

WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CHAT

3

CLUB COPY

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PATTERSON



With Compliments

WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CLUB

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Compiled, Arranged and Edited by GEORGE DEACOCK, Hon. Team and Match Sec., W.H.F.C.

[December 1936.

Straight to the Point!

YOU will remember our November issue started off with a somewhat flippant article concerning the goodwill and fellowship that had already sprung up as a result of our "get together" movement.

Whereas there were some who thought the writer a fit and immediate proposition for an "inside" occupation, there were others who accepted it as a bit of harmless fun from the pen of one who has been barmy from birth. As it has never been possible to please everybody, said gentleman with "nothing upstairs" thanks to those who smiled and meant it, whilst his reply to those who smiled and didn't mean it is exactly the same as Gladstone's in 1890.

With a view to playing for safety and keeping an eye on the jolly old ball, we will keep to the straight and narrow for this issue, especially as it reaches you somewhere near the start of the Festive Season. That reminds us and before we forget—Winchmore Hill Football Club sends warm greetings to all players and officials of S.A.L., Nemean, and all other Soccer Clubs, and its Management Committee couples with this wish the names of all its own Vice-

Presidents, Honorary Members, Players and any one else inadvertently omitted and wishes everybody a really happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

We have received acknowledgment of our November issue from quite a lot more individuals and Clubs and take this opportunity to thank them very much. One Club even went so far as to phone our Editor and Printer for an idea of the cost and we learn at this late stage he will possibly be sufficiently recovered by December 25th to enjoy the greetings we have extended to all.

The Games.

The Club has done very well indeed during November and everyone agrees the fine spirit, the keenness and generally friendly atmosphere that positively smells out Winchmore Hill way, is mainly the result of the serious training in which most playing members continue to indulge. Why should training accomplish such extraordinary optimism? The answer is so simple as almost to amount to a questioning of your intelligence, nevertheless, here it is :

A Side that trains is fit not fat ;

It lasts the pace much longer,
Lean and keen, it's quickly seen,
It goes from strong to stronger.

That, we think, sums up the position, especially in regard to the first eleven who train religiously to a man. Now look at this and looking, remember that each of these games except one was settled during the last twenty minutes.

1st XI. November 7th, away to Old Stationers, undefeated and a very good side indeed. Half-time, Old Stationers 0, Winchmore Hill 1, a lucky goal and really nothing to choose between the two sides. Result, Old Stationers 0, Winchmore Hill 2.

Nothing in it up to half way through the second half and then the Hill left Stationers stationary.

November 14th, at home to Old Owens in the A.F.A. Senior Cup. Another good side with 14 goals from its previous two matches. Result with twenty minutes to go, Winchmore Hill 1, Old Owens 0. Result, Winchmore Hill 4, Old Owens 0. By the way, our Claude performed his second hat trick in 3 weeks, not bad, not bad.

One of these Saturdays we're going to get a walloping and then some smart Alec will start asking funny questions, but what do we care till we get it and what do we care after we've got it.

November 21st, away to Great Western Railway,

The one exception referred to, always taking the largest share of the game, the Hill could do little right in this Middlesex Senior Cup match on the G.W.R. ground, not a man played anything like his proper game and we

after they had drawn level a few minutes were perhaps fortunate to hold the home side before time at 2 goals all. We lived to fight again the replay being dated for Saturday, December 5th, on the home ground.

November 28th, at home to Old Reptonians in the first round proper of the A.F.A. Senior Cup.

Following the previous week's indifferent show, there were doubts of our ability to hold the Reptiles or is it Reptonians? Not only did 90 minutes prove these fears to be groundless but our boys went to the top of the class again, the result of a fine display that put them into the second round by 4 clear goals without reply.

The 2nd XI, were at home on November 7th to Keysign Sports Club 1st XI in the Middlesex Junior Cup. Our lads played very well indeed and were quite satisfied they put up a good show. Keysign had too many big guns and in spite of our second string's sterling show, they passed out with honours, the score against them being 4 goals to 1.

November 14th. Tragedy away to Old Stationers. Leading 2 goals to 1 with twenty minutes to go. Alec Cooper crocks a leg, the side cracks and Stationers grab both points with six more goals in twenty minutes to win 7 goals to 2. The Old Boys' reserves are a fine chip off the first XI block and it needs eleven sound men to hold 'em. Ten couldn't do it but let's say this quietly—we have yet to see one or two second eleven faces on Tuesdays and Thursdays when we do the stuff about which we are making such a song,—IF IF'S WERE BUT'S AND BUT'S WERE BIFFS

November 21st, Highgate at home. An unlucky day this, Allan Lennard wired his

inability to get back from the North of England and the side had to be reshuffled at the last moment. It failed to do the trick and Highgate snapped up both points by a single goal win, although the Hill had by far the best of the game.

November 28th found the Reserves without a game and most members of the side learned something by watching the 1st XI cake walk the Cup game with old Reptonians already referred to.

The 3rd XI, November 7th, at home to Lensbury and Britannic House. A case of that's Winchmore Hill that was, and the biter bit. Result, Winchmore Hill 5, Lensbury and Britannic House 1.

November 14th, friendly away with Marconi Athletic second eleven. The Hill put a kink in their aerial alright with an easy win by 5 goals to nil.

November 21st. Another good result in spite of an adverse score of two goals to nil. The occasion, an A.F.A. Minor Cup game against Nunhead the Cup holders on their ground.

To lose by only two goals to this side, actually puts our 3rd XI lads in the sun. November 28th at home to Aquarius for Nemean points and another fine win by 7 goals to 2.

The visitors, whom everyone knows as the Metropolitan Water Board, failed to keep afloat and were sunk with all hands. The ducks on the New River which runs through our ground and who live there by permission of the M.W.B., were distinctly audible in their smiles, Donald in particular.

4th XI, November 7th, friendly away with

Southgate Wanderers Reserves. Result, Wanderers 1, Winchmore Hill 3.

November 14th, Nemean League at home to another hard or should I say harder training side, Carshalton. Result, Winchmore Hill 2, Carshalton 5. Come along some of you 4th XI blokes. What about a leaf out of your 1st XI book and very likely two out of Carshalton's on January 16th when you visit them for (?) revenge.

November 21st, away to Merton, proved a sad day, the home team winning by 9 goals to 3. The only excuse offered, is the calls from the other sides subsequent to an unreasonable number of cries off and the consequent very weak and unrepresentative side, it was necessary to field.

November 28th, away to Norsemen, provided a very equal game, which the Norsemen won close on time by virtue of a penalty, the score being 3 goals to 2.

The 5th XI played only once in November on the 21st at home with Highgate 4th XI. Result, Winchmore Hill 0, Highgate 13.

This result sounds terrible, but really means nothing. Our available strength was reduced to six youngsters and had it not been for the good sporting spirit of the visitors, who transferred two of their number without fee, the game could never have been started.

We tender apologies to Highgate and also to our six lads, that turned out and can only regret that so many "sorry can't play," members are good enough for the higher elevens when they do condescend. These added to those genuinely unable by reason of injuries and so forth, were the cause of our general nightmare of Saturday, November 21st.

We have taken the opportunity to drop a line of explanation to those we look upon as 5th XI 'ites and are happy to know that even those who do not get a game every week are still sportsmen.



PLEASE TEACHER.

On November 17th, we enjoyed a lecture in the Club lounge with Mr. F. E. (Frank) Smith in the Chair. Twenty-one enthusiasts turned up on this filthy night (all the 1st XI) and were glad they did so. Frank had a book with him on Football, written by the Rev. K. R. G. Hunt and he used excerpts from it as a means for general discussion on such tactics as "The need of two feet," "Getting over the ball when kicking," "Confidence in heading and the right place to use for heading," "Trapping and making it clean" (the trap not the ball), "Dribbling and overdoing it, when to and when not to and the need for dribbling ahead and not across or parallel with the ground," "Using both the inside and the outside of both feet" (not at the same time we hope), "Poise and balance so as to leave the attacker behind," and a host of other most interesting things. K. R. G. must have been a footballer to be able to write of all these things.

The 1st XI were taken for general discussion, as a side and then individually and it was really nice to find the boys accepting criticism with as much equanimity as praise, so much so that our goal-keeper, who is nearly 40 (years, not chest) finds he may yet become a goal-keeper, that is.

Altogether a most interesting evening, very ably conducted by Frank and we hope the forerunner of many more to come.

SOCIETY NEWS.

A very rubicund and portly gentleman entered the home team dressing room on the occasion of the recent home game against Old Owens and we hasten to express apologies that his altered appearance was alone the reason for non-recognition. Two guesses ladies and gentlemen—

(1) Teddy Brown?

(2) Charles Laughton?

No, both wrong, it was our old war horse,
DICK PLATT.



SATURDAY EVENINGS.

The 1st XI lads have been taking advantage of the fact that recent away games have taken place in the region of the North Circular Road and they have dropped in each Saturday evening at "Ye Olde Welsh Harp," Hendon, there to partake of a sumptuous feed with a due quantity of liquid refreshment. Mine Host, Mr. Macaire—not Beaucaire, has done us proud and we take this opportunity of thanking him very much, not only for the eats, but especially for the nice clean serviettes and the Spring Onions.

Some very serious if not consistently accurate snooker (six a side) has helped to complete a fitting finish to several hard Saturdays.

(The above with due apologies and promises of—'never again' to sundry wives and sweethearts.)



PERSONALITY PARS.

Owing to our Editor's indisposition, this month's Personality Par has had to be held over. He is sufficiently recovered however, to mention, that Fred Kenyon, our 1st XI and

very fine right back has already submitted particulars of his age, height, chest measurement and other details of universal interest, including the price of a return ticket to Paris for inclusion in our issue of November, 1957, the approximate date of his turn for recognition.

THE FOOTBALL DANCE.

The Winchmore Hill Cricket Club held a dance on Wednesday, November 18th at Royalty Hall, Southgate. The result was an outstanding and unqualified success entirely due to the sterling work of a very live Committee and the response of between 700 and 800 arms and legs that weaved patterns all over the floor.

The Football Club's dance takes place on Wednesday, February 24, 1937

and at least the same result is looked for. Roy Horne and his Band will again be in attendance, but this time with an extra instrumentalist, the Hall being so fine and large as to require increased collective effort in order to be heard all over the floor.

Please remember and book the date, Wednesday, February 24th, 1937, all particulars and tickets, 3/6 including refreshments, from among others.

Frank Smith,

"Wallasey,"

Hill Crest, N.21.

The Club sincerely regrets to announce the recent death of an old member in

Mr. F. G. (Freddie) Rogers,

Fred was a fine player for many years and played up to the age of 42 before retiring to the Vice-Presidents list.

Deepest sympathy and condolence is extended to Mrs. Rogers in her too early loss.

CRITICISM.

The art of criticising a football match is not easy; nor is a profound knowledge of it acquired casually or rapidly. Even Senior Wanglers find it difficult. Further, a good footballer knows far too little about the game ever to become a successful critic, for he wastes years of his life actually on the field of play, and cannot, therefore, appreciate what is going on. The critic, sitting at his ease in the stand, is able to tell any player, at any given moment, exactly what to do with the ball, and to point out to him, with such vigour as may seem to him necessary, what he hasn't done with it properly after he has done it. From which it will be apparent that critics are absolutely essential to the success of any side they may deign to support. Players don't like them, but who cares about the players?

To be a perfectly roaring success as a critic, you must take care to select a seat among those considerably younger than yourself (who should be, for preference, non-players) so that, although you may never have played football in your life, your remarks carry weight with those who assume that you gave up playing long before they were born. You thus acquire that reputation for tolerant broad-mindedness which is so liable to impress the young, particularly if your remarks are made in a tone of quiet but venerable deprecation.

At the outset, and to touch only lightly on the matter, as far as referees are concerned, they never do know even the rudiments of football, let alone the rules of the game, as is well recognised in critic circles; but, as they have gradually established for themselves a prerogative to take charge of the games, abuse may be flung at them without your running

the risk of being accused of favouritism towards either side.

Much the same remarks apply to your censure of the players, but be very careful on no account to praise any home player. If you do so, there is the chance of your being thought to hold biased opinions, and, as every good critic knows, impartiality is the keynote of perfect criticism. It is a truism that you may offer mild approval of the visiting team's tactics and individual efforts in an endeavour to draw the attention of the home players to their own shortcomings; and this will show those grouped around you—who are, ere this, listening open-mouthed and profiting by your penetrating criticisms—that you are capable of being at least courteous to the visiting side.

Whenever a goal is scored you should at once explain how it occurred. It is necessary to be quick about this, as once the ball is kicked off again your whole attention will be required in instantly pointing out to your apprentices the continuance of elementary mistakes by the players. Nevertheless, your criticism of goal-scoring must be very guarded. Bear in mind that a goal by the home team is invariably a uke, and has been brought about only by flake centre or a pass becoming unintentionally a shot. When the visitors score, however, lose no time in illustrating exactly how this might have been avoided by different tactics, positioning, or tackling on the part of the home defenders. If there weren't any defenders near enough to the successful scorer blame the goal-keeper; this is a simple matter, as it is merely necessary to assert, either that he ought or ought not to have come out, whichever he didn't do.

The following technical terms must be

memorised and used in the appropriate circumstances, the tone of voice and facial expression, as well as the gestures to add point to them, being varied by the critic as his experience dictates.

1. "Corner!" whenever the ball goes behind, no matter which side is affected. This will serve to illustrate the incompetence of referees if they award a goal-kick.
2. "Offside!" whenever a forward breaks away from a long pass. This will go further to show what poor simps referees are if they don't blow up for it.
3. "Dirty!" whenever a home player vigorously charges or tackles an opponent. If the referee allows a foul you then say promptly, "Quite right—even he saw it!" If he doesn't, you ask the powers at large why he isn't wearing glasses.
4. "Shoot!" whenever a player is within fifty yards of his opponents' goal. (This should be shouted loudly.) If he scores you say easily, "What did I say?—but I don't suppose he would have seen the opening himself." If he fails to score you remark, "Well, that beats creation—what a chance!" at the same time looking skywards.
5. "Hands!" whenever a home player clears the ball from a goal-mouth maul following a corner. Referees hardly ever allow this, so you're all right, and a shrug of the shoulders will be sufficient to convey your contempt.
6. "Penalty!" whenever a visiting forward slips or is charged in the home penalty area. Be careful about such a remark, though by this time none of the appren-

tices can see any good in the referee anyhow, so it doesn't much matter whether he awards it or not.

7. "Of course it (he) was (wasn't)!" whenever the referee blows for an infringement. By always disagreeing with the referee's decisions you are sure to keep right with the apprentices, who would now be perfectly prepared to back you in any court of law, if necessary, particularly if their elder brothers are playing, as they've got to get their own back somehow.

8. "Kick it!" whenever the ball comes to one of the home side. You are on safe ground here, as if the player mis-kicks you click your teeth and say. "Weak, sir—very weak!" If he kicks it cleanly you lie back in your seat and murmur, "Nice work, sir!" taking care to give the impression that the player must have heard your advice to him.

Such remarks as "Highest to-day!", "Keep it on the island!", "I'll go!", etc., being non-controversial, are beneath the dignity of the impartial critic, and should never be made.

From the foregoing, it will be obvious that a critic's job is by no means work for an ordinary intelligence. It needs a quick brain, a keen eye, undaunted courage to support one's own opinions, and a hide like a rhinoceros. The profession is open to all, but few really reach the top, and those only after prolonged study of the books written about the game. To have played it ruins your chances and warps your judgment, and no self-respecting critic would admit even to so much as ever having handled a football.

Everywhere.

"Now there's a general for you. One day you read about him in Mexico, the next in Cuba, and a day later you hear he's in Europe."

"To which general do you refer?"

"General Chaos."—*Wall St. Journal*.

The Place for Him.

A man was charged with assault and battery and brought before the judge.

Judge: "What is your name, occupation and what are you charged with?"

Prisoner: "My name is Sparks, I am an electrician, and I am charged with battery."

Judge (after recovering his equilibrium): "Officer, put this man in a dry cell."—*Calgary Farm and Ranch Review*.

Good Going.

A man, nearly eighty, walked twenty miles from his home to an adjoining town. When he reached his destination he was greeted with some astonishment by an acquaintance.

"You walked all the way?" exclaimed the acquaintance. "How did you get along?"

"Oh, first rate," the old man replied. "That is, I did till I came to that sign out there, 'Slow Down to Twenty-Five Miles Per Hour.' That kept me back a bit."—*Vancouver Province*.

The Cups.

The 1st XI have been drawn at home in the A.F.A. Senior Cup against Bristol University. The official date of this round is January 2nd. Owing to unforeseen circumstances, however, the Club is endeavouring to alter the date to either December 19th or January 9th.

In the Middlesex Senior Cup the 1st XI is drawn away to Crouch End Vampires. The official date for this round is January 9th.

Southern Amateur Football League.

SENIOR SECTION—Tables up to and including 31st OCTOBER 1936.

DIVISION 2.

NAME OF CLUB	PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS FOR	GOALS AGAINST	POINTS
Highgate	5	3	2	0	18	13	8
Old Stationers	6	4	0	2	17	14	8
Winchmore Hill	5	3	0	2	10	7	6
Norsemen	5	3	0	2	12	9	6
Old Parkonians	7	2	1	4	17	20	5
Old Lyonians	3	2	0	1	7	3	4
Old Grocers	6	2	0	4	13	13	4
National Provincial Bank	4	1	1	2	9	16	3
Alexandra Park	1	1	0	0	3	1	2
Crouch End Vampires	4	0	0	4	12	22	0

A Further Reminder

the evening of

Wednesday, February 24th, 1937

for

The Football Club Dance

at

ROYALTY HALL,

: WINCHMORE HILL ROAD :

TICKETS **3/6**

Including Refreshments