

Welcome

This is the seventh in our series of revamped Newsletters. This looks back on the 2010/11 season and on to the challenges of next autumn. We cover some initiatives on the Rules of the game taken up this spring in Holland at the European Hockey League championship in some detail too, lest some of them see their way to FIH acceptance.

International News

We are delighted to learn that Men's 1 captain, Dan Fox has been called up for the Great Britain squad for the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in Malaysia. And even more that he played in the opening win, by 3-1, against Malaysia, coming off the bench.

The tournament will be held from 5 May until 15 May in Ipoh, Perak, a two hour drive north of Kuala Lumpur at the Sultan Azlan Shah Stadium. For those eager to attend, apparently there is no fee at the gate!

This year's participants are Malaysia, Korea, India, Australia, Pakistan. Great Britain and New Zealand. Great Britain's campaign gets underway against the hosts Malaysia at 13:05 BST on Thursday 5 May.

In 2010, the final was washed out, so India and Korea were adjudged joint champions. Australia beat Malaysia 5-3 to come third, with Malaysia fourth, Pakistan fifth, China sixth and Egypt in seventh place.

The GB Squad is:

Richard Alexander (Surbiton)
Nick Brothers (Reading) [GK]
Jonty Clarke (Reading)
Matt Daly (Surbiton)
Adam Dixon (Beeston)
James Fair (Cannock)
Dan Fox (Hampstead & Westminster)
Glenn Kirkham (East Grinstead)
Iain Lewers (Loughborough Students)
Iain Mackay (Reading)
Richard Mantell (Reading)
Simon Mantell (Reading)
Rob Moore (Wimbledon)
Richard Smith (Loughborough Students)
Richard Springham (Reading)
Niall Stott (East Grinstead)
James Tindall (Surbiton)
Alastair Wilson (Beeston)

Memorial Match

This is for the Summer diaries, please. This season's Memorial Match is now scheduled for Sunday 11 September 2011 at Paddington Recreation Ground.

There is also speculation that the VP Annual Dinner might be shifted in time to coincide with the memorial match. Rumour has it that The Judge is considering the evidence before summing up!

On the Pitch Season Review

The Club maintained its ability to attract and retain players, fulfilling fixtures for all its teams, now with nine Men's and seven Women's League teams, participating in the National, London, South, and Middlesex Leagues respectively, which is no mean achievement.

As reported in greater detail later, the Men's 1's ended in sixth position in the Premier League and end an uninterrupted decade in that League. As Richard Chapman pointed out recently (and very aptly) not many teams have managed that in the last ten years but they are Reading, Cannock, Loughborough and Surbiton. Not many may realise that!

The Women's 1's went one better this year in the South League 1, ending in fourth spot and with more wins than last season

The Men's 2's won the London League Premier Cup, beating their rivals to the League Championship, Southgate, 2-1 in the final. The 2's were League runners up on goal difference and had a good end to the season. The Club had two other London League Cup finalists, Zak Hond XI and the Thirsts, but sadly neither was able to carry away a trophy.

In the Women's section, the 2's ended in 10th position and were relegated from South League 3A but the 3's were runners-up in the Middlesex Premier League, to 100% winners PHC Chiswick 1's, who only conceded an average of ½ goal per game. The 4's were in fourth in the same division and the 5's ended in sixth place. The 6's had a remarkably better season, ending sixth as well in Middlesex Division 2, winning and losing seven.

Elsewhere in the London League, the Men's 3's were third in Division 1. In Division 2, Zak Hond XI were runners-up but the 5's were tenth (and last, but only by three points). The 4's were eighth in Division 3 and in Division 4, the 6's were sixth but the Hammers had a season to forget and sadly were at the foot of the table with a solitary win. The Spaniards were in fifth place in Division 6 and the Thirsts were third in Division 7 that consisted eventually of seven teams.

The Vets were ninth in the Veterans London Division 1, won once again by Reading and the Supervets ended the season in fourth place in their League, with Eastcote overtaking them with the final game of the season, when the former won, by another tennis score, 6-4 against Surbiton.

[National Indoor January 2011](#)

The Men's 1's decided as a team that it was about time the Club had proper representation in the indoor League at national level, not only because of the six weeks hiatus between both parts of the outdoor season. Dan Fox had also amply shown how the indoor game can improve skills and in his case, led to international recognition.

So this year they set about it with single-minded determination and secured an unexpectedly good outcome in so short a time. It was almost back to the Geoff Wilmot days, heavily-laden minibus driving back to London on a Sunday night/Monday morning in the early 1980s, when Hampstead last enjoyed success at the national level.

The best summary is possibly that provided by Ian Roberts of the team, leading to the National Indoor Division Two tournament at University of West of England, on the northerly edges of Bristol late in January.

For those who have been out of the loop or simply ignoring persistent emails and texts HWHC have been mounting an assault on the Indoor leagues this winter break to stay sharp, fit and drag ourselves out of the embarrassing position of being the only Premier League outfit without a presence in the Indoor National Leagues.

I am pleased to report that we have achieved two successive promotions to see us rise out of the regional leagues into Division 2 which takes place on the weekend of the 22/23 January. A massive thanks to those who have committed so far and despite there being almost two entirely different squads at each of the tournaments, we have shown that we can perform and compete with some big indoor names, Bexley Heath, Maidstone and Fareham!!

Although sometimes not giving ourselves the best of platforms (4 men first game in the Regionals, then 3 men with 2 mins to go thanks to an Edwards temper tantrum) and some travel woes - Do you dare enter the Bermuda Triangle (crash helmets at the ready)- we have shown great heart, effort and teamwork to get where we are now, culminating in the 3-2 win against Bromley & Beckenham to gain promotion from the Regionals and the superhuman effort (ask Walsh for a picture of his feet!!) to win 8-2 against the Navy last round to gain promotion by goal difference.

*And this is where we are, as mentioned above the next tournament is on the 22/23 January. It is intended to hold training session on weds the 19 January for those who can commit to this next round and help your club stay in Division 2. You can ask Foxy what its like to be relegated and I think he will concur the feeling isn't great, especially playing with a bunch of ****s¹.*

To put it into perspective, if we can gain promotion again then we would be in the same League as Surbiton (if you hadn't guessed) next season. To be able to compete successfully at the next level we need a squad in the full sense. This includes more than one substitute, as has been the case so far.

I hope you will all agree is a monumental effort and message to the League that we are not simply becoming more consistent and competitive outdoors but indoors too, which cements the efforts of Todd, Thea, the squad and the Club trying to change the manner and regard to which HWHC is held.

Indoor League Scores

And so to the tournament at Bristol over the weekend of 22 and 23 January 2011. A full squad was commandeered and took to the stage on the wooden boards for the five games. This consisted of David Walsh, Ian Roberts, Nicklas Lange, Simon Ogden, Ian Scanlon, Cesar Hauet, Kieran Roche, Toby Roche and Will Naylor. The results were as follows:

Saturday

Hampstead and Westminster	3 - 1	West Herts
Cannock	5 - 1	Holcombe
University of Exeter	4 - 3	Sheffield Hallam Civica
Cannock	3 - 4	Hampstead and Westminster
West Herts	5 - 5	University of Exeter
Holcombe	7 - 4	Sheffield Hallam Civica

Sunday

University of Exeter	4 - 2	Hampstead and Westminster
Sheffield Hallam Civica	2 - 3	Hampstead and Westminster

¹ HWHC Skipper Dan Fox had already signed to play for Surbiton indoors this year before the Hampstead participation was suggested, so was in effect cup-tied and precluded from playing for us. Unfortunately for him, Surbiton did not fare as well as expected but as the relevant games were all played a week earlier, he was nonetheless then able to stand in as Coach for H&W on the weekend at the Univ of the West of England and take charge of the bench. (In fact Surbiton eventually managed to avoid relegation as the tables, below, show!)

University of Exeter 6 - 6 Holcombe
 West Herts 4 - 1 Cannock
 Hampstead and Westminster 7 - 5 Holcombe
 Sheffield Hallam Civica 5 - 3 West Herts
 University of Exeter 3 - 6 Cannock

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1 Hampstead and Westminster	5	4	0	1	19	15	4	12
2 University of Exeter	5	2	2	1	22	22	0	8
3 Holcombe	5	2	1	2	27	25	2	7
4 Cannock	5	2	0	3	20	18	2	6
5 Sheffield Hallam Civica	5	2	0	3	20	22	-2	6
6 West Herts	5	1	1	3	16	22	-6	4

What about Division One 2011?

The top two were promoted to the Premier Division: the bottom two were relegated to Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1 Sevenoaks	8	6	1	1	53	33	20	19
2 Harlestone Magpies	8	5	0	3	37	33	4	15
3 Brooklands MU	8	4	2	2	42	34	8	14
4 Doncaster	8	4	1	3	47	41	6	13
5 Barford Tigers	8	4	0	4	37	38	-1	12
6 Bournville	8	3	2	3	40	37	3	11
7 Stourport	8	3	1	4	34	38	-4	10
8 <i>Havant</i>	8	2	1	5	28	43	-15	7
9 <i>Team Bath Buccaneers</i>	8	0	2	6	28	49	-21	2

Premier Division

The top four were selected for the Super Sixes at the end of January 2011. The bottom two, Loughborough and St Albans were relegated to Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1 East Grinstead	8	7	0	1	70	36	34	21
2 Reading	8	5	2	1	59	33	26	17
3 Beeston	8	5	1	2	42	43	-1	16
4 Old Loughtonians	8	4	2	2	32	34	-2	14

Next Season

This all means that come January 2012 in Indoor National League Division One, the teams will be

Brooklands MU
 Doncaster
 Barford Tigers

Bournville
 Stourport
 Exeter University
 Loughborough Univ
 St Albans
Hampstead & Westminster

We send our congratulations to the Indoor Team for a fantastic effort!

National Outdoor

Now back to the outdoor season....

As indicated, H&W ended in sixth place in the Premier League and just missed out on possible European Hockey League participation, on which more news follows. Bowdon, in fifth, were lined up to play fourth-placed Reading, for the possible qualification place.

The season's team results were as follows:

Premier Division

Cannock 2 Hampstead 4 (Vehrle-Smith, Naylor, Palmer, Fox)
 Hampstead 2 Canterbury 1 (Roberts, A Smith)
 Brooklands 1 Hampstead 3 (Vehrle-Smith, A Smith, Naylor)
 Hampstead 2 East Grinstead 3 (Vehrle-Smith, A Smith)
 Loughborough Univ 5 Hampstead 2 (Vehrle-Smith, Roberts)
 Beeston 0 Hampstead 2 (Vehrle-Smith, Naylor)
 Hampstead 1 Bowdon 3 (Roberts)
 Reading 3 Hampstead 0
 Hampstead 3 Surbiton 1 (Garcia, Roberts, Fox)
 Canterbury 0 Hampstead 2 (Naylor, K Roche)
 Hampstead 2 Brooklands 1 (A Smith, Vehrle-Smith)
 East Grinstead 4 Hampstead 1 (Vehrle-Smith)
 Hampstead 1 Loughborough Univ 2 (Roberts)
 Hampstead 2 Besston3 (Roberts, Fox)
 Bowdon 2 Hampstead 2 (Roberts, K Roche)
 Hampstead 1 Reading 1 (Garcia)
 Surbiton 6 Hampstead 2 (Roberts, Naylor)
 Hampstead 6 Cannock 2 (Roberts, A Smith, Naylor 4)

Final League Table 2010/11

East Grinstead	18	14	3	1	77	30	47	45
Beeston	18	11	1	6	47	33	14	34
Surbiton	18	11	1	6	47	50	7	34
Reading	18	8	3	7	43	38	5	27
Bowdon	18	7	5	6	34	34	0	26
Hampstead	18	7	3	8	38	42	-4	24
Loughborough Students	18	7	2	9	43	46	-3	23
Cannock	18	3	4	9	36	54	-18	16
Canterbury	18	2	4	11	35	58	-23	13
Brooklands MU	18	3	3	12	20	45	-25	12

Playing Record

From whom did the points come? The aim is always to take as many points as possible from the top four teams. This season fared better than most, assisted by an almost clean sweep of those below, with the significant exception of Loughborough, against whom we have had so little recent success

East Grinstead	0/6
Beeston	3/6
Surbiton	3/6
Reading	1/6
Bowdon	1/6
Loughborough Students	0/6
Cannock	6/6
Canterbury	4/6
Brooklands MU	6/6

Post season

As H&W aspire to move on and into the European scene, we ought to be adult about it and follow what happened once the League season ended, for it can become complicated (and potentially expensive, as the sage heads at Bowdon were mentioning at the time we were vying with them for that coveted fifth place this season) in what is known as the Premier Championship.

Premier Championship

(2 April 2011)

4th v 5th

Reading 2 Bowdon 1

(3 April 2011)

2nd v 3rd

Beeston 2 Surbiton 1

1st v 4th/5th

East Grinstead 3 Reading 2

(9 April 2011)

3rd Euro Qualifying Place

Reading 3 Surbiton 1

Final

East Grinstead 1 Beeston 2

Beeston therefore beat League Winners EG for the Premier Championship and the prime European slot and were joined in the Euros by EG and Reading.

EHA Cup

As an earlier "flyer" will have mentioned the Men's 1's enjoyed another long run in the EHA Cup this year, with some impressive scoring against potentially difficult opponents (some may say deliberately set as *tank-traps* by the EHA). Sadly, they encountered a semi-final draw against holders Beeston. This, when the other fixture matched Cannock against Conference side Doncaster. That, on paper at least, offered a less strenuous challenge, given the League positions of both those teams. And it meant a repeat of last year's final in Nottingham on 15 May 2010.

Cup Progress

Round 1	bye
Round 2	Southgate 1 Hampstead 3
Round 3	Hampstead 8 City of Peterborough 2
Round 4	Cheltenham 1 Hampstead 8
Quarter Final	Old Loughtonians 0 Hampstead 4

Semi Final

In the semi-final, held in sunny conditions at Paddington, Beeston started at a significant pace, possibly aware that their record against Hampstead has not been as good as the League standings might suggest. They went 1-0 up after a minute. However in the ninth minute Will Naylor neatly slotted home an equaliser in open play. Hampstead then took the lead with an Ian Roberts deflection at a corner after 22 minutes

Beeston then pulled one back and gradually took territorial control and applied pressure that resulted in two goals not long into the second half and Hampstead were unable to exert any momentum. Beeston scored a fifth in the last quarter and that sealed their victory, a result that was hard to quarrel with on the day.

In the other game, Doncaster brushed Cannock aside and will now meet Beeston in the final on 14 May 2011, somewhat ironically, at Chase Park Cannock.

European Hockey League KO16

at Bloemendaal HC

25 April 2011

Rules' experimentation seen at the European Hockey League Championship is frequently followed in our national game and therefore needs to be kept aware of. There were plenty of initiatives seen in this year's finals of the last 16 at Bloemendaal, in Holland.

Scores

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

to be played 11 June 2011

HGC v Oranje Zwart

Club de Campo v Reading

Third Place Play off

12 June 2011

Final

12 June 2011

What lay behind these scores?

The semi finals draw saw the implementation of one Euro League rule, namely that two teams from the same nation had to play each other at semi finals stage, rather than face the possibility of meeting in the final.

As for the tournament as a whole, it drew some admiration from an Irish sports writer and not the first to be intrigued by some of the ways of modern hockey and how other sports, especially football, might benefit. We have covered other similar commentaries in earlier editions of the Newsletter.

This was Alan Good's report for the ***Irish Examiner***

Hockey isn't everybody's cup of tea as either a participant or spectator sport, but it continues to prove itself nothing if not innovative, as anyone who watched the Easter weekend action in the EuroHockey League will testify.

Europe's premier men's club competition is barely out of nappies as it heads for the conclusion of just its fourth season, yet somewhat arrogantly declares itself as "the best way hockey has ever been presented". The thing is, it ain't wrong.

Irish interest in the knockout rounds of the EHL is higher than usual this season; Dublin clubs Pembroke Wanderers and Glenanne were both involved in the last 16, while a smattering of Irish international players are representing clubs from Spain, Belgium and England.

I therefore spent much of the weekend glued to [the superb EHL website](#), watching either the live stream or highlights, as 12 games unfolded over four days in Bloemendaal, near Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

That the entire last 16 and quarter-finals took place at a single venue is a hallmark of a sport which places a heavy emphasis on tournament-style competitions, where games come thick and fast over a short period of time.

You certainly couldn't manage it with the Champions League or Heineken Cup, but for smaller sports this is a clever move — it creates a festival atmosphere, increasing the neutral crowds at matches and allowing players and fans from across Europe to mingle.

From a broadcasting perspective, there is also much to admire. Split screen views are utilised heavily on replays — so one incident can be viewed from attackers' and defenders' point of view simultaneously, or you can watch a coach agonise over a missed chance as it happens.

Commentary is left off the comprehensive highlights packages of each game, allowing the miked-up umpires to be heard throughout while also picking up some gems of comments from players and coaches.

The result is an instructive one for followers of any sport; witness how advantages are called and decisions are explained by the umpires, even while play is unfolding.

And for when they get it wrong? Much like cricket and tennis, the EHL adopts a video referral system. Even more intriguingly, the video umpire is also on camera, so viewers can watch and listen as he comes to his decision.

There are plenty of sports which would dearly love to be able to demand such accountability and transparency from their officials.

For the first time in EHL history, the system was called into play during a penalty shootout during the all-Spanish quarter-final between Club de Campo and Athletic Terrassa on Sunday — and resulted in a goal correctly being chalked off.

That came amid the EHL's take on how to decide stalemates, replacing the traditional stationary strikes at goal with a "penalty shuttles" system where players are instead given eight seconds to score in a one-on-one with the goalkeeper.

This format has heightened excitement, removed some of luck element and evened up the odds. It is one of many radical changes in recent years which has helped differentiate hockey from other sports which are similar superficially or tactically, football being a prime example.

These include using two umpires and rolling substitutions, scrapping the offside rule, removing the need to pass frees to another player (known as an autopass) and utilising a three-card and sin-bin system for disciplinary matters.

One size doesn't always fit all, of course; a bit of opportunistic journalism last year suggested FIFA president Sepp Blatter was considering following hockey's lead by doing away with offside, to widespread condemnation on fans' message boards.

And no system is without flaws; during the Reading v KHC Dragons clash on Monday, twice the video umpire was unable to come to a definitive conclusion.

There are nonetheless plenty of ways that sports can learn from each other. Hockey, for example, could look at how rugby upped the value of a try to encourage more positive play, and perhaps reduce the amount of sanctions which result in penalty corners, to encourage more goals from play.

In the meantime, whether you're a seasoned veteran or complete newbie, set aside an hour and make an appointment with the EHL website; it'll give you food for thought at the very least.

Some of these systems procedures and rules may need some more detailed explanation. Some are radical, it might be said! This is the Euro Hockey League's own conclusion. "To add to the excitement of matches, and particularly to add to the attraction of the game on TV, a number of variations in format shall apply during Euro Hockey League matches.

These variations are experimental format/rule variations only. The intention is entirely to make the game more exciting and understandable for spectators and TV audiences, as well as incorporating gaps for TV replays or advertisement breaks"

1. Match Time and Time-Out

Each match will be played in two halves, each of 35 minutes. However, in each half (at 17½ minutes and 52½ minutes) there will be a centrally controlled *time-out* of 2½ minutes. Half-time will be 7½ minutes (subject to pitch watering requirements). Teams will change ends at half-time (only).

The team that has taken the first push off, will also take the push off after the first half time-out. The other team will push off after half time and after the second-half time-out. The Technical Officer will sound the hooter at the time-out breaks and half-time breaks as normal.

The same rules apply to a Penalty Corner awarded before the hooter is sounded at time-outs and half/full time. Teams will not leave the pitch at time-outs and must be back in position and ready to play at 2½ minutes, so the Technical Officials will encourage teams to finish any activity shortly after 2 minutes have elapsed.

2. Penalty Corner Penalties

Any defender penalised by the umpire for breaking the line before the injection of a Penalty Corner will be sent to join the defenders on the halfway line. He may be replaced on the goal-line by another player of the defending team from the halfway line.

If a defending goalkeeper breaks the line at a penalty corner, the defending team must choose another player from their defence to go to the halfway line. This player can be replaced on the goal line with another player from the halfway line. Similarly, if the injector is penalised by the umpire (for making a body fake or for movement inducing the defenders to break) then the injector will not be allowed to take the injection for that PC and will be replaced by another attacking player. (No substitutions allowed, as per Rules of Hockey).

Time is **not** stopped (unless the umpire stops time for another reason). Umpires may still use a green card if necessary, but this means a player leaves the pitch. Umpires will allow no more than 2 illegal line breaks before issuing a green card.

If a player receives a green card, he can still be replaced on the goal line with another player from the half way line.

Umpires may use their discretion if they feel that a defender has broken the line due to the behaviour of the ball injector. If an umpire decides that the injector has deliberately tried to cause an early break, he will be penalised by not being allowed to inject the corner and shall be replaced by another attacking player on the pitch at the time. Umpires will encourage the quick movement of replacement players so as not to delay the game.

If the goalkeeper breaks the line, he must immediately select one of the other defenders to be sent to the halfway line. If the umpire temporarily suspends the goalkeeper the offending team may replace him with another goalkeeper (if available) in accordance with the Rules of Hockey.

3. Temporary Player Suspensions

A player who receives a green card from an umpire will be automatically suspended for two minutes².

A player shown a yellow card will be suspended for a minimum of 5 minutes (in each case the suspension to be timed and controlled by the technical table, such time to start once the player is seated in the designated area for suspension).

Players will be allowed back onto the field exactly on time (other than if a PC has been awarded or is in progress). Suspended players can be substituted at the expiry of their suspension as normal.

If the seriousness of the offence requires it, the umpire may suspend the yellow-carded player for 10 minutes by signalling, at the time of the suspension, to the table to indicate that this is a 10 minute period of suspension.

The minimum number of players on a pitch for a team is 8, so umpires and coaches need to keep this in mind. If the Captain receives a 'team' green card, he is still suspended for two minutes. At least three chairs for temporarily suspended players are required each side of the Technical Table.

4. Penalty Corner Timing

When a Penalty Corner is awarded, umpires shall (for the purposes of TV replays and defenders to put on protective gear etc) allow **not fewer** than 45 seconds before allowing the Penalty Corner injection to commence. The engaged umpire shall give both the defence and the attackers signals as the expiry of the 45 seconds approaches.

Upon expiry of the 45 seconds, the umpire may allow the taking of the Penalty Corner, whether or not the defenders are ready. If the attackers fail to inject the ball within a reasonable time after that then the umpire may disallow the corner.

Note: the *45 second rule* will apply only to the initial award of a Penalty Corner and not to any retake, or to any second Penalty Corner awarded before the ball has moved 5m from the circle.

The PC delay is **not** a stoppage in time - the clock continues to run. The 45 seconds delay will be indicated by the technical officials by means of a separate clock at the technical table which

² This rule was in operation during the last season the Premier League

will be used to indicate the delay. The full 45 seconds delay will still occur even if the PC is awarded within the last 45 seconds of a game period.

5. Final Result of Matches / Penalty Shoot-Out

If, at the end of full-time, the score remains level (a draw) then, in a match in Rounds 2-5, after a break of five minutes, the teams shall play up to two periods of five minutes extra time (**silver goal**).

If one team is leading at half-time in extra time then that team shall be the winner and the game shall end there.

If no team is ahead, then the second half of extra time will be played in full. If, at the end of extra time in a match in Rounds 2-5 the scores remain equal, then which team shall progress as the winner of that match will be decided by a *penalty shoot-out*. (On this there will be more explanation, below!).

The 8 seconds will be displayed on the scoreboard clock so that all can see the countdown. The 8 seconds shall be started by the umpire blowing the whistle and will end with a signal from the technical official (hooter or whistle).

Once the umpire has started the 8 seconds, both attacker and goalkeeper are free to move in any direction. Any infringement by the GK during the 8 seconds period will result in a goal being awarded. If following a shot on goal the ball becomes lodged in the goalkeeper's equipment and is no longer playable, then no goal is awarded and the Umpire shall award a retake of the shoot-out.

6. Video Umpire

A video umpire will be appointed to each match and will use the existing TV coverage available. He will be sited at a location to be agreed at each venue (but not at the Technical Table).

Referral of decisions to the video umpire:

Each team shall have the opportunity to request up to three video referrals throughout the game (in normal time), but will lose the opportunity to request any remaining referrals as soon as a referral is rejected by the video umpire.

In addition to the above, each team will be granted one further video referral if extra time is played in any knockout match. This referral can also be used during a subsequent penalty shoot-out competition if this takes place. Any unused referral from normal time may not be carried over into extra time.

A video referral can be requested by any player on the pitch to either umpire at any time on any part of the pitch.

Any decision during a match may be the subject of a referral, except for the award of a personal penalty (a card).

The decision on the referral will be made by the video umpire (and not by the umpires on the field).

Procedure for referring decisions to the video umpire:

The player requesting the referral must, immediately and without any undue delay, indicate to the nearest umpire that they intend to use one of their team's referrals and to have an incident referred to the video umpire.

This must be done by signalling (using the TV 'box' signal) and by confirming to the umpire verbally that a team's referral is being used. This must be done immediately after the incident or decision/no decision which is being challenged has occurred. The person making the referral must tell the umpire the nature of the decision (or non-decision) they wish to have reviewed and the umpire will then relay that information by radio to the video umpire.

Teams (and their captains) will be held responsible for any violation or abuse of the video umpire protocols. Apart from the players of both teams, nobody, including the umpires on the field, the video umpire or technical officials at the table, can stop the match to request a referral. Umpires are advised that in cases where referral needs to be made to the video umpire:

Play and time must be stopped on referring an incident to the video umpire.

The decision of the video umpire will be given to the match umpires by radio contact. The match umpire will relay the video umpire's decision to the referring team. The decision may also be displayed on any public display or video screen (e.g. 'goal' or 'no goal').

The decision of the video umpire is final and no protest against this decision will be possible. Once a referral has been made by the umpire on the field, then the decision rests with the video umpire, unless it be that, after review, the video umpire is unable to give a ruling, in which case the original decision (or no decision) of the field umpire will stand.

The engaged umpire will signal what they consider is the correct decision (or no decision).

Once a referral is requested by a player, the umpire will immediately stop time and indicate that the incident is referred to the video umpire by a clear hand signal (TV 'box' signal). The umpire will then communicate with the video umpire and their colleague through radio contact. The video umpire will confirm that the request has been received and understood.

On reference to the video umpire by the umpires, no player or official from either team shall be allowed to approach the technical table or seek to influence any decision that the video umpire may make. The Technical Officer on duty is responsible for ensuring this does not happen, and shall themselves take no part in the decision of the video umpire.

The video umpire will advise the decision (or 'inconclusive/no decision possible'), plus, if necessary, advise on any other breach of the rules, by radio within the shortest time frame possible.

If a breach of the rules is observed and advised to the match umpire, then the umpire must take appropriate action in light of this information. If the video footage is inconclusive, the original decision (or no decision) of the match umpire stands.

If the referral is deemed correct, the referring team will retain their right to make further referrals (up to the maximum number stated above). If the referral is deemed incorrect, the referring team will lose their right to make further referrals. If no decision was made, the game shall re-start with a bully.

The video umpire will not be the same person as the reserve umpire and will not be located at the technical table but at a location agreed by the Tournament Director and the broadcaster's Site Manager. They will receive playback on to a TV monitor.

7. Own Goal

A goal is scored when the ball is played within the circle by an attacker, or touches the stick or body of a defender within the circle and does not travel outside the circle before passing completely over the goal-line and under the cross-bar.

The ball may initially be hit from outside the circle by an attacker (or a defender) and a goal will be awarded if the ball touches, or deflects from, a defender or the defending goalkeeper before entering the goal.

The ball may not be played dangerously into the circle before a deflection occurs.

8. Radio Communication and Commentary

It is intended that both the umpires and coaches of the teams shall be wired with radio microphones.

The umpires' transmissions, in addition to going to their colleagues, including the reserve and video umpire, will be available to the TV director for broadcasting, as will the transmissions from the microphones of the coaches. It is compulsory for the umpires and the coaches to have their microphones live at all times during the match, and to follow any directions of the TV director (as relayed through the TD) as to the use of their microphones.

It is important that umpires, coaches and players are aware that anything they say, especially during game breaks, may be broadcast on TV or be available to others on the same network.

Umpires and players should be aware that umpire microphones are live at all times.

9. Team Lists (Match)

Teams can comprise up to 18 players, which includes 2 fully kitted goalkeepers.

If a team has only one fully kitted goalkeeper available, then only 17 players in the team will be allowed. If a player has been permanently excluded from a match (e.g. following the issue of a red card), then that team will have one player less on the team bench.

Each team may have 7 players on the team bench during a match, as long as one of them is a fully kitted goalkeeper.

Penalty shoot-out

The penalty flick for settling a tied score, as we know it, has been abandoned for the purposes of the tournament and replaced by a brief *shoot-out*. The rules for this have been compiled separately.

Three players from each of the two teams take a *one-on-one* penalty shoot-out alternately against the goalkeeper of the other team (unless the latter has been incapacitated or replaced) making a total of 6 penalty shoot-outs, 3 for each team.

The players must take the penalty shoot-out in the same sequence as the list of three players nominated to the Technical Officer on duty before the start of the penalty shoot-out competition.

The penalty shoot-out will be taken under the following conditions:

- (1) the defending goalkeeper will start from behind his own goal line, between the goal posts;
- (2) the ball is placed on the nearest 23m line in a position opposite the centre of the goal
- (3) an attacker will start from behind the 23m line near the ball;
- (4) the umpire blows his whistle to signal the start of the shoot-out. The attacker and the goalkeeper may then move in any direction.
- (5) the shoot-out is completed when any of the following first occur:
 - 8 seconds has elapsed;
 - the attacker scores a goal;
 - the attacker commits an offence;
 - the goalkeeper commits an offence in which case a goal shall be awarded;

- the ball goes out-of-play over the back-line or side-line; this includes the goalkeeper who may intentionally play the ball over the back-line to end the shoot-out.

No player who has been suspended by the Tournament Director or has been excluded permanently (red card) from the field of play during that same match by the umpires, shall take part in a penalty shoot-out competition.

If during a penalty shoot-out competition a player (either an attacker or a goalkeeper) is suspended, then that player shall take no further part in the shoot-out and, unless a defending goalkeeper, cannot be replaced. If an attacker, any shoot-out the player should have been entitled to take will be counted as *no goal*.

After each team has taken three shoot-outs, if an equal number of goals have been awarded, a second series of shoot-outs shall be started with the same players (subject to incapacitated goalkeeper(s) being replaced) and shall cease after a team shall have scored or been awarded one more goal than the opposing team after an equal number of shoot-outs (no minimum, no maximum) have been taken by each team. That team shall be the winner of the second series.

The sequence in which the attackers take the shoot-outs need not be the same as in the previous series. The team manager has the freedom at the time of each shoot-out to choose the nominated players to take the shoot-out.

The team whose player has taken the first penalty shoot-out of the first series must defend the first penalty shoot-out of the second (unlimited) series.

Note This rule provides for a shoot-out in place of a penalty stroke competition, in a match in which the scores remain level after extra time.

If, in any match, a penalty stroke is awarded during normal time or during extra time, then a penalty stroke will be taken in the normal way, in accordance with the Rules of Hockey.

Now, was that all clear? We shall have a test at the end...

The shoot out competition, the own goal ruling and the Video referral came to the fore in the KHC Dragons v Reading game at the tournament.

In the first quarter, Reading's Andy Watts' drive into the Belgian circle saw him create the space to flick the ball beyond the goalkeeper with Warren D'Souza on the back post to apply the final touch as the ball crossed the line.

But in bizarre circumstances Reading let the Dragons back into the match with an own goal off the foot of Rhys Joyce. He saw a long pass fired into the circle come off his foot and wrong-foot his own 'keeper, Nick Brothers, before rolling inside the far post past the sprawling goalkeeper.

Midfielder Iain Mackay restored Reading's lead in the fourth quarter tucking home a loose ball after Richard Mantell's penalty corner was thwarted. Tom Bertram (nephew of our own Dave Dixon) batted away a penalty corner effort on the line at chest height. Brothers kept out another corner and Reading looked as if they would hold out under mounting Dragons pressure. But Renaud Pangrazio bundled home a crushing equaliser with 40 seconds remaining to force extra time.

As extra time came and went, the match went to penalties; the second of what would later become three quarter finals to be decided by penalties.

Jonty Clarke scored Reading's first. Brothers then pulled off a good block to give Reading the advantage but when Simon Mantell lobbed his effort on to the roof of the net and Brothers was beaten by the Dragons' second, it all rested on the third efforts.

Iain Mackay slid home his effort, leaving Brothers to face the final penalty. With the clock ticking down, good goalkeeping held up Loic Vandeweghe. The Belgian eventually got his shot off to score.

However, Reading believed that the timing whistle had sounded before the ball crossed the line for the goal and appealed to the video umpire. After a lengthy delay and many slow motion replays, the decision was overturned, sealing victory for Reading and earning them a place in the semi final.

Promotion to the Premier League 2011/12

The usual four teams were vying over the May Day holiday weekend for the two places in the Premier Division. These were Canterbury, in penultimate place in the Premier League this season and the three winners of the regional Conferences, University of Durham, University of Exeter and Southgate. The tournament was held at Cannock on the Saturday Sunday and Monday.

Canterbury returned to Cannock a year after securing their place in the top flight on the back of a *Houdini* escape act. When they lost a crucial game 5-2 to Cannock there were just two games left and six points needed. They enjoyed a surprise 3-2 win over Loughborough to set up the ultimate relegation battle at home to Brooklands MU, whom they would overtake if they won. They did so but only thanks to an overtime corner conversion from Michael Farrer to clinch a 2-1 win.

Southgate took the Men's East Conference title with a four point advantage over Old Loughtonians who have been runners-up for the past two seasons. However their progress was not without alarms, not least when having beaten Old Loughtonians in a top of the table clash a week before, they slipped to a 3-2 reverse against bottom of the table Sevenoaks, who they had beaten 12-1 earlier in the campaign. Four subsequent wins ensured their success.

University of Exeter were the most convincing winners and took the West title with an eight point advantage over nearest rivals Team Bath Buccaneers. Exeter are looking to return to the top flight after a year out. After a patchy start to the season, they came into this tournament on the back of 12 consecutive wins

The North winners Durham University were off the pace at the mid way break but an unbeaten second half of the season including wins over nearest rivals Doncaster and Sheffield Hallam saw them pull clear.

Sat 30 April

1600	Durham Univ	v Southgate
1800	Canterbury	v Univ of Exeter

Sun 1 May

1500	Southgate	v Canterbury
1700	Univ of Exeter	v Durham Univ

Mon 2 May

1330	Univ of Exeter	v Southgate
1330	Canterbury	v Durham Univ

Saturday

Southgate's corners proved decisive in the first match against Durham University with three conversions and a fourth from a breakdown helping them to a 4-0 win. Johannes Kloess opened the scoring in the 17th minute with a roofed drag flick. Seven minutes later at the next corner with eyes on Kloess, it was Ed Miller who scored to make it 2-0.

Kloess scored a third early in the second half and when a 59th drag flick was well saved by Durham keeper James Cachia the ball was fired back into the D and Adam Wilson scored with a deft close range deflection. Durham had created chances from open play but were undone by Southgate's set pieces.

It was a game of two halves in the other game of the day with Exeter University running out winners 3-1 against Canterbury. Ian Haley took advantage of some hesitancy in the Canterbury defence to score from close range on eight minutes and Tom Carson made it two soon afterwards.

Exeter were on top for the rest of the half but didn't convert this into a goal until early in the second when James Royce scored. After this Canterbury raised their game and forced a series of penalty corners but couldn't get past Tom Millington in the Exeter goal who was in fine form. Michael Farrer finally got them on the score sheet from a corner on 52 minutes but despite further pressure Exeter stood firm to earn the three points.

Sunday

Canterbury and Southgate served up a cracker in the first game of the day. Southgate edged out the Kent side in a nine goal thriller 5-4.

Mickell Pierre drew first blood for Canterbury with a low drag flick on 8 minutes but by 8 minutes later Southgate had advanced to a 3-1 lead with open play goals from Westbrook and Terwin and powerful shot from captain Shingles following a corner breakdown. Michael Farrer pulled a goal back for Canterbury on 27 minutes but a Johannes Kloess thunderbolt corner on the stroke of half time restored Southgate's two goal lead.

The second half also proved eventful with Canterbury pulling level as Farrer completed his hat-trick with corners in the 43rd and 46th minute. Southgate were hanging on as their yellow card tally rose from two at half time through to seven by the 58th minute.

With four minutes to go Kloess clanged the Canterbury bar from a corner but two minute later Terwin finished off a flowing move to earn Southgate a dramatic 5-4 win.

The second Men's match of the day managed to live up to the previous one. Univ of Durham beat Univ of Exeter 5-4 to keep their (and all other teams') hopes of qualifying alive.

Durham raced into a two goal lead within 10 minutes when Paddy Harman netted with a close range deflection and George Scott scored from a narrow angle. John Sterlini hit back for Exeter on 30 minutes and with the half time hooter having sounded James Royce scrambled the ball home from a corner to make it 2-2.

If Exeter thought that the game was turning their way they were soon proved wrong. Dan Coultas scored from a stroke and then converted a corner via the post and Exeter keeper Millington's helmet to put Durham 4-2 up on 52 minutes.

They held a two goal advantage until nine minutes were left, when Royce scored his second from a corner. Three minutes later Carson levelled things up also from a set piece. Exeter looked the more likely winners but Durham dug deep. They earned a corner in the last minute and Coultas powered it home to seal an epic win.

This meant any of the four teams, including Canterbury who have lost twice, could still qualify on the Monday.

Monday

In contrast to the corresponding Women's final matches, the Men's matches burst into action.

Canterbury were 2-1 up on Durham University within 15 minutes with a super strike from Liam Foster and a goal from Tom Butt sandwiching Paddy Harman's deflected goal for Durham. The 2-1 scoreline remained until half time.

Meanwhile Exeter University were running riot on the other pitch against Southgate, who were missing injured captain Dan Shingles and Matt Grinham, suspended for the game after two yellow

cards on the previous two days. Two corner deflections from Rob Mugridge and two open play goals from James Royce put Exeter 4-0 up at the break.

In the second half Southgate pulled two early goals back from a Kloess corner and Rob Schilling, whilst Durham went on late scoring spree to move from 2-1 down to 5-2 up within the space of 13 minutes – Dan Coultas, Matt Hodgson (2) and Mark Galloway scoring.

It became 5-2 on both pitches when Exeter scored through Tom Carson which was how that game finished. The result ensured Exeter's promotion. Southgate watched the last two minutes of the Durham game knowing that two more goals for the Students would see them take second place. However it was not to be. But in a further twist, Durham's Galloway and Canterbury's Michael Farrer were both red carded for second yellow card offences in the final minute.

Outcome

Southgate and Exeter University will play in the EHL Premier Divisions in 2011/12. The EHL Conferences will now be formed from the other 30 EHL teams.

Scores Summary

Univ of Durham 0 Southgate 4
Canterbury 1 Univ of Exeter 3
Southgate 5 Canterbury 4
Univ of Exeter 4 Univ of Durham 5
Univ of Exeter 5 Southgate 2
Canterbury 2 Univ of Durham 5

Final Table

1 University of Exeter	3	2	0	1	12	8	4	6
2 Southgate	3	2	0	1	11	9	2	6
3 University of Durham	3	2	0	1	10	10	0	6
4 Canterbury	3	0	0	3	7	13	-6	0

Other post-season activity

The annual talent identification tournament known as the Great Britain Hockey Super Leagues once again took place towards the end of the season, now for the fifth time for the Men and resuming for the Women on a fourth occasion.

We have reported on the tournament in previous Newsletters. The intention is to keep watch for budding talent, at player level and coaching, umpiring and officialdom, too. This year there was a similar level of HWHC participation but perhaps with not so wide a spread, given Welshmen Peter Swainson and Andy Cornick's moves to other clubs. So, this year, it was predominantly for the Saxon Tigers.

There are five teams in the tournament, the Celtic Panthers, the Highland Jaguars, the Pennine Pumas, the Caledonian Cougars and the Saxon Tigers, each name giving just a hint of prime location for their players. Matches were to be played between 16 April and 1 May, on a round-robin basis, at Sofia Gardens in Cardiff, Forthbank in Stirling and the National Centres at Bisham Abbey and Lilleshall.

Representing Hampstead this year have been Ian Scanlon (GK), Dave Cooper, 1's captain Dan Fox, Sam Dixon (who joined us this year and whose elder brother is a GB international already) Will Naylor and Stephane Vehrle-Smith.

Women's Section League Tables

South Division 1

Oxford Hawks 1	18	15	0	3	45	45pts
Guildford 1	18	14	2	2	30	44

Havant 1	18	14	2	2	25	44
Hampstead & Westminster 1	18	10	0	8	0	30
Southampton 1	18	7	2	9	1	23
Epsom 1	18	6	3	8	-14	21
Reading 1A	18	5	3	10	-6	18
Woking 1	18	4	3	11	-16	15
Southgate 1	18	2	4	12	-29	10
Harrow 1	18	2	3	13	-34	9

In the **EHA Women's Cup**, the 1's beat Wapping 4-1 and then drew Premier League opposition and a trip to Failand, Bristol for their success. Clifton defeated them 5-1 on 14 November 2010 before themselves losing in the next round 4-2 to Sutton Coldfield, who were then on their way back into the Women's Premier League (secured at the Premier League play-offs at Cannock on 2 May 2011).

South Division 3A

We should spare a thought for Eastcote 2 and their goal difference of -152...The Hampstead 2's were sadly relegated, too.

Banbury 1	22	18	3	1	62	57pts
Witney 1	22	17	1	4	75	52
Marlow 1	22	14	5	3	33	47
City of Oxford 1	22	10	4	8	35	34
Staines 2	22	10	3	9	7	33
Eastcote 1	22	10	2	10	-6	32
Sonning 1	22	9	3	10	-5	30
Teddington 2	22	9	2	11	-11	28
West Hampstead 1	22	8	4	10	19	28
Hampstead & Westminster 2	22	6	1	5	-23	19
Southgate 2	22	5	4	13	-24	19
Eastcote 2	22	0	0	22	-152	0

Middlesex Premier Division

A good showing by the Women's 3's and 4's to fill second and fourth spots.

PHC Chiswick 1	18	18	0	0	57	54pts
Hampstead & Westminster 3	18	11	2	5	17	35
Winchmore Hill & Enfield 1	18	10	3	5	8	33
Hampstead & Westminster 4	18	8	5	5	9	29
Staines 3	18	7	4	7	-4	25

Middlesex Division 1

The 5's ended in sixth place.

Harrow 2	18	15	2	1	37	47pts
Aces 1	18	13	2	3	20	41
PHC Chiswick 2	18	11	1	6	29	34
Gymkhana 1	18	10	1	7	33	31
West Hampstead 3	18	8	2	8	-2	26
Hampstead & Westminster 5	18	6	6	6	10	24
British Airways Hayes 1	18	7	1	10	7	22

Middlesex Division 2

Here the 6's were in sixth place.

Teddington 4	18	11	1	4	33	34pts
West Hampstead 4	18	10	3	3	20	33
PHC Chiswick 3	18	10	0	6	27	30
Southgate 4	18	8	2	6	15	24*
Imperial Medical 1	18	8	2	6	12	22*
Hampstead & Westminster 6	18	7	2	7	12	22*

* points deducted by the League officials, ever vigilant!

Middlesex Division 4

The Women's 7's stormed up the table this year to a third place in Division 4.

British Airways Hayes 2	14	11	0	3	14	33
West Hampstead 6	14	9	2	3	28	29
Hampstead & Westminster 7	14	8	2	4	25	25*
Gymkhana 2	14	6	3	5	10	19*
Winchmore Hill & Enfield 3	14	6	1	7	2	17*

Mixed Hockey

This is on the way back in the Club and a team was entered for this season's EHA Mixed Trophy Competition. Players from the Men's 1's and 2's have put in appearances and the results have been impressive. The tournament will not be over by the time this letter goes to print but here is the present position (subject, as always, to overruling by those actually in the know!)

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

Hampstead v Horsham is scheduled for 15 May 2011.

Men's Section League Tables

London League Premier Division

Another successful year for the 2's, led superbly by Nigel Land, thwarted by the two losses to Surbiton and Southgate in the run-in. However, the Championship Cup win may have made slight amends?

Southgate 2	22	18	1	3	59	55Pts
Hampstead & Westminster 2	22	17	1	4	60	52
Canterbury 2	22	17	1	4	59	52
Bromley & Beckenham 2	22	15	2	5	24	47
Surbiton 2	22	12	2	8	15	38
Spencer 2	22	8	2	12	-12	26
Reading 2	22	8	2	12	-13	26
Wimbledon 2	22	7	2	13	-14	23
Guildford 2	22	7	2	13	-29	23
Old Loughtonians 2	22	6	4	12	-34	22
Richmond 2	22	3	1	18	-66	10
East Grinstead 2	22	3	2	17	-49	8* (deduction)

Results

Hampstead 4 Reading 0
 Canterbury 4 Hampstead 1
 Hampstead 5 Guildford 1
 Richmond 2 Hampstead 9

Hampstead 5 Old Loughtonians 1
 Wimbledon 2 Hampstead 3
 Bromley & Beckenham 4 Hampstead 2
 Hampstead 4 Southgate 2
 Reading 1 Hampstead 5
 Hampstead 4 Canterbury 0
 Guildford 0 Hampstead 4
 Hampstead 7 Richmond 0
 Old Loughtonians 3 Hampstead 3
 Hampstead 5 Surbiton 0
 Hampstead 4 Wimbledon 0
 Spencer 1 Hampstead 4
 Hampstead 4 Bromley & Beckenham 0
 Southgate 4 Hampstead 2
 Hampstead 7 East Grinstead 0
 Surbiton 3 Hampstead 1
 Hampstead 2 Spencer 0
 East Grinstead 0 Hampstead 3

London League Premiership Cup

The 2's had a consolation win in the Cup Championship, defeating the League winners.

Semi Finals

Hampstead 4 Canterbury 1
 Southgate 5 Bromley & Beckenham 0

Final

Hampstead 2 Southgate 1

London League Division 1

The Men's 3's finished in third in a League won by St Albans 2's but, somewhat unusually, their seven losses left the League with not much difference in points from top to bottom.

St Albans 2	20	13	0	7	16	39
Tulse Hill & Dulwich 2	20	11	3	6	11	36
Hampstead & Westminster 3	20	10	1	9	10	31
Wimbledon 3	20	10	1	9	0	31

London League Division 2

Contrasting success for our two teams, with Zak Hond finishing strongly for second place and the 5's really struggling in this competitive League against predominantly other well-known Club's 3rd XI's. Another Southgate League win.

Southgate 3	18	11	3	4	36	36
Hampstead & W Zak Hond	18	10	3	5	13	33
Richmond 3	18	9	5	4	11	32
Guildford 3	18	9	3	6	10	30
Bromley & Beckenham 3	18	5	8	5	3	23
Indian Gymkhana 3	18	7	2	9	-19	23
London Wayfarers 3	18	5	5	8	-14	20
Southgate 4	18	5	4	9	-10	19
Richmond Griffins	18	6	1	11	-17	19
Hampstead & Westminster 5	18	4	4	10	-13	16

London League Division 3

The League was won by Old Loughtonians 3s, by seven points, with 15 wins, three draws and two losses. The Men's 4's were fourth from the foot but fight on for another day!

The bottom of the table consisted of:

Hampstead & Westminster 4	20	5	4	11	-22	19
PHC Chiswick 2	20	5	3	12	-14	18
Surbiton 4	20	4	4	12	-13	16
Spencer 5	20	5	0	15	-32	15

London League Division 4

Two Hampstead teams in this League, the 6s and the Hammers. The latter struggled a little and had to suffer a points deduction (not that this made a significant difference). Oxford University 3's won the League with 16 wins, two draws and two losses, four points ahead of Teddington Saplings.

The foot of the League reads as follows:

Hampstead & Westminster 6	20	8	6	6	6	30
Wimbledon 5	20	9	0	11	0	27
Reading 3	20	8	2	10	-8	26
Teddington 4	20	5	3	12	-18	18
PHC Chiswick 3	20	4	3	13	-18	15
Hampstead & W Hammers	20	1	2	17	-44	2*

London League Division 6

The Spaniards XI held on to a respectable mid-table fifth, in the League on by London Wayfarers but with four losses but a far better goal difference (had that really mattered).

London Wayfarers Pirates	20	15	1	4	46	46pts
Spencer Spitfires	20	13	2	5	35	41
PHC Chiswick 4	20	12	3	5	21	39
Old Loughtonians Academy	20	11	3	6	17	36
Hampstead & W Spaniards	20	10	3	7	8	33
Surbiton 5	20	10	1	9	-5	31
Spencer Titans	20	9	3	8	9	30

London League Division 7

Seven teams eventually participating and the Thirsts were third. Three points deducted for the League winners, we see (not that it affected the outcome!)

Indian Gymkhana 4	18	14	1	3	48	40pts*
Richmond Redoubtables	18	11	5	2	51	38
Hampstead & W Thirsts	18	11	1	6	37	34
Reading Rascals	18	10	2	6	8	32
Tulse Hill & Dulwich Royals	18	2	4	11	-24	13
Tulse Hill & Dulwich Saracens	18	3	3	2	-48	12
Southgate 6	18	3	0	15	-72	3*

Vets London Division 1

Reading won the League again, with appearances by Men's 1's former coach, Rob Thompson, who now lives more locally and appears to thrive under Nigel Barton's captaincy. The Vets were ninth, in tough League. From 8th downwards, the League table looked as follows:

Old Kingstonians Vets	22	7	5	10	-13	26pts
Hampstead & W Vets	22	7	5	10	-14	26
Bromley & Beckenham Vets	22	8	3	11	-17	24*
Sunbury & Walton Hawks Veterans	22	5	3	14	-33	18

Maidenahead Vets	22	5	2	15	-27	14*
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Supervets League

The Supervets fared well and ended in fourth, pipped for third on the last day of the League fixtures, when Eastcote slid alongside and then, away, ahead.

Indian Gymkhana	22	20	1	1	94	61Pts
Spencer	22	16	2	4	76	50
Eastcote	22	15	0	7	39	45
Hampstead & Westminster	22	14	2	6	4	44
Richmond	22	13	2	7	37	41

One Hundred (and Three) Years Ago

Sticks Club

10 March 1908 saw the formation of one of the earliest 'occasional' clubs. This was known as the 'Sticks' and included a fair representation of Hampstead players amongst its founder members. The Sticks had much in common with modern 'occasional' clubs in not despising the pleasures of the flesh.

The idea of the club was born on 31 March 1907, when a dozen gentlemen, including H.M. Tennent, Stanley Shoveller (Shove), 'Tonkie' Hill and 'Toby' Orr, met at the Russell Hotel for a 'lengthy discussion of food and liquid', and afterwards adjourned to the Empire Theatre 'where some adventures were met with'. The evening terminated in a 'short further discussion over important subjects' at the Trocadero.

The Club was formally inaugurated the following March at Hatchetts Restaurant, where 'the health of the new club was drunk with much enthusiasm in Scotch ale, this being recommended by Mr Shoveller as a sound training beverage.

The Sticks played their first game against Folkestone in April 1908, and won 3-0. Although social considerations were to the fore, there were many other notable victories over the years. The details of the Sticks' existence are lost in the mists of alcohol and time, but it seems that they merged into the Acrostics after the First World War.

Forty Years Ago

(or thereabouts)

Annual General Meeting

2 April 1970

The Club President was unable to attend owing to a bereavement and Past President and Senior Vice President Ruari Milsted was appointed chairman of the meeting "with acclimation"

Matters arising from the last Annual Meeting held on 27 March 1969

- No self-propelled spiker has been purchased because there were now much more ambitious schemes for ground improvements
- The Committee had decided to retain the 6th XI but with a nucleus of Veterans "until it had thoroughly settled down" and could genuinely be called a Veterans XI.
- The 75th Anniversary celebrations had been a financial and social success.

Accounts

There has been a surplus of £127, compared with an amended surplus of £3.00 for the preceding year. With no exceptional items, the surplus was generally due to higher subscriptions, increased

interest on the deposit account and collecting subscriptions promptly since the remission for prompt payment had been introduced. A small profit has been made on the 75th Anniversary celebrations of £14, compared with a loss on the Annual Dinner and other social functions of £35 in 1969-70.

The accumulated capital fund now stood at £610 that was likely to prove very necessary in view of the planned ground improvements.

Subject to audit the Accounts were approved. Mr Mayers (*sic*) was thanked heartily for his very successful efforts and the meeting endorsed his thanks to Club officers who have not reclaimed all their due expenses.

Subscriptions

The General Committee had proposed that the subscriptions be rounded up to £7.50 for those 23 years and older, £6.50 for those aged 21-22 and £5.50 for those under 21, with a remission of £1.00 for payment within one month of the due date.

Captain's Report

The First XI captain Richard Clarke welcomed the triumvirate of Vice Presidents who were responsible for getting the Club re-started after World War 2 (Messrs Sankey Milsted and Saunders). He then listed the playing records of the Club's teams:

1 st XI	P22	W4	D5	L13	For 23	Against 42
2 nd XI	P20	W6	D1	L13	For 26	Against 38
3 rd XI	P16	W9	D3	L4	For 35	Against 20
4 th XI	P18	W10	D4	L4	For 56	Against 26
5 th XI	P15	W8	D1	L7	For 38	Against 20
6 th XI (Veterans)	P11	W5	D1	L5	For 23	Against 23
Extra XIs	P3	W -	D -	L3	For 2	Against 8
Spaniards XI	P7	W5	D1	L1	For 20	Against 9
Spaniards Summer XI	P16	W11	D -	L5	For 41	Against 25

Ten Years Ago

Stourport 3 Hampstead 4

Hampstead secured the First Division Championship on Sunday in a game whose result rather flattered the opposition. This is Hampstead's second successive Championship in the English Hockey League and means that they will face Premier League opposition next season.

Rob Turner paid tribute to the success of the team but especially to player Coach Soma Singh. "It is a fabulous achievement to reach the Premier League with back to back Championships. Soma has led by example with a fierce determination to succeed. He took up the mantle from Rob Thompson, who had laid the groundwork in his three years as coach. Soma's efforts have led to a goal that several in the Club doubted could be achieved in so short a time. Our challenge now will be to see how well we can compete with the top English clubs and the League's best players: we are thrilled to have the chance."

In a very cold wind, Hampstead opened with a ten-minute spell of excellent hockey belying their usual slow start. The opening goal scored by Mark Sully after two minutes followed a series of rapid, short controlled passes up the middle that split the Stourport defence. Moving the ball around well, Stourport hardly got a touch, with Justin King making good use of the aerial pass down the Hampstead right, where Craig Carolan was back to his best with pacey runs.

A series of four successive Hampstead short corners in the ninth minute failed to add to the score; with two excellent saves from the Stourport keeper from Justin King drag flicks. However, Sully scored his second with a shot on the reverse after 25 minutes after impressive tackles from

Soma Singh and Rob Thompson that turned the ball over. Matt Hetherington then made it three six minutes later with a glide in from the left after Craig Carolan had poached the ball from a defender.

Hampstead made it four within a minute of the start of the second half. Carolan and Thompson put pressure on a Stourport free hit from the top of the circle and Carolan intercepted. The ball went from Thompson back to Carolan and then the back of the net.

Alex Garbe in the Hampstead goal had had little to do but rushed to the top of the circle in the 45th minute to block Lashford. To their credit Stourport plugged away and were rewarded with a goal from El Khatif in the 52nd minute, which he added to in the 54th minute. Then at the other end, the Stourport keeper pulled off another excellent diving save with his stick from Hampstead's seventh short corner four minutes later

Although Hampstead remained calm and in control, the last two minutes required greater concentration, as El Khatif scored his third from a penalty stroke to make it 3-4.

TEAM: Garbe; von Mayer, Boucher, King, Matthews: Sully, Singh, Williamson; Carolan, Thompson, Hetherington.

SUBS: Land, Turner, Darbon, Dodson, Arscott

Annual General Meeting 2001

Opening Remarks from Club Chairman, Nick Coleman.

On the Pitch

The opening season of the new Millennium could not have been better for the Men's 1st XI. As you all now know, this superb team was promoted to the highest league in the country for the first time in the history of the Club.

The Club salutes all the players who made the achievement possible and in particular we congratulate Rob Turner and Soma Singh, without whose efforts the promotion would never have been secured. I wanted to add my own personal pleasure at the achievement of the 1st XI.

As to the rest of the teams, there were, as we know, mixed fortunes and to those who were relegated my commiserations but I am sure, in the case of the Ladies 1st XI, the team is strong enough to bounce back next season and, hopefully, next time, stay up and move into the National League. The club needs to see how we can best help the ladies to match the Men's achievements.

Particular mention should be made of the Men's 5th XI, who made the London League Division 5A Finals yet again and to the Veterans, who were promoted back into to the top Veteran's League. Whether Chris Elliott takes a well-earned rest after 15 years at the helm only time will tell but our thanks must go to him for all he has done with that team over the years establishing it as a credible unit in Veterans' hockey.

Next Letter

The next edition will hopefully report the start of the new season in September/October. If you have any news or views, please send by e-mail to mail@velwell.eclipse.co.uk. News from the Women would be particularly welcome, please.

If it is fit to print, it will be!