

WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CHAT

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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. 8 Vol. I]

Compiled, Arranged and Edited by GEORGE DEACOCK.

[December 1937.

Editorial.

SINCE our last issue the 1st and 3rd elevens have won their first League games but it is early yet to prophesy a general recovery.

The Reserves continue to excel in cup-ties and disappoint in League games. Their 10—0 reverse at Ilford was particularly disturbing.

The 4th eleven is largely composed of 'unknowns' but has gained two excellent wins. In these days of adversity victories are highly valued.

Playing membership continues to increase and as a result of two further entries we now have 56 players. We are proud that in spite of our poor playing record none of the 14 newcomers has left the Club.

We have pleasure in publishing accounts of the Christchurch F.C. and of Crouch End Vampires. The first is contributed by Councillor Pyrke, chairman of the Priory Club and an ex-South African Rugby international, and the second is by Jack Burr, a well-known Vampire stalwart.

TEAM REPORTS.

THE 1st XI.

The 1st XI started November on a low note, having already lost three League games without scoring, but, in spite of further defeats, there was an improvement in the team's general play, culminating in a handsome win over the Old Parkonians. There were no panic changes but Gowers, having temporarily withdrawn from the captaincy, recovered his fitness and form and, in taking over the centre-forward position, strengthened what has

hitherto been a weakness. Carr too is playing much better at inside right, his natural position.

The only other change was the introduction at right back of Brook, whose fine kicking has been a feature of his play, and who with a little more experience should make this position his own.

Against Cuaco away we were truly unfortunate, losing 2—1 after leading for most of the game by an early goal by Gowers who, possibly overcome by the shock of our first League goal, then collapsed in a tackle and was carried off.

Notwithstanding the score 5—1, the side as a whole were little inferior to Lensbury in the A.F.A. cup-tie at Teddington, the home side owing their victory almost entirely to a brilliant winger in Hutchinson, who, not for the first time I'm afraid, made a sad mess of our defence. Gowers again scored our solitary goal with a fine shot.

We also made our exit from the Middlesex A.F.A. Cup, losing 4—2 at home to Fulham C.O.B. In our next League game at home to Old Parkonians, the whole side showed a welcome return to form and confounded the "critics" by winning 6—3. Perhaps the most pleasing feature of this win was to see other forwards beside Gowers (2) taking their share in scoring, Carr (3) and Guettier (1) registering their first goals this month. May they be the prelude to many more.

The Old Grocers game was played under appalling conditions and either side would have been unfortunate to lose. Good wing play enabling us to draw 4—4 after being down 4—2.

In conclusion, credit must be given to the side for the fine spirit they have shewn in face of adversity and criticism. Only real enthusiasm could turn a whole team out on Sunday to listen to a recital of their failings after a heavy defeat.

A. G. C.



THE 2nd XI.

The Reserves began November in fireworks fashion with a 7—0 Cup win over Palmers Green, but played below standard the following week against Old Grocers in the S.A.L. The visiting defence tackled quickly and marked closely and gave the Hill forwards

little chance. Both sides missed easy opportunities in the second half and a goalless draw resulted.

The team again revived under cup-tie stimulus and knocked out Blackheath Wanderers from the A.F.A. Junior Cup. This was our hosts' first defeat of the season. Before half-time Woollends and Wrigglesworth scored and the sides crossed over level. In the second half Woollends gave the Hill the lead with a cool, well-judged effort and Blackheath hit back only to be resisted by a rock-like defence wherein Bain excelled.

The next fixture was against Old Spring Grovians in the Middlesex A.F.A. Junior Cup. Our visitors scored twice in the first 20 minutes but Woollends and Wrigglesworth levelled the scores before half-time. The Hill continued to press in the second half and took the lead, but shortly before the close the Old Boys broke away and equalised. Extra time was commenced but the game had to be abandoned because of bad light.

The away game to Old Parkonians resulted in the worst defeat for some seasons and will ever remain a mystery to those who took part in it. During the first half we played well and were unlucky to be two down. We had the wind and snow at our backs in the second half and pressed strongly for the first 10 minutes without scoring. The Parks then added a third goal and proceeded to penetrate our defence at regular intervals. But for Diggins the side was at full strength and we have no excuses to offer.

S. R.



THE 3rd XI.

The lost souls of the 3rd XI are still groping their way painfully through the arid wastes of the Nemean Desert. They have been ravaged by Norsemen and plundered by Parkonians and, so far, there is no sign of the Promised Land, but are they downhearted? Well, frankly, just a trifle. Without softening the facts with any allegorical references, the team is being outclassed by its competitors in the League and the immediate outlook is not encouraging. The sympathetic opponents of the Club are constantly pointing out that all sides have their lean years; comfort must be taken in their words and a philosophical outlook developed. However, it would be more comforting if the side could boast a leavening of old 1st XI members as can most of its rivals. What does happen to the 1st XI players when they are no longer up to the senior sides' standard?

Since these notes last appeared, there have been no results to warm the hearts of the Club's supporters. The Norsemen trounced this eleven by 9 goals to nil, thereby helping to establish a record for their Club; they had turned out seven sides on this particular Saturday and all of them succeeded in winning. The following week, an away fixture against Highgate was played and, although beaten 3—0, the team gave its best performance for many weeks. With one man short throughout the game, the players fought grimly and contested every inch of the way. Burridge and Eldred were outstanding figures and Brewer also gave a very creditable performance. The next matches were played against the Old Parkonians—a home and away fixture on consecutive Saturdays. At home the Hill lost 6—2 and away suffered the same fate but by a margin of 9 goals.

The Parkonians have a very fine side this season and no excuses can be put forward for the

results of these two games, but forgetting the goals against it should be remarked that two goals were scored by the 3rds, and very good goals they were too!

On December 4th the first victory of the season was obtained against Aquarius, 4—3. Four forwards shared in the goal-scoring and the whole side showed marked improvement. Jack Hurst made his debut at outside-left and captained the side in the absence of Harry Hassall.

There is one satisfactory feature about the 3rd XI; despite its tribulations on the field, there is always a cheerful atmosphere in the dressing room and, after all, the players pay to play.

H. H.

**THE 4th XI.**

On November 6th we lost 0—13 to Lensbury at home, but the score was no indication of the game as we were without a goalkeeper. Although well beaten this was the first game in which the side showed signs of better things to come.

On the 13th against a strong Carshalton side we were a little unlucky to lose. After 10 minutes play one of our forwards missed a "sitter," presumably completely staggered at finding himself so near goal after weeks of frustrated effort. Towards half time Carshalton scored from a free kick well outside the penalty area, the goalkeeper misjudging the flight of the ball; and added a second after half time with a long shot that looked as though it would pass harmlessly outside.

Having discovered we were not so bad after all, we proceeded on the 20th to beat the League leaders (Old Parkonians) on their own

ground. Strengthened with two of last year's 4ths who had been languishing in the 3rd XI, the whole side worked hard and well deserved a bit of luck after such a lean time. We started shakily and the Old Parks had three good chances in the first 15 minutes. After this the game was very even, but our forwards gradually attacked more regularly and about 15 minutes from the end Eldred, following up a loose ball, scored a good goal to win the game.

Owing to shortages in the higher elevens, only eight men arrived for a friendly at Old Owens. They put up a spirited fight, however, losing 1—6 to a full side.

On December 4th v. Highgate, we could again only muster 10 men. In the first half, while the ground was in good condition, the forwards shewed some welcome combination and were rewarded with a goal by Vantagym, a newcomer. After the interval a snow storm made going difficult and Highgate did 90 per cent. of the attacking. The defence held out, however, to win 1—0 and towards the end we were again attacking strongly.

The side has developed a strong defence but is weak at forward owing to lack of weight and inability to keep a regular combination due to constant calls by the senior elevens. Given a regular forward line and a full side each week, the side should do well after Christmas.

L. B.



CHRISTCHURCH F.C.

The Christchurch Football Club was formed in the late 1870's and according to the Hants. F.A. Jubilee Book published last year, they joined the Hants. & Dorset F.A. in 1885,

the second year of the Association's existence. The Priory Club has thus been affiliated 52 years.

In early seasons the Club played in Junior League football and gained the following County trophies : Hants Minor Cup 1893 and 1910, and Hants Junior Cup 1893, 1912 and 1921. The most successful side was that of 1911-12 which, in addition to the Junior Cup, won four other trophies and by reason of playing a whole season without defeat earned the nickname "The Can't Whack-ems."

In 1934 Christchurch won both the Bournemouth Senior League and the Page Croft A. Cup open to senior teams affiliated to the Bournemouth F.A., and these successes were followed in 1935 by election to Division II, Hampshire Senior League and by re-entry to the Hants Intermediate Cup. The Priory had been runners-up in the latter competition 1922-23.

In 1935-6 the Club held the leadership for several weeks but eventually finished runners-up. W. White scored 54 goals, the highest individual total in Divisions I and II, Hants League. In 1936-7 the Club lost the League Championship, and the Hants Intermediate and Page Croft Cup Finals in the last eight days of the season, during which they had to play five games ! W. White scored 76 goals in League and Cup matches, a record for Hampshire Senior Football. This season the Club has high hopes of promotion. They are again at the head of Hants Division II and have won through to Round 3 of the Intermediate Cup.

The Club enjoys the services of two ex-professionals as permit players, W. White and R. Eyre, captain and vice-captain respectively. The former was born locally and is now 28. He might have become another Ted Drake had he taken kindly to professional football,

but he returned to the amateur game after a season and a half with Boscombe. Ron Eyre scored 300 goals in 10 seasons for Boscombe, chiefly at centre-forward. He is now 36 but plays like a man 10 years younger. He is a great sport on the field and always anxious to help his team-mates.

In our worthy Hon. Sec., George London, we have a class goalkeeper and one of the hardest-worked officials of the Club for the past 12 years. He also serves on the Bournemouth F.A. Council. The present Chairman is Councillor H. Pyrke, who took office in 1935. He believes the Priory Club has a great future and his 100 per cent. committee attendance is evidence of his enthusiasm.

We are all looking forward to the visit of Winchmore Hill and to a fine, sporting game. Mine host of the "King's Arms" will no doubt suitably attend our pleasures off the field.

CROUCH END VAMPIRES F.C.

Crouch End Vampires claim to be one of the oldest Clubs still remaining amateur in England, Reigate being the only amateur Club to be traced with an earlier birthday. It is true the Vampires' history is not unbroken, but the present Club has endeavoured to take up the old traditions. In 1882 Crouch End came into being but it was not until 1895 that the name Vampires was added, the Crouch End Club amalgamating that year with a South London Club bearing the name Vampires. The original club holds an honoured name in amateur circles and reached the highest heights prior to the unfortunate split of 1907 when the Vampires were one of the original members of the then newly formed A.F.A. The Club was very well known as a serious competitor in the F.A. Cup in the days when amateurs predominate.

In 1913 the Vampires disbanded after having won the Championship of Division II Southern Amateur League that year. Grounds played on were North Middlesex Cricket Ground, Nightingale Lane and Middle Lane, all in Hornsey. Prior to the date of abandonment a club, Mount View, had been formed by a group of Old Stationers in 1912 and this Club competed in the Middlesex County Amateur League on an excellent pitch in Broad Walk, Winchmore Hill. On resuming after the war Mount View found their pitch turned into allotments but secured an adjoining pitch, now built over, and used the King's Head, Winchmore Hill, for dressing. In 1921 Mount View, now growing, took over the name of the district, Crouch End, and moved in 1922 to Mill Hill district. After a couple of seasons as juniors in the M.C.A.L. seniority was obtained and having made good progress and the use of a ground in Crouch End decided they should revive the old and honoured name of their predecessors, which they now considered they were in a position to bear worthily. After much correspondence and representation to old Vampires through the press, in April, 1926, the change was made and Crouch End Vampires again came into being. Progress since that date has not been spectacular but slow and steady, admission was gained in 1928-9 to the newly formed Third Division S.A.L. Further advancement depends on circumstances but the Club have always had the aid of a keen and enthusiastic committee who have helped the Vampires over many hurdles.

The present season finds the Vampires still performing in the wilds at Hadley Woods, Folly Farm, and in line with the majority of S.A.L. subscription-paying clubs, is running four elevens and even five on occasions. It was not until they joined the S.A.L. in 1928-9 that they made the acquaintance of Winchmore

Hill in league footer but had met on several occasions in A.F.A. cups. Matches between the two clubs have always been noted for heavy scoring and although the balance may favour Winchmore slightly, the Vampires hope this season to swing affairs over to their side.



TO CERTAIN SUPPORTERS:

Dear Sir,

When I joined Winchmore Hill F.C. in 1933 there were certain features of the Club which I disliked. First XI players jangled on the field, and, when we had lost, supporters immediately followed us to the dressing-room and flayed us with earnest but ill-timed criticism. Further, the Hill crowd, by encouragement of visiting teams and bitter comments on home players, turned home into away fixtures. It seemed strange to me, Sir, that so many excellent fellows of all ages should find it impossible to criticise without being rabid and personal.

During my three years' captaincy I have tried to transform such feeling. There now exists a real harmony among players of all sides, and our keenest critics allow us the soothings of a bath before they put us in the witness-box.

Unfortunately the attitude of the Hill crowd is unchanged, and I therefore take this opportunity of appealing to our supporters for more generous treatment.

I am always pleased to see our regular stand supporters and those sturdy few who follow us to away matches, and I believe that sitting in a draughty, corrugated stand on a hard bench and watching eleven "muddled oafs" lose each week sharpens one's critical faculty. I have no wish to stifle a reasonable expression of opinion by those who help us by purchasing programmes and become vice-presidents, but I would ask such gentlemen whether they would

not better fulfil their membership by moderating their criticism of home players and by cheering up the flagging energies of the defeated. The back-biting of home players by the Hill crowd is known to many opponents, and has been commented on by three out of four visitors this season. Recently a forward was hit in the face by the ball and while he was collecting his wits was told, "Don't funk it!" because he didn't dash in again to tackle the back. A similar spirit vitiates much of the criticism of the team's play, and so do allegations that the side is chosen on sentiment.

If the habit of years can be changed one player who is not affected by the "fans" would feel much happier for his colleagues and for the future of the Club which he has the honour to serve.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

R. GOWERS.



THE HON. MATCH SECRETARY REARRANGES A FIXTURE.

H.M.S. (*answering telephone*). Hullo! Hullo! Yes, speaking. Oh! does he? All right, I'll hold on. Hullo! That you, Dogsboddy?

D.B. Yes. How are you, old man?

H.M.S. Busy. What do you want? Thought you were dead.

D.B. You hoped I was what?

H.M.S. I said I thought—

D.B. Oh! I beg your pardon. Now don't get shirty, old chap. I only want to rearrange our fixture for Jan. 20th on ours. As a matter—

H.M.S. What are you waffling about—Jan. 20th? It's Nov. 14th.

D.B. Nov. 14th ? Well, I don't understand that. According to my list it's Jan. 20th ; but it doesn't really matter—does it ?—if we're going to alter it ? Now, can you bring it forward to Dec. 31st ?

H.M.S. Bring it forward ? Put it back, you mean. And who said we were going to alter it ? No, I can't. I'm booked on Dec. 31st.

D.B. Who with ? I mean, would they help by rearranging their game with you or us so as to let us in on Dec. 31st ? That would make everything so simple, wouldn't it ?

H.M.S. Simple for whom ? Them, you, or us ?

D.B. Don't be obtuse, old man. If our fixture with you can be brought forward to Dec. 31st and our fixture with the people you've arranged with for Dec. 31st can be fixed for Jan. 20th on ours, then perhaps they could play you on yours on Nov. 14th. See ?

H.M.S. Hanged if I do. We're playing you on Nov. 14th, and I'm booked elsewhere for Jan. 20th. What you mean is to cancel our fixture with you on Jan. 20th and get our opponents of Dec. 31st to play you on Nov. 14th. That's up to you. But I can't do anything about it.

D.B. Well, look here. Let's cancel both the games on Nov. 14th and Jan. 20th and play them—I mean it—on ours on some date agreeable to us both. What dates have you got ? I'm quite willing to be helpful.

H.M.S. You sound like it ! What dates have you got ?

D.B. December the thirty—

H.M.S. Yes, I know that one. What else ?

D.B. Well, to tell you the truth—

H.M.S. About time too.

D.B. Keep your hair on, old man. We can't do this unless we keep cool heads.

H.M.S. What, with all our hair on this weather ?

D.B. Oh ! go and climb a tree ! Perishing fine Match Secretary you are ! I approach you with absolute politeness and you treat me like dirt.

H.M.S. Well, what do you expect with a team like you've got ? Lot of rabbits !

D.B. Oh ! go to the devil ! You can cancel all your ruddy fixtures for all I care. (Bang !)



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Rue des Singes, 10,

Oiseau-en-Main,

Vosges, France.

the 14th Oct., 1937.

Dear Sir the Secretary,

Desiring to bring myself to London in order to there spend the winter next, but as it fails to me the money necessary there to sojourn longtime, I myself ask if it there will have a place for me in your team during that time. Your Club is renowned in all the France since the visits made to Paris by one of your players the most illustrious the Christmas and the Easter recently passed (for afterwards to marry himself), and one knows well its importance even here at Oiseau-en-Main. I you of it pray, therefore, to make to consider with care my application.

I have 62-years, I have 1.25-metres of high, and possess a weight of 82-kilos. I must you tell immediately that I have joyed of a health the most magnificent since that I am born, and as I have 7-sons and 8-daughters without doubt several of my sons will wish me to follow in your team after that I shall be there established.

By cause of my affairs as merchant of fish here in Oiseau-en-Main I have never found the opportunity to play at the football, but naturally I am going to myself occupy with diligence myself to perfect in this art. One will not meet any difficulty in me instructing, because my wife me has told she would not me permit to voyage to London only for an escapade.

As reward I you shall demand only Frs. 360 by week. I of it would desire to make more good market, save that two of my sons and one of my daughters only have of the work actually ; therefore it is the duty of the father to make the necessary. But have no fear. When your Club will have made the experience Crevette all the world will come themselves to pay for the spectacle in order to assist at its contests. I know well the sport English, and though you me shall hear hurl "Let live the Hills!", never not me shall you hear to say "To stocking the referee!"

In awaiting your response favourable I you give, Dear Sir the Secretary, the assurance of my consideration the most distinguished.

Gaston Lacrevette.



Station Chief's Office,
Greek State Railways,
Corinth, Greece.

1 Juli, 1937.

Hon. Secy. Mister,

I big railway mending man and you surprised to not know me and writing, I said me.

Now I telling for getting house and street of you from bag carrier of London he trying selling footballs to Greece. No Greece man wishing footballs but me wishing football and no mistake so buying. That bag man joyful to selling one he said me and writing your house and street for me by calling card he holding so now I got it.

I learning playing your football game once by Inglees stokers and same men living "Bluebell" warship coming in Pireaus year 1926 and I think this good game for me now in London so you want me? I finding no work for Greece man from 1925 so you can get me for London cheap now. I am surprising you for coming London free but if no working from 1925 so I got no money and you should have me on ticket when sending Mister Thomas Cook in Athens then I come. I bringing boots for your game from warship matelot in changing him for post-cards so I ready and trousers and shirt you got me when seeing. In wages you keep me for house and food 1000-drachmas in a week (so cheap you said me, I hope) then I not dying from hungry and tired.

I waiting, Hon Secy. Mister, so all ready on the mark for ticket and no mistake.

I breathing close on you,

Themistocles Andreas Pappianopoulos.



CHARACTER SKETCHES.

H. Hassall joined the Club in 1924 and is the second longest member. A family man of 35, he is a noble example to the 'aged' young whose premature retirement deprives lower teams of a leavening of experience. He has

usually played at back or half-back for the 2nd or 3rd and defends like a fire engine. He is fearless in the tackle and keen on the charge, he possesses considerable pace and heads powerfully. He employs both feet but kicking is the weakest part of his play since he scoops the ball.

This season 'Hass' has acted as skipper of 3rd XI, having been deputy to Dudley Wright for some while. It says much for his cheerful personality that the spirit of the side remains undaunted in spite of continued defeat.

R. L. B. Guettier joined the Hill as an outside-left in 1932 and gained a regular 1st XI place in 1935-6 when he established an understanding with Bacon. 'Guet' has fine pace, a smashing left shot and heads intelligently. His centring is not as accurate as his shooting and his right foot is still weak. He is short in stature and of slight physique but never shirks a tackle. Without being temperamental 'Guet' is very sensitive to his own failings and loss of confidence after an early blunder makes him inconsistent.

He has been a keen supporter of the Club's social life and Committee member for the last two years. An accountant by profession he is eminently qualified to be our Treasurer; an official of few words, he prefers to let his figures talk.



CLUB COACH.

As stated in the "Chat" last month the Committee intended to engage a professional coach, but before this was carried out we had the happy idea of seeking the advice of George

Knight of the Cricket Section and a recent member of the Casuals, Corinthians, Spurs and England amateur XIs. George kindly agreed to help whenever possible though he did not want to be regarded as "official coach." After seeing the games against Norseman, Old Parkonians and Old Grocers George attended a 1st XI meeting at 11.15 on Sunday, December 5th. After he had explained the principles of team play and our success and failure in applying those principles, he dealt with each playing division and conducted a lengthy discussion of the points he had raised. If we had the ability to apply all his good advice we should be in something more exalted than the S.A.L., but there is no doubt that George has laid his finger on our weaknesses as well as convincing us that we are not as bad as we had thought.

This was the second Sunday morning meeting of the entire 1st XI, the first taking place on Nov. 21st, when we held a "confessional" after our 5-1 defeat by Lensbury. There is no denying the team's keenness.



CLUB JOTTINGS.

The Committee has decided to discontinue the collection of "gas money" for baths on match days and to provide free training facilities. Hitherto members who have trained have had to club together to pay for the groundsman and baths, but the Committee believes that this extra expense has prevented younger members from training. This action will cost the Club £4 for the remainder of the season and £7 in a full year and the Committee hopes that members will show their appreciation by increased attendance.

Ramsbottom, Pain, Pyle and Jacques are still injured. Foster rejoined but has again been forced to retire with injured fingers,

while Hassall has incurred a stiff neck in stopping another goal from entering the 3rd XI net. We note with pleasure the return of Thomas who is a little slower but retains some Welsh wizardry.

Less rain has fallen this year than in the last 'flood' season but this is not the sole reason for the drier playing surfaces. The drainage has been worth while and excellent progress has recently been made towards its completion. Since the pitches are better drained it has been possible to roll them more often.

The Football Dance will be held at Royalty Hall on February 23rd, 7.30-12 p.m. Tickets are 3s. 6d. and include an excellent running buffet. Frank Smith will be M.C. and the " ——— " Band, who performed so ably at the recent Cricket Dance, have been engaged. There is a bar inside the Hall and draught beer will be on sale.

The Hon. Treasurer would be pleased to receive all outstanding subscriptions.

The Officials and all Members of
The Winchmore Hill Football Club
send you
Seasonal Greetings.



Please Reserve—

the evening of

Wednesday, February 23rd, 1938

for

The Football Club Dance

at

ROYALTY HALL,

(Near Southgate Tube Station.)

TICKETS **3/6**

Including Refreshments



THE HOCKEY CLUB.

DANCE

on

Thursday Jan. 20th, 1938

at

SELBORNE HALL

Tickets **4/-** each.

Including Refreshments.

Tickets obtainable from :- Miss Joyce Drummond,
3, College Road,
Winchmore Hill, N.21.
Telephone : **PAL**mers Green 0715.