

Correspondence...

I would refer to the statement made by Mr. N. Parker in Vol. 5 No. 5 of the HOCKEY DIGEST that 'nearing 100' Associate Members 'have resigned in the past 12 months as they do not agree with HA policies'.

Since I took over as Hon. Secretary, exactly one year ago, there have been about 15 resignations, and only ONE was for the above reason; others were for financial reasons, and being out of touch with hockey due to old age etc. It is true that 5 members did not give a reason at all, therefore, the maximum number of resignations that could be attributed to the reason expounded is 6. I would appreciate that publicity is given to this retraction of the completely misleading information given in the offending paragraph.

296, London Road,
Isleworth. TW7 5AW

ERIC HARVERSON
Hon. Sec., A.Ms.

Delighted to hear this. Anyone who would to be considered for membership of the HA Associate Members should get in touch with Eric. Membership is open to all who "have rendered service to the game".

As a subscriber to your excellent HOCKEY DIGEST may I suggest it might be a good idea to print a feature on Veteran's hockey. I think this would command a great deal of interest amongst your readers. Hockey players seem to go on for a long time (at least, some of them) and already there are teams of Veterans in many well-established Clubs throughout the Country. I was interested to read about the Aldridge Veteran Festival in the current edition, and I know there is another Festival at Easter for Veteran teams in Le Touquet.

The formation of Veteran sides may well be the means of older players playing longer and staying on with their Clubs, which can only be a good thing.

Keep the DIGEST coming... your're doing a great job.

"Penny Platt"
Beverley Heights
Reigate. Surrey

HAROLD GODFREY

Having been the very long suffering wife of a hockey player for 'X' number of years, I have had numerous occasions to realise that hockey players usually have two left feet. I also know that they can frequently be found to be 'leg-less', especially in the Bar; but I had no idea that they also had two right hands as depicted in the Christmas card enclosed with the Christmas issue.

Is this perhaps a new sophisticated aid to drinking for those who are not naturally ambi-dextrous and find holding a beer glass in the left hand awkward?

50, Holly Bank Road
York. YO2 4EB

P. WITLEA (Mrs)

P.S. The members of my husband's club, York Civil Service, want to know if the operation is available on the N.H.S.!!

A while ago I had the pleasure of umpiring ISCA v IPSWICH in the RANK-XEROX Quarter-Final and I would like to put on record what a fine game it was. Hard, no quarter given, none asked, but extremely fair. It was indeed a pleasure to umpire such a game with no moans about opponents or umpiring decisions. They just got on and played in a spirit in the highest traditions of sportsmanship. When you remember this game was played in appalling conditions, then you realise what a great credit it was to Hockey. Isca were the losers only of the game. They made many friends by their spirited display. As a humble umpire I salute both teams and thank them for making the game a memorable one.

29, Stuart Road,
Gillingham. Kent

PETER BROWN

London League 'moaners' please note. Ed.

Umpires are, I fear, all too often forced to comment adversely on the behaviour of players on the field, and, in particular, about verbal abuse. It is pleasing therefore to be able to record a word of praise for a skipper who does not allow this to happen. At Folkestone, 'Viji' Vijendran, who was captaining Hampstead, set an example which others might follow - he sent off one of his team for 'verbals', and for the remainder of the game the discipline of his team was an object lesson to their opponents who, in this respect, were the worst side I have seen this year.

8, Farm Way,
Northwood. Middx.

PETER HARMS

May I, through your column, draw the hockey fraternity's attention to a decline in standards of behaviour amongst hockey spectators. This year, Lord's weekend should have been a time for celebration. It was the tenth anniversary, and it was the first time the HA have had the pleasure of entertaining India and Australia at this annual hockey event. All who saw Saturday's matches, whether at Lord's or on TV, will probably agree that they were a success, and most enjoyable to watch.

What a pity it is, therefore, that the standard of behaviour, in some cases, off the pitch did not match the standard of play on it. The Organising Committee were appalled and disgusted to learn on Sunday morning of the wanton damage done to some of the lavatories and washrooms in the Grandstand on Saturday. Apart from the graffiti scrawled over the walls, basins and toilets were blocked, and pipes wrenched away from the walls. The damage and resulting flooding was the worst the Lord's staff had ever encountered on their ground.

This was damage caused by hockey spectators. Whether by club members of schoolboys is not known, but it was caused by people who had paid to come into Lord's to watch hockey. What a sad reflection it is that hooliganism universally deprecated in other sports, has now come to hockey.

"Westow"

Barham Road,
Wimbledon. S. W. 20.

H. L. EVANS

Dep. Chairman, Organising Com.