

## **Hampstead & Westminster Hockey Club**

Newsletter January 2026

*Keeping Vice Presidents and Friends in the know*

### **Welcome**

This is the forty sixth Newsletter in the current format. It covers the mid-point of the 2025-26 season. The contents are briefer, with the omission of London Area league tables following reader observations. The National League Premier Division is askew (or, rather, condensed following a three month hiatus) with the requirement to accommodate indoor hockey and international calls on players and the World Cup qualification matches that eat into March 2026. The problem is particularly acute for the Women's 1<sup>st</sup> XI who also have European hockey to provide for at Easter.

### **Highlights**

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

- Earl Griffith succeeds Oz Rankin as Club Chairman
- Richard Chapman pens a tribute to the recently departed Chris Elliott
- Club players Holly Hunt, Miriam Pritchard and James Oates represent England in the FIH Pro League 2025-26
- The Women's 1<sup>st</sup> XI is in second position in the Premier Division at the end of the first round of this season's campaign
- The Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI is fourth in the Premier Division, with eight points secured against the usual top four sides (compared with last season's nil points against the same opponents)
- The Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI results include a 2-0 win against Old Georgians on their pitch, the first time in four seasons that OG has not scored a goal in league fixtures and a spectacular 5-4 win at Holcombe, having trailed 1-4 at half time
- Matt Guise-Brown retires from first team hockey, to enjoy playing for the Men's 2<sup>nd</sup> XI (and still demonstrating his renown at short corners)
- Damon Steffens is the second highest goalscorer in the Men's Premier Division
- The Women's 2<sup>nd</sup> XI lead the National League Conference East
- The Men's 2<sup>nd</sup> XI are in second place in the equivalent Conference East
- The Men's 3<sup>rd</sup> XI and Spaniards XI lead their divisions in the London Area
- The Men's indoor Premier Division tournament starts on 10 January 2026
- Photographer Max Flego returns to PRG after 20 years

### **Tributes**

#### **Chris Elliott 1946 - 2025**

Richard Chapman writes:

Chris Elliott died peacefully on 18 December 2025 after a long period during which the medical profession were sadly not able to identify the reasons for his failing health.

Chris played his college hockey in Edinburgh and his early club hockey at Upminster but in the 1980s, living,, as he did, first in Muswell Hill and then in Crouch End, he joined Hampstead HC at its nearby Tivoli Road ground. At that time he worked for Allied Breweries whose offices were in Muswell Hill.

It was not long before Chris was running the Vets XI, bolstered now by a few fellow Upminster players and under his command the team had a glorious run of years both at home and abroad. Indeed the touring side was unbeaten in Europe for many years, a period which covered both Spring and Autumn expeditions, mainly to Germany, France and Belgium, often with some rounds of golf included en route. The Vets touring blazers originated at this time as a distinctive touring dress and were well received wherever the team went. Now these blazers have become more widely worn as a distinctive

apparel for travelling supporters as the club continues to benefit from the recent successes of our 1st XIs.

Chris's match admin skills were legendary and his little black book (actually a scrappy bit of folded A4) was often in action to draft in players if the side was short. This was especially the case for the Wednesday evening Vets games in the Sevenoaks area - venues not easily accessible for North Londoners but ones where the competition was fierce and enjoyable.

On the pitch Chris played nowhere else but the right wing - he accepted his skills were average although as a consequence he was one of the very few whose hockey improved over the years. But any lack of prowess at the game was far outweighed by twin assets - his organisational ability and his *clubbability* with both opposition and teammates. Throughout Vets hockey in the London area and beyond, Chris was known to all.

After leaving the beer trade, which provided his essential grounding in the important after game libations, Chris worked in head hunting and subsequently as a voice over practitioner. The latter played well to his skill set because his vocal chords were more powerful than most and his voice carried most distinctively. At tournament dinners our foreign hosts were often regaled with jokes that could have caused international friction but were carried off without offence in true Elliott style.

HWHC has lost a true club man.

*Chris's funeral will be held in January 2026 in North London: the details are yet to be confirmed.*

## **Chairmanship**

Osman Rankin has stepped down as Club Chairman. Oz has been a stalwart of the club for many years—serving not only as Chairman but also as Club Captain, youth coach, umpire, and a tireless supporter of everything HWHC related. His leadership left an indelible mark across all parts of the club. From guiding the men's team to their historic national title in 2019, to his regular appearances on the umpiring rota, to coaching the next generation in our youth section and procuring and operating the recently installed Morley Pecker scoreboard, Oz has exemplified the spirit of service and community that lies at the heart of the club. His contribution was formally recognised as far back as 2005, when he was awarded the Woodpecker Tankard, first presented in 1969 by the President on the recommendation of the Committee to individuals whose overall contribution to the club that season by far exceeded that of others. Oz's early recognition is reflected in the consistency of the same dedication over two decades. His skill and drive, for example, to bring about the delivery of the first replacement of the water-based pitch at PRG was astonishing.

Earl Griffith has agreed to be the new Chairman. Earl has already contributed greatly to the club both on and off the pitch—as a player and as a tireless fundraiser—and he brings invaluable professional experience that will serve the club well in this next phase.

## **Indoor Hockey**

The Premier Division, Division One and Division Two North & South leagues begin on 10-11 January 2026, taking place at several venues across the country.

In the Premier Division, each team will play the others in their league once over the course of two weekends. The top four teams from the Premier Division will qualify for the Super 6s Finals Day on Sunday 1 February 2026, while the bottom two teams will be relegated to Division One.

Old Georgians men and East Grinstead women are the reigning champions following their success in the finals in January 2025.

The Men's team represents the club in the Premier Division games taking place at Whitgift School, Haling Park Road, South Croydon CR2 6YT.

|                 |                                  |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| 10 January 2026 | Surbiton vs Hampstead 1030       |
|                 | Hampstead vs Old Georgians 1530  |
| 11 January 2026 | Hampstead vs East Grinstead 1100 |
|                 | Southgate vs Hampstead 1500      |
| 17 January 2026 | Wimbledon vs Hampstead 1230      |
|                 | Hampstead vs Oxted 1730          |
| 18 January 2026 | Hampstead vs Sevenoaks 1300      |
|                 | Holcombe vs Hampstead 1600       |

## Outdoor Hockey

### Women

#### Premier Division

Hampstead 3 East Grinstead 0  
Bowdon 0 Hampstead 1  
Hampstead 7 Clifton Robinsons 0  
Barnes 1 Hampstead 3  
Hampstead 2 Loughborough Students 2  
Hampstead 4 University of Durham 1  
Hampstead 2 University of Birmingham 1  
University of Nottingham 0 Hampstead 6  
Hampstead 1 Surbiton 2  
Wimbledon 0 Hampstead 1  
Hampstead 0 Reading 3

Once more under Dave Cooper's leadership the 1<sup>st</sup> XI began with a very encouraging win against a potentially awkward opponent in EG, a win after the long trapease to Cheshire to play Bowdon and a crushing seven unanswered goals against Clifton Robinsons at PRG. The two defeats were against Surbiton and Reading in the final match of the first phase (that had followed an impressive, hard won victory at Wimbledon).



HWHC kit still stands out: this is from the England Hockey Website

|    |                                       |    |   |   |    |    |    |     |           |
|----|---------------------------------------|----|---|---|----|----|----|-----|-----------|
| 1  | <b>Surbiton W1</b>                    | 11 | 9 | 2 | 0  | 47 | 11 | 36  | <b>29</b> |
| 2  | <b>Hampstead &amp; Westminster W1</b> | 11 | 8 | 1 | 2  | 30 | 10 | 20  | <b>25</b> |
| 3  | <b>East Grinstead W1</b>              | 11 | 8 | 1 | 2  | 24 | 16 | 8   | <b>25</b> |
| 4  | <b>Reading 1</b>                      | 11 | 6 | 2 | 3  | 22 | 14 | 8   | <b>20</b> |
| 5  | <b>Wimbledon W1</b>                   | 11 | 5 | 4 | 2  | 19 | 11 | 8   | <b>19</b> |
| 6  | <b>Durham University 1</b>            | 11 | 5 | 0 | 6  | 29 | 21 | 8   | <b>15</b> |
| 7  | <b>Loughborough Students W1</b>       | 11 | 4 | 3 | 4  | 17 | 24 | -7  | <b>15</b> |
| 8  | <b>University of Birmingham W1</b>    | 11 | 3 | 3 | 5  | 19 | 23 | -4  | <b>12</b> |
| 9  | <b>Bowdon 1</b>                       | 11 | 3 | 2 | 6  | 15 | 22 | -7  | <b>11</b> |
| 10 | <b>Clifton Robinsons 1</b>            | 11 | 2 | 2 | 7  | 16 | 28 | -12 | <b>8</b>  |
| 11 | <b>University of Nottingham 1</b>     | 11 | 1 | 2 | 8  | 13 | 46 | -33 | <b>5</b>  |
| 12 | <b>Barnes W1</b>                      | 11 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 12 | 37 | -25 | <b>3</b>  |

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

Old Georgians 1 Hampstead 3

Hampstead 1 Spencer 2 2

Barnes 2 0 Hampstead 5

Hampstead 2 Wimbledon 2 1

Hampstead 2 Old Loughtonians 3

Canterbury 1 Hampstead 4

London Wayfarers 2 Hampstead 2

Hampstead 2 Guildford 2 0

Wapping 0 Hampstead 1

Hampstead 1 Old Georgians 0

|    |                                       |    |   |   |   |    |    |     |           |
|----|---------------------------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----------|
| 1  | <b>Hampstead &amp; Westminster W2</b> | 10 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 23 | 10 | 13  | <b>22</b> |
| 2  | <b>Old Loughtonians 1</b>             | 10 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 23 | 12 | 11  | <b>21</b> |
| 3  | <b>Spencer W1</b>                     | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 18 | 14 | 4   | <b>20</b> |
| 4  | <b>London Wayfarers W1</b>            | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 18 | 15 | 3   | <b>18</b> |
| 5  | <b>Old Georgians 1</b>                | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 10 | 8  | 2   | <b>16</b> |
| 6  | <b>Wimbledon W2</b>                   | 10 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 16 | 15 | 1   | <b>12</b> |
| 7  | <b>Canterbury 1</b>                   | 10 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 12 | 20 | -8  | <b>9</b>  |
| 8  | <b>Guildford 2</b>                    | 10 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 12 | 21 | -9  | <b>8</b>  |
| 9  | <b>Barnes W2</b>                      | 10 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 13 | 23 | -10 | <b>8</b>  |
| 10 | <b>Wapping W1</b>                     | 10 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 8  | 15 | -7  | <b>5</b>  |

### Elsewhere in the Women's National League

Division 1 North Buckingham (25 points) Gloucester City (17) Sutton Coldfield (16)

Division 1 South Teddington (25) University of Exeter (25) Holcombe 17)

Conference West Cardiff & Met (23) Lansdown (21) Team Bath Buccaneers (20)

Conference Midlands University of Birmingham 2 (21) Leicester City (20) Cambridge City (20)  
 Conference North Alderley Edge (25) Bowdon 2 (25) Newcastle University (22)

*Men*

**Premier Division**

Hampstead 5 East Grinstead 2  
 Surbiton 4 Hampstead 1  
 Hampstead 2 Reading 2  
 Beeston 0 Hampstead 8  
 Old Georgians 0 Hampstead 2  
 Hampstead 7 Brooklands MU 2  
 Hampstead 1 Oxted 1  
 Holcombe 4 Hampstead 5  
 Hampstead 6 Cardiff & Met 0  
 Wimbledon 2 Hampstead 2  
 Hampstead 5 Southgate 2

|    |  |    |    |   |    |    |    |     |           |
|----|--|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----------|
| 1  | <b>Surbiton M1</b>                         | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0  | 57 | 13 | 44  | <b>33</b> |
| 2  | <b>Wimbledon M1</b>                        | 11 | 8  | 2 | 1  | 36 | 17 | 19  | <b>26</b> |
| 3  | <b>Old Georgians M1</b>                    | 11 | 8  | 1 | 2  | 51 | 8  | 43  | <b>25</b> |
| 4  | <b>Hampstead &amp; Westminster M1</b>      | 11 | 7  | 3 | 1  | 44 | 19 | 25  | <b>24</b> |
| 5  | <b>Holcombe M1</b>                         | 11 | 6  | 1 | 4  | 42 | 24 | 18  | <b>19</b> |
| 6  | <b>Oxted M1</b>                            | 11 | 3  | 4 | 4  | 28 | 39 | -11 | <b>13</b> |
| 7  | <b>East Grinstead M1</b>                   | 11 | 3  | 3 | 5  | 25 | 41 | -16 | <b>12</b> |
| 8  | <b>Reading</b>                             | 11 | 3  | 2 | 6  | 20 | 38 | -18 | <b>11</b> |
| 9  | <b>Cardiff &amp; Met</b>                   | 11 | 3  | 1 | 7  | 22 | 41 | -19 | <b>10</b> |
| 10 | <b>Southgate M1</b>                        | 11 | 2  | 2 | 7  | 12 | 39 | -27 | <b>8</b>  |
| 11 | <b>Brooklands Manchester University M1</b> | 11 | 1  | 2 | 8  | 21 | 51 | -30 | <b>5</b>  |
| 12 | <b>Beeston M1</b>                          | 11 | 0  | 1 | 10 | 11 | 39 | -28 | <b>1</b>  |

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

Spencer 2 Hampstead 4  
 Hampstead 4 Bromley & Beckenham 4  
 London Wayfarers 3 Hampstead 1  
 Hampstead 5 Wimbledon 2 3  
 Hampstead 4 Southgate 2 1  
 Holcombe 2 3 Hampstead 4  
 Brighton & Hove 4 Hampstead 4  
 Hampstead 7 Chelmsford 3  
 Old Cranleigh 2 Hampstead 2  
 Hampstead 2 Spencer 5

|    |                            |    |   |   |   |    |    |     |    |
|----|----------------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|----|
| 1  | London Wayfarers M1        | 10 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 26 | 17 | 9   | 21 |
| 2  | Hampstead & Westminster M2 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 37 | 30 | 7   | 18 |
| 3  | Old Cranleighan M1         | 10 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 34 | 22 | 12  | 17 |
| 4  | Holcombe 2                 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 37 | 28 | 9   | 17 |
| 5  | Spencer M1                 | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 28 | 24 | 4   | 16 |
| 6  | Chelmsford 1               | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 21 | 30 | -9  | 13 |
| 7  | Southgate M2               | 10 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 18 | 20 | -2  | 12 |
| 8  | Bromley & Beckenham M1     | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 20 | 25 | -5  | 11 |
| 9  | Wimbledon M2               | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 23 | 26 | -3  | 10 |
| 10 | Brighton & Hove            | 10 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 15 | 37 | -22 | 5  |

### 2<sup>nd</sup> XI fixtures

|                  |                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 31 January 2026  | Bromley & Beckenham (a) 1530h |
| 7 February 2026  | London Wayfarers (h) 1800     |
| 21 February 2026 | Wimbledon 2 (a) 1700          |
| 28 February 2026 | Southgate 2 (a) 1330          |
| 8 March 2026     | Holcombe 2 (h) 1600           |
| 15 March 2026    | Brighton & Hove (h) 1600      |
| 21 March 2026    | Chelmsford (a) 1800           |
| 29 March 2026    | Old Cranleighan (h) 1400      |

### Elsewhere in the Men's National League

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Division 1 North    | Repton (26 points) Bowdon (25) Loughborough Students (19) |
| Division 1 South    | University of Exeter (22) Guildford (21) Sevenoaks (20)   |
| Conference West     | Clifton Robinsons (24) Marlow (19) Chichester (18)        |
| Conference Midlands | Leek (26) Oxford Hawks (20) Norwich City (16)             |
| Conference North    | Leeds (28) Neston (23) Lindum (21)                        |

### England Hockey: London Area



#### London Men's Division 2 South

Hampstead's 3<sup>rd</sup> XI leads the Division with nine wins, one draw and one loss, having conceded only nine goals and are two points ahead of Spencer 3 in second place.

#### London Men's Division 2 North

Hampstead's 4<sup>th</sup> XI and Zak Hond XI are in ninth and tenth places, respectively, both with nine points, two ahead of the teams in eleventh and twelfth positions. The 4<sup>th</sup> XI has won three and the Zaks have had two wins and three draws.

#### **London Men's Division 4 North West**

Hampstead's Thirsts XI sits in fourth place with 20 points behind Harrow 1<sup>st</sup> XI, PHC Chiswick 3<sup>rd</sup> XI and West Hampstead 4<sup>th</sup> XI.

#### **London Men's Division 5 North West**

Hampstead's Spaniards lead the Division by a point from Old Haberdashers' 1<sup>st</sup> XI after six wins, two draws and two defeats. The Colts XIs are placed sixth on seventeen points.

#### **London Women's Premier Division**

Hampstead's 3<sup>rd</sup> XI is ninth of twelve teams with eleven points from eleven matches.

#### **London Women's Division 1**

Hampstead's 4<sup>th</sup> XI is in eleventh place with seven points, ahead only of Wimbledon 3<sup>rd</sup> XI who are pointless after eleven matches.

#### **London Women's Division 2 North**

Hampstead's 5<sup>th</sup> XI is placed mid-table, in seventh spot, after four wins and six losses.

#### **London Women's Division 3 North**

Hampstead's 6<sup>th</sup> XI is another in eleventh place with five points, one ahead of last placed Richmond Ravens.

#### **London Women's Division 4 East**

Hampstead's 7<sup>th</sup> XI is in tenth place of twelve, six points adrift of Wimbledon's 6<sup>th</sup> XI in ninth.

#### **Masters Hockey**

##### ***South Masters Men O40 Premier Division***

Hampstead's Masters are at the foot of the table on goal difference from Epsom Embers on six points each. Only three points separate Guildford Pilgrims in fourth place.

##### ***South Masters Men O50 Premier Division***

Hampstead's Supervets are fourth in the Division, with twelve points from eight matches, having lost two and drawn three.

##### ***South Masters Men O60 Premier Division***

Hampstead's Grandmasters sit fifth at the break, with nineteen points (after six wins), four points behind the leaders, Bromley & Beckenham. One point separates the top four teams.

#### **FIH Pro League**



Pakistan were promoted through the FIH Hockey Nations Cup played in Malaysia earlier this year, Although New Zealand won that event against Pakistan in the final, Hockey NZ later indicated that they would not proceed with the invitation to join the Pro league in 2025-26. As stipulated in regulations, the FIH extended an invitation to Pakistan, who confirmed their participation. They replace Ireland, who were relegated after their ninth place finish in 2024-25.

## Women

Ireland joined the 2025-26 Pro League for the first time, having secured promotion through the Hockey Nations Cup held in Chile earlier in the season. They were beaten in the final by New Zealand but in the same manner as the men (*above*), Hockey NZ later indicated that they would not proceed with the invitation to join in 2025-26. As stipulated in regulations, the FIH extended an invitation to Ireland. India was relegated to the FIH Hockey Nations Cup.








### Men's Results

#### Dublin

Germany 1 Belgium 4  
England 1 Germany 4  
Belgium 2 England 2 (2-3 s/o)  
Belgium 4 Germany 1  
Germany 1 England 4  
England 2 Belgium 3

#### Santiago del Estero, Argentina

Netherlands 5 Pakistan 2  
Argentina 1 Netherlands 1 (4-2 s/o)  
Argentina 3 Pakistan 2  
Pakistan 3 Netherlands 7  
Argentina 3 Netherlands 2  
Argentina 5 Pakistan 1

| # | Country   | Played | Wins | Draws | SO-Bonus | Losses | GF | GA | GD | Points |
|---|---|--------|------|-------|----------|--------|----|----|----|--------|
| 1 |  Argentina   | 4      | 3    | 1     | 1        | 0      | 12 | 6  | 6  | 11     |
| 2 |  Belgium     | 4      | 3    | 1     | 0        | 0      | 13 | 6  | 7  | 10     |
| 3 |  Netherlands | 4      | 2    | 1     | 0        | 1      | 15 | 9  | 6  | 7      |
| 4 |  England     | 4      | 1    | 1     | 1        | 2      | 9  | 10 | -1 | 5      |
| 5 |  Germany     | 4      | 1    | 0     | 0        | 3      | 7  | 13 | -6 | 3      |
| 6 |  Australia   | 0      | 0    | 0     | 0        | 0      | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0      |
| 7 |  India       | 0      | 0    | 0     | 0        | 0      | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0      |

#### Valencia

5 February 2026 Spain vs Netherlands  
6 February 2026 England vs Netherlands  
7 February 2026 Spain vs England  
8 February 2026 Spain vs Netherlands  
9 February 2026 Netherlands vs England  
10 February 2026 Spain vs England

## Women's Results

### *Dublin*

England 0 Belgium 3

Ireland 2 Belgium 2

Ireland 2 England 1 (4-3 s/o)

Belgium 2 England 1

Ireland 1 Belgium 2

Ireland 1 England 2

### *Santiago del Estero, Argentina*

Germany 0 Netherlands 2










Argentina 1 Germany 0

Argentina 0 Netherlands 4

Netherlands 5 Germany 1

Argentina 1 Germany 1 (5-4 s/o)

Argentina 0 Netherlands 0

| # | Country  | Played | Wins | Draws | SO-Bonus | Losses | GF | GA | GD | Points |
|---|--|--------|------|-------|----------|--------|----|----|----|--------|
| 1 |  Belgium      | 4      | 4    | 0     | 0        | 0      | 9  | 3  | 6  | 12     |
| 2 |  Netherlands | 3      | 3    | 0     | 0        | 0      | 11 | 1  | 10 | 9      |
| 3 |  Argentina  | 3      | 1    | 1     | 1        | 1      | 2  | 5  | -3 | 5      |
| 4 |  England    | 4      | 1    | 1     | 0        | 2      | 4  | 7  | -3 | 4      |
| 5 |  Ireland    | 4      | 0    | 1     | 1        | 3      | 4  | 7  | -3 | 2      |
| 6 |  Germany    | 4      | 0    | 1     | 0        | 3      | 2  | 9  | -7 | 1      |
| 7 |  Australia  | 0      | 0    | 0     | 0        | 0      | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0      |
| 8 |  China      | 0      | 0    | 0     | 0        | 0      | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0      |
| 9 |  Spain      | 0      | 0    | 0     | 0        | 0      | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0      |

### *Yunfu Education Park, China*

5 February 2026

China vs Netherlands

6 February 2026

England vs Netherlands

7 February 2026

China vs England

8 February 2026

China vs Netherlands

9 February 2026

Netherlands vs England

10 February 2026

China vs England

### *Valencia*

5 February 2026

Spain vs Belgium

6 February 2026

Germany vs Belgium

7 February 2026

Spain vs Germany

8 February 2026

Spain vs Belgium

9 February 2026      Belgium vs Germany  
10 February 2026      Spain vs Germany

### World Cup Qualification

Santiago (Chile) Ismailia (Egypt) and Hyderabad (India) will host the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026 Qualifiers, which represent the final stage of qualification for the World Cup in Belgium and the Netherlands from 15-30 August 2026.

#### *Already qualified*

MEN

Belgium, Netherlands, Argentina, Germany, India, New Zealand and South Africa

WOMEN

Belgium, Netherlands, United States, Spain, New Zealand, China and South Africa

#### *Seeking qualification*

MEN

Canada, Chile, United States, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Austria, England, France, Poland, China, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, Egypt and Pakistan.

WOMEN

Canada, Chile, Uruguay, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Wales, England, France, Ireland, Scotland, Australia, India, Japan, Malaysia and South Korea.

#### *Venues*

Santiago, Chile (28 February – 8 March 2026)

- *Women*: Australia, Japan, Ireland, Chile, France, Canada, Malaysia and Switzerland
- *Men*: France, Ireland, Korea, Wales, Scotland, Canada, Poland and Chile

Hyderabad, Telangana, India (8 – 14 March 2026)

- *Women*: England, India, Scotland, Korea, Italy, Uruguay, Wales and Austria

Ismailia, Egypt (1 – 7 March 2026)

- *Men*: England, Malaysia, Pakistan, Egypt, Japan, Austria, China and United States

### Yesteryear

A few snippets from the press (and not necessarily club related) at the start of the year.

#### [Rare hockey during the First World War - and played at PRG...](#)

16 January 1916

##### *The Referee*

Yesterday afternoon, the Polytechnic Ladies Hockey Club defeated Burlington at the Paddington Recreation Ground by four goals to one. Miss Lane scored all the goals for the winners.

#### [Swearing on the pitch....](#)

6 January 1926

##### *Westminster Gazette*

The bad language of women on the hockey field is deplored by a writer in the *Hockey Field*, the official organ of the All-England Women's Hockey Association. "The practice of using bad language," says the writer, "is insinuating itself into clubs in many parts of the country, and even into county teams. It is a foolish habit which must be checked at once, for such lapses are lowering to the prestige of the Association, which for 30 years has had an honourable career, usually hid by anything which could be called offensive." Many clubs are up in arms against the charge and an inquiry by the *Westminster Gazette* among the secretaries of various women's hockey clubs failed to reveal any complaints either

against members or opponents. "Bother" and "blow" were suggested at the possible expletives employed. One secretary said that when a hockey player misses a ball she has to run after it and has no time to swear. On the other hand, "everyone swears at golf."

[Marjorie Pollard again demonstrates her unparalleled prowess...](#)

6 January 1936

*Daily Mirror*

Playing for Northamptonshire against Nottinghamshire in a hockey match at Ramsgate on Saturday, Miss Marjorie Pollard achieved the feat of scoring all Northamptonshire's nine goals. Their rivals were unable to score. Miss Pollard is England's most famous forward and is, in hockey, comparable with Miss Joyce Wethered in golf and Mrs Helen Wills Moody in lawn tennis. She is a model for all young players; her speed and accuracy are uncanny. Miss Pollard had the highest number of goals in the Midlands tournament, scoring nineteen during the week.

[Hampstead's former Welsh captain, Benjamin Lampard Vachell takes on his devoted University...](#)

7 January 1936

*London Evening News*

Hockey Test For Cambridge

I hear from B G Lampard Vachell that he is collecting a strong eleven to meet Cambridge University at hockey on January 13. Vachell will be remembered as the former Welsh captain. He has had promises from W P Phillips, L T Rowan and E S Hoare, all English caps and from F R Brown, the Cambridge cricket and hockey Blue. Vachell has great hopes of repeating his victory of last year.

[The BromBeck relationship, as post War hockey revives...](#)

3 January 1946

*London Evening News*

Bromley Hockey Club, whose jubilee was celebrated in 1938, will restart on Saturday. For the first half of the season Bromley have been combining with Beckenham but now they have sufficient support to run as a separate team.

[Smaller clubs can compete...](#)

6 January 1956

*Wood Green and Southgate Weekly Herald*

With little support from the rest of the Southgate forwards, Broadley, centre forward, gave Southgate Hockey Club their 6-3 away victory over Lensbury by scoring five of the goals himself. Lensbury are a side which may lack some of the hockey talents but lack very little in the way of keenness and on a sticky pitch on Saturday their firm hitting and sound stopping showed up some of their more distinguished rivals in the Southgate side.

[Contriving a result after bad weather...](#)

13 January 1966

*Birmingham Daily Post*

Corners may decide in men's final

The Midland final of the county hockey championship between Derbyshire and Staffordshire, due to be played at Chesterfield on Saturday, was postponed for the third time because the ground was waterlogged. The match will now be played at Derby on Wednesday, January 12. As the winners will be at home to Essex in the semi-final on January 15, the match on the 12th must produce a result. Two periods of extra time will be played if necessary. If these fail to produce a result, the match will be decided on the basis of three points for an unconverted penalty stroke, two for a penalty corner and one for a corner, all such points being aggregated.

[A very brief recollection of Imran Sherwani, who sadly died on 28 November 2025...](#)

7 January 1986

*Daily Express*

England include new caps Imran Sherwani of Slough and Bromley's Darren Willis in their squad for the home countries indoor hockey championship at Crystal Palace on Friday and Saturday.

[Rob Thompson's exploits shortly before joining Hampstead...](#)

5 January 1996

*Richmond Informer*

Hounslow Hockey Club captain Robert Thompson continued his excellent form since his return from injury by scoring three goals with the Great Britain squad in Egypt before Christmas. Having not played - missing two club games and two internationals - since injuring his ankle after opening the scoring in Great Britain's 4-2 home win over Argentina on 23 November, Thompson again scored an opening goal in the 5-2 win over EgyptAir on December 18. Two days later, he turned provider against the full Egypt national side when robbing a defender of the ball with just three minutes remaining to set up Chris Mayer the second goal in a 2-0 victory. In the return game the next day, Thompson was feeling under the weather and did not start. But within 30 seconds of coming on as a substitute in the 20th minute he turned in a Mayer long corner to put Great Britain 2-1 ahead and then clinched the game with the second open play goal in 58th minute, following good work by his Hounslow teammate, Guy Fordham.

### Logan and Shoveller

Research carried out in September 2025 to explain the background of the Club to recent joiners to Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI squad unearthed the following, reproduced here despite being outside the usual calendar intervals adopted for these Newsletters.

The two players who advanced Hampstead's early reputation were Gerald Logan and Stanley Shoveller. They both attended Queen Elizabeth's College, Kingston that became Kingston Grammar School. Logan and Shoveller played for the school for three years. The School's record in the 1897-98 season was remarkable and can in large part be attributed to the goal scoring achievements of Logan and Shoveller. In matches predominantly against club sides in the area (and often first elevens):

|                  |                            |   |      |                     |
|------------------|----------------------------|---|------|---------------------|
| 6 November 1897  | Waldergrave Park           | W | 8-3  | Logan 2 Shoveller 4 |
| 10 November 1897 | Blackheath School          | W | 8-1  | Logan 3 Shoveller 3 |
| 13 November 1897 | Wimbledon 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | W | 6-0  | Logan 2 Shoveller 1 |
| 20 November 1897 | Dorking                    | W | 13-1 | Logan 7 Shoveller 4 |
| 1 December 1897  | Finchley                   | W | 5-2  | Logan 2 Shoveller 1 |
| 4 December 1897  | Ilford                     | W | 5-3  | Logan 1 Shoveller 2 |
| 11 December 1897 | Hawks                      | W | 5-3  | Logan 2 Shoveller 2 |
| 27 December 1897 | Cheshunt                   | W | 11-2 | Logan 6 Shoveller 4 |
| 15 January 1898  | Cheshunt                   | L | 4-8  | Logan 2 Shoveller 2 |
| 22 January 1898  | Blackheath 2 <sup>nd</sup> | D | 1-1  | Logan 1             |
| 29 January 1898  | Surbiton 2 <sup>nd</sup>   | W | 4-2  | Logan 3             |
| 5 February 1898  | Royal Observatory          | L | 4-5  | [no details]        |
| 12 February 1898 | Staines                    | W | 7-5  | Logan 5 Shoveller 2 |
| 26 February 1898 | Crystal Palace             | W | 3-1  | Logan 2             |
| 12 March 1898    | Hampstead                  | W | 5-3  | Logan 2 Shoveller 2 |

Staines included at least three internationals and were leading 3-1 at half time. Their team was the equivalent of a Premier Division club of today. The 7-5 win meant that the School retained its unbeaten record on its own ground.

In an interview in March 1914, Stanley Shoveller paid Logan a true compliment. He recounted that the team in which he played at Queen Elizabeth College was “wonderfully good” and that “Gerald Logan was then the star performer.” Asked about his own “rather unique, novel style of play”, Shoveller replied that “as far as my hockey at school is concerned, I probably unconsciously followed Gerald Logan's style”.

The pair developed their striking partnership that served Hampstead, Surrey, the South and eventually England very well. It culminated in the 1908 Olympic Games, in which they both won gold medals. Between them they scored one half of England's total of 24 goals in the tournament, Shoveller scoring seven and Logan managing five.

In total, Logan played for England nine times (when few international games were played) and he scored in all but one, including a hat trick against Ireland in October 1908.

He was renowned for his dribbling skills and pace. He was a little mercurial in temperament. He did not like cold weather and gained a pseudonym as the Peevish Player or abbreviated *The Peever*. He emigrated, by ship, to what is now Malaysia, in April 1914, with a memento from the Club of a value today of just under £500.

### **Other Club Stuff**

[120 years ago](#)

Tuesday, 16 January 1906

At the Committee Meeting held at the Sports Club St James's Square, it is decided that owing to Easter again falling so late, there would not be a tour this season.

[90 years ago](#)

Thursday, 2 January 1936

The Secretary, Ken Ingledew, reads a letter to the Committee in which Mr de Lissa agreed to waive his proposed new clause in the Lease [of the ground] giving the Landlord the right to cancel matches.

[70 years ago](#)

Monday, 2 January 1956

At the Committee meeting, five teams were selected to play against Schoolmasters, City of London College 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> XI's and Old Cranleighians 4<sup>th</sup> XI.

Monday, 9 January 1956

At the Committee Meeting it was agreed that Mr C L Bown should take a photograph of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI for publication in the *Hampstead and Highgate Express* at the end of the month.

[60 years ago](#)

Sunday, 7 January 1966

An apology from Tulse Hill for the late arrival of their 2<sup>nd</sup> XI is accepted.

[55 years ago](#)

Saturday, 2 January 1971

The unbeaten 3<sup>rd</sup> XI remove their boots at half-time against Wimbledon, being 2-0 down on a frozen pitch and recover to draw 2-2.

Thursday, 7 January 1971

Peter Boizot is appointed by the General Committee to be House Member responsible for the clubhouse (changing rooms, showers, teas, bar and social functions and liaison

with the Hornsey Club, in relation to such matters).

### Max Flego

Max kindly agreed to bring his camera in order to fulfil a League requirement for photographs in the Premier Division for the first phase of the season. Frustratingly, this is despite the poor light available for evening games in winter.

First, a squad photograph...



Captain Rupert Shipperley



Coach Danny Newcombe



Assistant Coach Marc Edwards



James Oates



Jared Panchia



Tim Cross

**Next edition**

All being well, the next Newsletter will report on the conclusion of the 2025-26 season. If you have any news or comment, please direct it to [disvelwell@gmail.com](mailto:disvelwell@gmail.com)