

WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CHAT

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CLUB COPY



With Compliments

WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CLUB

MEMBERS: SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE

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Compiled, Arranged and Edited by GEORGE DEACOCK.

[December 1938.

Editorial.

ONE third of our season has been completed and the results compare favourably with the same period last year. In the league, the 1st's, 2nd's and 4th's have scored as many points as games played whilst the 3rds have managed to obtain one extra. To date eight cup ties have been played and only three of them lost, but in friendly games we have not done so well, mostly due however, to the lower sides being matched against stronger opposition.

The good attendances on Tuesday evenings for training and blackboard discussion have been maintained and the average number of players turning up is just over 25. The first eleven attends practically en bloc and the second side is well represented, but apart from a few sturdy regulars, the 3rd and 4th teams

do not come.

The youngsters of to-day are the potential 1st XI of tomorrow but the speed of 1st XI football is vastly different from that of the 3rd or 4th's and no player will ever achieve a regular place in the side unless he is physically fit. Moreover it is only by attending the discussion night and learning what is expected from each member of the side that the younger players will be able to hold their place in a higher side when the chance comes. Finally, remember that in any eleven, unless you are pulling your weight, you are spoiling the game for ten others.

The Club has provided you with good training facilities and a first class Coach. It's up to you now lads !

* * *

1st XI REPORT.

The 1st team's record for the period under review makes good reading in so far as two cup matches have been won and one drawn and one league game won and one lost.

On October 29th we had the replayed A.F.A. Senior Cup tie with Old Westminster Citizens at home which we won decisively 4—1,

Woolends and Guettier getting two goals apiece. The defence played very strongly giving the visiting side little chance of scoring and with Jacques providing punch at centre-forward, our attack also had a good day.

The following week we played Crouch End Vampires at home in a league match, when we were narrowly defeated 2—3 in a hard and

enjoyable game. It was a black Saturday for the Hill with Carter at right-half splitting his knee after ten minutes play and taking no further part in the game, and Gowers receiving another ankle injury which is not expected to mend for some weeks yet. Our opponents set us to play against a strong sun and largely by reason of this half-time arrived with the score 0—3. The side rallied excellently in the second half, however, and although we had only ten men, scored twice through Guettier and Gowers without reply. A feature of the game was the manner in which Attwood so determinedly blotted out Machray, the Vampire's centre-forward.

On November 12th, at home yet again, the A.F.A. Cup match against Old Lyonians resulted in a draw 3—3 after extra time. The home side should have won this game in the second half but the attack failed to convert a number of comparatively easy opportunities near goal. The defence carried off the honours of the day, Kenyon being the biggest thorn in the opponents flesh. This so-called right back not only parried their attacks from all sides but was indelicate enough to head in our equaliser just on the close of extra time. Cooper and Jacques obtained the other goals.

We were away to Hatch End on November 19th in the Middlesex A.F.A. Senior Cup winning rather easily 6—2. Our gallant opponents held us 2—2 in the first half but were somewhat overwhelmed in the second. Jacques scored a hat trick with really good shots and Varley (penalty) Woolends and Guettier got a goal each.

Two welcome points were collected on the following Saturday at home at the expense of the Old Parkonians whom we just defeated 5—4 after an even and exciting game. The Parks scored first but at half time we were leading 2—1, through Welsford and Jacques,

the former leaping to previously unexplored heights to beat an astounded goalkeeper. Soon after the resumption, Jacques increased the lead but the visitors, who had a very lively attack rallied well and drew level, 3—3. Woolends then obtained two good goals to which our opponents could reply but once, thus giving us victory by the odd goal. Cooper gave a very sound display at right-half and Banks showed much improved form on the right wing.

The defence is playing well, Chapman in goal handling cleanly but kicking rather short; Kenyon and Attwood are maintaining their own high standard of play with Varley developing into the polished left-back. Wiseman has performed well in every game and certainly packs a stick of dynamite in that left boot.

The attack is also performing creditably, having scored on an average this season, three goals per match. Jacques is playing a forceful game at centre-forward and Welsford hard and intelligently at inside-left, with the remaining three giving whole-hearted support.

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2nd XI REPORT.

The 2nd XI has been very much up-and-down during the last month, having lost a friendly, won one league game and lost another (badly), got through one round of the Middlesex Junior Cup and drawn the game in the next.

The side is, however, showing definite signs of settling down, and if injuries can be kept at bay, should have a very good season, even allowing for the usual inconsistencies of the Hill football.

On October 29th, we played an away match with Old Latymerians. As this was not a league game, the Rota Axe was somewhat prominent. The side was also partly handicapped by injuries during the game. By this time you will have gathered that we lost. The score was 2—5.

November 5th, we had the pleasure of meeting old rivals in Alexandra Park and incidentally the greater pleasure of removing them from the Middlesex Junior Cup. The whole side played well and were good value for their win. D. Wright was the best of a good defence and the forwards were quick to snap up any chances that were going.

On November 12th, we entertained Highgate in a league game and managed to win 4—3. Our visitors took advantage of a slight breeze in the first half and were 2 clear goals up at half time, though this was somewhat against the run of the play. After changing over the Hill got a better grip on the game and soon levelled the score through Haycraft and Roper. Blake at right-half, shortly afterwards added a third with a lob over the heads of a number of players, with the Highgate goalie unsighted. Highgate scored again almost immediately from the kick-off, while our defence practically stood and watched, and our 15 stone goalie stood no chance. The game looked like ending in a draw, but just before the whistle one of the Highgate defenders was unlucky enough to put the ball into his own net and so win the game for us.

November 19th, the National Provincial Bank beat us 7—2. Our old friend Jack Kelsey, the N.P. Bank outside-left, being in one of his usual dangerous moods. The Bank played excellent football and thoroughly deserved to win, scoring 4 in the first half, but one could not help having a lot of sympathy for Bingley,

in goal, for the way in which members of his own defence so materially assisted the N.P. Bank forwards. Our own goals were both scored by Roper, one in each half, the second being a really good one.

On November 26th, we had a splendid game against Old Lyonians at Harrow in the Middlesex Junior Cup, which resulted in a goalless draw, though I don't think our forwards will deny that we had sufficient opportunities to win comfortably, even allowing for the excellent goalkeeping of Hunt, of Lyonians. Everyone played extremely well, and the contrast with the display (or should I say exhibition) of the previous week was extraordinary.

Diggins, at centre-half, was back to his best form, Buck was much improved both in defence and attack, Broad played a very sound game, and all the forwards pulled their weight up as far as the penalty area. Brook was his usual calm, solid, clean-kicking self, and Bingley, whom I have deliberately left till last, was brilliant, saving at least 3 certain goals in the coolest, safest manner possible and dealing with everything else with ease.

D. C. H. W.

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3rd XI REPORT.

The game with Highgate on the 29th October proved a ding-dong struggle, both sides being evenly matched. Both defences were on top of the opposing forwards and consequently most of the play was in the middle of the field. The result 1—1, was a good reflection of the game.

On November 5th, only a weak side could be fielded against Lloyds in an away friendly. The side gave a good performance against stronger opponents and did well to keep the score to 2—4.

November 12th, we visited Crouch End Vampires and dropped our first league points. The game was played in a high wind and the skipper started the trouble by losing the toss, so forcing the Hill to kick a ball which rapidly became very heavy, into a gale. The first goal came from a high return from a clearance which dropped at the centre-forward's feet, who promptly put in the net. Ten minutes later he again repeated this, and then for half an hour the Hill held their own and very nearly scored; just before half time the Vampires scored again. During a dreary second half, the Hill scored once through Deller. The side tried hard to draw level but the heavy ball and the fact that the wind had dropped proved too great a handicap.

On 19th, our visit to the Norsemen proved a grand game marred only by the referee using his whistle on every conceivable occasion. The most pleasing feature of this game, was the fact that the team played as a team and never gave up trying. The Norsemen well deserved their victory and were attacking for most of the game. Our forwards were unable to hold the ball for any length of time and consequently the defence were played almost to a standstill. They well proved their worth in the way they stood up to the pressure.

On November 26th, we had our first home fixture for a long while and collected two very useful points. There was no score at half time, although many easy scoring chances had been missed by both sides, but early in the second half the Hill scored through Eldred. Aquarius equalised from a free kick, but their success was short lived for we promptly made it 2—1. Although Aquarius looked very dangerous, through sudden breakaways, we had most of the attacking right to the end.

4th XI REPORT.

The 4th XI flag flies a little higher this month, the side having won 3 league games in successive weeks and thus having so far obtained more than half the total number of points scored throughout the whole of last season.

On October 29th we journeyed into the backwoods of Edgware for a friendly (?) game against Old Elysians. The crowd—a very sporting chap—offered to referee in the absence of an official; but as he only knew Rugger rules, the game became a little out of hand at times. The team played well as a whole and the work put in by Brooks at left-back in particular, almost made up for the fact that we were one short (quite like old times). We muddled our copy-book, however, and two clean white shirts, and went down 1—4. It was a good tea, anyway!

On 5th November we took a strong side over to Edmonton to play Norsemen, who up to then had won all their league games. Three of the side were playing their first game of the season but before they tired the game was well won. The whole side combined well in the first half and we changed over leading 2—0. The pressure was kept up in the second half and although several chances were missed we managed to add a third. Towards the end of the game Norsemen were attacking strongly and were rewarded with a goal about ten minutes before time.

November 12th.—This week we expected, and certainly had a fine sporting game against our old friends, Old Parkonians, at Ilford. Our cheery goalkeeper 'skipper' lent his double-headed penny to our opponents and of course called correctly, so we kicked off with the wind—(an advantage—not a complaint, Mr.

Editor)—and within ten minutes we had netted three times. Two of these goals were gifts from the gale, but the forwards kept on the pressure, realising that we should be 'backs-to-the-wall' ourselves after the interval. We changed over with the incredible lead of 6—2, our goals including a creditable 'hat-trick' by centre-forward Mold. The forwards continued the attack and might well have increased our lead but for erratic shooting against a lifting wind; meanwhile the defence held out nobly, 'Ram' in goal, fielding and catching like a cricketer, until ten minutes from time increasing pressure from the 'Parks' gave them two more well deserved goals in quick succession. We ran out worthy winners 6—4 by taking greater advantage of the conditions.

On the 19th, we gained our third consecutive win, beating Highgate 3—2. Both sides were only moderate but evenly matched. In the first half with the slight slope in our favour we had much the better of the game but were only leading 2—1 at half time. A third was added, but as the second half wore on Highgate improved and for the last fifteen minutes were attacking continually. However, we only conceded one more goal and so in the end just managed to snatch a win. The forwards should however have taken more advantage of their opportunities in the first half before our opponents settled down.

On the 26th we played Ravensbourne 'A' XI, at Lee. The opposition were much too strong for us and we were well beaten 6—1. Hobbs, Rudling, Knapp and Weatherhead acquitted themselves well but as frequently happens we were outweighed forward and it was left to Eeles to score the only goal from outside right.

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PEN PORTRAITS

"Our Tiger"

From time immemorial nicknames have been in general use, frequently as terms of abuse, but more often as terms of endearment. The latter is, one has no doubt, the reason for the dubbing of Mr. Leslie James Walshaw Smith as "Tiger." Nevertheless the appellation fits our hero in no small measure, for in what other individual does one find in such a marked degree the sure and steady pursuit of some object on which his mind has been set. It is also probable that the nickname was accorded him with reference to that shaggy auburn mane, now alas, sadly thinning.

One's memory recalls the days when he filled with distinction one of the half-back positions putting up many a fine performance. His playing career was however too short, stern duty insisting that his many talents could be put to better use abroad, but despite these frequent journeyings abroad, Tiger always took the keenest interest in everything appertaining to the Winchmore Hill Club, particularly the Football Section thereof. On his final return to England, Home and Beauty, he was soon elected to the Committee, on which as was only to be expected his peculiar talents of Organisation quickly came to the fore. When the former Team and Match Secretary found it necessary to relinquish his activities, the mantle fell upon Tiger, and the success which has attended his efforts will be admitted by Player and Supporter alike. The Banner he proudly bears has for its inscription "Excelsior" which in this instance may be translated as "Success to the Winchmore Hill Football Club," and to that end alone are devoted his great gifts of organisation, his fervid zeal, and his untiring industry. His methods are peculiarly personal to him, and although one

may not always see eye to eye with him, one is forced to admire the sincerity and force behind all his suggestions and actions, and to give them the earnest consideration they so fully merit. While comparisons are invidious, it would be difficult to name any other individual who devotes such talent, energy and thought to the furtherance of the best interests of the Club.

That these attributes may long be devoted to the Winchmore Hill Football Club is the wish of everybody connected therewith.

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Alec Cooper.

There are some people, who manifest the same qualities on the field of play as off. Not so Alec Cooper, whose grim, dishevelled and often muddled figure contrasts with that of the sleek, quietly efficient insurance worker. By birth certificate, one of the Club's oldest players; by play, one of the youngest. Winchmore Hill's Peter Pan!

Alec has usually played half-back, mainly on the wing. He tackles fiercely and specialises in a scissors, side-tackle which, though fairly made, looks as though it would spell ruin to tackled and tackler alike. He is fast, heads excellently in spite of moderate height and is a good colleague because he positions well and willingly carries out instructions. Though not remarkable for ball control, he dribbles successfully by a strange combination of body-swerve and short bursts of speed punctuated by double tackles. The great weakness of his play is inability to kick the ball correctly. Though once, during a gale, he hit the crossbar from 75 yards. He usually lacks both strength and accuracy. Thus while he attacks enthusiastically he is more effective in defence.

Alec has played most of his Club football in the 1st and 2nd XI's and during recent seasons he has been acting-captain of both teams, especially in the latter part of 1936/7 when he led the 1st XI. His sound judgment has been useful to the Selection Committee and though a teetotaller and non-smoker, he never looks out of place in the Bar. His loyalty, length of playing service and personal qualities make him a strong candidate for the Football Management Committee.

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THE OLD LYONIANS FOOTBALL CLUB.

The Old Lyonians Football Club was formed in 1902. Playing membership is confined to present masters and past and present scholars of the Lower School of John Lyon, Harrow. There are some 350 boys now at the school, but up to about ten years ago the number was restricted to 140.

At first, only friendly matches were played until 1905 when the Old Boys entered Willesden and District League. In 1909 they went over to the A.F.A., and in 1912/13 and 1913/14 won the Middlesex A.F.A. Charity Cup. Resuming after the war, the Old Boys in 1919/20 again won the Middlesex A.F.A. Charity Cup, and created a record in having won this competition for three seasons in succession. In the same season they won the championship of the Middlesex County Amateur League.

The Old Boys returned to F.A. football in 1920, and in 1922 they competed in the Premier Division of the Spartan League. The Lyonians, however, found they had been too ambitious, and in 1924 they were admitted to Division II of the Southern Amateur League, and they again found themselves playing in A.F.A. football. Promotion to Division I was gained at the end of that season, and the Old Boys kept their

place for nine years. Their best season was in 1931/32 when they finished second to Cambridge Town. They were relegated to the Second Division at the end of 1933/34 season and they have not yet succeeded in fighting their way back. They have, however, been runners-up during the last three seasons.

Old Lyonians have always been great Cup fighters. Their best performance was in the F.A. Cup in 1933, when they won their divisional Final, a rare feat for an A.F.A. Club—being finally knocked out in the final qualifying round 2—0 by Margate, the only professional team the Club has ever met. In the A.F.A. Senior Cup their best effort was some years ago when they reached the last eight, Cambridge Town stopping their progress.

The present private ground in Pinner View was bought in 1921, previous games having been played on the Harrow Recreation Ground. Their Ground of 5½ acres contains two football pitches, a cricket wicket, and five tennis courts, while the stand seats 400 spectators.

Several players have been honoured by being chosen to play in representative games, and among these may be mentioned Jack Massey, Duggie Woodbridge, Ross Heard and George Wiffen, the present goalkeeper and skipper. Ross Heard, one of the best backs the Lyonians have ever produced, kept his place in the 1st XI for twenty-two years. Special permission was given by the F.A. to enable the Old Boys to make a presentation to Heard when he had completed twenty-one years, and Sir Frederick Wall sent a message of congratulation.

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THE ROTA SCHEME

In our No. 9, issued in February last, we set out fully our reasons for adopting, and our method of working, a rota scheme. The following is partly a reprint of that statement

and partly an addition to it, as we have now a complete season's experience to go upon, as well as having had the advantage of views expressed by members. We feel, however, that some explanation is due to our new members, most of whom have, by this time, been placed on the rota; although we think they must have been aware of the scheme because none has objected and some have been kind enough to tell us that they not only understand our reasons for adopting it but consider it might be extended to other Clubs who have not yet overcome the difficulties which caused us to bring it into force.

Every Saturday the Club is bound to field four teams and can thus provide 44 places each week. To be certain of regularly turning out full sides we need at least 60 playing members, at which figure we have placed a limit this season for the first time in our history. This limit, incidentally, is bound up with our efforts to raise the Club playing standard, and enables us the better to calculate our probable available players throughout the season. If the Committee selects teams strictly on merit the same members will be left out week after week, and in the absence of some very deep loyalty they will resign; and the less often they play the less well they will play. It is, therefore, felt that games should be shared by players, and that since the greater the number of players sharing games the fewer the occasions on which each would have to be rested, it was desirable to include not merely the 3rd and 4th XI's but the 2nd XI as well.

Apart from the 1st XI, which, as the prestige of the whole Club depends on its performances, is not subject to rota, the Club has 33 weekly places to offer to 49 players. If everyone remained fit and available throughout the season each player would get three out of four games, approximately. In fact, business calls, illness, and injury hit some members for so

long that a constantly fit man is more likely to get about seven out of eight games, and in a full season to be rested only three or four times in 28 or so matches.

From one season's experience the following points have emerged, some of which were foreseen. The Committee must be careful not to rest too many backs, halves, or forwards in any given week, but must stand down players in each division. On the occasion of a needle match, for instance, the strongest possible side would be fielded. If a player has been out of the game for some weeks, due to injury or illness for example, his absence would be equivalent to having stood down by the working of the rota. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th XI's (especially the two last) cannot field the same teams every week, and this may affect the playing standard of those teams. The Committee has had to choose between slightly weakening these sides and wrecking the 4th XI as it has been always wrecked previous to last season, especially after Christmas.

We asked for your comments and suggestions at the inception of the scheme ; we repeat that request now. The arrangement is for your own benefit, and you will find the Committee always ready to entertain constructive ideas. We wish to thank all the players without exception who have assisted us to work it, and if it has solved one of the chief difficulties of any Club playing team games then it will have served its purpose.

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CLUB JOTTINGS.

Saturday 19th November, was a red letter day for Winchmore Hill F.C. All four elevens played as selected. The Hon. Match Sec. is doing as well as can be expected.

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Early in the season, one of our members, on receiving a Rota card, sent our Hon. Team Sec. a beautiful picture of Salisbury Cathedral with the terse observation that it was a pity that "B" came so early in the alphabet. We now no longer refer to members as "on the Rota" but "in the Cathedral."

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Playing members are reminded of the Insurance scheme. The premium is 5/- for the season. Compensation is 30/- per week for total disability resulting from an injury sustained while playing for a Club XI. Full details can be obtained from the Secretary.

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Members will be sorry to hear that Dick Platt has undergone an operation for appendicitis. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

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Arrangements are nearly complete for the Easter Tour. This was such a great success last year that there have already been numerous enquiries. Vice-Presidents or Honorary members are equally welcome with Playing members but as accommodation is necessarily limited, the Hon. Match Sec. would be glad to have the names of all those who would like to join the party, as soon as possible.

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We should like to express our thanks to the ladies who have been assisting Horace in the Canteen. In spite of their valiant assistance there is still scope for further volunteers.

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The Football Club Dance has been arranged for Wednesday, 22nd January, 1939. Full details will follow but please book the date now.

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Some subscriptions are we regret still outstanding.

TEAM RECORDS (UP to and including 26th Nov.)

			Goals.					
			Played.	Won.	Drawn.	Lost.	For.	Against. Points
1st XI.	League	...	4	2	—	2	8	11 4
	Cup-ties	...	4	2	2	—	14	7 —
	Friendlies	...	1	1	—	—	5	4 —
			9	5	2	2	27	22 —
2nd XI.	League	...	4	2	—	2	12	16 4
	Cup-ties	...	3	1	1	1	3	2 —
	Friendlies	...	1	—	—	1	2	5 —
			8	3	1	4	17	23 —
3rd XI.	League	...	6	3	1	2	8	7 7
	Cup-ties	...	1	—	—	1	1	8 —
	Friendlies	...	1	—	—	1	2	4 —
			8	3	1	4	11	19 —
4th XI.	League	...	6	3	—	3	16	24 6
	Friendlies	...	2	—	—	2	2	10 —
			8	3	—	5	18	34 —