

WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CHAT

Feb 1939



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. 15 Vol. I]

Compiled, Arranged and Edited by GEORGE DEACOCK.

[February, 1939.

Editorial.

THE first few weeks of the year have provided a very 'Mixed Grill.' The weather has succeeded in cancelling five matches and two more were only played after long deliberation, whilst the excellence of the 1st XI's League progress has been offset by the comparatively poor results of the lower elevens.

The Optimism which prevailed at the beginning of the Season is still with us. Much has been accomplished — much remains to be accomplished. The 1st XI have settled down

and our Coach and the Selection Committee are consequently able to give more attention to the lower sides.

The difficulty is to help those who will not help themselves. Every week it becomes more evident that many of our players lack speed and stamina and sense of positional play. These can only be achieved by persistent training and giving the Coach a chance to coach you. Sorry to keep harping on it lads, but if you want to play good football you must come down on Tuesdays.

1st XI REPORT.

It is pleasing to record that since our last issue, the 1st eleven have continued their winning ways, having been successful in all their games except against Siemens Sports in the Middlesex A.F.A. Cup when they were defeated 1—3. The maximum points were gained from the three league encounters and we thus have a commanding lead at the head of the table with fifteen points from ten games. All the members of the side are extremely sanguine as to our remaining in the

top position and if enthusiasm counts for anything we certainly shall do.

On January 7th we visited Charlton to play Siemens in the County Cup and were deservedly beaten 1—3. The Hill started badly by their forwards frittering away a number of good chances in the first quarter of an hour. The home side took heart at their lucky escapes and for most of the remainder of the game had us completely subdued by their quick, hard tackling methods. Chapman and Attwood were the only members of our side to live up to their reputation.

The following Saturday we entertained Highgate in a league game and forgetting all about the previous week, won in a canter 5—1. We were in an irrepressible mood and although our visitors held us to 1—1 until half time, we completely outplayed them after the interval. Wiseman, Guettier (2), Jacques and Gowers were the scorers, Sage, at centre forward netting for Highgate.

On January 21st we were away to Cuaco and were somewhat fortunate in winning 2—1. The home side's form seemed to belie their lowly position in the league and they were unlucky on the day's play not to gain at least one point. The first half's play was even but the Hill's attack refused to function in the second, and consequently the defence was overworked. We conceded one goal only, however, Hervey heading in a well taken corner from the right and as our opponents were generous enough to put through their own goal twice, we ran out narrow winners.

Our next match was away against National Provincial Bank who are potentially our strongest league challengers. This game proved to be a most enjoyable one, being both fast and clean, and we won meritoriously 1—0. We had all the first half but with the wind behind us could score only once. The second period was far more even, each goal in turn having narrow escapes, but the defenders had the upper hand and no further goals were scored.

As a rest from league encounters, we had a friendly at home against Old Finchleians on February 4th. We won 3—1 but the game generally was uninteresting. The defence had a good day but the shooting of the Hill attack, particularly in the first half, was weak.

During the past month our defence has performed splendidly. Chapman has turned out to be a real discovery and must obviously

be playing well to keep goalkeepers of the Bingley and Wheatley class out of the 1st eleven. Kenyon and Varley are as safe as houses at back, their speed and sure tackling being their chief assets. The wing halves, Wiseman and Carter are playing strongly and are giving the forwards good service of the ball. Attwood is breaking the hearts of opposing centre-forwards, and matters have got to that pitch when if the latter gets more than one look at the goal, our centre-half is told that he is not up to form.

Welsford is our best forward although he has found it difficult lately to score a goal. Jacques at centre-forward is proving a thorn in many opponents flesh, mainly because of his terrier-like methods, and Christie has filled a vacancy at inside right creditably. Our finishing is often not good, however, and if we are to remain at the top of the league our shooting will have to be more accurate.

2nd XI REPORT.

We apologise to readers for the absence of any report in our last issue. We will, however, endeavour to report all games during the past 2 months, though each game will have to be dealt with more briefly than we would wish.

On Dec. 3rd the league game against Crouch End Vamps. at Folly Farm was fairly evenly contested, both sides coming close to scoring in the early stages. Just before half time, a free kick taken from well outside our penalty area, was placed perfectly to their centre forward, who turned and scored with a good shot. Jack Wintrup equalised early in the second half with a fine cross shot. Although we had the better of the second half territorially, their centre forward eventually broke through and scored to give them the game by 2—1.

The following week we entertained the Vamps. in the return game and again they opened the scoring, this time quite early in the game. Roper equalised with a clever goal, and a little later the Vamps. right winger worked his way in and scored their second goal. Banks, however, scored a second for us and we crossed over 2—all. Our superiority was marked after half time—a clever switch by Christie and Bacon produced an excellent goal from the latter, then Roper added 2 further goals to make the issue safe. The Vamps. scored a consolation goal late in the game to make the final score 5—3.

The next 4 games deal with our unsuccessful attempt at "Lyon taming," in connection with the Middlesex Junior Cup.

The first replay was on Dec. 17th at home. The game was even and the battle keen, despite a waterlogged pitch which made accurate passing difficult. There was no score at half time, but just afterwards the Lyons scored. We equalised about ten minutes later, Roper and Christie having changed positions and Christie scored with an excellent low shot. That ended the scoring in spite of strenuous efforts on the part of both sides.

The 3rd instalment took place on New Year's Eve at Harrow, and ended again in a draw 2—2. Gus Gowers playing his first game for many weeks scored with his first kick after about two minutes with a beautifully placed shot. Lyonians, however, equalised almost immediately from short range. After 20 minutes Gus again put Winchmore Hill in front, but just before the interval Guy Woodbridge made the score 2—all. The Hill had the better of the second half but neither side could score, though Pain hit the bar with a lovely shot and with almost the last kick of the game the Lyonians centre forward missed our post by inches.

The fourth episode was staged at Fords Grove on Jan. 7th and resulted in a further draw, making 2 pairs in all. We dominated the first half and we should have been 3 goals up at the interval, on the run of the play. Halfway through the first half Mold finished off a nice movement with a good goal and we crossed over leading 1—0, Bingley having had hardly a shot to save. Lyonians undoubtedly had the better of the second half and after about 20 minutes a sliced kick by a defender let in their outside left to equalise, and about ten minutes later they scored again following a melee in our goal mouth. The Hill then took up the attack and with five minutes to go, Mold, who had switched over to outside left, received a good pass, rounded the back and scored with a lovely shot.

The scene chosen for the closing chapters of this endurance test was the John Lyon school ground at Sudbury Hill, and owing to the state of our opponents' league programme, it was for league points as well. On the somewhat narrow pitch the Lyonians attacked from the start, and after about 20 minutes, a bad pass to our goalie left their centre forward the easy job of touching the ball into our net. We played a little better in the second half, but goals would not materialise. With five minutes to go, Woodbridge swung the ball to their outside right, who took it on a short distance and banged it past the advancing Bingley to make the result certain.

We were unable to play our league game against Highgate on Jan. 21st, owing to water at Walthamstow, and the match against Old Stationers on Jan. 28th was postponed due to snow at Barnet.

However, on Feb. 4th we played Aquarius at Honor Oak and unfortunately dropped 2 more league points, losing 1—2. The first half was quite evenly contested and although we

had one or two obvious chances, there was no score at the interval. With the second half 15 minutes old, Aquarius scored. After this the Hill took up the attack for a time, and about 10 minutes later Cooper worked the ball up the field, pushed it down the middle to Roper who transferred it towards the right, where Bain coming in from the wing hit it first time into the net. However, we were to be denied even one point, as about ten minutes from time, a defensive error let Aquarius through to score their second goal from short range.

3rd XI REPORT

On January 7th, we went to Highams Park to play Unicity in a friendly game. On a ground that seemed to slope in every direction and with a surface of mud and icy water we lost 1—6. We took the lead mid-way through the first half through Risbrook, but this goal seemed to act as an inspiration to Unicity and not to ourselves. They soon levelled the scores and with one of our defenders deflecting a free kick from 30 yards out past our 'keeper they had a lead of 2—1 at the interval. In the second half, with our defenders slipping and sliding in all directions, chiefly where the ball wasn't, Unicity scored 4 more goals. Our hero was B. Lloyd at centre half who was always in the thick of the fray and from the thickest of scrimmages he usually emerged with the ball. Unicity were definitely the better side, they adapted themselves to the conditions far better than our fellows and fully deserved their victory.

On January 14th, we travelled to Richmond and played Kew Association. In a very scrappy game we lost 1—2. After a long absence Wheatley, the former 1st XI goalkeeper, made an appearance. Although lacking practice, he

made some good saves and should strengthen our last line of defence considerably. Our only goal was scored by Bain, playing at centre forward. Very little football was forthcoming from either side, aimless kicking being, apparently, the order of the day.

On January 21st, we were at home to the Old Lyonians and strange as it may seem we won easily by seven clear goals. The centre of the field was in a shocking state, but we played the right type of game by using our wing men as much as possible. We over-ran the Old Lyonians in the first half and with our half backs dominating the game we scored 5 times before the interval. The Old Lyonians improved in the second half, but although we only scored two more goals we did most of the attacking. Our goal-scorers were Roper (4), Bain, Bacon and Buck.

On January 28th, our game at home with the Norsemen was scratched owing to the unfit state of the ground.

On February 4th, we were at home again and this time our visitors were Lensbury. We lost 1—7, and no excuses are offered, we were fairly and squarely beaten by a superior team. The combined play and the shooting of the Lensbury attack was better than any we have met so far. Wheatley played a good game in goal and stood no chance with any of the goals, the speed and direction of the shots being most uncanny. Our defence, as a whole, was not too sound, the marking being "more than somewhat" casual. The forwards also had a poor day and very few scoring efforts were seen. Our only goal was scored by our Scottish inside right, "Jock," just before half time.

4th XI.

Weather having interfered with our programme, our skipper appears to have spent his spare afternoons in Rhyming the games we have played.

On Jan. the fourteenth we entertained Kew,
At home, on a pitch like an Irish stew ;
By half-time we'd made little progress, if any,
Which made our " Jock's " flow of expletives
uncanny.

We started again with the score at one each,
Our outside right Eeles having netted a
peach ;
The defenders got moving with long swinging
passes
Out to the wings where the less muddy grass is.
Both wingers made ground and centred first
time,

Especially young Eeles, whose game was
sublime ;
The lads in the middle made good use of the
centres,
But missed many " sitters " by hurrying their
ventures ;

Four forwards, however, each netted the ball—
Tyrell, Jock, Rissbrook, the Skipper an' all.
Our side as a whole won bouquets for the day,
But all honour to Kew for a sporting display ;
(Though the score at the end was five goals
to two,

Our opponents were game, to give them
their due).

Came the next game, under water,
Played at home, but didn't oughter,
Played with Highgate, pretty mudlarks,
All got wet shorts, notwithstanding—
But with sitting, in the puddles.

We were short, as one man thinking
Game was off went homeward slinking ;
Most annoying, when you know that
Many lads are standing idle—
But the ten men played up nobly.

Highgate were the most unlucky,
Tho' our Hobbs in goal was plucky,
Saving many shots terrific,
Saving several perfect ' snorters '—
Diving thro' the surging waters.

But our boys defended stoutly ;
Brown and Rollings prayed devoutly
For a half-back, centre, missing,
While the shots went round them hissing—
And the forwards kept on trying.

On the run of play, our rivals
Should have won, but their survivals,
From offside appeals were scanty ;
Consequently missed their chances—
And our full-backs led them dances.

Came the final whistle blowing,
With the score at nought to nothing ;
One and twenty players, muddy,
Bathing, eating, feeling fitter—
Lovely climax, " Mine's a bitter ! "

Carshalton's delightful, so they say,
To go there, use the Southern Railway.
But if by Car, here's a word for you,
Don't try to cross the river at Kew !

This three players on the 4th contrived,
And at the start they had not arrived.
His card to a fourth one never came,
So seven were left to start the game.

Hard as they struggled to stem the tide,
Goals were piled up by the other side,
And when at last, the delinquents came,
Too tired were the seven to save the game.

Let it suffice that the game was won
By the better side by 10—1.

BROOKIE OF KEW.

This name is as familiar, not only to the members of this Club, but to all those moving in Southern Amateur and Nemean League circles, as it must be to a far larger number of kindred spirits all over the place. To refer to Mr. H. D. Brookes is mere waste of time—nobody would take any notice. But mention "Brookie" and no explanation is necessary. He is unique, and his arrival anywhere, with the somewhat quizzical expression and the raised eyebrows, is all that is needed to turn any gathering into a cheerful mob which feels its spirits rise and its outlook on life grow brighter simply owing to Brookie's presence. Now that's all over as far as we are concerned who have known him so long and had so much pleasure from his company. Brookie has gone to the Midlands to work for his living, and while our good wishes go with him and we drink to his success, we shall miss him in all the haunts and on the grounds where we used to run into him so frequently.

He made it one of his hobbies to promote the welfare of Kew Association, and his efforts were never without good results, for his Club, although it has its ups and downs as we all do, is respected and its members welcomed by us all. Brookie has left behind him a fine reputation and a host of friends, and if we say "Hail and farewell" we hope the last has not been seen of him in our football circles, and that later he may return to brighten things for us again in his own inimitable manner.

Good old Brookie !

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

It is platitudinary to state that without system, human efforts would be of no avail, indeed would become chaotic. The smooth running of any undertaking from the State downwards necessitates an enormous amount of considered thought and a vast care of the

"little things," which of themselves seem almost trivial. The management of a Football Club, be it large or small, demands a studied consideration of details, which the writer suggests may not be appreciated by the general body of the Members. With a view, therefore, of lifting the veil in a small degree, one is constrained to make a few observations, being well-versed in Committee Work of every description. At a General Meeting one of the members may find himself elected to a seat on the Committee, and quickly finds that such a place entails thought, care, and above all, work. Slowly but surely there dawns on his imagination a feeling of admiration for those non-playing Members of the Committee, whose labours are undertaken purely for the love of the game and the welfare of the Club. Particularly does this refer to the Executive Officers, and blessed indeed is the Club which like our own, has such fine fellows taking a prominent part in its management.

Apart from routine matters for which the Committee places every reliance on the Executive Officers, there must necessarily arise, matters which need the greatest thought, cases in which hasty decisions may affect the future history of the Club. One such matter has recently arisen, and a line of action taken thereon, which in the opinion of the writer, was eminently correct, and which will in the future redound to the credit of the Club. Then again, as is common to most sports Clubs, in mighty as well as lowly circles, the question of Finance, is, like the skeleton in the cupboard, ever likely to pop out its grisly head, and cause much hard thinking. This particular bug-bear has fortunately lain dormant for some years, but in the past it was indeed a constant source of worry to every Member of the Committee and particularly our Treasurer at that time. In this respect the ordinary Member can do much to relieve anxiety by the prompt payment of his just dues.

Closely associated with Finance is of course, the desire of the Committee ever to improve the playing amenities and dressing accommodation for the various teams, and as evidence of this, the engagement of our popular coach, will bear witness.

From these few reflections it will be seen that a labour of love is very cheerfully and conscientiously undertaken by the Committee. In its name the writer wishes to congratulate the playing members on their splendid efforts this season, which encourage the Executive Officers and Committee to continue to give of their best round the Council Chamber. Only thus by a combined effort may we bring about our long-cherished ambition, which given equal fortune, appears almost to be within our grasp.

PEN PORTRAITS

E. W. Varley.

Wally Varley has played for the 1st and 2nd XIs for the past six seasons. Most of his service has been with the 1st XI at inside or outside right, though he never regularly looked the complete 1st team forward.

Occasionally his strength of body and kick would enable him on a heavy ground to force his way through the defence and smash home a mighty shot—he did this four times in a memorable 5—4 cup defeat of Ealing two years ago—but such a display would be followed by one of more usual type wherein Wally tried to beat his man the same way, made the same obvious passes and rammed in the same cannon ball centres. Thus while having many excellent qualities—sturdy physique, reasonable speed, very powerful kick with either feet, good heading, plenty of physical “guts” and team spirit—Wally held his place more by the persistent absence of a good right winger than by reason of his considerable, but hardly

adequate qualities. What he lacked was the quickness of mind and creative imagination necessary in a good forward. In retrospect it seems remarkable that no one thought of making Wally into a defender. Fortunately, we were forced to experiment on last Easter tour and he has since held his place in the first team at left back. Wally tackles strongly and being naturally right-footed, tackles best on the inside where the greater danger exists. He kicks a long way even on the muddiest of pitches and with the assistance of Mr. Thompson has established an understanding with the rest of the defence that has made that department of the side, the strongest for many seasons.

Wally is one of the cleanest and most sporting players who has played for the Hill and is one of those loyal members prepared to play anywhere in any side. It is the earnest hope of the writer that some such transformation may occur in his cricket as has occurred in his football this season, for in spite of varied stroke play, ability to swing the ball and great keenness in the field, Wally has so far failed to establish a permanent place in the Hill 1st XI.

D. Wintrup.

David Wintrup to give him his proper name, though no one knows him as anything but ‘Jock,’ came to the club from North of the Border and the Land of his Forefathers in 1931. He soon established himself as inside right in the 2nd XI, and at Hastings, in his first game in that side, he scored a peach of a goal.

He has, however, played most of his football in the 3rd XI, and was one of the ‘thistles’ in the team secretary’s side during the season we started ‘giant-killing’ in the Minor Cup, and got well behind with a very long list of league fixtures.

Like many others in this imperfect world Jock is blest(?) with 'one foot,' but when he puts that foot on the ball and looks round, one is reminded of a countryman of his who used to play at Highbury in $\frac{3}{4}$ -length trousers. That one foot is so good and he makes such telling passes with it, that he is well known to nearly all our Nemean League opponents, who, owing to his infrequent appearances this season, have been enquiring after the man who gives tongue to those strange Celtic utterances, reminiscent of a distressed Haggis calling to its young.

Some years later Jock introduced his brother to the Club, where he played inside left, but this led to complications, because, although 'Young Jock' could understand and speak the lingo, the centre forward got in such a state that he started reading Bobby Burns and nearly took out naturalisation papers.

Unfortunately 'Young Jock' left to play for another club and now we are to lose 'Old Jock,' who is returning to his native land. We understand this is for business reasons and not, as has been rumoured, through inability to master the Sassenach tongue.

Let us hope we can persuade 'Young Jock' to rejoin for next season, as the Club should have at least one Wintrup as a playing member—a drop of Scotch does so improve the 'spirit' of a team.

Hoch Aye, Jock, we'll miss ye. Here's luck ta ye, and lang may y'r lumm reek.

* * *

CLUB JOTTINGS

Important.

Please 'phone or write immediately, either to the Secretary or to Mr. E. G. Watson, 460, Green Lanes, N.13, stating the number of tickets you are using for the Dance. Even if you are not using any please let us know.

* * *

The Club Supper will be held at 'The George Hotel' Enfield, on Wednesday, 15th March. This will of course be a Stag Party and Morning Dress will be worn. The Supper will be followed by a short Concert and we hope to find sufficient talent from our own members. The Committee will be very pleased to have the name of any member or friend who can contribute to the programme. As accommodation is limited, please let Mr. E. G. Watson know as soon as possible if you will be present. Tickets are 4/- each and can only be forwarded on receipt of cash.

* * *

Since our November issue several additional Vice Presidents and Hon. Members have joined the Club. These include Messrs. L. Abbott, G. Hayward, H. Hassall, J. Hurst, T. J. Wrigglesworth, all old playing members and Messrs. R. B. Brown, E. M. Jacques and A. Rissbrook, respected parents of present members. We take this opportunity of officially wishing them a very hearty welcome to the Club and hope their association with us will be both long and enjoyable.

* * *

We regret that one of our most promising recruits this season, C. D. Knapp, is leaving the district and will not be available next season. He is, however, keeping in touch with the Club next year as an Honorary Member and hopes in the not too distant future to be playing for us again. We wish him the best of luck and hope for his speedy return.

TEAM RECORDS.

(UP to and including 4th February.)

			Played.	Won.	Drawn.	Lost.	Goals.		Points
							For.	Against.	
1st XI.	League	...	10	7	1	2	27	20	15
	Cup-ties	...	6	2	2	2	16	13	—
	Friendlies	...	2	2	—	—	8	5	—
			18	11	3	4	51	38	—
2nd XI.	League	...	8	3	—	5	19	25	6
	Cup-ties	...	7	1	4	2	8	9	—
	Friendlies	...	1	—	—	1	2	5	—
			★ 15	4	4	7	29	39	—
3rd XI.	League	...	13	5	2	6	24	34	12
	Cup-ties	...	1	—	—	1	1	8	—
	Friendlies	...	2	—	—	2	3	10	—
			16	5	2	9	28	52	—
4th XI.	League	...	11	4	1	6	22	41	9
	Friendlies	...	2	—	—	2	2	10	—
			13	4	1	8	24	51	—

★ JAN. 14 v Old Lyonians lost 0-2 counted as Cup Tie and also League Match.

ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S ACROSTIC.

D	E A	D
E	N N U	I
A	R G U I N	G
C	E N T E R I N	G
O	G	I
C	O I	N
K	U D O	S