

WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CHAT

May 1937



With Compliments

WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CLUB

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[May 1937.

Editorial.

WE conclude a season which began with high hopes but which has ended with a string of defeats. Since Christmas all sides have been weakened by the accidents and illnesses that have afflicted members of the 1st and 2nd XIs. Thus in their respective leagues the 1st finish half-way, the 2nd and 4th near the bottom and the 3rd in the top half. The records are disappointing but excusable, and in

spite of them we believe that in quality and numbers the Club is stronger than for some seasons. Players have shewn their keenness by training until the first week in March. Our financial position is superior to that of almost any similar club, we have secured a settled tenancy from the Cricket Club and the ground drainage has nearly been completed.

We are therefore fully confident of better fortune in 1937—8.

GENERAL NEWS.

1. The Football Dance produced a profit of £7 14s. 11d. It took place on the most wretched night of a wretched winter and the modest success of the venture is a tribute to the energy of Frank Smith.
2. The Committee has appointed Frank Smith as Pontoon Organiser and Tiger Smith as Team and Match Sec. Devils for work, these Smiths !
3. The Club had to decline an invitation to participate in the Wood Green Hospital Cup because of feared congestion of fixtures.

4. At the recent Nemean League meeting, 3 clubs were named for rough play . . . No, the Hill was not one of them.
5. The Nemean League has brought to our notice an insurance scheme for Sports Clubs. 2s. annual premium provides 30s. per week for an injury sustained while playing. Canvassing at the beginning of next season.
6. The Hon. Treasurer reports increased subscriptions from players and V.P.s and improved receipts from Programmes, Canteen and Pontoon.

THE 1st. XI.

Encouraged by success over Ealing on February 6th, the 1st easily defeated Old Grocers 4—1 and C.E.V. 5—3 at home, but our hopes of League success were disappointed by 4—5 defeat at the hands of Old Parkonians. The next League games were also at home and each resulted in a draw. The first, v. N.P. Bank was a dull affair in which we were lucky to get a point, but that v. Old Stationers was a dour fight which either side might have won. We then crashed 0—5 at Folly Farm to C.E.V. who showed very greatly improved form upon our two earlier encounters. The following week we again lost to A.P. 0—2, but on the last Saturday of our season we fielded a full side and lost unluckily to Highgate 2—4.

In the meantime our hopes of the Middlesex A.F.A. Cup were quashed by Brentham, who played brilliant football to win 6—0 after leading 3—0 at half-time. Much to our surprise they lost 2—3 in the final to London Welsh to whom we ourselves lost 2—4 on Easter Saturday but considered a much inferior side.

Thus ends a season cursed with ill-fortune. The side secured only 2 points from the last 6 matches of which 4 were at home, but this has been largely due to the absence of leading players. Hurst and Kenyon were away throughout the Easter holidays, while Bacon, Guettier, Falk and Watson each missed 4 games due to illness or business. Experiments were thus necessary. Brook played right back and kicked so confidently that one regretted his weakness in positional play which prevents his becoming a really good player; Attwood failed to reveal his sparkling 2nd XI form; Sam Flower, promoted from 3rd to 1st, found the pace too hot and Varley was forced to perform

at outside left. To add to this tale of woe, Wheatley on occasion showed less confidence, and Carr never looked like scoring goals as he did at the beginning of the season.

Bouquets must be handed to Watson who in three years has advanced from a crude defender to a stylish attacking half, to Bacon who has covered more ground than any other player and whose game against Highgate was positively brilliant, and to Old Man Cooper, who skippered the team in its days of ill-fortune. Alec showed guts and enthusiasm and got more out of his changing sides than any one else could have done.

THE 2nd. XI.

The Reserves have been weakened by 1st XI calls and have performed badly. Three points were taken from C.E.V., draws were made with Old Grocers and Old Lyonians, and defeats sustained at A.P. and Highgate. Norsemen defeated us 6—2 in a friendly but we managed to beat Crouch End Nomads 4—2.

It is to be regretted that Alan Lennard has been unable to play owing to an injured back, but Dudley Wright has been dragged from the 3rd and has played soundly—good positional play and little running about.

We hope that next season Tommy will be able to manufacture a winning team from such excellent players as Rutt, Welsford, Brook, Carter, Attwood, and the Bros. Wrigglesworth.

THE 3rd. XI.

After starting so well the 3rd faded out with only 6 points in the last 8 games. At one period they only scored 8 goals in 7 matches! Like all elevens in the Club they have been very weak at forward since Christmas.

Wins were recorded over Old Lyonians 4—0 and A.P. 4—3, draws v. C.E.V. and Lensbury,

but defeats received at the hands of Merton, Old Parkonians, Highgate and C.E.V. Hassall has proved an able captain and player during the last two months and has received sterling help in defence from Bullock. An example of the keenness of this side is Bain who broke a rib and, being too injured to play in goal, volunteered to play outside right !

THE 4th. XI.

After losing against Old Parkonians and Lensbury, the 4th completed their League programme with 3 wins : 3—2 v. A.P., 3—0 v. Old Lyonians and 4—2 v. Ealing. The last was the side's best performance this season and was largely due to the opportunism of Rollings who scored a hat-trick.

Les Abbott has again had the most difficult task of any captain in the Club and again rendered yeoman service in pulling his scratch sides together. Les Brown, Ramsbottom, Blake, and V. Lennard have given him valuable help.

The Committee would particularly appreciate the attendance of 4th teamers at the A.G.M. on May 29th—especially if they have any suggestions to offer for retaining those members whom we lose early every year through inability to provide games.

DISTINGUISHED INVALIDS.

Jimmy Green—progressing slowly.

George Deacock—Much better, but advised not to play cricket yet.

Jack Gowers—nearly recovered. Unable to play cricket but has high hopes of resuming Soccer next season.

Gus Gowers—stiff from first exercise since December.

Norman Welsford—arm set beautifully. Expects to keep wicket after Whitsun.

Ernie Woollends—tried to knock a tram over when riding a motor-bike. In hospital with fluid upon unmentionable part of anatomy.

In view of our experience this year a wag has suggested that Winchmore Hill F.C. endow a bed or beds in a prominent London Hospital.

FOOTBALL TOUR

During the Easter holidays two of our players went on football tours and their evident enjoyment tempts us to try a football tour next year. Carr went to Pevensey with Bingley and Old Aldenhamians, and Diggins to France with Occident-Ealing who won a cup. Since then we have heard of the successful tours of C.E.V. to the Isle of Wight, Norsemen to Deal and Old Stationers to E. Anglia.

Such a tour would comprise 3 matches at a seaside within reasonable distance of London on Good Friday, Easter Saturday and Monday, and at least 16 players would be needed. The estimated cost would be 4 nights at 6s. 6d. bed and breakfast, plus fares and lunches. Some clubs would provide hospitality after a game and if car-owners came fares would be shared and be very low.

Tiger has a scheme in hand and would be pleased to hear of recruits or suggestions at the A.G.M. or at 11, Hamilton Crescent, N.13.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:—

Fanny Rutt on his marriage and honeymoon in Italy. After the Stock Exchange the Casinos must have been quite tame.



Wilf Bacon and Harry Hassall on the safe arrival of new-born infants and on not allowing such serious matters to put them off their game. Prospective fathers, please note !



Ted Boden and Les Abbott on their engagement. We still find it hard to believe that Ted has repented his youthful follies.



Fred Kenyon on his forthcoming marriage to the Parisian lady on July 29th. No doubt we shall see more settled play at right back, but we fear those schoolmaster's holidays will be spent *chez les parents*.



"Horace" on being presented by his firm with a car. What a flow of back-chat the poor examiner must have received. He didn't have the heart to reject our Horace.



Gordon Lennard on his excellent organisation of the recent dinner between the Spurs and Aston Villa Shareholders Clubs. Pity he couldn't run the teams as well.

**PERSONALITY PARS.****P. F. Hockley.**

"Hock" was Hon Treasurer, 1929—36, and in recent years has been our representative on the Parent Committee. He has always impressed those who have been privileged to work with him by his grasp of every figure in his books, and has amused us by the contrast of his cautious public finance and his private generosity. The Club owes much to both

traits, especially 1933—5, when our balance nearly disappeared. When our finances were again flourishing "Hock" retired full of years and honours, but he continues to guard our interests jealously in higher spheres. By nature quiet and reserved "Hock" manifests a high degree of pugnacity on public issues.

This year his freedom from the Treasurership has enabled him to accompany the 1st XI each week and they have been very pleased to see his solid, prosperous figure.

**H. W. Whittard.**

One always thinks of "Hock" and "Horace" together because they were Treasurer and Secretary 1929—36, but there exists no greater contrast of character. "Horace" should have gone on the stage but instead exploits his talent as a salesman. He has been unofficial Club Jester for years and the 2nd XI must have been a merry team when he used to superintend their away games. Unhappily, during the last 2 seasons, he has been forced to remain at home in charge of the Canteen. He has always done a good job of work and lightened his task and ours with good humour.

**FINAL LEAGUE RECORDS**

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag.	Pts.
1st	18	7	3	8	47	43	17
2nd	16	3	6	7	35	41	12
3rd	20	9	5	6	47	39	23
4th	16	6	0	10	36	61	12