

WINCHMORE HILL
FOOTBALL CHAT

May 1938



With Compliments

WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CLUB

MEMBERS : SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE

President : Miss I. PAULIN

Ground :
FORDS GROVE
WINCHMORE HILL, N.21
Telephone : LABurnum 1271



Hon Secretary :
J. S. GOWERS
98 HEREFORD ROAD,
BAYSWATER, W.2.

No. 1 Vol. 11]

Compiled, Arranged and Edited by GEORGE DEACOCK.

[May 1938.

Editorial.

THE last game of season 1937-8 has been played and it only remains for the Treasurer to complete his accounts, the A.G.M. to hold its inquest, and the Editor to sing a little swan-song.

We have had an enjoyable season's sport even though we have played on cast-iron grounds and in summer weather since January. The final results are published on the last page and must be considered disappointing. After holding good positions in February the 1st and 2nd elevens have finished badly, while the 3rd and 4th elevens have been too light and inexperienced to be successful this season. The true position of the Club is not indicated by these figures, however. The playing and social success of the Easter Tour, the keenness of a few at training, the excellent attendances at the recent Club photograph and George Knight's lectures, and the size and youth of the playing membership all indicate that the Club is very much alive. Furthermore, the accommodation at Ford's Grove is being rapidly improved with the co-operation of the Parent Club—the 1st eleven pitch has been satisfactorily drained and its surface improved by constant rolling, better baths and cooking facilities have been installed, and the Bar has been made into a really cosy room. We agree with the fan who recently remarked that there would be a great future for a 1st Division S.A.L. Club at Winchmore Hill, and we hope that one day this may be realised.

TEAM REPORTS.

THE 1st XI.

A very dismal record this month—three defeats and one draw in League matches. Thus the side secured only one point in the last five League games and finished perilously near the foot of the table.

After the long run of success in January and February the confidence of the side had been momentarily shaken by the home defeat by N.P. Bank. However, on March 12th, at Barnet, the team played brilliantly for a long time and established a 4—1 lead over Old Stationers. Seven minutes from the end Alec Cooper was laid out, and Pigden, whom he had bottled up, scored two goals and made a third.

On the 19th the team was trounced at home by Crouch End Vampires 5—0 after beating them away 3—0 a fortnight before. The Hill enjoyed a fair share of the play, but while their forwards dallied against Macray and company, the Vampires by direct methods found easy holes in the Hill rearguard.

The team gave a much better display against Old Parkonians at Ilford, and by clever forward play established a 3—1 lead in the middle of the second half. Then the defence again collapsed and the game was lost 4—5.

In the last League match on April 9th at Alexandra Palace we were unlucky to lose 0—2 to the Park, who gained their second League success of the season. The marking in defence was much closer, but this time the forwards, who advanced methodically, failed to convert their chances. Woollends made a very satisfactory appearance at outside-right.

On tour the side had a new lease of life and though never at full strength they played much more convincingly than in previous League games. The greatest improvement was shown by Attwood and Brooke, while Varley and Diggins shone in their new positions at right-back and left-half respectively.



THE 2nd XI.

The closing stages of the Football Season, as far as the 2nd eleven were concerned, have been disastrous, that is from the 12th March when we drew with Old Stationers at home until our final match away with Alexandra Park, when we lost.

The defences had the upper hand in our match with Old Stationers and neither side could score ; the game was very enjoyable and it proved a fair result.

The following week, to lose to the Bank of England, well ! I suppose the Reserves felt sorry for their opponents, who had not previously won a game, and duly allowed (allowed, I said) the Bank to snatch their first victory.

On the 26th March the Old Parkonians again made rings round us as they did in December of last year, our only consolation being that they did not get double figures, 7—0 being quite sufficient.

Next week we were victims of Crouch End Vampires at Folly Farm, score 3—5. Here, I think, I could mention some bad luck, and definitely missed chances, but that is not good enough and excuses will not help.

From the 2nd April until the 23rd there was an interval of three weeks for the Reserves, during which, for those of us who were on tour there was our one bright spot, see report elsewhere, maybe if we had some "Arms" nearby where we could all meet and go into training (?) on the night previous to a match, our results would make a little better reading.

For our last match against Alexandra Park, away ; a ground as hard as iron, K.O. at 4.30, a strange side out (due presumably to the Cricket season commencing, and some still on Easter vacation), not ideal conditions for Football. By half-time we were two down. In the second half with the wind against us, A. P. proceeded to put an end to what hopes our side had by quickly scoring another two goals and increasing this to six before full time. We obtained only one, scored by Christie, who played well, as did our other younger members of the side Banks and Buck, against rather heavier opponents.

K. B.



THE 3rd XI.

On March 12th, our visitors were Highgate, whom we defeated by 2—0. The weather was warm and the ground very hard ; in spite of these drawbacks, both teams made great efforts and played good football. We held our visitors so tightly that they were unable to make any reply to our two goals, scored by Jacques and Wintrup. After playing with nine men the previous week, we found that, with a full team, we were invincible.

A visit to Norbury, on March 19th, to play the Old Ardinians, who provided us with a very strong opposition, resulted in our winning by the only goal of the match. A very late start was made; play was fast and furious, as if to make up for lost time. An early goal by Bingley gave us the lead, which was strongly contested by our opponents; our defence repulsed the attackers whilst our forwards tried hard to add further goals. The hard ground played tricks with the ball and robbed both sides of several opportunities of scoring. Leese playing at left-half, gave an exhibition of how a half-back should play and was, perhaps, the outstanding player of the game.

On March 26th, a game against the 4th eleven proved uneventful during the first half; the 3rd eleven, who were playing in colours, pressed for most of the time but were unable to score because of the good goalkeeping by Hobbs. During the interval, the half-back lines and goalkeepers were reversed; after this the fun began, forwards and half-backs of both teams, now in

opposition, proceeded to knock spots off one another. The Whites (4th eleven) scored first through Summerfield; later, after the play had risen to fever pitch, the Colours equalised. Then, for some time, play ran evenly until Watterson settled the issue in favour of the 3rd eleven.

With every member of both teams trying to be brilliant, and some trying to pay off old scores it was surprising that no one was injured. Club "Big Noises" watching from the touchline, probably had even more enjoyment at the players' expense, than did the players, who enjoyed the game immensely.

B. L.

THE 4th XI.

On the 12th March, the 4th eleven suffered yet another defeat, losing to Aquarius at Honor Oak in a friendly to the score of 0—2. The side played rather better as a whole, the forwards actually pressing once or twice, and if they would try to get possession of the ball instead of waiting for a pass, we might achieve more favourable results.

Ramsbotham kept goal very well, and partly due to his play we were able to hold Aquarius out for the first half. In the second half the Hill were very near scoring, but due to poor finishing we were unable to get a goal. Aquarius netted two good ones in quick succession and we were hard pressed to keep the score down.

It was rather a disappointment to be defeated by Old Parkonians at home on the 19th March after beating them away earlier in the season. The Hill played quite good football, but Old Parkonians were too heavy for us and we went down to the tune of 2—4.

The 4th eleven concluded the season at Carshalton on the 9th April, and had a very hard game. The ball was difficult to control, but in spite of this, Summerfield scored nicely in the first few minutes. Carshalton were soon attacking strongly and Hobbs was called upon to make some good saves, but the two he let through were not the most difficult shots of the game.

Jack Gowers was playing well, although he was knocked about rather badly, and he received very few good passes. In the second half Carshalton pressed all the time amidst cheers from the four spectators, but the defence was strong enough to keep the score down to 1—2.

D. H.

EASTER TOUR.

On the evening of April 14th four vehicles with a precious cargo of 18 human beings plus football bags, threaded their way through the traffic of West London. Emerging from the maze of Staines they flashed across Bagshot Heath and the Hampshire Downs. Night came and passengers crept into pubs to stretch their legs and to satisfy the pangs of hunger. Refreshed, they again emulated sardines and completed the journey through the New Forest by crystal moonlight. The first car reached the "King's Arms" at 10.30, but until the appearance of Brooke and his speed gang at 12.15 we feared that we might have to face Christchurch on the morrow with only ten men. The party was evidently pleased with itself and it was with some difficulty that the players were got to bed by 2.30 a.m., leaving Ali Barber to preside over a more select company until the first streaks of dawn.

In view of the previous late evening (early morning) it was surprising to find the entire party at breakfast before 9 a.m. We were highly amused at our tables marked "Hockey Club," but we assisted the management by consuming our food with the refinement expected from players of that socially superior game. The day was warm and sunny, and while a few remained to indulge in the wide range of indoor amusements provided by the "King's Arms," most went for a long stroll past the Castle and the Priory, over Wick Ferry and across Hengistbury Head. The strenuous exercise and tang of the sea had induced severe thirst, but having re-crossed the River Avon at the "run" we found "The Haven House Inn" still closed owing to Sunday hours prevailing on Good Friday. We quickened our paces through Mudeford towards our own Younger ale, described by Dudley as having "not a headache in a hogshead."

In the afternoon we defeated Christchurch 3—2 before a large crowd whose passivity during the Hill's long period of supremacy contrasted with their shrill encouragement of the home side during the last few minutes when their favourites scored twice and might have saved the game. The win added a pleasant fillip to the tour, and feeling full of beans, the players decided to sample the delights of Bournemouth. Most were disappointed. The gardens were ablaze with colour and the air soft with the smell of pines, but the all-important matters of cheap beer and pretty girls were hard to discover. Bournemouth was indeed full of people whose main idea of a holiday seemed to be to look at one another. That night many at the Hotel paid for their inexperience. Bedrooms had not been locked and ghostly fingers shied uncleaned shoes at recumbent figures whose alcoholic snores were swiftly terminated.

On Saturday morning we had a very early breakfast and drove 30 miles through the New Forest to Calshot via Lyndhurst and Beaulieu. The heath was reddish brown with dead bracken, the trees light green with new leaves, and the gorse deep yellow in bloom. The Calshot pitch was very hard and in excellent condition, and the Hill team played confidently and cleverly to win 3—1 to the great pleasure of their supporters, who included Ram and the Hockley ménage. Thereafter we adjourned to the Sergeants' Mess to enjoy a hearty meal followed by beer at very popular prices. We were then taken round the two R.A.F. Camps, which have a complement of 500 men, and to the sheds where we inspected the seaplanes and speedboats.

From Calshot Castle we viewed the liners in Southampton Water and the cliffs of the Isle of Wight, and returned to the Mess for tea. While Sergt. Busby and Pyle decided their supremacy

on a snooker table the rest of the company settled down to an impromptu entertainment starring Messrs. Lloyd and Wright. It is no detraction from Dudley's able performance to say that we should have enjoyed the spectacle of our Horace teamed with the doughty Welshman. Contentedly we were driven home in the dusk by our very sober drivers. We did not attend the "King's Arms" Dance that night since we had not been able to squeeze our evening dress armour into football bags, but by the kindness of Ali we gazed upon the Cabaret and found them good to look upon. There then followed the usual early morning session with some darts, much talk and more beer. Through the haze of smoke one could discern the round figure of Norman with left arm half-raised, the smile of Percy the Sphinx, and distinguish Guet's rapier thrusts and the Charles' hearty laugh. The gathering was a trifle excited and bedtime scores from the previous evening were paid back with unseemly noise and the breaking of an antique dish.

We woke up full of apologies and were publicly (if not privately) forgiven. Duly admonished, the entire party set out for the day. We drove through Poole and Bournemouth and along winding Dorset lanes to Lulworth Cove. After lunch the party split up—some strolled along the cliff top in a stiff breeze, others lazily stretched themselves on the sheltered beach and made edifices of pebbles with the enthusiasm of youngsters half their ages. We met again and drove along the whaleback of the Purbecks, whence we gained superb inland views, and so to Corfe with its ruined castle guarding the road through the hills. On to Swanage, half-deserted and rather chilly in face of the North-Easter which whipped the waves into white tops, and to tea at the Trocadero where a buxom hostess of pre-war design welcomed us "dears" to an excellent and cheap tea. In spite of this we were quite prepared for supper two hours afterwards.

At night the amorous again tried their luck in Bournemouth while the contented family men went to the cinema at Christchurch (Advert). All returned by 11 p.m., and under the warming influence of four days' co-habitation and renewed libation it was decided to dispense with all remaining surnames and Charles, Gordon, Howitzer and Hovis were duly christened. In strict training for Monday's fray the team went to their rooms at 1.30 a.m., but in certain cases caster sugar and broken biscuits had to be swept from the sheets before sleep was possible, while in others pyjama buttons had disappeared and girdles had been carefully sewn in.

Easter Monday was cool and rather dull and the equanimity of the side was destroyed by the late arrival of one car. As a result the team was all at sea against Wimborne during the first quarter of an hour, though they recovered and were most unlucky not to hold a substantial lead at half-time. In the second half, however, the home side played much better and fully deserved their 3—1 success. The small group of Hill supporters armed with the most biting Ford's Grove slogans put up a stalwart resistance against the large and friendly Town crowd. After the game we were entertained to sandwiches and beer that must have made a considerable hole in the gate money; Mr. Osman and Tiger made friendly speeches and we all gave full-throated cheers. Before we left the field we had an exhibition of bareback riding by Gaucho Bain. We were then escorted round Wimborne Minster and took more than a polite interest in its architectural features and Chain Library. And so back to steak and chips at Christchurch with regrets at having lost our last game and at departure from so pleasant a hostelry. After hasty adieux we packed ourselves into cars and sped towards London. We made excellent progress until Basingstoke when we encountered

the tail-to-tail stream to Staines. Each car then looked to itself and by devious routes we arrived home well before midnight, red-faced and tired but very happy.

This was the first tour of Winchmore Hill Football Club and was unanimously voted the best.

JANUS.



GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 15th, 1938.

Winchmore Hill 3, Christchurch 2.

Winchmore Hill opened their tour by beating Christchurch by 3 goals to 2. The ground was hard, and the pace very fast throughout. Christchurch won the toss, and in the first minute Gowers gave Carr a through pass, only clever covering by Tilley preventing a goal. Quite early Eyre had a good chance for Christchurch, but shot wide. A free kick, taken by Gowers, was kicked off the goal-line, by Payne, straight to Guettier, whose lofted shot rebounded from the cross-bar into Tilley's hands—a lucky let-off for Christchurch. A minute from half-time Gowers made no mistake with a penalty kick for hands—a beautiful shot—and this lead of a goal at the interval was well deserved by the Hill.

On the resumption White returned to his accustomed place at centre-forward (he had been on the right wing previously), and the Christchurch attack improved. After 15 minutes Howson broke through and although his shot was saved, Tilley fell, and Gowers very calmly shot over him into an empty goal. Five minutes later the Hill went further ahead when Carter crossed a pass to Guettier standing close in. Tilley partially stopped the shot, but it rolled behind him into goal. Ten minutes from the end Christchurch opened their account. Blake put across a perfect centre and P. Read, running in at tremendous speed, headed the ball past

Wheatley. Another five minutes went by and then Eyre, worried by Brook, forced a corner; from this, well taken by Tuffin, Eyre scored from a few yards. That was the end, and the Hill had won a grand game against worthy and sporting opponents.

Attwood did extremely well to check White so effectively in the second half. Diggins played a capital game, his headwork being outstanding, while Carter showed more enterprise than usual in coming through with the ball. Varley and Brook were too good for their respective opposing wingers. Both covered very well, and Wheatley was hardly ever pressed for time in dealing with shots. Carr's performance, particularly in the second half, had to be seen to be appreciated. Both Guettier and McMath lost no time in making ground and putting the ball towards goal. Last, but by no means least, there is Howson. He was at once a fourth half-back and an ever-present forward. But altogether one's impressions of a fine side are quite overshadowed by Carr's wonderful game after the interval.



EASTER SATURDAY, APRIL 16th, 1938.

Winchmore Hill 3, R.A.F. (Calshot) 1.

This match, in which Winchmore Hill beat R.A.F. (Calshot) by 3 goals to 1, did not provide such good football as did the Christchurch game. The Hill won the toss and took up the running at once. Within five minutes they opened their account when Varley put the ball through the middle to Gowers. The latter, running very fast, rounded Warren and scored with a low, cross-shot. After ten minutes the score was increased; Gowers ran hard along the left touchline and from his centre McMath headed a beauty. The exchanges were fairly even, with both sides going direct for goal, but the interval arrived without further score.

In the second half the fast pace was maintained, Richards for the R.A.F., being always a menace whenever he got the ball ; he was easily the best of the forwards. Varley, who was making good use of his weight in taking the ball through, passed inside Warren to McMath. The latter beat Gregory, and from a good centre Welsford ran hard onto the ball and hooked it past Mainwaring. This was ten minutes after change of ends, and then the R.A.F. put in a prolonged period of attacking, the Hill defence doing well to keep its goal intact. The R.A.F. got their solitary goal after half-an-hour from a penalty for hands, and Richards' shot was a splendid one. From then until the end the Hill reasserted themselves, though they failed to score again.

Gowers led his forwards well, and his distribution of the ball was a great feature of his play. Varley supported him strongly, and Guettier's speed was too much for Best and Smith. In defence, Wright caught the eye throughout, his headwork being particularly good ; Burridge too did his part. Carter's direct methods, and Attwood's complete subjection of Woodford, coupled with the vivacity of Howson (the quite irrepressible), never gave the R.A.F. forwards any chance of playing a concerted game. Bain did all required of him, and a wag's remark that he let in the only good shot he had to deal with is the literal truth ! Taking it altogether, there is no doubt that the best team won. The R.A.F. were shot down fighting, and with their best flight out it would have taken a better Hill side to deal with them.

EASTER MONDAY, APRIL 18th, 1938.

Winchmore Hill 1, Wimborne 3.

In this game, in which Wimborne beat Winchmore Hill by 3 goals to 1, the Club did not show to as good advantage as in their two previous matches, and were deservedly beaten on the play. Seldom can the woodwork of each goal have been peppered so much ; somebody was always hitting it, and only a mere matter of inches prevented the result reading about 23—21 instead of 3—1.

Wimborne won the toss, and the Hill had the wind. They soon found they were not going to have the same success at half-back as had happened before, and were early on the defensive. Several times the Wimborne forwards went very near, Scott being too much of a handful for Burridge. After ten minutes he got over a centre which eluded everyone but Holloway, who had merely to touch the ball past Wheatley. Following this the Hill forwards got going in better fashion, and Gowers hit the cross-bar with a fine shot. Five minutes later the right wing got moving when Diggins gave a fine cross-pass to Bain, and from his centre Guettier scored off the underside of the bar. Within a few minutes Gowers picked up a pass from Welsford and crashed in a rising shot which hit also under the bar, bounced down apparently over the goal-line, and out again, but the referee ruled that it had not actually got into goal. For the rest of the half both sides played hard and well, and Wimborne were unlucky not to have added to their score, all sorts of people having hit posts and bar. It was at this stage that the local supporters were careful to point out that Wimborne had the game in the bag—and they were telling us !

Two minutes after the restart Frampton put Wimborne ahead with a penalty goal for hands. The Wimborne backs were making good use of

the wind ; and Wheatley made one very good save from Green hereabouts, while Attwood was having a hard task in dealing with Holloway. Wimborne got another goal after twenty-five minutes when Case put up a long, high pass to Scott, who ran on, racing Burrige, and scored a fine goal, giving Wheatley no chance. The end arrived leaving Wimborne worthy winners by 3 goals to 1.

Welsford played well in this game ; he distributed the ball most judiciously, and could be relied upon to assist Diggins whenever necessary. Wheatley played in his usual efficient manner, but Burrige had a good wing against him in Scott and Green, where the goals came from. Brook defended stoutly, especially after the interval, and was as good as anyone in defence. Attwood gave little away to Holloway. Bain did very well at outside-right, and Varley played his usual courageous game.



CLUB JOTTINGS.

We remind members of the Supper to George Deacock on May 31st 7.30—8.30, to precede the A.G.M. It is impossible to cater for those desirous of attending unless they pay their half-crowns by May 21st.

The A.G.M. will be held at 8.30 p.m. on the same evening, and in view of the proposed resignations of the present Secretary, Treasurer and Captain, your attendance is earnestly requested that the best officials may be selected.

On Sunday morning, March 27th, 35 turned up for the Club photographs, copies of which now hang in the Bar. On the same morning Sergeant Ambridge was presented with an inscribed clock in commemoration of his services during the past season.

On March 23rd, George Knight gave a most interesting talk to members of the 3rd and 4th

elevens. More than 20 attended and their youth and enthusiasm augur well for the future of the Club.

Training continued until the expiration of our tenancy on March 31st. This is the first season in the Club's history that training has been maintained throughout the year. It has been made possible by the Club's generous action in paying the cost of training nights and by the keenness of the "regulars."

The 1st eleven finished up in the bottom half of the S.A.L. Division II (North) and it had been feared that they might find themselves in a re-constituted Division III. However, no change is now expected in the structure of the S.A.L., which is likely to remain :—1st Division and 2nd Division with North and South sections. Eastbourne are relegated and will compete in Division II, Southern section.

After an absence of 18 months Jack Gowers re-appeared for the 4th eleven v. Carshalton, but a badly bruised shoulder resulted and unhappily deprived us of his services on Tour. Bacon, another invalid, made a frisky come-back against Crouch End Vampires.

Enthusiasm for sausage-and-mash showed no signs of waning. Consumption on the last Saturdays was :—In 11 weeks, 129 were sold and only six were left over.

We note with pleasure that since the Football Season the Bar has been covered with lino and draught beer made available by a new engine. The corridor has been covered with a neat strip of carpet and a Canteen Cooker has been bought. After this we may hope for a more suitably placed dart board, a piano in tune, and a radio that works.

Club Photos are on sale from the Head Groundsman at 1/9 for the large and 6d. for the small copies.

FINAL RECORDS of all XIs:-

			Goals.					
			Played.	Won.	Drawn.	Lost.	For.	Against. Points
1st XI.	League	...	18	5	4	9	44	50 14
	Cup-ties	...	3	1	—	2	6	11 —
	Friendlies	...	7	4	—	3	20	19 —
			28	10	4	14	70	80 —
2nd XI.	League	...	18	5	4	9	27	44 14
	Cup-ties	...	6	3	1	2	22	15 —
	Friendlies	...	3	1	1	1	7	7 —
			27	9	6	12	56	66 —
3rd XI.	League	...	20	5	1	14	24	83 11
	Cup-ties	...	1	—	—	1	2	3 —
	Friendlies	...	1	1	—	—	1	— —
			22	6	1	15	27	86 —
4th XI.	League	...	20	5	1	14	32	89 11
	Friendlies	...	5	1	—	4	7	24 —
			25	6	1	18	39	113 —
TOTAL			102	31	12	59	192	345 —