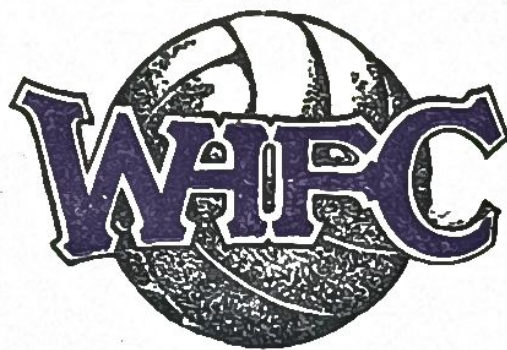


WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CHAT

FEB 31



With Compliments

WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CLUB

MEMBERS : SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE

President : Miss I. PAULIN

Ground :

FORDS GROVE
WINCHMORE HILL, N.21
Telephone : Palmers Green 1271



Hon Secretary :

J. S. GOWERS
12 SUFFOLK ROAD
PONDERS END, MIDDLESEX

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Compiled, Arranged and Edited by GEORGE DEACOCK.

[February 1937.

I was not expected that I would be sufficiently recovered to deal with the January issue of our "Chat," hence the Paragraph headed "Editorial" which succeeds this opening article. To my mind, my peculiar style of eulogistic effusiveness amounts generally to so much tripe, whilst the "editorial" para written up by Gus Gowers, smacking so much more of commonsense and so much more to the point than anything I could ever achieve, I propose to leave his heading as—Editorial.

I am glad to report myself recovering, but very sad that my trouble compels me to break my long association with the Club that I have always looked upon as my fourth child.

Unfortunately, my wife whilst recognizing and acknowledging the other three, refuses absolutely to have anything to do with this one, and her casting vote ordains that I remain the father of the real three at the expense of this mythical fourth. As a matter of fact, my medical advisers (note the posh plural), ordered me to give up business or football, and as I'm still a few pounds short of that first £10,000 saved, I decided to give up the latter.

I hope to continue my interest in the Club and the boys for whom I have the greatest regard and I look forward to better weather which will permit me to stand around to watch them doing their stuff. Apologies are due that this issue is so late in reaching you but as already stated, it was not at one time thought possible to issue it at all.

In conclusion, my kindest regards to all, especially those other long suffering idiots that do team and match secretarial work, and to whom I have for so many years corresponded or so often spoken to on the telephone.

Fortunately my return enables me to get the foregoing into this issue, but more fortunate is the opportunity to disclaim any pre knowledge of the paragraph headed by my name. As Editor I feel I ought to delete it, but I would be an idiot, wouldn't I?

George Deacock.

Editorial.

This monthly "Chat" was successfully launched by George Deacock in October, 1936, but after producing two numbers he fell ill and brought out the December issue under conditions of the utmost difficulty. Upon doctor's advice he has been forced to resign playing membership and all Club offices, and this his promising child has

been placed in less experienced hands. We thank George for his manifold services and apologise to readers for the absence of the pungent wit that has hitherto enlivened these pages. This month's Personality Column we devote to him and hope he will regard it as a small measure of our thanks and not as an obituary notice.

The New Year is a time when we take stock of ourselves—our past and future. We began 1936-7 with high hopes which have in part been fulfilled. Weekly training has been continued and some improvement manifest in Club spirit, but it has not been possible to run five elevens and it is with the deepest regret that we have seen our membership decline from 68 to 57 mainly due to our inability to provide games. The third eleven have proved most successful and have an excellent opportunity of winning Div. III Nemean League. They were unlucky to be dismissed by Nunhead in the Minor Cup, fielding their worst side on that day. The 1st occupy a position half-way in Div. II, and each of the three League games lost has been by a single goal. They did well to get into the Second Round A.F.A. Senior and are still in the Middlesex Senior. The 2nd XI have been most disappointing, and were dismissed at first asking from both Cups, while the 4th, after starting well, have recently suffered successive defeats due to weakened teams.

The total record is a moderate one but with such fine young players as Wheatley, Howson, Attwood and Falk on the edge of the 1st XI we can eagerly anticipate 1937.



1st XI.

On December 5th, G.W.R. were defeated at home 4—1. Only the opportunism of Jack Gowers who scored a hat-trick, relieved a very dull game and allowed the Hill to pass into the Third Round Middlesex A.F.A. Cup.

On December 12th the Hill played excellent football against Old Lionians at home. After being two down early in the game, the Hill outplayed the Old Boys and drew level. In the closing stages, played in complete darkness, the

visitors scored a third goal to secure both points. The Hill's defeat was most undeserved and it must seriously jeopardise any hopes of promotion.

On December 19th v. Old Parkonians at Ilford, the scores were level at 2—2 ten minutes from the end, but J. Gowers and Carr added three more goals in a fine rally to win 5—2. Foster gave an excellent display in goal.

The annual Boxing Day match resulted in a 4—0 win over Broomfield who were not as strongly represented as usual. Carr scored his third hat-trick this season.

On January 2nd, Bristol University put the Hill out of the A.F.A. Senior Cup by 6—3. The Hill were forced to make four changes, but were fortunate to have the assistance of G. Birch, who revealed glimpses of his 1934-5 form, especially in the beautiful header which brought his second goal. Though the Hill pressed for long spells, the fast 'Varsity forwards scored more goals. Reed, the visiting goalkeeper, who represented the English Universities v. German Universities on January 7th, played brilliantly, but Foster with severely injured hands allowed two soft goals. Diggins played a very dour game and Bacon gave another good display in spite of the "encouragement" of the fans.



2nd XI.

The 2nd XI under the new captaincy of Thomas played three League games :

Dec. 5th v. Old Parkonians (A)	2—2
Dec. 12 v. Old Parkonians (H.)	1—1
Dec. 19th v. Old Grocers (A)	0—0

This is a considerable improvement on their disastrous performance in November, when all games were lost, but it is still not entirely

satisfactory. The side possesses many good footballers and has been practically unchanged. Unfortunately, several of the stalwarts—Varley, Rutt, Thomas, Carter and G. Lennard, seem to have lost form together. Only 8 goals have been scored in the last nine games! Attwood has however, performed consistently with effective ease and is most unlucky not to command a place in the 1st XI. Howson, who has graduated from the 4th during this season, should add strength to the side.

On Boxing Day and January 2nd away friendlies were played with scratch teams against Southgate Wanderers (0—0) and Old Stationers (2—6).

3rd XI.

The 3rd lost friendlies against Polytechnic (A) on December 5th 2—5 and Southgate Olympic (H) on Boxing Day 2—4; but won both League home games, 8—2 v. Highgate on December 19th and 3—2 v. A.P. on January 2nd. The side has now secured 12 points from seven League matches and is probably the best 3rd XI the Club has ever had. Sam Flower continues to dazzle the opposition defence with two feet and a red head and owes much to the constructive work of W. E. Jacques and the centreing of G. Swan, who only plays for a few minutes each game, but does so brilliantly. Harry Hassall mows down anyone who happens to be in the centre of the field and R. Bullock defends strongly, though too often found among his forwards. The side is fortunate in its captain, Dudley Wright, who could play equally well for the 1st XI, selects his side with guile on Sunday morning and is the perfect after the game host.

4th XI.

The 4th lost all four games—two friendlies and two League games. On December 5th a little more forceful play against Norsemen would have transformed a 2—3 defeat into victory. Under normal conditions the game on December 12th v. L.N.E.R. (abandoned at 2—3), would have been very good, but fog reduced visibility so that the goal could not be seen outside the penalty area. Ealing brought over a very strong side on December 19th and won 7—1 against a team who fought pluckily, but were weakened by crys-off. On January 2nd eight men lost to Old Isleworthians away 1—6, after having the lead earlier in the game. Les Abbott deserves our sympathy because his side has been constantly changed, because it bears the main brunt of crys-off due to illness, injury and business, and because the Selection Committee has endeavoured to give games to all members.

Brown and Burridge have been stalwart backs, V. Lennard has played soundly at centre-half, while Eldred, Bain and Symmons have worked enthusiastically in the forward line.

GEORGE DEACOCK.

There has long been a fine sporting tradition in the Deacock family. The father, "T. A." was one of the founders of the Spurs, and a Director up to his untimely death at the early age of 57. Two brothers have been associated with the Cricket Club, and George has been a member of the Football and Cricket Clubs since 1922.

At cricket he has played for 3rd to 1st XI's, but mainly in the 2nd, as hitter and fast-medium bowler, and at Football he has kept goal chiefly for the 1st XI from 1922 to 1933. This season, in his 40th year, he resumed, and kept as well as at any time during his long career. His play has sometimes been erratic, but this has been

redeemed by numerous "blindings," and Old Lyonians will agree that few amateurs are better than George on his day. His play has been distinguished by mighty goal-kicks and ability to "bump off" oncoming forwards with his full 15 stone.

George is one of those social beings who take a wider view of club membership than 1½ hours' play on Saturday afternoon, and he has long served the Club with energy and capacity in many spheres. He has been on the General Committee since 1926. Representative on the Parent Committee, Editor of "The Chat," and above all 1929-36 Team and Match Secretary, Chairman of the Selection Committee and Press Correspondent. During his time the Club has increased from two to four XI's with a corresponding increase in the duties of Team Secretary. Small wonder then his fierce altercations with the "old lags" who have persistently cried off at the end of the week. G.D. has always placed his car at the disposal of less opulent members for away matches and has been assiduous in alcoholic entertainment of visitors, whilst but for his generosity regarding printing, the Club would to-day have a serious deficit.

A mountain of a man possessing wit, energy, generosity and a self-confidence that has mellowed with years—Our George.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

Arrangements are proceeding for the CLUB DANCE on FEBRUARY 24th, at ROYALTY HALL. We want the co-operation of everyone to ensure a bumper evening. Tickets 3s. 6d., including running buffet, and a licence has been obtained.

The Cricket and Football Clubs are spending £100 on the drainage of the two pitches. This work is nearing completion.

The Football Club who have hitherto been tenants-at-will have now secured a 9 years' option on the ground—i.e., until the lease of the Parent Club expires. In view of the improved finances of the Football Section the annual rent is to be raised during the next three years and in consequence TED BODEN WOULD LIKE YOUR SUB. He lives at 38, Windsor Road, N.13.

Training numbers slumped sadly in December and in the New Year there will be only one night's training per week—Tuesday 7—9.30 p.m.

Resignations have been received from Parslow, and Liddy, but the Club welcomes a new goalkeeper in C. G. Wheatley an ex-schoolboy international of considerable experience.

Jimmy Green is making progress at Bart's, but Gus Gowers looks like being out of football for the rest of the season. After a successful nose operation, poison has set in above the knee.

STOP PRESS.

Jimmy Green is out of Bart's and recuperating at Bognor whilst Gus Gowers is fortunately well on the way to recovery although definitely out of the game this season.