

# WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CHAT

Nov 37



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

98 HEREFORD ROAD,  
BAYSWATER, W.2.

No. 7 Vol. 1

Compiled, Arranged and Edited by GEORGE DEACOCK.

[ November 1937.

## Editorial.

THIS is our second year of publication and we hope that our readers will continue to receive as much pleasure from reading as we do from production. The Committee considers us well worthy of the expense that so trim a journal entails.

Unhappily a November gloom pervades the Club. Small enthusiasm was evinced at the trials and attendances at training have been poor. We have gained some useful young recruits, but have lost even more older members. Not merely has the agreed rota scheme been unnecessary, but it has hardly been possible to field four full elevens each Saturday. Playing results have been equally disappointing.

The 1st have made the worst start for many seasons by losing three League games in succession, the 3rd have not yet recorded a win and have been dismissed from the Minor Cup, while the 4th have gained only 3 out of 10 points. Only the 2nd have met with moderate success.

Our sole consolation is that we can hardly do worse and that we may experience a New Year revival in contrast to the decline which has usually set in after a sprightly start. We certainly need all our strength, not merely to preserve our League status, but to carry through the Easter tour in Hampshire.

### 1937-38 COMPETITIONS.

The Club XI's have been entered for the same competitions as last year but in some cases our opponents are different. Highgate were promoted to Division I, S.A.L., and we note with regret their run of defeats. We welcome in their place Cuaco, whose excellent ground and friendship we have long enjoyed. We believe their confidence and team spirit to be unimpaired by the adversity of last season when they collected but 2 points in 24 games.

The 2nd will no longer be scathed in local

encounters with Norseman, but will meet N. P. Bank. The latter may not have been of 1st Division quality last season, but have already accounted for our 2nd string this year.

The 3rd are still members of Division III Nemean League, with 14 clubs—so many that all teams cannot play one another. This year we miss Kew, C.E.V. and Lensbury.

The 4th welcome Highgate and C.E.V. to Division V Nemean League which now has 11 clubs. Highgate have been unable to secure a ground and this season we shall play them twice at home.

## DEPARTURES AND NEWCOMERS.

We regret to record the resignation of no fewer than 14 playing members: Messrs. Robertson, Gilles, Andrews, Key, Bulloch, Livermore, Lennard (A.), Lennard (G.), Lennard (V.), Howard, Swan, Foster, Falk and Flower.

Robertson and Gilles left at the end of last season, Andrews is helping his firm, and Key has joined Southgate County Old Boys. Bulloch, Howard, Swan and the Lennard brothers have retired from the game. Foster has moved to Pinner, Falk to Romford and Livermore to Cornwall. Flower is reported to be going abroad.

We welcome 13 new players: Messrs. Christie, Buck, Bentham, Lloyd, Pyle, Pain, Lawrence, Pickard, Brewer, Grant, Gant, Banks and Huntley. Most of them are young and to them an "Old Gentleman" addresses a few words of kindly advice later in this issue. We wish them good sport and long membership.

We are pleased to receive one old and one new friend as Vice-Presidents. Mr. Welsford's keenness and long association are such that we all imagined him to be a V.P. until recently we had occasion to examine the official list; Mr. Coles is a recent director of Gillingham F.C.

## PLAYING MEMBERSHIP.

We have 53 registered players, but since Watson, Gowers (J.), Symmons and Sandy are rarely available, Tiger and his colleagues have to choose four teams from 49 regulars. Of this 49 four are out-of-action for at least a month and there are always cries-off due to illness, business or more trivial reasons! So far Tiger has managed to have an odd player

up his sleeve on Friday night and we have fielded fairly full sides, but one doubts whether this conjuring can last a full season.

The Committee has asked each Captain to urge his team to find new players, and in order to improve the play of our existing material they hope shortly to engage a professional Coach.

## TEAM REPORTS.

### THE 1st XI.

The 1st have so far won one cup-tie, drawn one friendly and lost three League games. Apart from Falk, Watson and Gowers (J.), the side is the same as that which was most successful at the beginning of last season, but several stalwarts have lost past form. Diggins has been replaced by Attwood whose destructive play has been efficient, Jack Hurst and Gus Gowers appear much slower, while Varley and Guettier have lost their goal sense. Fortunately, Wheatley continues to keep soundly and the Club has made a real find in Howson at left-half. Our goal average of 4—12 in 5 games emphasises the general mediocrity of the side and the pooriness of the forwards.

We drew a pleasant away friendly with Kew (1—1), and then lost 0—2 to Old Stationers and 0—4 to Old Lyonians. In both games we had that "bad luck" which losing teams cherish to preserve their self-respect. Then came a slightly improved display against Centymca whom we dismissed 3—2 from the 2nd Qualifying Round A.F.A. Senior Cup, and another reverse, 0—3 to Norseman. We pressed for long periods in the second half but were so listless that we never looked dangerous.

One regrets that the side has played almost badly enough to justify the acid comments of the battery of Stand critics.

R. G.

**THE 2nd XI.**

The reserves under the able Captaincy of Dudley Wright have made a fairly promising start by winning three out of five matches.

We began by losing 0—2 to Stationers when an otherwise enjoyable game was marred by injuries to three players. The defence courageously kept the score down. On October 9th, Old Kingsburians were easily defeated 6—2 in the Middlesex Junior Cup, and the following week we gained an exciting 2—1 victory over Old Lyonians. The match v. N.P. Bank was played in torrential rain and the side went to pieces losing 1—3. However, on October 30th, after losing Jacques with an injured knee at the end of five minutes and conceding a goal in 10 minutes, we fought back to defeat our local rivals, A.P., by 2—1 in the A.F.A. Junior Cup.

The defence has been very sound. Bain has looked safe, while Brook and Wright have positioned well and kicked a good length. Attwood has been a tower of strength at centre half and the wing halves, Carter and Cooper, have worked tirelessly. Because of injuries the forward line has been changed from week to week. Woollends has shown greatly improved form at outside-right and has been well fed by Wintrup. It is hoped that the return of Fanny Rutt will add the necessary punch to the line.

N. W.

**THE 3rd XI.**

The 3rd have started disastrously, one draw being the best result in five games. Because of retirements and promotions the team is practically a new one, and its Captaining has been made more difficult by an inordinate number of injuries. Only two games have been finished with a full side.

For the match v. Merton a good side had been picked but only six turned up—the others not having had the courtesy to notify the Club that they had left! Two spectators and a Merton reserve gave us nine players and we lost 0—6, only a fine display by Rollings saving a heavier defeat. The following week we crashed 1—9, partly due to the brilliance of the Ealing combination and partly to the loss of Watterson and Pain during the game. Against 10 Old Lyonians on October 16th we had ample opportunities to score, but could only draw 1—1.

The team's most promising form was displayed in the A.F.A. Minor Cup against 1st Surrey Rifles, a big and clever side. After being two goals in arrears we drew level and only lost by a goal scored in the closing minutes. Christie played finely and scored a spectacular goal. Our match against Norseman was marred by the loss of Pyle in the first half and Brewer in the second. The Norseman won 4—0, but our survivors put up an excellent fight.

Blake, Ramsbottom, Christie and Pain have played well, and given greater luck and experience the side may yet become a useful one. Congratulations to Dudley Wright and Jock Wintrup on their promotion to the 2nd, after long service with the 3rd. We miss Dudley's captaincy and the inspiration of Jock in the forward line.

H. H.

**THE 4th XI.**

Several of last year's 4th XI are now with the 3rd, and the team is largely composed of newcomers who are young and lack weight. Some show promise but they are likely to become disheartened unless we secure a leavening of older, more experienced players.

The team lost their opening match to Merton 2—5 after playing very well in the first half. Pyle played with dash, and Eldred, acting as Captain in the strange position of centre-half, worked tirelessly. Thanks to Pyle and Howson the next match was drawn 2—2 against Ealing. Then followed a poor game against nine Old Lyonians whom we defeated 9—0, and a hiding from Ealing by the record score of 19—nil. The selection committee could provide us with nothing better than eight forwards, two halves, one back and no goal-keeper, and such a team was an insult to our talented opponents. Finally, on October 30th we lost 0—4 to Norseman, only the excellent goalkeeping of Foster saving us from a much heavier defeat.



### FOOTBALL INSURANCE.

Twelve members have joined the Football Insurance Scheme for A.F.A. players, arranged by H. G. Cook, Esq., under the Eagle Star. For the benefit of newcomers, the details are re-stated : a premium of 5s. per season insures a player for 30s. per week for 13 weeks whenever injury results in loss of work. No payment is made for the first week of injury.

The scheme was promoted last year and since one in seventy made claims the premium has had to be slightly raised. The Club Committee recommends the scheme as financially sound and well worth 2d. per match.



### PEN PORTRAITS.

**Dudley Wright** joined the Club in 1928. He became Vice-Captain 3rd XI in 1932, Vice-Captain 2nd XI in 1934, and since 1935 he has been 3rd XI Captain and a member of the General and Selection Committees. To-day he is playing skilfully at left-back as 2nd XI Captain. Like a good wine, Dudley improves with age.

He has always marked his man closely and used his head and left foot cleanly, but recently he acquired a right-kick that is more than a "swinger." His contribution to the Club has probably been even greater as a skipper than as a footballer. Wherever he has played, an excellent spirit has prevailed, and the Committee has been well-informed of the progress of promising players, for beneath a protective nonchalance Dudley carries a Club loyalty and football insight that he would be the last to admit and we the first to recognise.

**Jack Hurst** is now playing in his eleventh season for the 1st XI since he came from Liverpool University. He possesses great speed and kicks beautifully with either foot. If he used his head and weight more often and marked his man more closely he would be a very Prince of Footballers. While Jack has never taken a share in the management of the Club, he has always played a full part in its social life and his stories of Lancashire and school-mastering provide welcome relief from Stock exchange releases. Jack excels at badminton, skating, golf, soccer and cricket, and then finds energy for bridge and wide reading.



### AN OLD GENTLEMAN STROKES HIS BEARD.

The following is offered as something in the nature of advice to the younger members of the Club, but if, in the course of its perusal, some caps should be discovered which might possibly fit older members it is hoped they will wear them with such dignity and patience as they are able.

Many of you come to the Club with reputations gained at school and with experience limited by school conditions. By this is meant that you will not, in school football, save in exceptional cases, meet opponents whose

physique and skill are equal to those seen in the older men who will be your opponents henceforth. These were, however, generally of your average weight and ability when they joined us, and as they have developed so will you also. Your game will improve to the extent to which you train yourselves, by continuous play and studying, when opportunity offers, the methods of players acknowledged to be your superiors. In due time you will be called upon to take their places in the higher elevens, and the Club will only continue so long as you are capable of doing so.

You are urged, therefore, to consider in this light what may appear to be ignorance or failure to appreciate your true merits by the Selection Committee. Do not resign from the Club because you find yourselves no higher than the Fourth XI for the first few weeks—possibly for your first season. You have plenty of time. You have excellent captains, chosen carefully for their knowledge of the game and their well-tested enthusiasm over many seasons in various elevens. They will not take long to judge of your proper form, both on and off the field, and they will not hesitate to recommend you for advancement if they consider that you are worthy of it and that the welfare of the Club is promoted thereby. Nor is the Selection Committee idle. Its members take sufficient interest in the Club to make it imperative that no good player should be overlooked, and what they see they turn to the best advantage.

Obviously, permanent selection for the First XI must be your aim, but even then your service to the Club is not finished. After some seasons there you will feel, doubtless, that you have no longer the quickness and speed, nor, perhaps, the stamina, to contend with the younger men then coming forward. That is the time to come back to the lower elevens, where you learnt your football, and where

your example will help to produce the players of the future as you were produced in your younger days, by men whose first-class playing days are over, but who wished still to enjoy a game of football. Enquiry among your fellow-members will show you many who, instead of retiring from the First XI (and from football altogether) came down to help, and, incidentally, have maintained their own good physical condition.

Give thought sometimes to the significant fact that the Club officials work solely for the benefit of the members, and that were it not for the members there need be no officials nor would there be any Club. This is so obvious as to be frequently overlooked. As a member it is assumed, for instance by the Selection Committee, that you have joined in order to play football. Do not, therefore, when picked to play, advise the Team Secretary, after receiving from him a notification card, that you cannot play on the Saturday because of some other engagement of which you well knew some time earlier; give him as long a notice as possible of your inability to play on a certain date. Further, do not cry off late in the week, so that he is hard put to it to find a substitute for you. This is fair neither to him nor to other members, since among the latter may be some who could have played had they been chosen but who, under the rota scheme, make other arrangements when advised they will not be required that week. Finally, and to avoid the most heinous crime of all, do not fail to turn up at a match for which you have been selected to play. If you are not there a game is spoiled for twenty-one others, and whatever good reason you may think you have as an explanation your absence is inexcusable. You can make things so much easier for all concerned if only you will take a little trouble now and then. The Team Secretary is always at your beck and call, and his house and office fairly bristle with telephones.

So much for the playing side. But it is hoped your interests and activities in the Club will not stop there. Have you considered how much you owe—perhaps you do not realise it—to those officials of the Cricket Club (our parent Club) who, by their foresight and enthusiasm, have succeeded in keeping unspoiled the grounds on which you play? Were it not for them the playing fields would have passed long ago into the hands of builders, and there is little doubt the Club would never have survived in that event. Such grounds as you have, conveniently situated as they are, are almost impossible of discovery nowadays. It is hoped, therefore, that those of you who are cricketers or tennis players will join one or both of these Sections for the summer months. You will find there as hearty a welcome as you have been given in the Football Section, and many of your colleagues play these other games in the Club. There are two or three Club Dances held during the winter months, the first of which is on November 17th, besides concerts and suppers, and the more you enter into the spirit of these activities the more enjoyable will be your associations with the Club. The game is the thing, it is true, but you can't play it all day and every day, and we do not wish to see you only on Saturday afternoons in the winter.

The question of training has been deliberately left till the last, as a sting in the tail is often a good thing. To train conscientiously and regularly is your duty. You have a splendid example in the Captain of the Club, and beyond that you have no need to look. On Tuesdays and Thursdays in each week, from 7 p.m. onwards, you will be expected in the pavilion, and if you cannot arrange to attend on one or both of these evenings, it is hoped you will advise the Captain accordingly and, for your own sake, carry out your training privately at times more personally convenient. No man who does not keep himself right up to the

mark can expect to go through a hard game, and your captains are morally bound to pass you over when promotion is being considered if they know you are not in condition, apart altogether from your playing abilities.

The Club is yours, and as you do your utmost or your least by it so will it prosper or decline. It has prospered now very steadily for eighteen years, and was never in better shape. See to it that it continues to progress, and bring to it all the new members you possibly can.



### TOUR ARRANGEMENTS.

As previously mentioned in the April "Chat" and September Circular, the Club is to run a football tour at Easter. Last weekend Tiger Smith and Gus Gowers spent an enjoyable and profitable time with A. Barber, Esq. (*alias* Ali Baba), Mine Host of "The King's Arms," Christchurch, where we propose to stay. Thanks to Mr. Barber, we have secured the following matches:—

Good Friday, 3 p.m., v. Christchurch Reserves.  
Easter Saturday, 11 a.m., v. Bournemouth Res.  
Easter Monday, 11 a.m., v. Wimborne.

Wimborne are in Division I Dorset League and Christchurch, who are fielding a strong reserve side, play in Division II Hampshire League. Our third fixture is with the recently formed 2nd XI of the Bournemouth Amateur Club, members of Division I Hampshire League. We hope to publish accounts of these clubs in a later issue and to post on the Club notice board copies of the Hampshire "Saturday Football Echo," wherein the deeds of our opponents are recorded.

We need 17 players and members will be approached by the organisers who will explain financial details. They now wish to draw your attention to the fixtures made and to the excellent food and amenities of the "King's Arms," where billiards, darts, table-tennis and

skittles are available. The Tankards Hockey Club are staying at the same hostelry and a dance has been arranged in our joint honour for Easter Saturday. For those who are Students of Nature, there is Christchurch Harbour and Hengistbury Head, for the beer-drinker there is the product of Courage and Strong, for the amorous there is Bournemouth Pier and the Chines. Some of us will go for the football.



### SOCIAL FUNCTIONS.

On September 15th the Cricket, Tennis and Football Sections held a joint supper ; 83 attended, but the Football Club was represented by a mere 12 members. An excellent meal was provided at the Pavilion for 3s. per head and was followed by a merry entertainment given by Bob Ingle and his friends. At 11.30 p.m. the company were still enthusiastically but soberly desirous of further songs and lubrication, but the law and the Chairman's hammer had to be obeyed.

On November 17th the Cricket Club holds its annual dance at the Royalty Hall, Southgate, tickets 3s. 6d. (including running buffet). They need our help to secure a full house and will reciprocate by support of our own Dance in February. If you haven't got a ticket ask any Club official or write E. Watson, 460, Green Lanes, N.13, who is acting for the Football Club in this matter.



### CLUB JOTTINGS.

1. The Rutt household now numbers three for luck.

2. Thomas has a punctured vein, Jacques a cartilage injury, Pyle has torn a thigh muscle and Ramsbottom has broken a rib. Paradise for nurses !

3. Carter has been appointed Head Groundsman and Cooper remains as assistant.

4. The new penalty semi-circle not merely adds a pleasant decorative effect to the football field, but stops the penalty kicker being jostled.

5. We regret that the uncertain interpretation by referees of recent laws protecting goalkeepers is causing players to treat custodians with Continental softness.

6. A recent Committee was informed at 11.50 p.m. of an infernal machine capable of dealing with 20 lbs. of sausages and two stones of potatoes at once. Visions of mountains of steaming sausage and mash convulsed our sober legislators.

7. We hope the drainage scheme commenced last season will reduce members' washing bills. The Parent Club will shortly complete the project.

8. The Committee is still anxious to improve bathing accommodation, but is finding to their surprise what a lot of money it takes to get a good wash.

9. The visitors recently expelled from the A.F.A. Senior Cup turned the other cheek by drinking us dry.

10. Attendances at training are only half those of last season. This probably accounts for the slow pace at which most members are playing their football.



### GENERAL INFORMATION.

Jack Gowers has moved and his new address is 98, Hereford Road, Bayswater, W.2.



**Please Reserve—**

the evening of

**Wednesday, November 17th,**

for

**The Cricket Club Dance**

at

**ROYALTY HALL,**

(Near Southgate Tube Station.)

**TICKETS 3/6**

*Including Refreshments.*

