

Welcome

This is the fifteenth in our series of revamped Newsletters. There is a host of reasons why this arrives as a composite end of last season and start of the next season edition but they do not merit replication here. But this is sent with apologies for the hiatus and for the abbreviated record contained below. It was thought better to send something than leave a void.

This therefore reviews (but very briefly) last season that was full of last minute excitement. The highlight was when the Women's 1st XI achieved all that so was cruelly snatched away at the end of the preceding season and won the Southern Premier League title and thereby gained promotion to the National League.

The Men's 1st XI remained in their by now customary seventh position in the Premier Division of the English Hockley League, strengthened this season by a very much improved defensive record. The Men's 2nd XI won a third consecutive title as winners of the London League Premier Division a few weeks before the season ended. And the club was buoyed by fielding teams at under 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 16 years, and in the main for both girls and boys.

Memorial Match

A brief notice (or in some cases, a reminder) please that this year's match will be played at PRG starting at 1.30pm on Sunday, 6 September.

Club News

Probably the most intriguing event of the early summer has been the rather unexpected and much expedited demolition of the Carlton Tavern. You will note that framed photographs were still hanging to the walls! This made news on local BBC TV on the BBC website and then featured in a Channel 4 TV documentary, no less.



We possibly learn more about the Carlton Tavern in its wake rather than in its existence. The building first became a source of television news on the 8th April when images taken from a mobile telephone showed a digger swinging its bucket against the front façade and with a few cones in the roadway, with traffic passing by as normal along Carlton Vale.

This led to a recommendation given to the Planning Applications Committee of Westminster City Council on 5th May 2015. Essentially the Planning Committee was asked to agree whether it would be expedient to issue an enforcement notice requiring the Carlton Tavern to be rebuilt within 18 months "so as to recreate in facsimile the building as it stood immediately prior to demolition on 8th April". In other words, to be rebuilt brick by brick.

It was reported that the demolition was in breach of Planning Control, that no application had been made for the approval of the method of demolition and no request had been made to establish whether the Carlton Tavern ought to have been nominated as an Asset of Community Value.

The Planning Committee had to consider whether the building was of sufficient quality to warrant it being listed (and therefore substantially protected from building work as a whole) and the extent to which a brick by brick replacement would retain the character and interest of the original building.

In January 2015 the City of Westminster had refused a Planning Application for demolition and for re-development to provide a pub at ground floor level and a basement below with 10 flats to be constructed above. That permission was not refused upon the grounds that the existing building would be lost. Subsequently however a local Councillor had requested that the building be listed.

A decision on that application was said to be imminent when demolition began. It is suggested that when the developer's planning application was refused there had been insufficient information regarding the significance of the building's heritage.

The Tavern was built in 1920-1921 for Charrington and Co and cost £11,610. It replaced a pub by the same name, which was destroyed by a German Zeppelin bomb on 19th May 1918. Much of the surrounding 19th century housing was destroyed in World War II has clearly been subsequently redeveloped. The building was designed by Frank J Potter as what is described as "Vernacular Revival Manner".

The Planning Committee rejected a Planning Officer's recommendation that the 10 flat development submitted on 13th January 2015 should be approved. The Planning Committee thought it was of an unacceptable design and permission should be refused because of the bulk height and design detail which would be detrimental to PRG within the Maida Vale Conservation Area and when viewed from Carlton Vale.

On the 26th January 2015 the Planning Minister announced an intention to strengthen the protection of pubs identified as Assets of Community Value (ACV) and to prevent the demolition of pubs regarded as ACVs. The intention was to provide an opportunity for local comment on an application to change the use or demolish an ACV pub.

The changes introduced by Government Order took effect two days before the Carlton Tavern was demolished. Whilst the Carlton Tavern had not been designated as an ACV it was nonetheless protected by the new legislation and required the developer to obtain prior approval of the method of demolition and site restoration and to make a formal request of the City of Westminster to establish if the building had been nominated as an ACV. The 56 day cooling off period is to allow for nomination as an ACV but evidently this did not occur.

First reports of the demolition were received by Westminster at about 1.00pm on 8th April and there was a call from a local Councillor, Jane Prendergast, who was on site at the time. The Council's Planning Enforcement Inspector arrived within an hour but by then all that was left was

a side wall and small part of the front elevation. There was evidence that the fixtures and fittings in the building had not been removed before demolition began.

Westminster City Council was advised by Historic England (formerly English Heritage) that they were about to recommend that the pub be listed. Historic England said the case was being treated as urgent and requested comments within 48 hours. A Planning Enforcement Inspector had visited the pub discreetly on 2nd April and found no evidence to suggest that any building work was contemplated. The Council recognised that the Carlton was therefore not a listed building but argued that if it had been given advance notice of the demolition, it would have commenced the recommendation for listing.

Brick by Brick rebuilding is not unprecedented in the Borough. The John Nash Grade I Listed Park Crescent was rebuilt to its original design in the 1960's following bomb damage in World War II. 76 Dean Street was rebuilt to its Grade II* listing after a fire and the Art Deco mirrored interior of 48 Upper Grosvenor Street is being recreated after it was unlawfully destroyed.

Women's Hockey Outlook

The significant success of last season was the promotion to the National League of the Women's First XI by their championship of the South League. This made amends for the controversial loss to Maidenhead in the final game of the season before that led to their opponent's promotion instead.



The Women will play in the Women's East Conference and ironically open their National League campaign against Maidenhead on the 12th September.

Mo Rahman has been appointed Head Coach of the Women's 1st XI for the campaign in the Investec Conference East Division. While coaching, he will continue to play for Guildford Men's 1st XI in the England Hockey Conference West League. He will be supported by the Club's newly appointed (but ever present) Director of Hockey and Men's 1's player, Richard Smith, who will be taking up the role of Assistant Coach. Jo Edmondson has been appointed (or agreed to accept

the role of) Manager, with all the added responsibilities that arrive with the National League, including a wider geographical reach for fixtures.

Mo succeeds Stephen Menzies, who has decided to step down because of work commitments. Stephen coached the Women's 1st XI for the previous three seasons, culminating in leading the women into the National League. The Club as a whole has a lot to thank Stephen for, with all his hard work.

On the announcement of the appointment, captain Annebeth Wijtenburg said, "I am really pleased that we have found our new Head Coach in Mo. I am sure that with his experience and enthusiasm and with the support of Smudge and Jo, the team will perform to its absolute best this season. Exciting times!"

At the end of last season, the team was top with 14 wins, 3 draws and one loss, with a goal difference of 60 and 45 points. Barnes were in second place with 42 points and a goal difference of 25. There was then a significant gap to Oxford University in third place with 29 points and a goal difference of 5.



The Women's 2nd XI ended in eighth place in South League Division 3A with 26 points, the winners being Banbury with 52 points. The Women's 3rd XI found it tough in the same League and ended at the foot of the table, with 4 points having achieved only the one win.

The Women's 4th XI were fourth in the Middlesex Premier Division that was won by Southgate 2nd XI, who were undefeated and only failed to win one game out of 22.

The Women's 5th XI were third in Middlesex Division 1, with 41 points in a league won by Ashford 1st XI who were undefeated and also won all but one of their matches.

The Women's 6th XI were also third in Middlesex League 2, with 45 points from 22 games. In the same league, the Women's 7th XI were eleventh out of twelve with 4 wins and 2 draws collecting 14 points.

A special mention needs to be recorded for Joy Ferneyhough (centred in this Dinner photo, *below*) in her 20th season for the Women's 1st XI and for achieving the ambition of promotion to the National League. We are not sure of her recipe for long hockey life but it must be closely guarded!



Women's Investec National League

The Women's' 1st XI fixture list has been released. The team is in the East Conference.

12.09.15	Maidenhead (a)
19.09.15	Harlestone Magpies (h)
26.09.15	Sevenoaks (a)
03.10.15	Chelmsford (h)
10.10.15	Slough (a)
17.10.15	Wimbledon (a)
24.10.15	Ipswich (h)
07.11.15	St. Albans (a)
15.11.15	Cambridge City (h)
21.11.15	Harlestone Magpies (a)
28.11.15	Wimbledon (h)
06.02.16	Cambridge City (a)
13.02.16	Maidenhead (h)
20.02.16	Chelmsford (a)
27.02.16	Slough (h)
05.03.16	Sevenoaks (h)
12.03.16	Ipswich (a)
19.03.16	St Albans (h)

EHL Men's Premier League 2014

We can bring a half season report!

The 1's beat **Wimbledon** in the first home game of the season by 2-1, after a late short corner conversion by new signing, New Zealand international, Andy Hayward, who cranks them in at huge pace. Then a minute later, Will Naylor scored an opportunistic winner and Wimbledon were startled losers.

The next home game was against a rather poor **Canterbury**, Andy Hayward pommelled three short corners in and H&W won 5-1, quite easily but against poor opponents.

At Sugden Lane, it began to look as if H&W might be overrun against **Suburbiton**. The first 15 minutes were fairly torrid, as the home side had three forwards on the top of our dee, so

distribution from the back was always hurried and under pressure. But we held on. 80% was in our half. Beckett, newly arrived from Cannock (and Great Britain) is a bulk, so very dramatically ran into Andy Hayward in the circle on 18 minutes and bounced off – our man being reminiscent of Richie McCaw - and with such a theatrical fall, a short corner was inevitable.

Sadly, Daly was as accurate as he tends to be and it was low and quick to Ian Scanlon's right boot. (Ian had to be heavily persuaded to return to be GK, as he had given it up and had been playing up front for the 2's. But Harry Gibson, the England u21 goalkeeper was away for two weeks to India on an international tour, where they were runners up).

There was more of the same but we did have a counter attack that fell to Oli Didham but he was tackled at the top of the circle. Surbiton had a few more chances and Ian Scanlon belied his lack of match practice in goal and kept us in the game. They had a green card, as it was getting feisty in the middle of the park, with Richard Alexander (ex Harlestone, Surbiton and Wimbledon) being mildly goaded by some in the home crowd. It also saw home coach Todd Williams start to berate his own players for not getting the ball forward quickly enough.

H&W fared better in the second half but still Surbiton pressed. We broke more frequently and it was 1-0 still with 10 minutes to go. By then Andy Hayward had suffered a smash on his hand and had to walk off the pitch. Later we won our only corner. (There were only two in the game). Some in the home crowd had not appreciated that Andy was off the pitch and were very apprehensive. But the flick was diverted off a stick and flew over the top of the goal.

We then had three chances, close up, that were missed or blocked by GK Kettle, who saved the day for Surbiton, as Todd Williams appreciated afterwards. Then Surbiton broke to the other end and a mis-directed H&W pass saw the ball fall left to Beckett and he had a simple push for 2-0 just at the wrong time for us. Surbiton were then able to relax. But Kettle then had two saves to make in the penultimate minute.

With Hayward's broken thumb (as it turned out to be) it was to be a question from where we would readily score any goals. H&W were then to struggle and the threat to opponents that Hayward generated was gone for a while. But at **Beeston** H&W then pulled off a 1-1 draw that many had not expected.

The away fixture at **Reading** was a Saturday game but in the evening. It was a little back to the bad old days, in spite of H&W being evidently a far better team than last year in the same fixture. We switched off defensively for split seconds and gave the ball away to let them score twice. We missed in front of goal when others score at will against us in similar situations. It was as frustrating as it can get. Richard Mantell scored from a very controversial short corner with 8 minutes on the clock after we twice had the lead. It ended 3-2 to Reading.

At PRG against **Brooklands** the visitors were up for it after a 5-4 win against Reading, having come back for 4-0 down at one stage. They scored against us after 18 minutes with a cricket bat pull to leg shot, waist high and then put 10 men behind the ball and clung on. They did get a corner that we managed to stop by a stick somehow on the line but that was it. H&W missed on several occasions from less than a foot of the line. A bad day all told – 0-1 loss.

To Chase Park at **Cannock** that proved about as uncomfortable as it could be for a H&W supporter. H&W looked very good for the first 27 minutes: a big press was employed and with lots of forward momentum, using the wide out right and left. It all started after eight seconds, when we blitzed down the right and the centre was half blocked at the top of their dee. Our second goal was very well deserved and well worked.

Then from 27-30 minutes H&W never got a stick on the ball. When Cannock had their first corner on 33 minutes, it was somehow inevitable that they would score from it and they did. H&W appeared to cave in from then. 2-2 was soon 4-2 and Cannock just countered well. We had 10 men on the pitch for long periods and for their third corner a defender broke early after a dummy push in and we were down to four, defensively

We did play well in the last 10 minutes but kept hitting the bar and post. A usual day out at Cannock then but hardly a 5-2 scoreline.

Then just as Tommy Kavanagh predicted, Hampstead turned form on a sixpence and held League leaders **East Grinstead**, packed with internationals, to a 2-2 draw on their pitch.

At the mid-season break, a recovering Andy Hayward was signed to play in the India Super League for six weeks work, so then missed out all but the last three games of the season.

Results

Hampstead 2 Wimbledon 1
(Hayward Naylor)
Hampstead 5 Canterbury 1
(Hayward 3 Hildreth Mclean)
Beeston 1 Hampstead 1
(Hayward)
Hampstead 2 Cannock 3
(Hayward Didham)
Surbiton 2 Hampstead 0
Hampstead 3 East Grinstead 5
(Botha Didham Naylor)
Reading 3 Hampstead 2
(Hildreth Naylor)
Hampstead 1 Southgate 0
(Alexander)
Cannock 5 Hampstead 2
(Roche Botha)
East Grinstead 2 Hampstead 2
(Naylor Botha)
Canterbury 1 Hampstead 2
(Botha 2)
Hampstead 0 Beeston 1
Brooklands 3 Hampstead 2
(Roche Naylor)
Hampstead 2 Reading 2
(Botha Simpson)
Hampstead 1 Surbiton 2
(Bullock)
Southgate 0 Hampstead 0
Wimbledon 1 Hampstead 1
(Naylor)

Goalscorers

Hayward 6
Botha 6
Naylor 6
Didham 2
Roche 2
Hildreth 2
Bullock 1
Mclean 1
Alexander 1
Simpson 1

League Table

East Grinstead	44
Surbiton	44
Wimbledon	35

Beeston	34
Cannock	20
Reading	19
Hampstead	17
Brooklands	16
Canterbury	15
Southgate	13

Following the Promotion Tournament, Holcombe were promoted to the Premier League from the East Division and Canterbury retained their place in the Premier League.

[EHL Men's Premier League 2015-16](#)

The Premier League fixture list has also been released.

13.09.15 Reading (a)
 20.09.15 Cannock (h)
 26.09.15 Canterbury (a)
 04.10.15 Brooklands (h)
 16.10.15 Wimbledon (h)
 25.10.15 Surbiton (a)
 31.10.15 East Grinstead (a)
 08.11.15 Beeston (h)
 14.11.15 Holcombe (a)
 22.11.15 Surbiton (h)
 29.11.15 Brooklands (a)

07.02.16 Canterbury (h)
 14.02.16 East Grinstead (h)
 21.02.16 Beeston (a)
 28.02.16 Reading (h)
 05.03.16 Wimbledon (a)
 06.03.16 Cannock (a)
 13.03.16 Holcombe (h)

[Player News](#)

For the Men's 1's, possibly the most talked point so far in the close season has been the decision of Andy Hayward to leave after one season and to try his luck instead with Todd Williams at Surbiton. Taking his place as the one permitted overseas player at H&W is Muhammed Irfan. He travelled to England with the Pakistan Hockey squad to play a series of games against Great Britain at Cannock in 2009.

In 2014, two years after the Olympics, Irfan decided that he would like to play National League hockey in England and approached Cannock to see if they had a place for an overseas player but they had already filled their allocation. After H&W were approached but unable to accommodate him, as H&W equally had already filled its one place (ironically with Andy Hayward) H&W's Men's coach, Michael Johnson contacted his friends at Olton & West Warwick and offered them the services of a talented international player.

As Irfan was already committed to playing in the Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, Olton knew that he would not be able to start the season. But he eventually joined Olton in early October, playing four games, and scoring three goals, before he returned to Pakistan to prepare for the Champions Trophy in Bhubaneswar, India in December. There, Irfan and Pakistan played in the final, losing to India in the Asian Games final and Germany in the Champions Trophy.

His International career had begun in around 2000, playing for the Juniors, before moving through the various age groups. In 2006, he started to tour as an International at u18 level. Irfan has now won 163 senior caps for Pakistan.

Richard Smith is suffering a long recuperation from serious knee damage that manifested itself soon after the Olympic Games in London. He had his 18 months MRI scan post cartilage graft operation a fortnight ago and was told that the graft is strong, has developed well and effectively provided the new cartilage that this process was designed to achieve.

However, underlying the graft, a significant degree of bone bruising was discovered in his knee. On his return to training, he believed this was just part of the rehabilitation process and he believed he was starting to become ready to be on the pitch for the start of the season (and to allow him to return to GB training at the start of October).

Unfortunately, in light of the MRI scan and the appearance of the bruising, the advice is yet another period of "rest" to allow the bone bruising to settle and heal. Had Richard continued to try to return to play, the risk was that the graft might fail, owing to its not having a suitable knee (ie bone) beneath it.

Accordingly Richard will be embarking on this period of (knee) rest, with the intention of having an MRI scan at the end of September, in order to review progress. Nonetheless, Richard will continue to attend training and to act as an Assistant Coach to Michael Johnson.

Ian Hammond, former scourge of H&W in the National League in the late 1990's when playing for St Albans but latterly a member of the H&W Men's 2's or the Vets XI has agreed to join training on some Thursdays, to attend some matches and generally act as mentor to the squad, given his vast hockey experience.

Another excellent recruit for the squad this season is Richard Springham from Reading, Richard played for England and Great Britain between February 2004 and January 2011 and captained the England Indoor team in January 2014. Callum Stoddart has also rejoined from Loughborough Students.

With our opening run of games (Reading, Cannock, Canterbury, Brooklands) there is a wide acceptance that H&W will need to hit the ground running and be well organised to get the most out of these games before going into the next run of games (Wimbledon, Surbiton, East Grinstead, Beeston, Holcombe, Surbiton and Wimbledon).



It does appear that ace centre forward Will Naylor (*above*) is unable any longer to commit to National League hockey after ten years at the top. In the words of James Marsom, he has therefore been rewarded with promotion to the Men's 2nd XI instead. Will's goal scoring showed its true worth once again last season, despite appearances that this was very frustrating one for him, when the scoring luck ran the other side of the goalpost too often for his liking

Here is Will collecting a Special Mention award at the Club's annual Dinner last season from Dave Cooper.

Men's Report

The other astonishing success in the Club last season was Men's 2nd XI's run away winning of the London League Premier Division for the third consecutive year. This they have achieved in seven of the last ten years, winning by 5 points in 2012-13, by 7 points in 2013-14 and easily in 2014-15, with three matches to go. Neil Hamilton rolled in corner after corner and opposition defences just could not cope with the constant flow of all-out attack.

For other Men's teams, in London League Division One the Men's 3rd XI was third and Zak Hond XI were fourth with 37 and 33 points respectively, the winners being Spencer 2nd XI with 47 points and Spencer's 3rd XI second with 38 points.

In London League Division Three, the Men's 6th XI were third with 40 points and the Men's 5th XI were sixth, with 25 points. The league was won by Spencer's 5th XI with London Wayfarers 3rd XI in second place, with 40 points as well.

In London League Division Five, won by Richmond 4th XI, the Hammers XI were seventh with 32 points. The Spaniards XI were fourth in London League Division Six, with 22 points. That league was won by Southgate 5th XI with 30 points.

In the Veteran's Division One, won by Reading Rustlers with 56 points, H&W Vets were sixth, with 29 points.

Representation

The Club was delighted when Men's 1's players Harry Gibson (GK) and James Simpson were selected for England u23 in the summer. Hefty congratulations to them both.

Sponsorship

In July the Club was delighted to announce a brand new partnership with local estate agents Greene & Co., who are based just a 30 second walk from the club house at Paddington Sports Club.

Greene & Co. is an award-winning estate agency working across North London and the City. Established more than 30 years ago in West Hampstead, it has nine offices throughout London serving West Hampstead, Maida Vale, Crouch End, Belsize Park, Clerkenwell, Kentish Town and Kensal Rise & Queen's Park, as well as an **Urban Spaces** group, unique property specialists who work across the whole of London and an award-winning **New Homes** department.

Greene & Co will be one of the Club's leading sponsors, supporting the Club as a whole "across the ever growing junior section, to the ever bustling and successful adult section".

Mixed Hockey Success

Following a series of preliminary rounds, the HWHC Mixed XI (or "HWHC All Stars", as they now wish to be known) finally reached their goal, the national Finals Weekend at the Olympic Park. Their opponents in the semi-final were Harleston Magpies, who had reached this stage of the tournament before.

It would be fair to say that the All Stars were slow out of the blocks. With less than 3 minutes on the clock, the Magpies found themselves with a two-on-one. The H&W goalie attempted to scare

the on-rushing attacker but succeeded only in sending her wide. Her rather meek attempt on goal hit a defender on the leg, and the umpire, clearly desperate to be involved, awarded a Penalty Stroke, in spite of the ball moving towards the goal at 3mph and with a Hampstead defender waiting for it on the line. The Harleston captain stepped up and sent the 'keeper the wrong way. 1-0 down. Not ideal.

After a second goal conceded and after a reorganisation, or described as plying hockey better, H&W had a wonderful opportunity to score and cracked a shot right on target. However the Harleston goalie pulled off a miraculous save, to send the ball against the metalwork and keep us out. At the end the team bravely went down 3-1 to a team full of National League players. The dream was over - but this being HWHC, the weekend was not. We could take some consolation in defeat: we were considerably more fun than our opposition.

Sadly for those who stayed out until 2am, the weekend wasn't actually over. There still remained the small matter of the Third/Fourth place play-off, a convention so utterly meaningless that it was hard to raise ourselves for the game. That and the pounding headaches, nausea and eyes that felt like they had been sandpapered....

We were confident of beating Horsham - they had not impressed in the other semi final. We assumed that they were as hungover as we were. It quickly transpired that this was not the case. In order for them to have been as hungover as we were, "they would have needed to have been on a night out with Oliver Reed, George Best and Barney from the Simpsons".

They were also absolute badgers of the keenest kind, and what they lacked in quality or *half-decent blokery*, they made up for in effort, moaning at the umpires and diving a lot. However, the All Stars started surprisingly brightly, An early H&W short-corner brought a penalty stroke, which Jonny Witt duly converted for a 1-0 lead.

What happened in the next 10 minutes could politely be termed a "total implosion", After a decent but stoppable corner that drew Horsham level, they quickly took the lead through their extremely camp number 14 (a man who looked so peculiar that one of the team found him "visually unsettling") after H&W failed to play to the whistle, and then yet more mix-ups led to a calamitous third goal. We were 3-1 down.

Some furious self-assessments were issued at half-time, and, sure enough, we got back into the game. Two spectacular goals drew H&W level until finally a short-corner put us in front, 4-3. There is a long held a belief that it is possible to score "too early". The All Stars certainly did that on the Sunday. With 10 minutes remaining, given the scorching heat and appalling hangovers, we needed to save our last salvo until the last 2-3 minutes. Horsham and the umpires clearly recognised this, and a series of dives and flurry of cards led to two yellows for H&W. Eventually we cracked and a fairly dubious equaliser was awarded, despite their forward mis-controlling the ball into a shoulder, before finishing. 4-4.

It looked like the game would peter out. But Horsham had one last trick up their sleeves. Breaking quickly, their number 14 pushed a defender over and on to the ball. The umpire scandalously (but predictably!) awarded a short-corner, and the final whistle went.

What happened next will probably be debated for some time, but let's just say that mistakes were made. The end result was that the All Stars avoided the torture of strokes.

[Eburons Vets' Tour](#)

The Vets have a long and glorious tradition of overseas tours, although the annual habit broke down in recent years. So to make amends, to Eburons, Brussels this last May. The latest blockbuster tour, "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Double-Barrels", produced by John Inge-Marriott and Chris Scorer-Charlton, blossomed into fruition.

If our performance record (of no wins, 4 draws and 3 defeats) was below our past medal-winning exhibitions of athletic endeavour, it should be said that we were entered in the over 45s category, albeit with an average age in the late 50s (and that was without Nick Stevens). Even more impressive is that we mobilised the team at barely six weeks' notice.

Some pointed to a lack of penetrative capability in the front line; that we could have won games which we otherwise drew. But that would be to downplay the quality and size of some of our opponents

The performance off the pitch was of substantial proportions. It began in a small, but delightful bistro below the Palais de Justice, as the team rolled up and rocked on, and continued on the second evening with an informal dinner at Racing HC. The formal tournament dinner was a grand affair, held at *Autoworld*, an exhibition of early motor vehicles in the centre of Brussels. Perhaps the organisers thought these old jalopies would complement Hampstead's has-beens in their striking touring blazers and dickie bows.

Best of all was the team dinner on the last night, when we took over a restaurant in downtown Brussels run by a singing, dancing, man-eating Amazonian called Dorothy.

The squad:

John Inge-Marriott, Chris Somes-Charlton, Richard Sykes & Tina, Richard & Melinda James, Tony Pereira, Richard "Stroller" D'souza, Mike Carnill, Mike De Silva Jones, Sailesh Shah, Henrik Kjellin, Nick Openshaw, Charles Packe, Thierry Calewaert.
Roy Woolley, Umpire

Results:

H&W v Rickmansworth 1-1

H&W v Old Lions 1-5

H&W v Racing 0-2

H&W v Banbury 1-4

H&W v Cliftonville 0-0

H&W v Taggys Tourists 1-1

H&W v Crooked Messieurs 1-1



Rule Changes

In late 2014, the FIH announced some changes to the Rules of Hockey. These changes included the incorporation of the previous FIH Tournament Regulations that related to (a) breaking early at a penalty corner; (b) the two-minute green card; and (c) the use of the stick above the shoulder.

The changes came into effect at International level from 1st January 2015 and were implemented in the National League on 31st January 2015. With effect from 1st July 2015, all of the new rules will be played throughout the 11-a-side game in England, at all age groups.

The new rules have proved to be both successful and popular at international and National League level. They are reported to have improved the flow of the game, resulting in fewer interruptions, and that they help umpires with game management.

The following guidance on the new rules has been provided but is guidance only and not a set of hard and fast principles that must be adhered to at all times.

It has been added that sometimes, when new rules are introduced, umpires, players and coaches get over-concerned by all the possible implications of the changes that can, on occasion, lead to loss of focus and, perhaps, missing other things relating to the unchanged rules that are more important.

Breaking at a Penalty Corner

New Rule:

- If the attacker taking the penalty corner injection feints at playing the ball they should be sent beyond the centre-line and should be replaced by another attacker.
- If a defender, other than the GK, crosses the line before the injector has played the ball then they must go beyond the centre-line and cannot be replaced by another defender.
- If the GK, or player with GK privileges (a “kicking back”), crosses the line before the injector has played the ball then the defending team must defend the PC with one fewer player.
- If an attacker enters the circle before the injector has played the ball then they should be sent beyond the centre-line.

Rationale for the change?

The new rule has proved to be hugely successful in prompting a significant reduction in the number of early breaks, by both attackers and defenders.

Guidance for umpires

1. Having awarded a penalty corner, umpires should allow the injection only after the attackers are all outside the circle and the defenders are either beyond the centre-line or behind the back-line.
2. If an attacker or defender then enters the circle before the ball is injected, umpires should blow their whistle and signal a reset penalty corner.
3. Umpires should send the offending player to the centre-line, unless it is the goalkeeper or “kicking back” that steps out early. In that case, the team should choose a defender to go to the centre-line.
4. An attacker at the top of the circle who infringes and is sent to the centre-line may be replaced.
5. If the injector ‘dummies’ and that causes defenders to step out early, then the injector must be sent to the centre-line and another attacker must then inject.
6. If, during the playing of a penalty corner, another penalty corner results (without the ball having travelled more than 5 metres outside the circle) any player originally sent to the centre-line must remain there for the retaken penalty corner.
7. If a defender steps out early at the retaken penalty corner, then that defender must be sent to the centre-line (reducing the number of defenders on the backline by an additional player).

8. If, during the playing of a penalty corner, another penalty corner results (with the ball having travelled more than 5 metres outside the circle) any player originally sent to the centre-line may return for the newly awarded penalty corner.

9. A penalty corner is considered as re-taken until any of the conditions for its completion are met, which are detailed in Rule 13.5 (for penalty corners in normal time) and Rule 13.6 (for penalty corners at half- time and full-time).

10. Players may therefore return from the centre-line when: (a) the ball goes more than five metres from the circle; or (b) the ball goes out of play, unless it is deliberately played over the backline by a defender; or (c) a penalty, other than a penalty corner, is awarded.

Two-Minute Green Card

New Rule

When an offending player is awarded a green card, he/she will be required to leave the field of play for a period of two minutes.

Rationale for the change?

The introduction of the two-minute green card provides an additional management aid to umpires, which has proved very effective in offering an intermediate penalty between a verbal caution and a yellow card

Use of the Stick above the shoulder

New Rule:

Players can play the ball when the ball is above shoulder height, provided that they do so in a controlled manner and in a way that does not create or lead to danger.

Rationale for the change?

To add another dimension and set of skills to the game, and to remove the need for umpires to make marginal judgements about the height of the stick with sometimes far-reaching consequences.

Guidance for umpires:

1. This rule does not give players *carte blanche* to swing wildly at the ball when it is in the air. Any attempt to play the ball must be safe and must not potentially endanger other players.
2. When an aerial pass has been made, umpires should focus on the 'landing area'. Player movement should give umpires an indication of where the ball should fall so there is no need to watch its flight.
3. If a player makes a successful attempt to play a raised ball while it is in the air, then that player's opponents must stay clear and allow that player 5m in which to receive the ball, and control it on the ground.
4. If the sticks of two opposing players are raised close together to receive an aerial pass, then umpires should blow their whistle and award a free hit to the team whose player did not raise the ball.
5. If the sticks of two opposing players are raised (but some metres apart), then the receiver is the player the ball will reach first. In this case, opposing players must let the ball be controlled on the ground before any approach is made.

Free Hits awarded within 5 metres of the edge of the Circle

New Rule: A free hit awarded within 5 metres of the edge of the circle can be taken from the point of the offence. The ball still has to travel at least 5 metres before it can be played into the circle, or alternatively has to be touched by another player of either team, other than by the player taking the free hit.

Rationale for the change?

Previously having to take the ball back to the 5m dotted line was seen as a real disadvantage to the attacking team (as it allowed the defence to re-organise) and it disrupted the flow of the game.

Guidance to umpires:

1. Free hits can now be taken from the point of infringement, even if that is within 5m of the circle (the dotted line). However, the ball must travel 5m, or be touched by another player, before it can enter the circle.
2. Just as anywhere else in the 23, the free hit may be taken immediately, even though other players are not 5m away. Those players must not interfere with play.
3. Defenders who are not 5m away, but inside the circle, are not required to retreat 5m - the attacker who self passes is not entitled to dribble into the circle (until the ball has gone 5m), and so they are not interfering with play. Defenders may also shadow around the inside of the circle a player who takes a self-pass, provided that they do not play or attempt to play the ball or influence play until it has either travelled at least 5m or alternatively has been touched by another player of either team who can legitimately play the ball.
4. However, defenders who are more than 5m away may not encroach in an attempt to form a sort of “defensive wall”.
5. Umpires should be aware that, if the ball is touched, another player can then dribble into the circle, in which case a set defender inside the circle could, depending upon their subsequent actions, be interfering with play.
6. Other than indicated above, any playing of the ball, attempting to play the ball or interference by a defender or an attacker who was not 5m from the ball, should be penalised accordingly. In such circumstances, the correct penalty will usually be a PC to the attacking team.

Re-Start after the ball has been unintentionally played over the back-line by a defender (and no goal is scored)

New Rule: Play will be re-started by the attacking team with the ball on the 23 metres line and in line with where it crossed the back-line.

Rationale for the change?

To open up angles and options for the attacking team and to prevent the ball getting ‘stuck’ in the corner amongst a crowd of players.

Guidance for umpires:

1. The re-start must be taken from on the 23m line. This means that the re-start is within the 23 and therefore may not be played directly into the circle until it has travelled 5m or been touched by another player.
2. Players may ‘try it on’ by taking the hit just outside the 23. If the ball is not placed exactly on the 23m line, umpires should make it clear to players that play must continue as if the ball were inside the 23. 3. Umpires should be flexible and only penalise if the ‘wrong spot’ for the ‘corner’ is chosen either to gain an unfair advantage or for reasons that go against the aim and spirit of the rule.
4. The signal for the new restart remains unchanged – i.e. the umpire should point to the corner mark. A secondary signal can then be used to show the location of the restart on the 23m line if necessary. You will find that players quickly become familiar with the new rule and thus a secondary signal becomes unnecessary, unless the player is obviously preparing to take the restart from the wrong place.

‘Up 10’ Rule

The rule that allowed an umpire to progress a free hit by up to 10 metres has been deleted. The rule is now redundant owing to the new free hit rules and the ability to self-pass, while any other misconduct can be managed using other rules or personal penalties.

Alumni



Matthew Hetherington, now 33, has concluded his first year as sports director of the Berliner HC. Matt joined H&W from St Albans in 1998 and quickly became leading scorer in Division Two of the National League under Soma Singh, who was the team's player coach at the time. He later achieved promotion to the Premier Division with H&W but then joined Soma at Old Lougtonians. He then spread his hockey horizons by playing full time in Holland, Spain and Germany that led to the current appointment, covering both the Men's and Women's sides

Hampstead Cricket Club

Hampstead Cricket Club celebrates its 150th birthday in 2015. It held a charity dinner at Lord's in May. Other events were planned throughout the year both on and off the Lymington Road ground. All have been organised by club chairman, Jim Carter, in between filming the sixth series of Downton Abbey.

On 6 May, H&W Club President, Richard Sykes attended the unveiling by Andrew Strauss of a statue of Andrew Stoddart followed by a return fixture between Hampstead and Stoics XI that on 4 July 1886 had witnessed Stoddart's innings of 485 in a single day

Hampstead residents have been playing cricket (or forms of the game) for hundreds of years. They used cleared land on the Heath or any other open space for informal games before clubs were established. In August 1802, 11 gentlemen of Highgate challenged 11 gentlemen of Hampstead to a match, for a purse of 500 guineas. This was a substantial sum, equivalent to about £40,000 today. Highgate won by 54 runs, noting that there was "even betting" at the start. A few weeks earlier, many of the players had been part of a combined Hampstead and Highgate team that played for the same prize money and beat the MCC by 112 runs.

The Hampstead Cricket Club of today was not the first to use the name. By 1851, there was a club of that name renting a field north of England's Lane. Membership was limited to 60 players. When the land was built upon, in about 1870, the club closed or amalgamated.

The nearby Eton and Middlesex Cricket Ground was open by 1857. It began close to the northwest slopes of Primrose Hill, but migrated westwards as building crept ever closer.

Eventually it covered 16 acres, roughly the western end of the present Elsworthy Road and Wadham Gardens, over towards Avenue Road. As far as can be told, the St John's Wood Club that played here became Hampstead Cricket Club. In 1871, the club moved to St Mary's Fields, open land north of the church of the same name on Abbey Road and was renamed as St John's Wood (Hampstead) Club.

The Club's new landlords were the Maryon Wilson family, lords of the manor of Hampstead. But when the line of Priory Road was agreed and building plans were made for the land between there and Finchley Road, the club was again forced to leave. They relocated to the present site on Lymington Road in 1877. It was then described as a cultivated arable field with growing crops of turnips, mangold wurzel and potatoes.

The move to West End, as it was then called, coincided with the adoption of a new name and colours. St John's Wood (Hampstead) Club became Hampstead Cricket Club. The setting was still rural. The approach to the new field was improved into a track of sorts, leading from Finchley Road to the cricket pavilion. The £1,000 moving costs included transporting the original pavilion from the pitch on St Mary's Fields. It was rebuilt in 1879 and enlarged in 1896.

In May 1878 it was agreed that a cask of beer should be kept on the ground for the benefit of members only. It was decided to sell temperance drinks at 4d a bottle and to put up a notice in the booth (at the side of the clubhouse) that no beer or spirits were sold on the ground.

With free beer, it is little wonder that Hampstead Cricket Club was very popular!

Over the years, the managing committee considered many schemes for buying the ground. Whilst the rent was nominal, the asking price for the freehold was always too high. Matters came to a head in 1924 with rising land values. In July, the club was given until December to either purchase the freehold or leave. The landlord wanted £18,000 and the club decided to raise £25,000, to allow for necessary improvements to buildings and grounds. With help from generous donations, the money was eventually found and the freehold was purchased.

Many great cricketers played at the Hampstead Cricket Club, which established itself as an important London club. Hockey was played until 1894 (when Hampstead Hockey Club was formed) and tennis courts were built alongside the pavilion. Members held regular social events, including an annual black tie dinner and family sports day. We know that the good quality cricketers of Hampstead Cricket Club formed the nucleus of Hampstead Hockey Club in its first decade and on until the outbreak of war. It is astonishing that Hampstead Hockey Club rose so quickly to be the leading hockey team in the south of England in so short a time.

H B Hayman

One who captained Hampstead Cricket Club and Hampstead Hockey Club was Herbert Hayman, who was described as a capital hard-hitting bat and excellent outfield. He began to represent Middlesex in 1893. In all matches for the county made 3,518 runs at an average of 25.00

His highest scores were 152 against Yorkshire at Lord's in 1896 and 110 against Gloucestershire also at Lord's in 1901. Against Yorkshire he made 218 for the first wicket with Andrew Stoddart and in the latter game, he scored 200 with Pelham Warner.

Against Kent at Catford in 1898 he carried his bat through the innings for 104*.

For Hampstead Cricket Club he achieved the remarkable. When Hampstead made 273-2 in 95 minutes against Eltham in 1901, he and B. Everett took the total from 100 to 178 in 20 minutes. On the day he carried out his bat for 164 and at one time he hit eight 4's and a 6 in successive scoring shots.

In 1905 after Upper Tooting had declared at 377-7, leaving Hampstead two and a half hours in which to bat, Hayman scored 201 when he was run out, having hit three 6's and thirty 4's, in 80 minutes. Hampstead managed 348-4.

Hayman captained Hampstead Hockey Club's 1st XI from 1898 for six years and by the time he handed over, the 1st XI had run into its period of great playing ascendancy.

As a token of our common heritage and in celebration of the 150th Anniversary, HWHC has donated the Herbert Hayman Cup to Hampstead Cricket Club, which is to decide how best to use the cup to reward success in their club that runs men's and women's teams and has a thriving youth group.

Bookshelf

Two reasonably recent books will hopefully intrigue some of our readers?

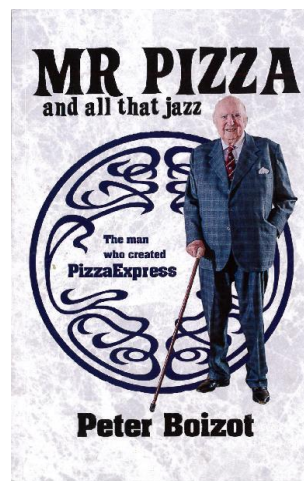
Mr Pizza and all that Jazz

This tells the remarkable story of our Emeritus Club President, Peter Boizot

The back cover summarises the content of the book. It is that Peter is an extraordinary businessman without a business plan. He is described as a dreamer and an idealist. All he wanted to do in 1965 was to bring pizza to England. He never set out to make money, yet made millions and gave that fortune away to make the world a better place. His has been a life filled with adventures most can only dream about.

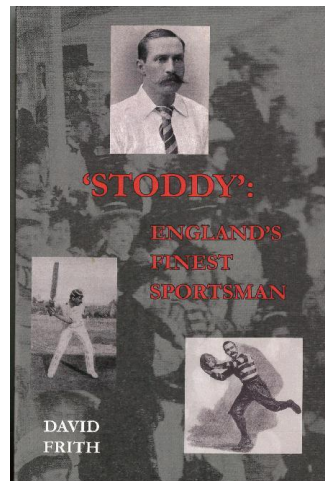
Peter is the vegetarian salesman who set up a restaurant that changed the way England eats. He is the football club chairman who stood for Parliament. He has been the captain of a merchant ship, a jazz club owner and raised millions of pounds to stop Venice from flooding. However Peter has also lived a full life away from work. He hosted lively parties than shaped Soho, befriended a dictator's son and even found time to have a spat with a Spice Girl. "Mr Peterborough" has a remarkable story to tell and tells it with trademark modesty within the pages of the book.

In describing his membership of HWHC he says, "we played in white shirts with a vertical dark blue and light blue strips and boasted a truly fantastic side. We were never far off the top of the table, helped in no small way by our most talented player, Guy Mayers. Guy was a great friend off the pitch and on it he would regularly win our silly post-match awards for "most disruptive player" or "most bewildering directional play". At the back, goal keeper Stan Elgar helped to keep our goals against column as low as possible".



Stoddy

By chance to coincide with the 150th anniversary of Hampstead Cricket Club, the renowned cricket historian, David Frith has re-written his earlier account of the life of Andrew Stoddart, who took his own life a century ago. Stoddart was one of the most prominent sportsmen of his time and possibly the most famous member of Hampstead Cricket Club, who joined Hampstead Hockey Club in 1900.



He was famous for captaining England at both cricket and rugby, for scoring 485 in a single day's play in club cricket (for Hampstead). He also captained what came to be regarded as the first British Lions rugby tour to Australia, in rather tragic circumstances and was skipper of the first Barbarians rugby team. He won the Ashes in Australia in the exciting 1894-5 series, when as skipper in the test at Melbourne on 2 January 1895, he scored 173 that remained the highest score by an England captain in Australia for over 70 years.

He was a prolific batsman, frequently opening with W G Grace, as well as a good quality bowler and very capable fielder. He scored innumerable centuries for Hampstead, in rich veins of form. He was possibly in the vanguard of sports personalities, the centre of attention, both in this country and Australia.

Stoddy: England's Finest Sportsman is published by Von Krumm Publishing at a price of £17.00. David Frith published his first book on Andrew Stoddart in 1970, called *My Dear Victorious Stod*. This was awarded the Cricket Society's Book of the Year that year and, by common consent, set a new standard in cricketing biographies.

New material has come to light since the first book and the new volume contains numerous photographs and images simply unavailable in the 1970's. David Frith says that he was drawn to study Stoddart's life somewhat in indignation that his achievements were under recorded and that contemporaries such as W G Grace, MacLaren, Jessop and Ranjitsinhji overshadowed him in print. He attributed this partially to the foibles of correspondents of the time, such as Neville Cardus, who concentrated on others and an element of the stigma of suicide that followed Stoddart's death in 1915.

Andrew Stoddart did not take up cricket seriously until he was 22. But he immediately impressed for Hampstead and Middlesex. When scoring the world record 485 (in 370 minutes) it followed his spending the night before the match until dawn of that day playing poker. After that he proved how indefatigable he was, as he played tennis in a foursome for the rest of that afternoon and finished off with a dinner party in the evening, eventually catching sleep at 3.00am that next morning.

He was regarded as an excellent rugby three-quarter. He played 10 times for England. His energy levels were boundless. As an aggressive opening batsman, right-arm medium-pace change bowler, and outstanding fielder, he seemed to epitomise the late amateur Victorian sporting ethos.

He led England on two of his four tours of Australia. He was, as well, the first England captain to insert Australia and the first to declare a Test innings closed. But as he aged, his health deteriorated. With declining powers he faced trading losses as a stockbroker and burdened by financial worries, he shot himself three weeks after his 52nd birthday.

From yesteryear

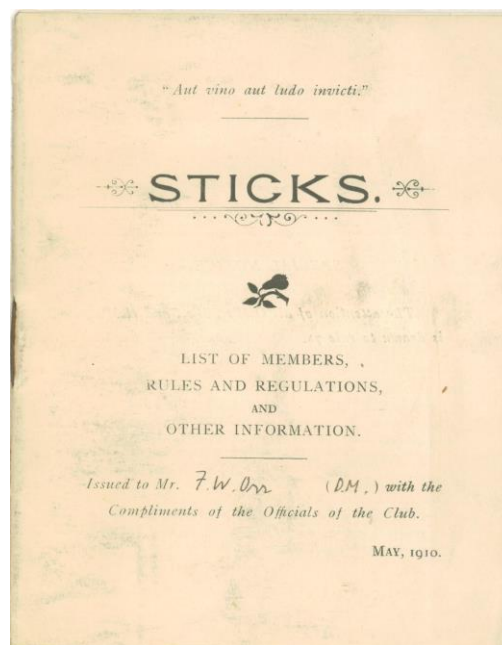
105 years ago

This is the membership card to the Sticks Club, issued to Toby Orr in May 1910.

Sticks was one of the earliest *occasional* clubs. It included a fair presentation of Hampstead players amongst its founder members. It 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, Richard "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 Stanley 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, in Colin Greenhalgh's most apt words, "lost in the mists of alcohol and time", It appears that they merged into the Acrostics after the First World War.



95 years ago

From Colin Greenhalgh's History

About this time, it is amusing to see that the committee concerned themselves with another of the Club's timeless little problems. In September 1920, 'owing to the expense of getting Club Colours made, the question of adopting the new Cricket Club colours of all white was discussed.' The matter was deferred, but the suggestion was subsequently rejected, as it has been on several occasions since. Tradition has always (rightly, most would say) overcome the exigencies of finance).

30 years ago

The Women's section of the Club met on 3 April 1985.

In attendance were M Bennett, K Delaney, J Galt, S Laird, Tinker, D Sammons, S Openshaw D Trewin, K Sargent, L Wilson, M McKiver, S Reed, M Miley, T McIlwaine, K Demeza, M Atkinson, W Cunliffe

Apologies: M Venn, D Waterhouse, J Welch, C Robinson, H Jenkerson

S Laird will continue for 1985-6 as Fixture Secretary

1st XI Captain K Delaney

2nd XI Captain L Wilson

Trials 28 September 1985; venue to be arranged

After debate it was decided to pick the best 12 players available for each team. It was decided to approach Middlesex for extra first team players and 2nd XI have enough players to cover for the forthcoming season. 16 voted for the best 12 players; one vote abstained

Night Out

At Kettners; S Openshaw to approach P Boizot, to be followed by Camden Palace, Sunday 12 May 1985

15 years ago

From *Hockey Sport's* October 2000 edition.

English Hockey League Preview

In Division One, Lewes narrowly missed the promotion boat last season but with no known acquisitions, it will be interesting to see if they can continue their upward progress, which has been the case so far since they joined the National League.

Chelmsford introduce another South African, Wayne Denne and after advertising for an international player with 100+ recognised caps and a recognised coaching qualification in this magazine, with the offer of a £10,000 package as player coach, have given the job to South African, Craig Fulton. Andrew Kennedy captains the side, which will be missing this season in addition to Gittins, the South African pair of Gary Boucher and Justin King.

The South Africans will be wearing the dark and light blue colours of **Hampstead and Westminster**, the run-away winners of Division Two, who are well capable of challenging for further promotion, particularly if coach Soma Singh can persuade his former Great Britain and England colleague Rob Thompson to have yet another season. A couple of recruits from Oxford University are also believed to be in the pipeline.

Beeston, as all relegated sides have found, have had an exodus of players, including former player coach Craig Keegan, Adrian Lock to Spain and Gordon to Cannock. Replacements, all the right side of 21, including Sheffield's Alastair Wilson and Manager's son David Griffiths, who has already played for England under 16's have an encouraging sign of youth about them, a challenge for new Captain Andrew West and Coach Stephen Wood to blend into promotion prospects. Brooklands is another club looking to promising youth, with Manchester University in their thoughts to provide their challenge.

10 years ago

Hampstead 5 Canterbury 2

The final match of the season at home against fellow relegation contenders Canterbury was the task in hand with only a win good enough to keep Hampstead in the 10 team Premier Division next year. The match would have been irrelevant had Canterbury been able to hold on to a one-goal lead at home against Loughborough Students in a rearranged match the day before. With only six minutes remaining the Students managed to score two goals and win 2-1!

On the back of an obviously disappointing result Canterbury had to play a second match in a weekend knowing Hampstead were well rested. The start of the match was delayed due to a dry pitch and watering problems. A few buckets of water later, the match commenced. Unfortunately it did not start particularly well for the home side. Canterbury started sharply and soon took an early lead when Matt Harper scored a goal after just 8 minutes.

In such an important match this was a massive blow. Hampstead failed to create too many clear cut chances on goal but did cause a considerable amount of pressure often earning free hits inside the Canterbury 25. The constant free hits around the Canterbury circle finally paid off. On this occasion Chris Ambridge once again running at the defence was fouled, which he then took straight away hitting the ball hard through the Canterbury defence to find Roshan Parag unmarked on the far post. He made no mistake to tie the scores, 1-1 after 21 minutes.

This was just the boost the home side needed following their nervy start. Confidence grew and led to a string of attacks and continued pressure on the Canterbury goal. With only a few minutes remaining in the first half and cheered on by a large home crowd; this great passage of play paid off and Roshan added to his earlier goal with two more just before half time, scoring after 27 & 32 minutes to make the score 3-1. All seemed to be going well until Canterbury pushed forward just before the break to force several fine saves from Steve Dodson in goal.

3-1 at half time and the job was half done; Hampstead players were confident and playing well even without a long list of players missing from the team that had beaten Canterbury earlier in the season.

As expected, Canterbury lifted their game with Brian Garcia getting more and more of the ball and causing problems. It was now Canterbury's turn to have their best period of the match and only some good defending and goal keeping kept them out. Hampstead struggled for quite a long time and although they stopped the immediate danger, they were unable to keep the ball and play it forward. They constantly gave possession away. This eventually ended in them conceding another goal. Although the goal itself was scrappy and probably should have been saved, it was a deserved goal from a Stewart Kier penalty corner after 53 minutes to bring the score back to 3-2.

With plenty of time remaining and Canterbury on top, a tight finish was in prospect. Canterbury continued to push. But as they went forward, the game became more and more open. With Hampstead still defending well, spaces and chances to attack were more and more frequent for the home side as Canterbury had to score to tie the game. This eventually resulted in Hampstead scoring the all-important fourth goal and what a great goal it was, from the unlikeliest of players.

Canterbury tried to play the ball around the back only for the sweeper to miss trap the ball allowing Richard Arscott (who had not played for several weeks and yet to score a goal in the National League this season) to steal the ball and beat the defender before unleashing an incredible shot into the top corner of the net past the advancing Canterbury 'keeper who had no chance on this occasion. 4-2 after 60 minutes.

With only ten minutes to go, Canterbury now needed two goal. With so many players pushed forwards, Hampstead were now counter-attacking at will. Another good move eventually found Richard Arscott again this time in his more natural position at right wing. He played a bouncing cross to the back post where man of the match, Roshan Parag, was there to tap in his fourth of the game, doubling his personal tally for the season. 5-2 after 67 minutes and Hampstead knew they were safe.

This vital win meant Hampstead jumped above Canterbury in the table to insure that their Premier League status was safe for another season. A great way to finish the season, especially after losing so many players throughout the year. Well done to all the players, coaching and management staff and a huge thank you to all club members and supporters who have helped throughout the year.

Elsewhere in the league, Cannock are Champions and will be joined by Reading, Loughborough

Students and Guildford in the end of season super cup played at Guildford in a week's time. Unfortunately, Firebrands joined St Albans as the other side in the League to be automatically relegated.

Teddington avoided this thanks to a victory over local friends Surbiton, who unfortunately or strangely played the last match with many of their international players on the sideline. This has handed Teddington a lifeline and they will join Canterbury in the relegation play offs in May at Nottingham. For Hampstead, the job is complete and the summer can be enjoyed starting with the club dinner next Saturday on the HMS President.

Squad: Steve Dodson (GK), Edward Bevan, Will Nurse, Gary Boucher, Zak Jones, Max Mayer-Aull, Chris Ambridge, John Bell, Roshan Parag, Ollie Copper, Keke Sala, Simon Keys (GK), Ned Francis, Richard Arcscott

MVP Rosah Parag; 4 vital goals in this must win match. Enough said...

Start of the Season

New season, new goals: a recent arrival at PRG,,



Next edition

will hopefully be more punctual....In the meantime, the Men's 1's can see us off!

