Britain 1 Australia 2

A second half Richard Mantell penalty corner goal proved not enough for Great Britain, who lost 2-1 to World Champions Australia. A strong first half showing from the world number 1's meant Great Britain went in 2-0 down and despite the goal from the Reading defender GB could not close the deficit in the final stages.

Afterwards, Team Manager Andy Halliday said that despite the result Great Britain would take many positives from the games. "We paid for a sluggish start, which gave the initiative to Australia. Having gone one nil down and then lost a second before half time we were always chasing the game in the second half but there were a lot of positive signs in our performances today."

Great Britain fell behind from the first penalty corner of the match, which had to be retaken when Beeston defender Alastair Wilson was sent to the halfway line for breaking early from the goal

line. With Great Britain a man down in the corner defence, the retaken corner was successfully converted by Brett Dancer, whose effort went in off Cannock goalkeeper James Fair.

Soon after, Reading forward Simon Mantell was thwarted by Kookaburras goalkeeper George Bazeley, who forced Mantell into taking his shot quickly after the forward was played through on goal.

Great Britain fell further behind just before the half hour mark when Christopher Ciriello put the Australians 2-0 up from another penalty corner, while a minute later at the other end Richard Smith saw his penalty corner saved.

Great Britain benefitted from Fergus Kavanagh's yellow card three minutes into the second half after the Australia captain took the ball down from above his shoulder, earning GB a penalty corner. Richard Mantell's first effort was blocked and the Reading defender was unable to find the target when the ball rebounded to him.

Great Britain survived another penalty corner effort from Ciriello before Mantell saw another of his own saved. The resulting clearance was deemed dangerous though and from the following corner Mantell flicked the ball home to make it 2-1 with 13 minutes remaining.

Despite the goal, Great Britain could not find a late equaliser and Australia held on to book their place in Sunday's final. Great Britain's fixture on Sunday depended on the outcome of their match against Korea on Saturday and on Pakistan's remaining match, against the hosts Malaysia, who were yet to win a point.

Started

James Fair GK; Adam Dixon; Iain Lewers; Richard Mantell; Richard Smith; Glenn Kirkham; Rob Moore; Iain Mackay; Jonty Clarke; James Tindall; Alastair Wilson

Substitutes Used

Niall Stott; Richard Springham; Richard Alexander; Matt Daly; Simon Mantell

Did Not Play

Nick Brothers GK; Dan Fox

Great Britain 1 Korea 3

A disappointing performance against a pacey Korean side determined to make up for defeat to Malaysia two days earlier culminated in Great Britain going down 3-1 in their final pool match. Despite Surbiton forward Matt Daly's 20th minute equaliser of an early Yoon Sung Hoon goal, Great Britain found themselves 2-1 down at the break and were unable to recover after Hyo Sik have the Koreans an unassailable lead early in the second half.

Afterwards, Team Manager Andy Halliday admitted they were "obviously disappointed after a below par performance."

Cannock goalkeeper James Fair and Beeston defender Alastair Wilson were the two players left out of the side for Great Britain's fifth game in ten days. While three players, Matt Daly and the Mantell brothers, Richard and Simon, all made their 40th appearances for Great Britain.

Restored to the team after sitting out the previous two matches, Reading goalkeeper Nick Brothers was called upon as early as the second minute when Jang Jong Hyn shot from the game's first penalty corner. And it was not long before Korea took the lead. After receiving a cross from wide, Yoon Sung Hoon scored from the top of the circle to dent British hopes of a place in the final.

From Great Britain's first penalty corner Richard Mantell flicked his effort narrowly past the post and it GB soon restored parity. Just over midway through the half, Surbiton forward Matt Daly,

returning to international hockey after a lengthy injury layoff, won a penalty corner and subsequently scored it to level the score at 1-1.

No sooner had Daly leveled than he was shown a yellow card for a foul and with the forward off the pitch Great Britain conceded again. Jeon Byung Jin showed excellent skills to put Korea back in front as he weaved inside from the right, evading two tackles before coolly scooping the ball into the net.

Under pressure from the quick countering Koreans, Great Britain won another penalty corner on the half hour mark. Surbiton's Richard Alexander did well to recover the situation after the ball was miss-trapped at the top of the circle, winning another corner, but Richard Mantell's effort was off target.

Early in the second half James Tindall saw a promising move snuffed out by Le Seung, the Korean captain, and minutes later at the other end Great Britain were 3-1 down. Jang Hong's initial effort was saved by Brothers but the rebound fell to Hyo Sik, whose ball back in found its way over the line to extend Korea's lead.

Ten minutes into the second half the heavens opened but the pace of the game did not slow with both sides pressing. Dan shot narrowly wide into the side netting while Reading's Richard Springham did well to put in a good tackle outside the British circle. Beeston's Adam Dixon was then shown a yellow card for a challenge in the 52nd minute. Two minutes later Korea won two penalty corners but Nick Brothers was again up to the task, keeping out both shots.

As the game entered its final stages, Great Britain searched for a second goal. Reading forward Simon Mantell saw a shot saved before sending the rebound over the top and combination play between Mantell and Tindall set up Rob Moore but the Wimbledon player failed to hit the target. With Great Britain's final effort, Richard Alexander found goalkeeper Lee Myung in good form as he too was thwarted in attack.

Afterwards, Andy Halliday, Team Manager, said: "There was a lot of huff and puff and trying but we lacked quality today. When you play like that against a fast counter attacking team like Korea they will punish you. We're obviously disappointed but we have to pick ourselves up for what will probably be the bronze medal match."

Great Britain's slim chance of reaching the final rested on Malaysia beating Pakistan and New Zealand failing to overcome Australia.

Started

Nick Brothers GK; Adam Dixon; Iain Lewers; Richard Mantell; Niall Stott; Richard Smith; Glenn Kirkham; Rob Moore; Iain Mackay; James Tindall; Matt Daly

Substitutes Used

Richard Alexander; Dan Fox; Richard Springham; Jonty Clarke; Simon Mantell

Did Not Play

James Fair GK ; Alastair Wilson

Great Britain 4 New Zealand 2

A dominant second half performance led to Great Britain winning a well-deserved bronze medal with a stirring 4-2 victory over Commonwealth bronze medal holders New Zealand.

Having gone behind against the run of play in the first half, Great Britain defender Richard Mantell's well-timed penalty corner goal a minute before half time set up an excellent second half in which Great Britain scored three times and could have had several more if it was not for Blacksticks goalkeeper Kyle Pontifex.

Wimbledon's Rob Moore put Great Britain ahead in the 53rd minute with a rifling strike from just inside the circle that went in off the base of the post and Loughborough Students' Richard Smith made it 3-1 from a penalty corner. With five minutes remaining Matt Daly's deft touch in front of goal gave GB their fourth after a flowing move down the right hand side of the pitch. Although New Zealand's Blair Hilton scored a late consolation goal, the display was an accomplished one from Great Britain, whose Richard Alexander was named man of the match.

Afterwards, Head Coach Jason Lee declared himself very pleased with the result and with a bronze medal.

Ahead of the match, captain Glenn Kirkham was named in the Sultan's XI, the list of players identified by the coaches of the seven competing countries as being the best of the tournament. Cannock goalkeeper James Fair and Reading's Richard Springham sat out the match. Reading pair Richard Mantell and Jonty Clarke, for whom it was his 40th appearance for Great Britain, returned to the starting line-up after beginning as substitutes against Korea on Saturday.

New Zealand might have had the lead as early as the fourth minute when they had the ball in the goal from the first penalty corner of the game but the umpire called for the corner to be retaken and Nick Brothers saved the subsequent attempt.

Looking to acquit themselves well in the opening stages, Great Britain won a series of penalty corners but a combination of defenders kept out Richard Mantell. After seeing his first shot hit the legs of an onrushing defender and the second cleared by the Blacksticks' defence, he was denied a minute later by Kyle Pontifex in the New Zealand goal, who made an excellent save.

Against the run of play, Great Britain fell behind in the 20th minute when Stephen Jenness deflected home Andrew Hayward's penalty corner. The goal seemed to give New Zealand energy but Great Britain hit back just before half time. Having set his sights earlier, Mantell found his range, beating Pontifex through his legs to level the score at 1-1. It was the experienced Olympian's 65th international goal in his 140th international appearance.

In the second half, Great Britain began to assert their authority on proceedings. Richard Alexander, Simon Mantell and Richard Smith were each denied by the reflexes of Pontifex before Richard Mantell put a penalty corner inches wide of the left post. But British pressure paid off in the 53rd minute when Wimbledon's Rob Moore lashed a powerful shot in off the base of the right post to put Great Britain ahead for the first time in the match.

The lead was extended to 3-1 just before the hour mark by Loughborough Students' Richard Smith, who converted a penalty corner after the ball was slipped to him at the top of the circle. Reading's Iain Mackay came close to adding a fourth when he was thwarted by Pontifex but it was Surbiton's Matt Daly who added his name to the score sheet late on after good work from Mackay along the right baseline.

With less than one minute remaining, New Zealand's Blair Hilton scored a consolation goal for the Blacksticks,

Afterwards, Head Coach Jason Lee said, "I'm very pleased. We came here with an unbalanced squad and with minimum preparation. We were the last team to get here and we didn't play any practice games. As a result, we have to be happy with a bronze medal. I would have taken that before we started."

Started

Nick Brothers; Adam Dixon; Iain Lewers; Richard Mantell; Alastair Wilson; Glenn Kirkham; Iain Mackay; Jonty Clarke; Matt Daly; Simon Mantell; James Tindall

Substitutes Used

Richard Alexander; Dan Fox; Richard Smith; Niall Stott; Rob Moore

Did Not Play

James Fair GK; Richard Springham

European News

We mentioned rules' experimentation at the European Hockey League Championship in the last Newsletter and more will follow this next season, covered in greater detail, below. We also need to complete the scores, given the hiatus in the competition that arose when the last letter went into print, with Reading as the last English representatives.

European Hockey League KO16

Beeston 2 Dinamo Kazan (RUS) 0

HGC 2 Greenanne (IRL) 0

Mannheimer 3 Athletic Terrassa (ESP) 4

Club de Campo Villa de Madrid 11 Pembroke Wanderers (IRL) 0

HC Bloemendaal 2 UHC Hamburg 1

Oranje Zwart 4 RC Polo de Barcelona 3

KHC Dragons (BEL) 3 Rot-Weiss Köln 2

East Grinstead 3 Reading 5

Quarter Finals

HC Bloemendaal 1 Oranje Zwart 3

KHC Dragons 3 Reading 4

Beeston 3 HGC 4

Athletic Terrassa 1 Club de Campo 2

Semi Finals

11 June 2011

HGC 3 Oranje Zwart 0

Club de Campo 3 Reading 0

Third Place Play off

12 June 2011

Reading 3 Oranje Zwart 2

Final

12 June 2011

Club de Campo 0 HGC 1

Rule Changes

Changes in Regulations and Format Variations

The following changes to EHL Regulations (including format variations) were approved by EHF Executive Board on 18 August 2011 for incorporation into the EHL Regulations 2011/12. Probably the most visible may well be the above the shoulder relaxation, where the predominant concern will now be safety or non-dangerous play (*see below*).

- **Penalty Corner Penalties (Breaking the Line)**

To change the regulations (format variations) regarding replacement players when defenders break the line at a penalty corner in be consistent with FIH regulations.

Any defending player breaking the line at a penalty corner will be removed to the centre line and will not be replaced. The defending team will therefore defend the PC with one player less.

The FIH regulations also require that an attacking player who enters the circle before the ball is played should also be removed to beyond the centre line.

If an attacking player enters the circle before the ball is played, the offending player(s) shall be required to go beyond the centre line and can be replaced by another attacker.

- **Temporary Player Suspensions**

To clarify that the umpire shall immediately restart the game after the issuing of a green or yellow card (unless there is another reason to stop time, such as for attention to an injury).

- **Playing the Ball above the Shoulder (Rules of Hockey)**

To introduce a rule variation allowing players to receive and stop the ball above their shoulder on any part of the pitch, subject only to the normal rules regarding dangerous play.

- **Video Umpire Procedure**

To clarify the procedure if the video umpire cannot give a decision (no decision possible). If the video umpire is unable to make a decision (no decision possible) on a video referral, the referring team will not lose that referral or any future referrals (assuming they have any remaining).

- **Penalty Shoot Out**

To increase the number of Penalty Shoot-outs from 3 to 5 in line with FIH regulations. Note: the penalty for a goalkeeper infringement at EHL penalty shoot-out remains unchanged from 2010/11 season.

[European Hockey League 2011/12](#)

English representatives this year are Beeston, East Grinstead and Reading, who play on the following dates:

Beeston v KS Pomorznanin Torun; 7 October 2011 1200h
Beeston v RC de Polo de Barcelona; 9 October 2011 1200h

East Grinstead v Dinamo Elekrostaal; 8 October 2011 0930h
East Grinstead v Grunwald Poznan; 9 October 2011 0930h

Reading v Cookstown; 21 October 2011 1200h
Reading v Amsterdam H&BC; 23 October 2011 1200h

[On the Pitch](#)

[EHA Mixed Trophy](#)

This is on the way back in the Club and a team was entered for last season's EHA Mixed Trophy Competition. Players from the Men's 1's and 2's put in appearances and the results have been impressive. Hampstead had an excellent run to the quarter finals, after the following results

Aylesbury 2 Hampstead 7
Spencer 4 Hampstead 6
London Wayfarers 2 Hampstead 8
Saffron Walden 2 Hampstead 5

Hampstead were defeated in the quarter finals by Horsham by 1-8 on 15 May 2011, who then went on to beat Andover by the same score but were themselves beaten 2-0 in the final by eventual winners Cannock. Cannock had overcome Harleston Magpies 3-1 to gain their place in the final.

[Season Preview](#)

The Men's 1's had a positive pre-season, with a weekend of wins against Loughborough Students and then an encouraging 3-0 win over Reading at Sonning. This was followed in mid-week before the start of the League opener on 18 September, with an evening win over National League East Conference team Oxted, featuring former H&W players, Craig Carolan and Andy Cornick.

[English Hockey League 2011/12](#)

New to the Men's Premier Division following their successful promotions are Exeter University and Southgate. They replace Canterbury and Brooklands MU, who will compete in Conferences East and North respectively. Joining Canterbury in Conference East are newly promoted City of Peterborough and Teddington. Preston are new to Conference North. In Conference West, the two promoted sides are Cardiff UWIC and Lichfield.

Men's Premier Division

Beeston
Bowdon
Cannock
East Grinstead
Exeter University*¹
Hampstead & Westminster
Loughborough Students
Reading
Southgate*
Surbiton

Men's Conference East

Bromley & Beckenham
Canterbury**
City of Peterborough*
Harleston Magpies
Holcombe
Indian Gymkhana
Old Loughtonians
Oxted
Teddington*
Wimbledon

Men's Conference North

Barford Tigers
Belper
Brooklands MU**
Deeside Ramblers
Doncaster
Durham University
Leek
Olton & West Warwickshire
Preston*
Sheffield Hallam Civica

Men's Conference West

Bournville
Cardiff UWIC*
Cheltenham

¹ * promoted ** relegated

Fareham
Guildford
Havant
Lichfield*
Team Bath Buccaneers
University of Birmingham
Whitchurch

Men's Section League Fixtures

Here are a few of the fixtures for the first part of the season and a few starting times that should not be relied upon for those who might want to spectate! Readers should instead refer to .the Club's website and the Fixtures section with FixturesLive, where a comprehensive service is maintained

London League Premier Division

Men's 2

29.9.11 Wimbledon (h) 1200h
1.10.11 Guildford (a) 1599h
8.10.11 Old Loughtonians (a) 1530h
15.10.11 St Albans (a) 1430
22.10.11 Tulse Hill & Dulwich (h) 1600h
29.10.11 Spencer (a) 1200h
5.11.11 Reading (h) 1330h

London League Division 1

Men's 3's

24.9.11 Wimbledon 3 (h) 1500h
1.10.11 East Grinstead 2 (a) 1430h
8.10.11 Teddington 2 (h) 1200h
15.10.11 London Wayfarers 2 (a) 1200h
22.10.11 Indian Gymkhana 2 (h) 1200h
29.10.11 Spencer 3 (a) 1500h

London League Division 1

Zak Hond

24.9.11 London Wayfarers 2 (h) 1500h
1.10.11 Indian Gymkhana 2 (a) 1130h
8.10.11 Spencer 3 (h) 1330h
15.10.11 Surbiton (h) 1030h
22.10.11 Oxford Univ (a)
29.10.11 Richmond 2 (a) 1200h

London League Division 3

Men's 4's

24.9.11 PHC Chiswick (h) 1300h
1.10.11 East Grinstead 3 (h) 1200h
8.10.11 Teddington Saplings (a) 1415h
15.10.11 St Albans Senators (h) 1330h
22.10.11 Tulse Hill & Dulwich 3 (a) 1230h
29.10.11 Spencer 4 (h) 1030h

London League Division 3

Men's 5's

24.9.11 East Grinstead 3 (a) 1330h
1.10.11 Teddington Saplings (h) 1530h
8.10.11 St Albans Senators (a) 1200h
15.10.11 Tulse Hill & Dulwich 3 (h) 1330h
22.10.11 Spencer 4 (a) 1200h
29.10.11 Readings Refills (h) 1330h

London League Division 4

Men's 6's

24.9.11 Wimbledon 5 (a) 1500h
1.10.11 London Wayfarers Vikings (h) 1330h
8.10.11 Teddington 4 (a) 1115h
15.10.11 Lonfon Wayfarers 4 (h) 1030h
22.10.11 Tulse Hill & Dulwich Tornadoes (a) 1100h
29.10.11 Spenver 5 (h) 1330h

London League Division 5

Men's Hammers'

24.9.11 PHC Chiswick 3 (h) 1330h
8.10.11 Old Loughtonians 4 (h) 1330h
15.10.11 London Wayfarers Pirates (a) 1400h
22.10.11 Tulse Hill & Dulwich Diamonds (h) 1500h
29.10.11 Spencer 5 (h) 1330h

London League Division 6 West

Men's Spaniard's

1.10.11 Surbiton 5 (h) 1500h
8.10.11 Wimbledon 6 (a) 1330h
15.10.11 PHC Chiswick 4 (h) 1030h
5.11.11 Reading Rascals (h) 1030h
12.11.11 Indian Gymkhana 4 (a) 1430h

London League Division 6 East

Men's Thirsts'

1.10.11 Tulse Hill & Dulwich Saracens (a) 1130h
8.10.11 Kings Alleyns 4 (h) 1030h
15.10.11 PHC Chiswick 5 (a) 1600h
22.10.11 Old Loughtonians Academy (h) 0900
5.11.11 London Wayfarers Outlaws (a) 1500h
12.11.11 Tulse Hill & Dulwich Royals (h) 1200h

Vets London Division 1

Men's Veterans

24.9.11 Richmond (h) 1030h
1.10.11 Teddington (a) 1530
8.10.11 St Albans Emperors (h) 1200h
15.10.11 Reading Rustlers (a) 1630h
22.10.11 Barnes (h) 1000h

29.10.11 Tring (a) 1200h

Supervets League

Men's Superveterans

24.9.11 Richmond Rogues (a) 1000h
1.10.11 Old Loughtonians (h) 1200h
8.10.11 St Albans Centurions (a) 1430h
15.10.11 Indian Gymkhana (h) 1500h
22.10.11 Staines (a)
29.10.11 Tring (h) 1500h

Women's Section League Fixtures

South League Division 1

Women's 1's

24.9.11 Maidenhead 1 (h) 1330h
1.10.11 Reading 1A (a) 1130h
8.10.11 Epsom 1 (h) 1200h
9.10.11 Wimbledon (a) **Investec Women's Cup**
15.10.11 Woking 1 (a) 1300h
22.10.11 Southampton 9h) 1330h
5.11.11 Wimbledon 1 (a) 1200h

South League Division 3A

Women's 2's

24.9.11 Staines 2 (a) 1130h
1.10.11 Marlow 1 (h) 1030h
8.10.11 Eastcote 1 (a) 1200h
15.10.11 PHC Chiswick (h) 1200h
22.10.11 Sonning (a) 1300h
5.11.11 Teddington 2 (h) 1300h
6.11.11 Trojans 2 **Investec Women's 2nd XI Cup**

Middlesex Premier League

Women's 3's

8.10.11 Staines 3 (h) 1500h
15.10.11 H&WHC 4 (h) 1200h
22.10.11 Aces 1 (h) 1030h
5.11.11 Harrow 2 (a) 1130h
12.11.11 Hendon & Mill Hill 1 (a)

Middlesex Premier League

Women's 4's

8.10.11 Teddington 3 (a) 1445h
15.10.11 HWHC 3 (a) 1200h
22.10.11 Staines 3 (a)
5.11.11 Ashford 1 (h) 1030h
12.11.11 Aces 1 (h) 1030h
19.11.11 Harrow 2 (a) 1130h
26.11.11 Hendon & Mill Hill 2 (h) 1500h

Middlesex League Division 1

Women's 5's

8.10.11 West Hampstead 2 (h) 1030h
15.10.11 Gymkhana (a) 1130
22.10.11 Southgate 3 (h) 1030h
5.11.11 Staines 4 (H) 1500h
12.11.11 West Hampstead 3 (a) 1130h

Middlesex League Division 2

Women's 6's

8.10.11 Imperial Medical 1 (h) 1030h
15.10.11 Southgate 4 (a) 1030h
22.10.11 Hendon & Mill Hill 2 (h) 1630h
5.11.11 Univ of London 1 (a)
12.11.11 Eastcote 3 (a) 1030h
19.11.11 PHC Chiswick 4 (h) 1030h

Middlesex League Division 4

Women's 7's

15.10.11 PHC Chiswick 6 (a) 1230h
22.10.11 Harrow 3 (a) 1430h
5.11.11 Ashford 3 (h) 1500h
12.11.11 West Hampstead 7 (a) 1000h
19.11.11 Gymkhana (a) 1130h
26.11.11 Winchmore Hill & Enfield 3 (h) 1030h

Seventy Five Years Ago

The Annual General Meeting on 19 September 1936 was convened in the tea room of the pavilion on the Richmond Athletic Ground after the practice game. Capt Mawer took the chair.

The Treasurer's Statement of Accounts were put before the meeting and a query was raised over "outstanding subscriptions etc not to hand" totalling £39-15-3d. Mr Milsted read out a list of members whose subscriptions were in arrears and several were written off as the members were not liable owing to resignations or special adjustment by the Committee. The proposal to accept the statements was put and seconded.

However Mr Laurie Barnard proposed and was seconded that then accounts should not be accepted in their present form as they were not in order. After discussion Mr Barnard withdrew his original proposal and proposed that the new Treasurer should be instructed to investigate the accounts and report to the Committee at the next meeting. It was then agreed unanimously to accept the original proposal but with Mr Barnard's amendment incorporated.

Mr F E Eiloart was re-elected as President. Messrs Osmond, Shoveller, A C Eiloart, Bennett, Orr, Trotman and Wyatt (all famous names in Hampstead Hockey Club's history) were all elected as Vice Presidents. Strangely, the proposal the Mr C T A Wilkinson should be elected as a Vice President was proposed by John Sankey but there was no seconder. So, the vote was not put to the meeting.

Ruari Milsted was elected as Captain of the 1st XI, John Sankey of the 2nd XI, J H Hayward of the 3rd XI and E C Hardman of the 4th XI. Capt Mawer was elected Treasurer and P G Smith as Secretary.

The annual subscription was increased from £1-12-6d to two guineas but to include a member tea when playing at home. It could be paid by two equal instalments of a guinea, the first to be paid not later than 31 December. In response to the suggestion that any member who had not paid his subscription on 31 December should be suspended, the Chairman "pointed out that a proposal like this was out of order".

Mr Jack Bennett was thanked for presiding at the special committee meeting held on 26 April 1936 and then Mr Nolaus for his services as Treasurer and Mr Ingledew as Secretary. As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 6.45pm.

The Committee met immediately later and teams were selected for the matches against Dulwich on 26 September 1936. It was agreed that the Selection Committee should meet at the Tivoli Bar on 26 September. Future Committee meetings were to be convened on the first Thursday of each month, at Simpsons in the Strand.

Sixty Years Ago

Hampstead Hockey Club finds its feet again

Hampstead Cricket Club Limited's Hockey Club Sub-Committee met on Saturday 13 January 1951, with Ruari Milsted in the Chair. In attendance were Messrs I Eiloart, W Fletcher, H Leedham-Green (Chairman of Hampstead Cricket Club), R H Matthews, A Reid, J C Sankey, S J Saunders and G P Walker.

The procedure for team selection was discussed and it was decided that the Sub Committee should meet each Monday during the hockey season at the Surrey Tavern in Surrey Street or other place that might be convenient, to select the teams, the first meeting to be held on Monday 22 January 1951 at 6.15pm.

Owing to the Hampstead's (*sic*) own fixture commitments, Hendon Hockey Club were to be informed that the Club could not enter a team for the Hendon six-a-side competition to be held on Saturday 11 March 1951.

Ruari Milstead explained the difficulties being experienced in trying to arrange matches against the Club's old opponents. He suggested that it might be possible to arrange a meeting with the relevant fixture Secretaries of the various Clubs to explore the possibility of regaining these fixtures. The Sub-Committee agreed to convene such a meeting, at Mr Fletcher's house, on a date to be agreed.

In response to a request from Cambridge Town Hockey Club, it was agreed to arrange a fixture against them, preferably on 23 February 1952.

It was also agreed in principle that some mid-week games against schools should be played and that this matter should be pursued further. The Hockey Association "Circus" has wanted to arrange a lecture on general hockey matters for the Club but Ruari Misted was requested to inform the Association that it would be impracticable this season.

Finally, it was agreed that the Club should send a side to an Easter Hockey Festival in future years. Though impracticable this year, the matter was to be further ventilated (*sic*) at the general meeting of the hockey section.

Ten Years Ago

At the start of the season for the Men's 1's, Cannock seemed to predominate. First the Challenge and then the opening game of the Premier League

Hampstead and Westminster Challenge

3rd September 2001

The Independent

by Bill Colwill

Chris Graham, Cannock's new signing, scored twice as his club overcame a two-goal deficit to beat Hampstead and Westminster 3-2 in the final of the Westminster Challenge at Paddington yesterday.

After opening brightly, with the England striker causing all sorts of problems, particularly from either wing, Cannock conceded two goals in two minutes from Hampstead's South African Craig Carolan - first with a touch-in during a goalmouth scramble, then a well-struck penalty corner.

However, an impetuous tackle by their South African captain Andy von Mayer on Andy Brogdon early in the second half left Hampstead reduced to ten men. Before they could reorganise, Ben Sharpe tore their defence apart to set up the first goal for Graham. A second Hampstead sending off - Matt Hetherington for dissent - saw Graham strike again, after Brogdon had opened up the defence.

Restored to full complement, Hampstead rallied, with Hetherington working hard to make amends, but were unable to find their early rhythm. The winning goal came when Chris Mayer, later named Player of the Tournament, ran 60 yards through the Hampstead defence.

From the [Hampstead & Highgate Express](#)

The 12th Annual Hampstead & Westminster Challenge took place over Saturday and Sunday and resulted in a win for English Premier League Cannock, who defeated host club Hampstead & Westminster 3-2 in the final.

In the final, Hampstead played a near full strength team against opponents who were brimming with full internationals. Nonetheless unperturbed, Hampstead came out fast and Craig Carolan, making an unexpected return to the team, was soon prominent down the Hampstead right. Steve Dodson in the Hampstead goal confidently palmed away Cannock's first short corner flick in the fifth minute.

With Hampstead showing great commitment (and none so more than coach Soma Singh) Cannock conceded a short corner but Matt Hetherington as unable to gain any purchase on the flick. However, Gary Boucher collected the rebound and pushed the ball wide right where it was centred at speed: Mahmood Bhatti's push was blocked but Carolan was on hand to flick it in on the right post for the lead.

Within two minutes, Mike Williamson earned another penalty corner, which was gloved away and then Carolan buried Hampstead's third corner with a powerful rising shot that hit a defenders' stick and flew into the back netting for 2-0.

Hampstead then had Steve Dodson to thank for a stop at the top of the circle, following a long ball out of defence from Cannock, when he remained on his feet and able to kick the ball away. Just on half time Hampstead had the chance to extend their lead with their fourth short corner but Hetherington's fizzing flick went just wide of the right post.

In the second half Hampstead began comfortably and then within a minute two separate but connected incidents probably cost them the match. Skipper Andrew von Mayer was somewhat harshly yellow carded after a noisy stick tackle. Cannock took full advantage and equalised through England striker Chris Graham. Matt Hetherington then compounded the difficulty for Hampstead and was ordered off for 5 minutes for dissent. Cannock further capitalised and

despite Hampstead's best efforts at ball retention could not hold off their powerful forwards who equalised through Graham, for his second, set up by Brogdon. They then scored the winner with 14 minutes left after a strong break through the Hampstead defence by Chris Mayer.

Club President Peter Boizot then presented the Challenge Cup to Cannock, whose Chris Mayer was voted Player of the Tournament.

Premier League

Hampstead 0 Cannock 1

Hampstead opened their Premier Division season with a narrow loss to one of the fancied teams in the Division, who were grateful for the three points after a positive and combative performance by the home side.

Hampstead opened brightly for a change. The tone set by an interception by Matt Hetherington deep in the Cannock half within 50 seconds of the start and his shot cannoned off the keeper's midriff. Craig Carolan was then prominent deep on the right and crosses from Mike Williamson and Mark Darbon skimmed across the goal with no one available to take advantage.

Steve Dodson in the Hampstead goal then pulled off two saves from short corner flicks from Welsh international Simon Organ. With plenty of crisp tackling in the increasingly tight battle of midfield supremacy, Hampstead found it hard to create clear chances and there were few short corners opportunities until the 23rd minute when Jimi Lewis in the Cannock goal saved from Hetherington's flick. Mike Williamson rose to the challenge with a series of deep runs showing good stickwork.

The second half opened with a Carolan shot on the reverse and Cannock began to exert even more pressure driving forward through the efforts of England international, Chris Mayer. Making his Hampstead debut Dave Sellick pulled off a memorable save on the line from Cannock's seventh corner after Steve Dodson had blocked the shot with his hands. Another darting run from Mike Williamson earned Hampstead a second corner in the 51st minute but Hetherington's flick was wide of the right post.

Cannock's controversial goal was scored with ten minutes to go after a break that appeared to hit a Cannock foot but was not seen by the umpires. The ball passed rapidly down the Hampstead right and the resultant corner taken by Simon Organ was flicked in over Dodson's right shoulder, high into the goal.

Hampstead mounted a series of counter attacks and a chance opened for Mark Darbon at the top of the circle but his speculative deflected shot went wide of the post. Cannock then held on to the game with two final corners.

This was Hampstead's first home League defeat since March 1999. Undeterred, coach Soma Singh was generally pleased with the way in which the team had battled on and taken the game to opponents with such a good League pedigree.

TEAM: Dodson: von Mayer, Boucher, Sellick, Sully; Hetherington, Singh, Williamson; Bhatti, Carolan, Darbon SUBS: Land, Maier, Turner, Matthews

Next Letter

The next edition will hopefully report the start of the end of the new season in April or May 2012.

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!