

## Hampstead & Westminster Hockey Club

Newsletter December 2024

*Keeping Vice Presidents and Friends in the know*

### Welcome

This is the forty third Newsletter in the current format. It covers the mid-way point in the 2024-25 season, with the Premier Division teams taking a break until March (later than customary this season) and when the Women's 1<sup>st</sup> XI will be preparing for the trip to Czechia in April for the EuroTrophy 1 competition in Rakovník.

### Highlights

In the usual tabloid format, the highlights of the Autumn (and in no particular order) are:

- The Women's 1<sup>st</sup> XI sits atop the Premier Division, following a devastating 5-1 win over former leaders Reading in the last League match of the year
- The Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI is in fifth place in the Premier Division at the break
- The Men's and Women's 1<sup>st</sup> XIs qualify for the top six competition on the resumption of the outdoor season in March 2025
- The Women's 2<sup>nd</sup> XI is in second position in the East Conference of the National League
- The Men's 2<sup>nd</sup> XI is currently fourth in the East Conference, after two losses in the last two matches
- The Women's section celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in style
- The date of 1 February 2025 is announced for the Club's Fund Raising Dinner in the City of London
- Eight squad members of the Women's 1<sup>st</sup> XI and their coach, Dave Cooper, undertake to run 1,116 Km, the distance between Maida Vale and Rakovník, as a fund raising exercise for the trip to the EuroTrophy 1 competition
- Club members take part in the World Masters Cup in Cape Town and Auckland, including, among others, Club President, Richard Sykes who wins a gold medal with England LX in the International Masters Cup O70 tournament in Cape Town
- James Oates plays for England in the FIH World League programme of matches in Buenos Aires, alongside former club members Will Calnan and Matt Ramshaw
- Tim Cross plays for Ireland in the same competition
- Miriam Pritchard, Olivia Hamilton and Sofia Martin of Hampstead appear for England's Women's team in the FIH Pro-League in China in early December 2024
- Sarah Robertson announces her retirement from playing for Great Britain
- Matt Guise-Brown takes his goal tally for the Club to 138 after his hat trick against Southgate
- Ted Graves of the Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI wins a gold medal for Great Britain in the final of the 2024 Sultan of Johor Cup in Malaysia
- Carys Isherwood is selected for the England U18 squad
- Freddy Pettifer, Marco Riley and Lucas Smart are confirmed in the England U18 squad
- By no means least, this Newsletter ends with a tribute to the life of Nick Cowley
- The death is also announced in October 2024 of Lionel Thomas, the genial Administrator of the London League from 1995 until 2017
- In the London Area Women's Division 4 North West, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> XIs are in first and second places, respectively, with only a single point separating them (and the 6<sup>th</sup> XI having only conceded four goals)
- In the London Area Men's Division 2 North, the Zak Hond XI are in first place and the 4<sup>th</sup> XI are in sixth
- In Division 5 North West, the Spaniards and Colts XIs are in fourth and fifth places, respectively
- The newly promoted Thirsts XI struggle in Division 3 North

- The Supervets XI are ten points clear at the top of the South Masters O50 Premier Division and the Grandmasters XI are in second place in the South Masters O60 Premier Division
- The new scoreboard was inaugurated at Paddington Recreation Ground by the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Mr Robert Rigby, recognising the donation for its acquisition by Morley Pecker, who celebrated his 70 years since becoming a member of the Club and was presented with an inscribed salver.



### Annual Fundraising Dinner

 **Saturday 1st February 2025**  
**6pm - 11.30pm**

**Balls Brothers Minster Court**  
**3 Mincing Lane**  
**London EC3R 7PP**  
 Less than 5 mins walk From Monument and Tower Hill tube stations

**Three course meal, live auction & raffle**  
**Tickets £65**

Please complete the form for tickets  
<https://forms.gle/G2sJ672kHT4JpWce8>

For enquiries, please email  
[HWHCFundraising@hotmail.com](mailto:HWHCFundraising@hotmail.com)

**If you would like to donate an auction or raffle prize or experience for this season's annual fundraising dinner please contact**

**HWHCFundraising@hotmail.com**

**Alex Smart**  
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or

**Natalie Alderson**  
[njalderson@gmail.com](mailto:njalderson@gmail.com)

## 40 years of Women's hockey

The Women's section held a party at the Chapel Bar, Islington on 9 November 2024 to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its foundation. Many were present who, at the time, had a part to play in bringing the section to the Club. The enthusiasm of the Women's 1<sup>st</sup> XI was particularly noted.

## Officiating

Embarrassingly belated congratulations are due to umpire Tim Forte for the award to him of the Fitzgerald Burton Award (for exceptional services to the London Area) following his decision at the end of last season to step down as the leader for the past three years of London Hockey Officiating and the Officiating Working Group (responsible for officiating nationally), added to his work in the transition to the London Area when it came into being. Tim is continuing his Chairmanship at national level of England Hockey Officiating.

## National League Results

### Men

#### Premier Division

East Grinstead 1 Hampstead 3	Kaeppler J Kelly Crowson
Hampstead 2 Beeston 2	M Guise-Brown Kaeppler
Hampstead 2 Holcombe 3	Arunasalam M Guise-Brown
Bowdon 0 Hampstead 8	M Guise-Brown (3) T Guise-Brown (2) Cross (2) Oates
Southgate 2 Hampstead 5	Shipperley T Guise-Brown, M Guise-Brown (3)
Hampstead 1 Wimbledon 2	Arunasalam
Richmond 1 Hampstead 7	J Kelly (2) T Guise-Brown Arunasalam (2) Sheffens Shipperley
Hampstead 6 Cardiff & Met 1	Shipperley Morgan J Kelly (2) Richards T Guise-Brown
Oxted 0 Hampstead 5	J Kelly (2) Oates Kaeppler T Guise-Brown
Hampstead 0 Old Georgians 5	
Surbiton 6 Hampstead 3	Arunasalam T Guise-Brown Graves

## Fixture List

### Premier Division Top Six

8 March 2025	Wimbledon (a)
13 March 2025	Old Georgians (h)
22 March 2025	Holcombe (a)
23 March 2025	Oxted (h)
29 March 2025	Surbiton (h)

### Conference East [2<sup>nd</sup> XI]

Hampstead 1 Tunbridge Wells 1	Turnbull
Spencer 3 Hampstead 3	Harrison Watson Venables
Old Cranleigh 1 Hampstead 2	Spencer Harrison
Hampstead 1 Bromley & Beckenham 0	Smart
Hampstead 1 Brighton 2	Venables
London Wayfarers 2 Hampstead 0	
West Herts 0 Hampstead 5	Glew (2) Pettifer Cannon Venables
Hampstead 4 Wimbledon 1	Brownhill Madeiros Spencer Watson
Hampstead 0 Surbiton 4	
Tunbridge Wells 3 Hampstead 1	E Hincks

## Fixture List

1 February 2025	Spencer (h)
8 February 2025	Old Cranleigh (h)

22 February 2025	Bromley & Beckenham (a)
1 March 2025	Brighton & Hove (a)
8 March 2025	London Wayfarers (h)
15 March 2025	West Herts (h)
22 March 2025	Wimbledon 2 (a)
30 March 2025	Surbiton 2 (a)

*Women*

**Premier Division**

East Grinstead 1	Hampstead 0	
Hampstead 1	University of Birmingham 0	Ratcliffe
Hampstead 4	Holcombe 1	Tynan Ratcliffe Hyams Martin
Loughborough Students 1	Hampstead 5	Ledesma (2) Lench (2) Ratcliffe
Surbiton 0	Hampstead 2	Tynan Martin
Hampstead 1	Wimbledon 1	Hyams
Clifton Robinsons 0	Hampstead 6	Hyams (3) Martin Tynan Ratcliffe
Hampstead 3	University of Nottingham 1	Ledesma Ratcliffe (2)
Hampstead 5	Sutton Coldfield 0	Ratcliffe (2) Hyams Lench Leigh
Bowdon 0	Hampstead 2	Ledesma Hyams
Reading 1	Hampstead 5	Tynan Ratcliffe Ledesma Moore Hyams

**Fixture List**

**Premier Division Top Six**

1 March 2025	Loughborough Students (h)
Match 2025	East Grinstead (h)
15 March 2025	Wimbledon (a)
22 March 2025	Surbiton (a)
29 March 2025	Reading (h)

**Conference East [2<sup>nd</sup> XI]**

Hampstead 3	East London 1	Murdock Nicholson Eggink
Spencer 3	Hampstead 3	Davison Eggink Bergkamp
Sevenoaks 2	0 Hampstead 4	Balcombe Clark (2) Williams
Hampstead 1	Canterbury 0	Eggink
Hampstead 2	Teddington 3	Moore Lavelle
London Wayfarers 1	Hampstead 3	Eggink (2) Der Breij
Old Loughtonians 0	Hampstead 1	Davison
Hampstead 3	Wapping 0	Elliott Eggink Giles
Hampstead 2	Old Georgians 1	Eggink Murdoch
East London 2	Hampstead 2	Williams Lavelle

**Fixture List**

1 February 2025	Spencer (a)
8 February 2025	Sevenoaks 2 (h)
22 February 2025	Canterbury (a)
1 March 2025	Teddington (a)
8 March 2025	London Wayfarers (h)
15 Match 2025	Old Loughtonians (h)
22 March 2025	Wapping (a)
29 March 2025	Old Georgians (a)

## England Hockey: London Area



### London Men's Division 1 Hampstead Men's 3<sup>rd</sup> XI

Old Cranleighan M2	11	8	3	0	43	18	25	27
Old Merchant Taylors M1	11	8	3	0	31	15	16	27
Richmond M2	11	8	1	2	48	12	36	25
London Academicals M1	11	6	1	4	32	26	6	19
East London M1	11	5	1	5	18	24	-6	16
Southgate M3	11	5	1	5	31	40	-9	16
Croydon Trinity Whitgiftian M1	11	3	2	6	24	33	-9	11
Bromley & Beckenham M2	11	3	1	7	19	28	-9	10
PHC Chiswick M1	11	2	3	6	19	25	-6	9
Ashford (Middlesex) M1	11	2	3	6	25	36	-11	9
Croestyx M1	10	2	2	6	16	31	-15	8
Hampstead & Westminster M3	10	2	1	7	17	35	-18	7

### London Men's Division 2 North Hampstead Zak Hond XI and 4<sup>th</sup> XI *Top Six*

1	Hampstead & Westminster ZH	10	8	1	1	36	25	11	25
2	Wapping M2	11	7	3	1	30	14	16	24
3	Indian Gymkhana M2	11	6	2	3	38	19	19	20
4	Richmond M3	11	6	2	3	34	21	13	20
5	Wanderers M1	11	6	1	4	32	23	9	19
6	Hampstead & Westminster M4	11	4	3	4	22	22	0	15

### London Men's Division 3 North Hampstead Thirsts XI *Foot of the Table*

7	West Herts M2	11	4	1	6	21	25	-4	13
8	Wapping M4	11	3	4	4	22	31	-9	13
9	Croestyx M2	11	2	6	3	33	29	4	12
10	East London M3	11	3	2	6	15	23	-8	11
11	Old Merchant Taylors M2	11	3	1	7	26	39	-13	10
12	Hampstead & Westminster Thirsts	11	2	1	8	13	34	-21	7

## London Men's Division 5 North West

### Hampstead Spaniards and Colts XIs

#### Top Six

1	West Herts M4	10	9	0	1	45	14	31	27
2	Richmond Deerstalkers	9	6	3	0	36	11	25	21
3	Ealing M1	10	5	2	3	32	19	13	17
4	Hampstead & Westminster Spaniards	9	5	1	3	25	11	14	16
5	Hampstead & Westminster Colts	10	4	3	3	22	20	2	15
5	Indian Gymkhana M5	10	5	0	5	37	45	-8	15

## London Women's Premier Division

### Hampstead 3<sup>rd</sup> XI

1	Southgate W2	11	10	0	1	22	8	14	30
2	Barnes W2	11	8	1	2	31	10	21	25
3	London Wayfarers W2	11	8	0	3	23	16	7	24
4	West Hampstead W1	11	6	3	2	30	10	20	21
5	Tulse Hill & Dulwich W1	11	5	3	3	27	18	9	18
6	Hampstead & Westminster W3	11	5	0	6	14	21	-7	15
7	Surbiton W3	11	4	1	6	20	21	-1	13
8	Surbiton Sparks	11	3	4	4	17	21	-4	13
9	Wanderers W1	11	3	2	6	17	25	-8	11
10	PHC Chiswick W1	11	2	2	7	18	34	-16	8
11	Wimbledon W3	11	2	1	8	10	31	-21	7
12	Old Cranleigh W1	11	1	1	9	17	31	-14	4

## London Women's Division 1

### Hampstead 4<sup>th</sup> XI

#### Top 8

1	Teddington W2	11	8	2	1	25	14	11	26
2	Barnes W3	11	8	1	2	25	11	14	25
3	London Wayfarers W3	10	7	2	1	25	13	12	23
4	Spencer W2	11	7	1	3	30	16	14	22
5	London Academicals W1	11	6	2	3	24	13	11	20
6	London Edwardians W1	11	5	1	5	16	14	2	16
7	Hampstead & Westminster W4	10	4	1	5	20	19	1	13
8	Spencer W3	11	3	2	6	22	27	-5	11

## London Women's Division 2 North

Hampstead 5<sup>th</sup> XI

Top 8

1	East London W2	11	10	0	1	50	4	46	30
2	Wapping W2	11	10	0	1	37	10	27	30
3	Richmond W1	11	9	1	1	38	19	19	28
4	West Hampstead W2	11	5	2	4	17	16	1	17
5	Hampstead & Westminster W5	11	4	3	4	28	30	-2	15
6	Eastcote W1	11	4	1	6	18	21	-3	13
7	Wapping W3	11	3	4	4	17	20	-3	13
8	PHC Chiswick W2	11	3	3	5	14	23	-9	12

## London Women's Division 4 North West

Hampstead 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> XIs

1	Hampstead & Westminster W7	11	9	0	2	49	22	27	27
2	Hampstead & Westminster W6	10	8	2	0	52	4	48	26
3	West Hampstead W4	10	8	1	1	40	5	35	25
4	Eastcote W3	11	7	4	0	24	4	20	25
5	West Hampstead W5	11	6	1	4	23	21	2	19
6	Old Millhillians W1	11	3	2	6	22	31	-9	11
7	West Herts W3	11	3	2	6	15	35	-20	11
8	Old Merchant Taylors W2	11	3	1	7	11	27	-16	10
9	Eastcote W4	11	3	1	7	12	29	-17	10
10	Ealing W2	11	2	3	6	14	27	-13	9
11	Southgate W5	11	2	2	7	8	33	-25	8
12	PHC Chiswick W4	11	1	1	9	11	43	-32	4

## Masters Hockey

South Masters Men O40 Premier Division

1	Wimbledon Masters 1	8	7	0	1	25	8	17	21
2	Old Cranleigh Stormers	7	5	2	0	26	9	17	17
3	Spencer Masters	8	4	2	2	21	16	5	14
4	Old Georgians Fire	7	2	3	2	17	16	1	9
5	Guildford Pilgrims Mens O40	6	2	2	2	11	11	0	8
6	Epsom Embers	7	2	0	5	16	25	-9	6
7	Hampstead & Westminster Masters	6	1	1	4	7	9	-2	4
8	Tulse Hill & Dulwich Artillery	6	1	1	4	9	29	-20	4
9	Reading Rustlers	5	0	1	4	6	15	-9	1

## South Masters Men O50 Premier Division

1	Hampstead & Westminster Supervets	10	10	0	0	46	11	35	30
2	Old Georgians Phoenix	9	6	2	1	29	16	13	20
3	Spencer Vintage	10	6	1	3	27	11	16	19
4	Reading Redsox	8	6	0	2	25	19	6	18
5	Old Cranleigh Barnstormers	10	5	2	3	24	17	7	17
6	Tulse Hill & Dulwich Musketeers	9	4	3	2	24	18	6	15
7	Surbiton Jokers	9	3	3	3	14	24	-10	12
8	Epsom Old School	9	3	1	5	11	26	-15	10
9	Guildford Gladiators Mens O50	9	2	2	5	19	26	-7	8
10	Old Loughtonians Supervets	8	1	1	6	16	34	-18	4
11	Southgate Titans	9	0	2	7	12	24	-12	2
12	Woking Mens O50	10	0	1	9	9	30	-21	1

## South Masters Men O60 Premier Division

Top 6

1	Old Cranleigh Puricans	9	8	1	0	34	9	25	25
2	Hampstead & Westminster Grandmasters	9	6	0	3	25	15	10	18
3	Bromley & Beckenham O60	8	5	2	1	22	4	18	17
4	Indian Gymkhana Grandmasters	8	5	1	2	29	18	11	16
5	Amersham & Chalfont Grandmasters Mens O60	10	4	2	4	25	15	10	14
6	Reading Relics	7	4	2	1	17	8	9	14

## European Club Hockey

Men

KO16





The EuroHockey League Men's KO16 2024-25 took place between 3 and 6 October 2024 at Surbiton HC's ground at Sugden Road.

3 October 2024	Lille MHC 1 Grasshopper Club Zurich 1 (4-3 shoot-out) Banbridge 2 Royal Leopold Club 4 Mannheimer 8 AHTC Wien 0 Bloemendaal 2 Real Club de Polo 1
4 October 2024	<i>Ranking Matches</i> Grasshopper Club Zurich 0 Banbridge 3 Lille 0 Royal Leopold 4 [to KO8] AHTC Wien 1 Real Club de Polo 4 Bloemendaal 3 Mannheimer 0 [to KO8]
5 October 2024	Hamburger Polo Club 11 S V Arminen 1 HC Rotterdam 9 TJ Plzen-Litice 0 Wimbledon 3 Western Wildcats 1 Surbiton 4 Waterloo Ducks 2
6 October 2024	<i>Ranking Matches</i> TJ Plzen-Litice 0 S V Arminen 1 Rotterdam 3 Hamburger Polo 3 (4-3 shoot-out) [to KO8] Waterloo Ducks 2 Western Wildcats 1 Surbiton 3 Wimbledon 2 [to KO8]

Progressing to KO8:-

Royal Leopold Club, Bloemendaal, Rotterdam and Surbiton

#### KO8

17 April 2025	SV Kampong vs Surbiton HC Bloemendaal vs Club Campo de Madrid
18 April 2025	Royal Leopold vs Gantoise HC Old Georgians vs HC Rotterdam

*Women*

#### Final 12

The line ups for the Women's Final 12 of the ABN AMRO EHL Finals to be held next Easter at HC's-Hertogenbosch were confirmed on 4 December 2024. Matches will begin on 16 April 2025 and run until 21 April 2025.

Irish newcomers Railway Union are set to meet Dutch SCHC for the right to play hosts Den Bosch in the FINAL8. German runners-ups Mannheimer HC will face MSC Sumchanka, set to be the first Ukrainian team to play in the EHL. The winner of their game faces Belgium's Gantoise.

On the other side of the draw, two-time Grand Finalists Club de Campo will play debutantes Braxgata. The winner will face Real Club de Polo. Finally, Czech first-time entrants SK Slavia Prague meet Surbiton in the Final 12, the winner going on to meet Düsseldorfer HC in the next round.

16 April 2025	SK Slavia Prague vs Surbiton	1230h
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16 April 2025	Club Real de Campo vs Braxgata	1445
16 April 2025	Mannheimer HC vs MSC Sumchanka	1700
16 April 2025	Railway Union HC (IRE) vs SCHC (Netherlands)	1915

The winners then join Dusseldorfer HC, Real Club de Polo, Gantoise HC and HC 's Hertogenbosch in matches between 18-21 April 2025.

## FIH Pro League



England rather than Great Britain take part in this season's competition

### Men

1	England	4	3	1	1	0	17	5	12	11
2	Belgium	4	2	2	0	0	14	10	4	8
3	Argentina	4	2	0	0	2	7	9	-2	6
4	Netherlands	4	0	3	3	1	7	8	-1	6
5	Germany	4	1	1	0	2	10	13	-3	4
6	Ireland	4	0	1	0	3	6	16	-10	1
7	Australia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	India	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Spain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### Amsterdam

Netherlands 1	Germany 1	4-1 shoot out
Netherlands 1	Belgium 1	3-1 shoot out
Belgium 4	Germany 3	
Netherlands 3	Belgium 3	3-1 shoot out
Germany 3	Belgium 6	

### Santiago del Estero HC, Argentina

Argentina 1	England 3	
England 3	Ireland 3	3-2 shoot out
Argentina 1	Ireland 0	
Argentina 1	England 3	
Ireland 0	England 8	
Argentina 4	Ireland 3	









### *Sydney Olympic Park*

4 February 2025	Netherlands vs Spain
5 February 2025	Australia vs Spain
6 February 2025	Australia vs Netherlands
7 February 2025	Spain vs Netherlands
8 February 2025	Australia vs Spain
9 February 2025	Australia vs Netherlands

### *Kalinga Hockey Stadium*

15 February 2025	India vs Spain
16 February 2025	India vs Spain
18 February 2025	England vs Spain
18 February 2025	India vs Germany
19 February 2025	Spain vs England
19 February 2025	India vs Germany

### **Women**

1	 Netherlands	4	3	0	0	1	15	7	8	9
2	 China	4	2	1	1	1	9	5	4	8
3	 Belgium	4	2	1	0	1	13	8	5	7
4	 Argentina	4	1	2	1	1	8	8	0	6
5	 England	4	1	0	0	3	6	15	-9	3
6	 Germany	4	0	2	1	2	5	13	-8	3
7	 Australia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	 India	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	 Spain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### *Hangzhou*

China 2 Belgium 2	4-1 shoot out
China 2 England 1	
Belgium 1 England 3	
China 1 Belgium 2	
China 4 England 0	
England 2 Belgium 8	

### *Santiago del Estero HC, Argentina*

Argentina 2 Germany 2	3-2 shoot-out
Germany 1 Netherlands 5	
Argentina 2 Netherlands 3	
Netherlands 4 Germany 1	
Argentina 1 Germany 1	4-5 shoot out
Argentina 3 Netherlands 2	

### Sydney Olympic Park

4 February 2025	China vs Spain
5 February 2025	Australia vs Spain
6 February 2025	Australia vs China
7 February 2025	Spain vs China
8 February 2025	Australia vs Spain
9 February 2025	Australia vs China

### Sultan of Johor Cup 2024

This annual international tournament for Under 21 teams was first held in 2011. Great Britain has won it on four occasions, more than any other country. For the Great Britain coach Jon Bleby, it was a fourth win in six appearances. He was first appointed in 2013, having made his Olympic debut for Great Britain at the Olympic Games of 2008 in Beijing.

India defeated New Zealand in a tight penalty shootout after it ended 2-2 in regulation time to claim the bronze medal. India were past champions in 2013, 2014 and 2022 (and also finished third last year).

In the final, Daykin Stanger and Dylan Downey put Australia 2-0 ahead with a field and a penalty corner goal in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> minutes, respectively. Towards the end of the quarter Great Britain applied a high press and pulled a goal back through Kaden Draysey in the fourteenth minute. Alex Chihota added the second goal in the 40<sup>th</sup> minute with a field goal, for *Man of the Match* Rory Penrose to convert a penalty corner in the 51<sup>st</sup> minute to seal the win.



19 October 2024	Australia 1 Great Britain 3
20 October 2024	India 6 Great Britain 4
22 October 2024	New Zealand 1 Great Britain 1 (Ted Graves' equaliser in the 56 <sup>th</sup> minute)
23 October 2024	Great Britain 2 Malaysia 1
25 October 2024	Great Britain 3 Japan 1

Japan 2 Malaysia 2 (3-0 shoot-out)  
India 2 New Zealand 2 (2-1 shoot-out)  
Australia 2 Great Britain 3

Ted Graves reports....

## My Experience

"We started strongly, coming out fiercely to beat Australia 3-1 in our opening game. We were then beat by India 6-4 on the second day. New Zealand came next and despite feeling that we had played well, we found ourselves 1-0 down heading into the last few minutes. We knew getting something out the game would be crucial and so I was happy to be able to score the equaliser with a few minutes to go. It was a personal highlight for me at the tournament! The next two games were against Malaysia and Japan where we won 2-1 and 3-1. The feeling of getting over the hurdle and making a final was amazing however we knew the job wasn't done. The final was crazy. The stadium was packed, and the atmosphere was electric. We didn't get off to the start we wanted to though as we went 2-0 down within the first quarter. In that moment, heads could have dropped but that wasn't the case for our team and so we slowly began to claw our way back. The goals then started to roll in and after some brilliant drag-flicks and a precise open play shot from the top-d, we were back in control and winning 3-2 with a few minutes to play. Australia played well and fought hard for an equaliser. There was late drama as we had to defend 6 short corners in succession with seconds left on the clock. The PCD team were like a brick wall and could not be broken down. That was it. GB had secured its 4th Sultan of Johor cup win.

It is an extremely special tournament and one like no other. You get to experience a completely different culture around hockey and get to challenge yourself to be able to play in hostile conditions and if you make the final, you get to play in front of an electric crowd that come out in the thousands.

I would say my favourite thing was the time we got to spend on the pitch after winning the final. Sitting down, out of breath and really taking in the surroundings is something that you almost forget to do whilst you are playing. We were then all able to lift the trophy and then take what must have been thousands of photos. With lots of the locals in the stands and all the travelling friends and family that were allowed to come down onto the pitch as well."

### **2025 European Championships**

This is just a reminder that the seventeenth biennial 2025 Women's EuroHockey Championship organised by the European Hockey Federation will be held alongside the 20<sup>th</sup> Men's tournament at the Warsteiner HockeyPark in Mönchengladbach from 8 to 17 August 2025.

The winners will qualify for the 2026 World Cup in Wavre, Belgium and Amstelveen, Netherlands. If Belgium or the Netherlands win this tournament or if these two countries face each other in the final, the highest ranked team will qualify. The same applies to the Men's competition.

## **World Masters Hockey**

### **World Cup 2024**

[IMC = International Masters Cup]

#### **Women O35 Cape Town**

##### *Pool Standings*

A: England Germany South Africa IMC France

B: South Africa Argentina Ireland Australia A

C: New Zealand Scotland Wales Zimbabwe

D: Netherlands Australia Hong Kong United States

##### *Final Standings; top four*

South Africa Netherlands England Australia

##### *Final*

**South Africa 4 Netherlands 1**

##### *Bronze*

Australia 3 England 4

#### **Men O35 Cape Town**

##### *Pool Standings*

A: New Zealand England Scotland Wales Australia A IMC Zimbabwe

B: Australia South Africa Germany France South Africa A IMC

##### *Final Standings; top four*

England South Africa Australia New Zealand

##### *Final*

**South Africa 3 England 4**

##### *Bronze*

New Zealand 2 Australia 3

[with former Club members Joe Finding and Oliver Deasy representing England]

#### **Women O40 Cape Town**

##### *Pool Standings*

A: England Uruguay Ireland Alliance IMC

B: Argentina Wales Australia A IMC South Africa

C: United States Singapore Germany South Africa IMC

D: Australia Chile New Zealand

##### *Final Standings; top four*

Australia Argentina Chile England

##### *Final*

**Argentina 0 Australia 1**

##### *Bronze*

Chile 2 England 1

#### **Men O40 Cape Town**

##### *Pool Standings*

A: South Africa England Australia A United States

B: Australia New Zealand France South Africa A Argentina

C: Germany Singapore Malaysia Kenya Alliance IMC

##### *Final Standings; top four*

Australia A & South Africa: South Africa A and Australia: England and Alliance IMC: New Zealand

##### *Final*

**South Africa 3 Australia 1**

*Bronze*

England 6 New Zealand 3

**Women O45 Auckland**

*Pool Standings*

A: Argentina New Zealand Chile Australia IMC

B: Australia England Germany Alliance IMC

*Final Standings; top four*

Australia Argentina England New Zealand

*Final*

**Australia 2 Argentina 1**

*Bronze*

England 4 New Zealand 0

**Men O45 Auckland**

*Pool Standings*

A: Netherlands United States Alliance IMC Sri Lanka

B: Argentina Australia A IMC Germany Oman

C: New Zealand Canada England Wales

D: Australia South Africa Malaysia MBH IMC

E: England Malaysia Oman Sri Lanka

*Final Standings; top four*

Australia South Africa Netherlands Argentina

*Final*

**South Africa 1 Australia 5**

*Bronze*

Netherlands 3 Argentina 1

**Women O50 Auckland**

*Pool Standings*

A: Australia Chile Ireland England Canada

B: New Zealand Argentina South Africa Australia IMC United States

*Final Standings; top four*

Argentina New Zealand Australia Chile

*Final*

**Argentina 3 New Zealand 0**

*Bronze*

Australia 2 Chile 1

**Men O50 Auckland**

*Pool Standings*

A: Germany Canada Australia IMC Singapore

B: Australia England Wales New Zealand IMC

C: Argentina South Africa Chile Hong Kong

D: New Zealand Malaysia Spain Japan

E: Spain Chile Singapore Wales

*Final Standings; top four*

Germany Australia Argentina New Zealand

*Final*

**New Zealand 2 Argentina 2 (0-3 shoot out)**

*Bronze*

Australia 3 Germany 4

**Women O55 Auckland**

*Pool Standings*

A: Argentina England Alliance IMC Canada Wales

B: New Zealand Scotland South Africa Australia IMC Chile

C: Australia Ireland Netherlands Argentina IMC

D: Wales Canada Chile

E: Alliance IMC Argentina IMC Australia IMC

*Final Standings; top four*

England Ireland Netherlands South Africa

*Final*

**England 1 Ireland 0**

*Bronze*

Netherlands 1 South Africa 0

**Men O55 Auckland**

*Pool Standings*

A: England South Africa Belgium Ireland Singapore

B: Australia New Zealand Malaysia Wales United States

*Final Standings; top four*

England Australia New Zealand South Africa

*Final*

**England 4 Australia 2**

*Bronze*

New Zealand 3 South Africa 1

**Men O55 IMC Auckland**

*Pool Standings*

A: England IMC Australia A IMC Southern Cross Alliance

*Final Standings*

England IMC Australia A IMC Southern Cross Alliance

*Final*

**Australia A IMC 1 England IMC 4**

**Women O60 Auckland**

*Pool Standings*

A: England New Zealand Australia IMC South Africa United States

B: Scotland Australia Wales England LX IMC

C: Netherlands Alliance IMC Canada Argentina

D: Australia IMC England LX IMC Alliance IMC

*Final Standings; top four*

England Scotland Australia Netherlands

*Final*

**England 1 Scotland 0**

*Bronze*

Netherlands 0 Australia 3

**Men O60 Auckland**

*Pool Standings*

A: France Australia United States Germany Scotland  
B: England Wales Netherlands South Africa Canada  
C: New Zealand Malaysia Japan Singapore  
D: South Africa Germany Japan Singapore

*Final Standings; top four*

England Australia France Wales

*Final*

**Australia 0 England 2**

*Bronze*

France 0 Wales 0 (2-1 shoot out)

**Women O65 Auckland**

*Pool Standings*

A: England Australia New Zealand England LX IMC Canada

B: Wales Argentina Scotland United States Alliance IMC

*Final Standings; top four*

England Wales Australia Argentina

*Final*

**England 7 Wales 0**

*Bronze*

Argentina 0 Australia 1

**Men O65 Cape Town**

*Pool Standings*

A: England Australia Spain Wales New Zealand

B: Netherlands Belgium Ireland Italy United States

C: Scotland Germany South Africa Malaysia France

*Final Standings; top four*

England Netherlands Australia Germany

*Final*

**England 2 Netherlands 2 (2-1 shoot out) [five yellow cards]**

*Bronze*

Australia 4 Germany 3

**Men O65 IMC Cup Cape Town**

*Pool Standings*

A: England Southern Cross South Africa Alliance

B: Australia A Netherlands England LX Germany

*Final Standings; top four*

Australia A England Netherlands Southern Cross

*Final*

**Australia A 2 England 1**

*Bronze*

Southern Cross 1 Netherlands 3

**Women O70 Auckland**

*Final Standings*

Australia England New Zealand Alliance Blue IMC England LX IMC Alliance Purple IMC

*Final*

**Australia 0 England 0 (4-3 shoot out)**

### **Men O70 Cape Town**

#### *Pool Standings*

A: Wales Netherlands England Ireland France

B: Germany Australia South Africa Spain

#### *Final Standings; top four*

Germany Australia Netherlands Wales

#### *Final*

**Australia 1 Germany 4**

#### *Bronze*

Wales 1 Netherlands 3

### **Men O70 IMC Cape Town**

#### *Final Standings*

England LX Alliance A Alliance B Southern Cross

#### *Final*

**England LX 3 Alliance A 2**

#### *Bronze*

Southern Cross 0 Alliance B 0 (1-3 shoot out)

### **Men O75 Cape Town**

#### *Final Standings*

England Australia Germany South Africa Wales Southern Cross

#### *Final*

**Australia 0 England 3**

#### *Bronze*

Germany 2 South Africa 0

Several club players took part in the tournaments, along with a few friends of the Club. **Richard Chapman** was eager to help Wales defend the trophy won last in Japan. But it was a disappointment for him personally, having been injured and unable to play for a month. He then collected a resistant infection “which did me no good”. Wales were delighted to beat England (for the first time in his recollection). However, Wales then lost heavily to Australia in the semi-finals and then were defeated by the Netherlands in the bronze medal match. There were concerns that an apparently demoralised **Dave Dixon** was far too readily taking the blame for England’s loss to Wales but now appears happily returned to the resurgent H&W Grandmasters XI. *El Presidente* **Richard Sykes** also went to Cape Town as a permitted under age player for England LX in the Men’s O70 International Masters Cup tournament. In pool matches, Richard converted a penalty stroke against Alliance A and a short corner against Alliance B. In the final England LX defeated Alliance A to take the gold medal (sustainably, not struck in metal, apparently).

**Matt Stuppel** of the Hampstead Supervets appeared for Wales O50, who finished twelfth but not to quell his enthusiasm for the venue in Auckland and the tournament organisation. **Charles Poulton**, also of the Hampstead Supervets, played for the Hong Kong O50 team and he too was full of admiration for the facilities, with five artificial pitches, with their state-of-the-art LED lighting, as well as eight spacious changing rooms in a clubhouse the length of the pitch, with viewing areas on three sides. His highlight was a 9-2 win against Japan to earn Hong Kong its first ranking points in O50 competition and personally scoring a goal against Argentina. **Björn Schwarz** of the Hampstead Vets appeared for Germany in the O45 competition in each of their six matches in which they defeated Oman 1-0 but were beaten in the others, though only heavily by the Netherlands in one of the quarter finals, in which the Dutch suffered two yellows and one green card. The team were placed eighth, one better than England.

Other performances of note included a gold medal for **Mike Crowson**, father of Tom, of the Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI (and regular spectator of 1s, home and away) winning the final of the Men's O55 competition against Australia, as well as scoring the first goal in that final. Another to step up was **Sally Tippen**, an early mentor when the Hampstead Women's section was being formed and the wife of Rod, a goalie turned winger when at Hampstead in the 1980s. Sally is captain of the England Women's O70 team. They powered to the final, winning their games, bar a draw against Australia, when they came back from 0-2 down in the third quarter. In the final they met Australia again and it ended in stalemate at full time, the match going to a shoot-out. Sally went first for England and scored but the shoot-out ended drawn at 2-2. Into sudden death, Sally once more took up the challenge and went first after Australia had scored. She equalised to keep the team in the competition. Australia scored from their second and sadly, England's attempt was unsuccessful, leaving the gold medal to Australia.

## 1894 Campaign

**HWHC does not own real assets, pitches or a clubhouse**

**Consistent success on and off the pitch over recent years has resulted in the Club's costs increasing year-on-year**

**Prior to launching the 1894 Campaign in Season 2022-23, the shortfall was funded by a very small number of extremely generous donors**



### Objectives

**Ensure HWHC continues to be one of the largest and most successful clubs in England**

**Ensure HWHC continues to achieve its charitable objective of the promotion and participation in hockey at all levels and ages**

**Secure hockey for a future generation of London based junior, senior and masters players of all abilities and backgrounds**



How are Funds From the 1894 Campaign used?

- Continued investment in top quality coaching and coaches at all levels within the Club.
- Select Junior and Adult Teams, Development and weekday and weekend Junior and Adult coaches.
- Attract and retain the best home grown and International coaches and players.
- Accommodation subsidies and support to select International and ex-International Ladies and Men's team players.
- Continue expansion of the Junior Club.
- Investment in the Junior Talent Centre.
- Support Juniors to transition into Adult hockey.
- Talent Academy Licence and obligation to develop young talent in our catchment area (25 girls and 25 boys).
- Deliver on the Club's obligations as an England Hockey Junior Talent Academy including 5-8 fully paid scholarships.
- Pathway between the Junior Club and 1s team hockey for talented Juniors via the Ladies and Men's 2s and 3s.

How can you participate in this season's 1894 Campaign?

**Club, Team or Player Sponsorship**

**Partnerships**

**Make a Charitable Donation**

**Matched Giving**

**Become an 1894 Club Member**

**Join the 1894 Network**

**Become an 1894 Society Member**

**Donate a Raffle or Auction Prize**

**Attend the Annual Fundraising Dinner**

## Yesteryear

A few snippets from *The Times*...(and not necessary club related) towards the end of the year.

### 1919

#### 6 December 1919

Hampstead beat Teddington at Bushey Park, by nine goals to one, on the Teddington ground on Saturday. The Hampstead half-backs and forwards played a fine combined game. A feature of the match was the really fine play of C T A Wilkinson at centre half-back for Hampstead. His tackling was splendid and he gave great assistance to his forwards, who were well led by S H Shoveller. The Teddington defence was weak under pressure, the backs playing a very moderate game. E Trotman played well for Teddington in the half-back line. For Hampstead, C F Murphy played a clever game at inside right and scored four goals. S H Shoveller scored two, J H Dexter two, and R Morphew one. E J Burton scored for Teddington.

The Hampstead team was N B Dearle, goal; J H T Walker and J H Bennett, backs; W B Butler, C T A Wilkinson and J Morphew, half-backs; E G Michelsen, G F Murphy, S H Shoveller, R Morphew and J E Dexter, forwards

### 1924

#### 22 December 1924

Tulse Hill beat Hampstead on the Richmond Athletic Ground on Saturday by 3 goals to 1. It was a keen match and each side scored once before half-time. Although the West Kent side were undoubtedly the stronger, a margin of two goals rather flatters their superiority. The Hampstead defence is still as steady as ever but their front line lacks the complete understanding that was shown by the Tulse Hill forwards. Among whom C J Capes and A I Todman, on the right wing, were very good, playing together as one man and making many brilliant runs, in spite of powerful opposition from Hampstead's two good backs.

In the first half there was really little to choose between the teams, for, although Tulse Hill were more often attacking, the home backs played splendidly. A I Todman scored for the visitors in the first few minutes. Hampstead broke away just before half-time and J C Masternan equalized. After crossing over Tulse Hill continued to attack and met with more success. J H Bennett [*Tulse Hill forward*] and H B Mobbs each added a goal.

The Hampstead team was N B Dearle, goal; B G Lampard-Vachell and J H Bennett, backs; A C Eiloart, E E Trotman and C T A Wilkinson, half backs; K McAlpine, Sir J Hanham, J C Masterman, N R Thompson and R Q Cruttar, forwards.

1934

### **3 December 1934**

Southgate beat Hampstead on Saturday at the Richmond Athletic Ground by four goals to none. It was a moderate game, largely owing to the poor condition of the ground and a late start, the game finishing in semi-darkness, during which period Southgate scored two of their goals. Unpunctuality at this period of the season is inexcusable and makes the game dangerous. Hampstead were without several of their regular players and the absence of the brothers Milsted was severely felt. In spite of this, however, they put up a good fight and did not deserve to lose by a margin of four goals. They were nearly as often in the Southgate circle as Southgate were in theirs but Southgate took their opportunities, while the Hampstead forwards were slow in making their shots.

An injury early in the game to Leggatt, the Hampstead centre-half, who was struck on the chin by a rising ball, did not improve their chances and after the interval he played back in place of Saunders. Southgate were largely indebted for their win to the half-back line, who were at their best. The Hampstead defence, Fickling and Saunders in particular, was so good that Southgate were not allowed many opportunities to score, although their line played as well together as the ground would permit. Wonnacott led them well but Brown at inside-left was the most impressive player in their attack. Hinds Howell and Kerr were the best of the Hampstead forwards, who were good in mid-field. Play was quite even in the first half, both goalkeepers being kept fairly busy. Barton made one very fine save from Wonnacott and a shot from Chappell for Hampstead from a corner well deserved a goal but missed by inches. Just before half-time a good run and centre by Sturt enabled Brown to hit into the net for Southgate, who crossed over with a lead of a single goal.

Early in the second half Fickling saved what seemed a certain goal with his stick after Barton had run out and been tricked by Brown, but after ten minutes' play Wonnacott went through to score Southgate's second point with a clever shot. Hinds Howell and Chappell both went close for Hampstead with good shots but the Southgate defence gave little away. Southgate's third goal was scored in the dusk by Down from Haycraft's pass and he appeared to be offside. Just before the end Wonnacott added a fourth goal after some good play by Brown.

The Hampstead team was H J Barton, goal; B W Fickling and S J Saunders, backs; A J Harms, A Leggatt and Owen G Jones, half-backs: K H Ingledew, C E Kerr, C A Hinds Howell, J G Chappell and R G Brown forwards.

1964

### **21 December 1964**

To all intents and purposes, the third weekend in December is the half-way stage of the club hockey programme and marks the appearance of the Services in the fixtures lists. Early in the new year representative matches get under way and attention, henceforth, will be directed to the new England team and the latter stages of the county championship. A traditional holiday game is that between Tulse Hill and the Schoolmasters at Kent House. A goal by Tulse Hill's captain, P L Waite, direct from his

short corner, midway through the second half, decided a game which should have been won more easily.

1974

#### **14 December 1974**

It was once said that the divisional hockey tournament was the most useless exercise since the Tower of Babel. Judgment had seemingly been pronounced because the weather defeated the purpose for which it was intended. The purpose of this event, to be held this year at Derby today and tomorrow, has been made abundantly clear. It is part of England's build-up for the World Cup tournament in Kuala Lumpur from March 1 to 15. In the process England's selectors will have a chance of spotting potential talent. The cream of English hockey will be on view and, for the first time, seven teams - England, Combined Services, North, South, East, West and Midlands will take part. The England side will play four matches, two on each day.

1984

#### **14 December 1984**

Karachi: A spectator with special interest in the Champions Trophy tournament is Colin Whalley, the England team manager. He is watching the performances of English players and will report back to the Hockey Association concerning prospective candidates for the 1986 World Cup team.

Britain, having finished among the first four here are almost certain to be invited by the International Hockey Federation for the next Champions Trophy at Perth, Australia, in November 1985. However, since an England team are due to tour Australia for about three weeks in June and July of the same year, administrative zeal will again be divided between preparing an England team for the World Cup and keeping the British team afloat for Champions Trophy, which, at present, is Britain's only route towards Olympic selection.

After Perth, the Champions Trophy will revert to Lahore in April 1986, where again the British team could be invited. The tournament then rolls on to Amsterdam in 1987. The British team ought to be in Amsterdam, as results there will be crucial in selecting teams for the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul.

After their tactical failure against Pakistan on Wednesday, the British team yesterday watched a video replay of the match between the Netherlands and Spain, which the Dutch won 4-0. They have shown strength in attack and defence, which Britain will have to counter. When the teams last met, in their group match in the Olympics, Britain won 4-3. Much will depend today on whether Kerly, who has already scored three goals, can recapture the brilliance he showed against the Dutch in Los Angeles. Cattrall has been striking his short corners well but the drill will have to be a little smarter than it was against Pakistan.

#### ***Club Stuff***

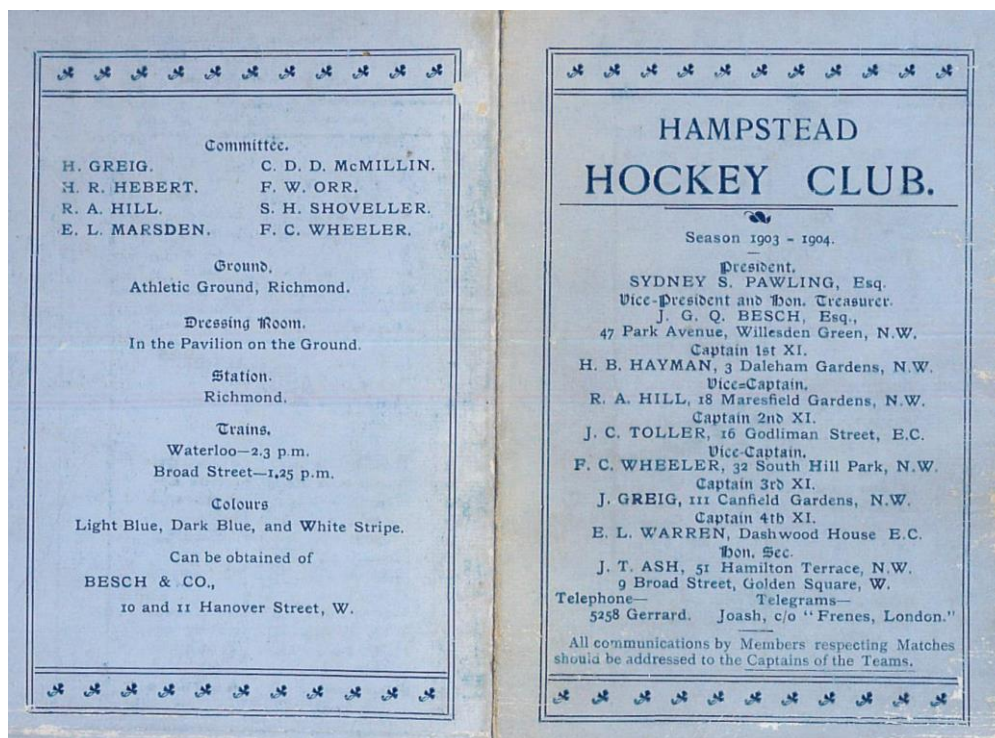
130 years ago

At a Committee Meeting held on 12 October 1894, it was proposed by A Reid and carried: "That a board in the roadway at entrance to ground be affixed to wall "Hampstead Club Hockey Ground" and also in garden have a board put up "This way to Hockey Ground".

Proposed by Mr A G Dunn and seconded by Mr J C Toller that the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer be empowered to arrange for teas to be provided at the "George and Dragon" for both teams after each match – carried.

Proposed by Mr H R Lipscombe and seconded by Mr A Reid that the umpire to the match be requested to kindly accept of [sic] the slight token (i.e. railway ticket) and the team's hearty thanks for so kindly coming down to umpire – Carried.

### 120 years ago



### 100 years ago

At a Committee Meeting held on 11 December 1924 the Hon Sec stated that a letter had been received from the Hon Sec of the Mid-Surrey Club suggesting our joint action in making representations to the Richmond Athletic Ground authorities requesting them to take steps for the improvement of our grounds. As our ground is in quite good condition, the Committee did not feel justified in taking any action, with the exception as to request that the ground should be rolled whenever practically possible on Saturday mornings. The Hon Sec was instructed to write to the Mid-Surrey Hon Sec to this effect.

The question of a second playing pitch was again discussed, it being understood that Mr S V Hicks had personally inspected about 30, none of which was suitable. Mr C T A Wilkinson volunteered to sound out the Secretary of the MCC as to whether his Committee would consider the suggestion that the practice ground at Lord's should be let to the Club.

### 90 years ago

On 3 January 1935, the Committee considered a letter from Mr Harold Saleman asking if the Club could start a social side. Although it was agreed that this was a sound idea "it was not thought practicable owing to the fact that the Club had no headquarters".

### 70 years ago

At a Committee meeting held on 3 January 1955, the Chairman pointed out that the Club had been headlined in the Hockey column of *The Times* New Year's Day edition

# NEW YEAR'S DAY HOCKEY

## THE PROMISE OF HAMPSTEAD

BY OUR HOCKEY CORRESPONDENT

Two of to-day's matches which promise to be full of interest are those between the Old Kingstonians and Beckenham at Hampton Wick and Richmond and Bromley at the Old Deer Park.

Beckenham hope to be at full strength and should fully extend the Old Boys, who, however, may prove to be just the better side. Both Richmond and Bromley may have some of their university members assisting them and this should be a close match. Wimbledon receive a visit from Hampstead, who are gradually reaching their old standard. They have the makings of a really good side. The game between the Hawks and Teddington at Weybridge appears to be very open, but the Hawks wing players, Nunn and Bridgwater, with Wright at centre-forward, may prove a little too strong for the Teddington defence.

Hounslow and Southgate should have little difficulty in winning their games against Cheam and Lensbury respectively, but the Lensbury side on their own ground are, on occasion, surprisingly hard to beat, and Southgate cannot afford to take matters easily.

[60 years ago](#)

*Play at the Oval*

At a Committee meeting held on 11 December 1964, the Secretary reported that the President and himself had had correspondence but not a meeting, as hoped, with Mr C T A Wilkinson. Mr Wilkinson had not been very optimistic about a higher rental offer to the Surrey CCC causing them to change their minds about their rejection of our application. Nonetheless it was agreed to write again to Surrey asking what rental they would consider.

The Ground Sub-committee had met and was proceeding with its investigation of other possible grounds. There was, as yet, nothing to report.

[35 years ago](#)

On Saturday, 16 December 1989, Club members performed a brief pantomime at Paddington Sports Club to significant and critical acclaim from other sections of the Sports Club (this being a novel PSC social event).

[30 years ago](#)

On Sunday, 4 December 1994 the Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI progressed in the HA Cup after a 2-1 win away to Bath Buccaneers, with goals from David Bott and a well-executed short corner routine, scored by Nigel Land.

## Tribute

### Nick Cowley



The Club lost one of its finest members with the death of Nick Cowley on 17 October 2024 at the age of only 58. As a player, he joined in the early 1990s and played in the 4<sup>th</sup> XI, later agreeing to captain the 5<sup>th</sup> XI. From time to time, he also captained the summer team, *The Opposition*. He was reliable and sensible when on the ball, never giving it away easily and was a calming, understated influence. In the 2000s, he moved to the Veterans, Superveterans and, most recently, the Grandmasters XIs. He was an eager tourist with the Vets in Belgium. Perhaps his greater value was his willingness to umpire games, home or away and whatever the time of day and always without complaint.

His larger contribution to the Club was away from the pitch. As Treasurer for more than a decade until 2008, he was a crucial member of the Management Committee. He led the management of cash, which, at the time, was the default method of regular payment of match fees and he championed the payment of subscriptions by instalments and by direct debit (introducing a payment mandate to that effect in the centre fold of the fixture card). On many occasions he was left to pursue late payments, which he did with disarming charm and patience, frequently using his own initiatives. It should be remembered that internet connectivity was in its infancy at the time and the tasks required constant manual effort.

Nick was alongside Kevin Murphy in the moves that established the Club as a company limited by guarantee – frequently underestimated in its effect of removing members’ potential personal legal liabilities – and then as a Community Amateur Sports Club, with its legitimate taxation advantages, mostly associated with *Gift Aid*. These were important steps in securing the financial health of the Club.

Hockey was not Nick’s only sporting interest. He was a very competent tennis player and golfer. Skiing was another passion. After university at Oxford with a degree in Mathematics, he travelled to France and trained as a ski instructor. Once accredited, he did so for a few seasons before being persuaded to

return to London, when he trained as an Accountant with Price Waterhouse. He later joined the Kingfisher Group as a financial analyst, with a heavy workload. Several who knew wondered how he also managed to find the energy and time to devote to being the Club's Treasurer. But not only that, he also completed an MBA at the London Business School.

Nick went on to be a finance director of the Caprice Group of restaurants (under Richard Caring) and later being appointed Chief Finance Officer of the Hakkasan restaurant group, renowned for its Michelin starred modern Chinese cuisine. Nick also acted as Finance Director of the Institute of Directors in for three years, based in Pall Mall.

In 2020, he took a brave (and admirable) step and left the world of finance to become a Maths teacher at a comprehensive school in Wembley. While he was on the staff, the school improved its Ofsted status from Good to Outstanding.

In essence, Nick was an extremely warm person, with a great sense of humour and who invariably met others with a wide and affable smile. It came as little surprise to learn that he had applied to become a private Secretary to Prince Charles (as he was) at Kensington Palace but sadly was placed second when the appointment was made. The role would have perfectly suited all Nick's talents, a consummate professional, loyal and completely trustworthy.

Unfortunately, Nick was diagnosed with cancer earlier this year, which did not respond to treatment. He leaves behind his wife, Melissa, and two sons, Finlo and Tomas. His family always came first: in his early days as a father he would rather miss playing in order to focus on them. It may sound trite in these circumstances but in Nick's case it can be genuinely said that he is missed by so many and not only in the Club, which was so fortunate to have him as one of their number.

#### **Next edition**

All being well, the next Newsletter will report on the conclusion of the 2024-25 season.

If you have any news or comment, please direct it to [disvelwell@gmail.com](mailto:disvelwell@gmail.com)

**And festive greetings to those celebrating....**

