

Welcome

This supplement follows hard on the heels of the newsletter, given developments since then, some news of which could not await the start of the next season. So, please forgive another bombardment.

Olympic Games Tickets

Alan Kurtz has contacted us to say that he has four spare pairs of Olympic Games hockey tickets, one pair for each of the afternoon and evening sessions on 1st August and 5th August. They include Travelcards covering zones 1-9 inclusive. They cost £90 per pair.

Alan suspects that there must be members who would appreciate the opportunity to attend, especially as there are believed to be two Great Britain matches included on those days. They are offered on a *first come first served* basis and Alan's e-mail address is ahk@ahkurtz.co.uk

They are also sold on the basis that they are strictly for personal use and not for resale.

EHB Annual Awards

At the England Hockey Board Annual Awards in a special lunchtime ceremony, 16 awards were presented at the lunch, held as part of the Investec London Cup in Chiswick, with honours covering everything from coaching and umpiring, to clubs, teams, athletes and administrators.

We are delighted that Soma Singh was awarded Club Coach of the Season, after leading Richmond into the Men's England Hockey League Conference East, the team's third consecutive promotion and send him our congratulations.

Soma captained his country and played 145 times for England and GB. He represented Great Britain at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. He coached the H&W Men's 1's first as player coach, taking over from Rob Thompson, when with equal success we were promoted to the Premier League and later in a second stint as coach. According to the citation, his dedication to developing players under his tutelage, both on and off the pitch, has been credited as a major contributing factor to his success as a coach at Richmond, as well as his previous clubs.

In addition, Richmond's 1st XI men's team was awarded the Perkins Slade Men's Club Team of the Season after winning that third consecutive promotion at the end of the 2011/12 season. The team is gearing up to join the National League in September.

Over 60's hockey

Richard Chapman has just returned from a week with the Wales over 60s in Italy. He was especially pleased that in the over 60s divisional tournament (South, North, Midlands, East and West) held at Cannock on 19th and 20th May, the East, which he captained, won the tournament. They beat the South, stuffed, as he put it, with all the England players and who always win. However this time around, the East played sublimely to beat them and relegate them to third place behind the North.

Then in the over 60s European tournament in Bra, Germany (captain, Nico Giercke) played Wales (of which Richard is now vice-captain) for 3rd/4th place (behind England and Netherlands). Germany won 2-1 but Wales came close, scoring in open play but conceding two shorts. Richard also reports that Mike Patton (Hampstead 1's captain in 1974) was managing the England No 2 side, whilst side-lined, recovering from a leg operation. Morley Pecker was present at the tournament giving moral support.

The over 60s World Cup in Oxford starts on 15 August and there is a chance for Hampstead friends to see Nico again. Richard suggests that 4.00 pm on 15 August might be a good time to attend because Germany play Australia at 4.00 pm and Wales play England at 5.45 pm. More details are to be found at <http://waleshocimasters.co.uk/#/grand-masters-world-cup/4564715332>

Club colours

Following the extracts from Freddie Monro's *History of Hampstead Cricket Club* covered in the last Newsletter, Colin Greenhalgh has been ruminating on the origins of the light and dark blue colours of HWHC, frequently associated with Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

This link is perhaps reinforced by the resolution at the 1915 Annual General Meeting that "the Captain and Hon. Secretary each year of both University Hockey Clubs and also of Marlborough College, be elected honorary playing members of the Club while at the University and College respectively".

From its founding in April 1894, when the decision was reached to ask "the permission of the Cricket Club ...for the Hockey Section to control its own affairs....." the uniform of the Hockey Section was recorded to be "as heretofore, a shirt of the Cricket Club colours and a dark blue cap".

The history of the first 75 years of Hampstead Hockey Club mentions that "The following season (1900/01) contained further notable events. Oxford and Cambridge Universities appeared in the fixture list for the first time - though the club's elaborate dark blue, light blue and white shirts are traditionally supposed to hark back to some long-standing link with the two Universities. It is likely that this link derived from the Cricket Club, where the colours seem to have been inherited."

In 1878, the Minutes of Hampstead Cricket Club covered the rules of the cricket club and the question of club colours arose. Allegedly they were the same as another club. That club apparently played no matches but it was later discovered that the club in question was still functioning. Therefore "it was decided that the colours [of Hampstead Cricket Club] would be dark blue, cerise and black". This may partially explain the dark blue cap recorded by the hockey section in 1894.

This all set Colin to ponder. One possible explanation, though extremely unlikely, is that the hockey players were unaware of the cricket club colours and thought they were the two blues and white. Colin thinks that in fact, to all intents and purposes, that explanation is impossible since they were largely (if not entirely) the same people.

Or somewhere between the cricket club granting the new hockey club permission to use their colours and the hockey club becoming active in its own right, the hockey club decided that it did not want to accept to accept the offer. Perhaps they decided it would be to their advantage to concentrate upon an Oxford and Cambridge association. Colin believes that somehow that decision was never recorded so we may never know.

Some readers may also recollect that in 1965 the General Committee decided to revive the old practice of awarding honorary membership. Unlike in its previous existence, some 60 years earlier, this was to mean really honorary and not just a euphemism for 'reduced subscription because non-playing.' The list was built up of many others who had helped Hampstead, or the game of hockey generally, in the past, or who had won honours and recognition for the Club on the international field of play. It also incorporated a list of 'Ex Officio' honorary members, appointed while they held particular offices which, by their nature, benefited the club. This included the old Oxford, Cambridge and Marlborough tradition.