

WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CHAT

12
CLUB COPY
NOV 38



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 :
L. E. BROWN,
86 QUEEN ELIZABETH DRIVE,
SOUTHGATE, N.14.

No. 12 Vol. 1]

Compiled, Arranged and Edited by GEORGE DEACOCK.

[November 1938.

Editorial.

EARLY impressions are sometimes misleading, but we cannot help noticing the very pronounced air of optimism about the Club this season. Every club has its "ups and downs," and for us the last few seasons have certainly been of the lean variety, but there are signs that we are turning the corner.

Whilst we may not feel the full benefit of the Rota system for some time yet, the playing membership is the largest we have had since the 3rd and 4th XI's were first started.

The 3rd XI are showing improved form, and the keener competition for places in the senior elevens foreshadowed in the preliminary notice is already in evidence.

We have of course lost two of our best players from the 1st XI in Carr and Howson. Their places will be hard to fill, and it will be necessary to do a little experimenting. Our

good wishes go with them both for their continued success in the game, and we thank them for the enthusiastic service they have rendered in the past. On the other hand we have secured some undoubted talent among our new members, and some of our youngsters are fast developing into fine players. We may not advance them sometimes as rapidly as they feel is their due, but they have plenty of time, and judicious nursing in the lower sides will, we hope, bring them to the 1st XI in due course.

Our greatest stride this season is the appointment of Mr. L. Thompson as coach. We have every confidence that his guidance will add that extra purpose to our play which so often means the difference between losing or winning a game.

So here's to Season 1938/1939—good football and good fellowship for us all.

* * *

1st XI REPORT.

It is pleasing to record that the 1st Team has commenced season 1938/39 more auspiciously than the previous one when the first four games played resulted in one cup win, and three league defeats. To date this season, we have won one friendly, won one league game and lost the other, and drawn an A.F.A. Cup-Tie.

The club has been unfortunate in losing two of its best inside forwards, but the damage has been partially repaired by the return to fitness of Bacon who is now performing creditably at inside left. Gus Gowers has been moved from centre forward to the opposite inside berth in order to provide the "brains" of the attack, and Roper a really hefty young newcomer has been introduced at centre forward. The out-

side right position has been causing some difficulty but it is hoped that someone will soon claim his place permanently and that the forward line will then develop greater understanding and pile on the goals. The defence is playing well, Varley fitting in excellently in his new position at left back.

On September 24th, we played as in the previous year, an enjoyable friendly away game with Kew and ran out winners by the narrow margin of 5—4. The scorers were Gowers (2), Varley, Jacques and Guettier. We opened our league programme with a match against the Old Stationers at Barnet, winning an even game by 1—0. Bacon in the second half heading in a very neat goal from a difficult angle. Highgate defeated us 4—0 at Walthamstow the following Saturday, all the goals coming in the second half, and strange as it may appear the defeat is to be attributed primarily to our attack, which failed to take a number of golden opportunities in the first half when a goal would have meant so much.

On October 22nd we drew 1—1 to Old Westminster Citizens in the 2nd Qualifying Round A.F.A. Senior Cup. As on the previous Saturday the Hill attacked persistently at the start and should have built up a commanding lead. They led 1—0 at half time by a goal scored by Roper following a misunderstanding by the Old Boys' defence, but in the second half our opponents were on top. Extra time was played in a fading light but no further score resulted though the Hill had ample opportunities. The defence again played soundly—Attwood in particular, while Wiseman made a very promising debut.

R. L. B. G.

2nd XI REPORT.

In spite of a disappointing start the quality of football played by the 2nd XI has been of a very high standard; in fact more than one supporter has ventured to say it is the Club's best Reserve XI in recent years, welcome praise indeed, which I think the season's results will justify, providing the 1st XI don't have to raid us too much.

We were unfortunate to lose our first game in the A.F.A. Junior Cup to Kew away by 1—0. The conditions were wretched, but we served up some good football in the first half, and should have been several goals up, had the forwards only thought of aiming at the goal. Late in the second half Kew scored with a snap shot and frankly we never looked like equalising, so Kew will now probably win the Cup.

Our first league game brought us into opposition with West Wickham a club new to the league who came to us with 100% record. Contrary to the previous week the forwards played smashing football and one felt a certain amount of sympathy for the visiting goalkeeper, for no sooner had he stopped a shot than he had to stop the forward who had delivered it and often one or two others as well. Small wonder that two clearance kicks went straight up in the air one leading directly to a goal by Jacques, who seems to have found himself at centre forward, and who also rounded off a splendid combined movement by all the forwards, with a beautiful header to score again. Welsford obtained a third and the visitors taking advantage of two defensive lapses to score twice, half time arrived with the score 3—2.

Pain had to leave the field injured and consequently we had to play nearly all the second half with four forwards. With two evenly matched sides the handicap was too great and

ultimately the defence gave way, so a good sporting game left our visitors victorious by 5—3.

Next week while I was fighting a losing battle with a temperature, the Reserves were fighting a winning one with Old Lyonians at home, and incidentally with five changes, proving that we absentees were not so important as we might have fondly imagined ourselves to be.

I am indebted to Dudley Wright for his impressions of the game, from which I gather we deserved to win 3—1, Jacques (2) and Bain scoring; the former, however, maintained Winchmore Hill tradition by missing a penalty, although he did hit the goalkeeper. Diggins returned at centre half for this game and played magnificently, Christie, Pain and Jacques also played very well.

It is significant of the strength of our lower elevens that for this match only the goalkeeper occupied the same position at Kew.

We have to welcome several newcomers to the team this season, Chapman a very capable goalkeeper, Wiseman (whose qualities the 1st XI have soon discovered) and Broad at half back, and Haycraft a very whole-hearted winger.

A. G. C.

* * *

3rd XI REPORT.

The 3rd XI has started the season very well, winning the first 2 league games. We certainly went to pieces on 22nd Oct., when we were eliminated from the A.F.A. Minor Cup, but as this now allows us to concentrate on the league, there is no reason to be despondent. The side has, of course, not really settled down yet, and there will probably be several positional changes, in some cases due to calls from higher sides, before we get what may be termed a "regular" side.

On their display so far this side should be one of the strongest 3rd XI's the Club has fielded for some years.

On Oct. 8th, we entertained Highgate in a league game and beat them comfortably by 3 goals to 1, and it is no exaggeration to say that we should have won by a larger margin.

We had much more of the game than our opponents, but our forwards were a little shy of shooting. We were unfortunate in that our centre half pulled a muscle and had to leave the field, but Pain, who dropped back into his place, played a magnificent game. Maybe Highgate didn't know his name, but he was that to them.

We played Kew Association at home on Oct. 15th, and beat them 1—0, to give us 4 points from 2 league games. This was a very good game, and generally speaking, the defence on both sides was superior to the opposing forwards. Christie, who played well at inside left, scored the only goal in the first half with a fine drive, hitting the underside of the crossbar before going in.

Manby, at centre half was good, and will be better when he doesn't wander quite so much, and our Scottish inside right used his one foot to good effect and actually headed the ball once.

On Oct. 22nd we journeyed to Chiswick to play Polytechnic in the A.F.A. Minor Cup, but it seems that they would play by themselves and wouldn't let us join in. We didn't . . . er . . . that is, they . . . er . . . in short, we lost 8—1.

Due to the heavy boot of the Rota, and other unfortunate circumstances, we fielded a weakened side, and although the score at half time was only 2—0, the defence was overrun in the second half, our forwards being unable to hold the ball. The most effective of our four forwards was our veteran outside right,

who lasted throughout the whole game, took corners from both sides, and put across the centre from which our only goal was scored. Manby, Burrige and Skeats struggled manfully but could not stem the tide.

D. W.

* * *

4th XI REPORT.

The 4th XI has not made an auspicious start to the new season, having lost all three games played to date. On October we went down to Lensbury at home 3—4, most unnecessarily too! We were leading 3—1 until twenty minutes from the end of the second half and then the defence collapsed and Lensbury scored 3 goals to win the game. The side played good football for most of the game, the right flank, together with Manby at centre half, were the best of the team.

The next week we went all the way to Richmond to be beaten up by Kew Association by 8 clear goals. We were most disappointing, but I think the least said about this game the better.

We were at home to Ealing Association on October 22nd and lost 1—5. I was told after the game that this Ealing side have not lost a game for over 18 months, but we made them fight hard for both points in this game. If only the forwards had been up to the same standard as the defence we might have won, as they had chances to score several goals. Brookes, at left back, was outstanding, his kicking and anticipation being above the ordinary standard for a 4th eleven.

I take this opportunity to appeal to all players to be present at the Pavilion on Tuesday evenings to hear Mr. Thompson's talks.

F. J. R.

* * *

TUESDAY NIGHT AT SEVEN.

As in the previous season, since the beginning of October, the Pavilion and ground have

been available on Tuesday and Thursday evenings each week for training, but for a reason not difficult to understand, Tuesdays have been proved the far more popular. The attendances on these nights have been between 25 and 30 and although the players come with the worthy object of endeavouring to tune up for the forthcoming Saturday's match, there is no doubt that a very strong attraction is in the figure of Mr. Len Thompson, the coach, whose services we have been fortunate enough to obtain for the season. He is there promptly at the start and always spends an intensive evening both inside and outside the pavilion, giving the experts instruction which **should** make us all 'first raters.' Mr. Thompson is first to be seen with one member and then another, giving each those individual tips which really mean so much and which, if they are taken to heart and practised, can subsequently result in the difference between the mediocre and the good player. It is almost amazing, the manner in which the individual faults and weaknesses have been so rapidly detected but so gently pointed out, by reason of which latter facts we all are, I am sure, so anxious to rectify them. After the medicine and the punch balls have been medicated and punched respectively, the skipping and sprinting have been honourably carried out and the bath joyously taken, we then have our conference and chat which is so important from the viewpoint of tactics. Our coach acts as Chairman, and with the aid of a blackboard discusses and illustrates defensive formations, the originating of attacks and in fact every important football matter under the sun. Suggestions and frank expressions of opinion are invited from all, particularly with a view to obtaining greater understanding between members of the same team. In this connection it is thought that the players might make better use of this opportunity of airing their

views as to so and so's positional play or say as to the cause of a goal being registered against their side the previous week (if we follow our experts instructions to the full, the latter subject of discussion will not, of course, arise). It is understood by all, naturally, that opinions voiced are attempts at constructive criticisms, and it should be realised that in this way considerable benefit may be obtained by the team and the player from a discussion of which by the critics, is considered a tactical error. It must be said however, that latterly the fellows have been more outspoken and many more comments have been made.

We have been particularly attracted by the obvious pleasure our coach takes in doing the job, and also by the capable manner, free from dogmatic expression, in which such an accomplished exponent of the game imparts his knowledge. It behoves us all, in view of the enthusiasm he is shewing, to reciprocate and prove by improved displays on the field that his efforts are not without avail.

It is with much pleasure that we have witnessed the comparatively large attendances on Tuesday evenings but there are still a number who could, but do not come. This applies in particular to the younger members, who are most welcome, and who as they themselves will readily appreciate, have more to learn than the older players. There are training facilities for all sixty members of the Club if they choose to turn up, and so we look forward hopefully to even better attendances than at present.

Will members please bear in mind that Thursday is also a training night and that anyone who cannot manage Tuesday night should make every endeavour to get down then. It may be decided, possibly quite rightly, that Thursday is too near Saturday to do any heavy work, but there is always the ball practice and light training which undoubtedly will prove beneficial.

R. L. B. G.

PEN PORTRAITS

PERCY ATTWOOD

Percy is in his 5th season with the Club and during that period has graduated from 4th XI centre forward to 1st XI centre half. He had two outstanding seasons with the Reserves and finally gained his place in the 1st XI at the beginning of last season. He took some little time to get used to the faster pace of 1st team football but found his best form on tour when he played three storming games.

Tall and broad, Percy has the physical attributes necessary for a stopper centre half. He uses his shoulders firmly but fairly and now usually gets the ball in the air. He has speeded up considerably with the result that he has time in which to place the ball as he had in 2nd XI days.

Percy has a quiet, restrained manner befitting a Civil Servant, but beneath the leisurely exterior there is determination and reserve of strength. He plays cricket for North Middlesex in the same way—bowls fast, hits hard and fields cleanly without ever giving the appearance of exerting himself. After any game he will be seen with a large pipe and a low glass quietly following the conversation and occasionally interjecting some pithy remark.

This young and friendly Sphinx should be a power in the Club for many seasons to come.

F. J. BURRIDGE.

Freddy joined the Club in 1932, from Crouch End Vamps, and since then has played full back chiefly for the 3rd XI and 4th XI, skippering the 4th XI in 1934/35. He has, however, never let the 2nd XI down on any of his frequent appearances in that side.

He tackles, heads and kicks well, and is not nearly so old as his appearance and "speed" on the field lead one to believe, though, to a degree, he overcomes the latter by good positional play.

Freddy regularly lends a hand to help entertain our visitors after the game, and later in the evening, between attempts to light his pipe, and when not quoting from Gray's Elegy, becomes very locacious over many imaginary faults in the running of the Club, and still takes a pleasure in complaining that, when he first joined he was never picked at the beginning of the week, but was invariably 'phoned on Friday to travel to some far distant ground. However, he always turned up!

During the summer he plays tennis, left-handed and very well, and a little cricket, not quite so well.

An accountant by profession, he has a good eye for figures, though he is still unmarried.

* * *

CRICKET MATCH

v.

CRICKET SECTION.

This was the first time the sections had met on the cricket field and the fixture could only be fitted in at the end of the summer season. September 25th began with a dull, rainy morning. The wicket had to be pitched on the edge of the table and the late start only permitted 3 hours play. The Football Club had arranged to field a good side but the inclement weather convinced three of our best players that there would be no play and they failed to put in an appearance. We had ample reserves but the side was seriously weakened.

Bacon was caught in the slips off the first ball of the match but Rock - of - Gibraltar Welsford and Roger Wheatley scored steadily and raised the score to 50—3. Then orders were given to hit out and in spite of a bright innings by Jack Gowers, the side collapsed and were out for 74.

The Cricket Club began streakily and if Bacon had had a second slip, the opening bats-

men should have been out in the first over. Robertson and Birch then batted very entertainingly and the Football score was passed in 45 minutes, for the loss of only 2 wickets. The batsmen then hit out and got out. Birch compiled a forcing 70 out of 138—9 before dusk ended the game. The cricketers entered into the spirit of the game and the immaculate Blackwell perpetrated his only cross-bat shot in 9 seasons at the Hill. Ramsbottom flighted the ball well and fully deserved his five wickets, while Jack Gowers drew rounds of applause for his brilliant fielding at cover-point.

We are indebted to the hospitality of the Cricket Section who honoured us by fielding a strong Sunday side, but we hope to get both points next season when we have brushed up our cricket.

R. G.

* * *

MINUS & PLUS.

At this stage of the season it is perhaps not inappropriate to give a fleeting thought to the departed spirits.

From the fans' point of view the most noticeable departures are Carr, who has resigned and joined Norsemen, and Howson who is now, we understand, teaching General Knowledge to R.A.F. recruits at Manston. Hassell, last year's 3rd XI skipper, has apparently burned his boots, and is now permanently skippering the home side. The Wrigglesworth brothers find the lounge chairs of their golf house more comfortable than ours, whilst Landy finds competitive football too strenuous after the languid elegance of Cambridge. The R.A.F. has claimed a second recruit in D. A. Huntley, who is now learning to fly at Yatesbury in Wiltshire.

Fanny Rutt feeling "old age" creeping on has joined the Chestnut Exchange Team.

The "Middleton" Group has claimed Abbott, Hurst and Gant, whilst Thomas and Watterson

have also Married Wives. Of these, Hassell and Rutt have been raised to peerage, and their names will be duly recorded in next season's fixture list. Howson, Huntly, Thomas and Watterson have all expressed a wish to keep in touch with the Club, and are now honorary members.

To fill these gaps we have an excellent crop of new members. Some have already invaded the 1st XI, and others are well sprinkled among the other sides. We hope that by the time these notes appear they will regard themselves as old stagers.

We take this opportunity to welcome the following newly elected Vice-Presidents :—

Mrs. E. O. WELSFORD
Messrs. W. H. HANCOCK
P. G. BLACKWELL
E. R. COLLYER
and W. E. CAVELL

We trust their association with the Club will be long and enjoyable.

* * *

S.A.L. UPS & DOWNS

After having won Division I for three seasons in succession Hastings just failed to do it for the fourth time in 1937/8, Civil Service leading them by 3 points at the finish. This was somewhat surprising in view of Hastings' record almost to the end, but they had a heavy programme of Cup-ties—or should it be Cup Finals?—and had to play matches nearly every day at one period in April to get through their League programme. In the circumstances we offer hearty congratulations to Civil Service; it is a good thing for the leadership to go round a bit.

From Division I Eastbourne and Highgate came down to the Southern and Northern Sections respectively of Division II. Highgate, who in 1936/7 had won Division II (Northern) by a fraction of a goal from Old Lyonians, had

a most disappointing season, mainly due to injuries, and were hardly given time to settle down in the higher circles.

Lensbury won Division II (Southern) from Reigate, who chased them home hard, being only 2 points behind at the post. The former owe much to our old friend, Hutchinson, a grand player and a good fellow, and we wish them an equally satisfactory season in Division I. Our Neighbours, Norsemen, won Division II (Northern) in grand style, being 5 points better than Old Lyonians, the runners-up. They were a fine side and fully deserved their success. We had about the best game of last season against them at Fords Grove, and they looked League winners by the turn of the year. Our best wishes, and special congratulations to them.

We ourselves were among the four Clubs finishing at the bottom of Division II, but were sufficiently fortunate to get re-elected at the Annual Meeting of the League. To our supporters on that occasion we offer our best thanks. Old Westminster Citizens, Alleyn Old Boys and Alexandra Park shared our lowly position. At the voting for re-election, after a tie, Alexandra Park were rejected in favour of West Wickham, who had applied for election to the League. This was rather a blow to the Park, and indeed we cannot but sympathise with them. They had been members of the League for some years, and many a good struggle we have had with them. They have gained admission to the Nemean League this season; we hope they will do well there, and that it may not be too long before they are able to return to the S.A.L.

In Division I of the Reserve Section Lensbury brought off a nice double, as their Reserves won this in very decisive fashion by 8 points from Ealing, the runners-up. With such strength among their Reserves Lensbury ought

to become a power in Division I (Senior Section), and they are indeed fortunate to have this wealth of talent. Ibis and Old Parkonians respectively, won Division II (Reserve) Southern and Northern Sections, and in each case they had to fight hard. The former got home by 2 points over Merton, and the latter only managed to take the leadership on goal average from Crouch End Vampires.

* * *

CLUB JOTTINGS.

To save the cost and trouble of renovating the board at Ford's Grove entrance, Horace kindly offered to move back to Elm Park Road.

* * *

Dancing fans should make a point of attending Royalty Hall on the 16th November—K.O. 7.30 p.m. These Club dances are always jolly affairs and you are sure to meet plenty of people you know. Tickets 3/6d. each can be obtained from E. G. Watson, 460, Green Lanes, N.13.

* * *

During the close season the bush at the North West corner of the top pitch has been removed and the ground levelled to facilitate corner kicks. The actual date of starting to drain the lower pitch has apparently not yet been fixed by the Parent Club.

* * *

Following the Trials on October 1st, so many players and Vice Presidents turned up to tea that the canteen was soon sold out. We do not know whether this was the result of the fine weather or relief at the passing of the Crisis, but anyway it was a great send off to the season.

* * *

The Hon. Team and Match Secretary came under very strong suspicion after the recent A.F.A. Junior Cup-tie against Kew at Osterley, to which place he had condescended to accompany the team. Just before sitting down to tea he was seen handing out money to the players, but it is not known how his method of apportionment was arrived at, as it was remarked that some of them received mere silver and copper, others a note (or notes), and yet others bulging wallets. He has been informed that such conduct is not conducive to strict amateurism, and must in no circumstances be repeated. Distribution should take place in a more discreet environment.

* * *

TREASURY NOTES

By

The Hon. Treasurer.

During the short time I have been "Custodian of the Club's purse," I have already discovered there is marked apathy on the part of some members regarding the payment of their just dues. At this time our expenses are heavy and without your aid it is difficult to balance our Budget.

Do not wait to be asked but bring your cheque book with you on the next occasion you are playing at home. I shall be in attendance at the Club Pavilion on the next four Saturday afternoons.

So come along "chaps" and get that added enjoyment out of the game in the knowledge you have paid for it.

* * *

STOP PRESS

Having won the A.F.A. Cup Replay against Old Westminster Citizens 4—1, the 1st XI now meet Old Lyonians at Ford's Grove on Nov. 12th.