

WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CHAT

CLUB COPY

18

DEC 39



With Compliments

WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CLUB

MEMBERS : SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE

President : Miss I. PAULIN

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Compiled, Arranged and Edited by GEORGE DEACOCK.

[December, 1939.

Gentlemen,

With this issue "Football Chat" makes its first War-time appearance. This somewhat belated re-appearance is due largely to a hint given by our ever-generous Life Member, and in the absence of our Editor-in-Chief, "somewhere in England, O.H.M.S.," your Committee have thought it appropriate to address themselves, through their Chairman, to the task of setting forth our intentions to keep the purple, white and black flag flying for "the duration."

One evening early in September, therefore, the Members of the Committee braved the "Black out," then in its darkest infancy, to foregather under the hospitable roof of our worthy Treasurer, and immediately went into a "huddle" as how best to combat the "emergency" into which we had been thrown.

While every member of the Committee realised that the cream of our footballing talent would be missing and therefore a falling off in the standard of play inevitable, this consideration was soon disposed of and the discussion narrowed down to the question of "ways and means," the Club having undertaken serious financial obligations, the denial of which would seriously embarrass our good friends the Parent Club. At the same time it was realised that our special effort, so fruitful in the past, would have to be suspended.

The pros and cons having been very carefully considered, it was at last unanimously resolved to endeavour to carry on, as far as is humanly possible :—

Firstly : to provide a game of Football for our lads who are serving King and Country, whenever they found themselves on leave.

Secondly : to attempt to fulfil our obligation to the Parent Club.

Thirdly : to provide an opportunity for our many friends to witness a game, and share in the amenities of the Club House

and Lastly : to keep, if possible, in existence the structure on which to build a more flourishing Club, when the present emergency is over, and happier times once more prevail.

The Committee trust that the decision arrived at will meet with the approval of all those who have the best interests of the Club at heart, and also that they will continue their financial support.

Two matches per week have been arranged and a hearty welcome will be extended to our many friends on the ground each Saturday afternoon.

In conclusion may we express the earnest hope that our gallant lads serving their country may be spared to return quickly to assist in placing the old Club we so much love, once again in its proud position as the premier Club of the District, and in the meantime our duty is to "keep the Home Fires burning."

Yours sincerely,

ROBERT H. McLEOD.

1st XI REPORT.

Our first game of the season with Highgate, resulting in a win by 10 goals to 1, would seem to indicate the Hill were out to collect a large bag of goals this season. Whilst this terrific start could not be expected to continue, we have nevertheless maintained a fair average of about four goals per match. The result against Highgate was not indicative of any remarkable strength or ability on our part, but rather of our opponent's weakness, they having suffered even worse losses in respect of last season's players.

This easy win no doubt proved part of our undoing the following week against Alexandra Park, and whilst we had the game well in control during the first half and were leading 3—1, the Park put on considerably more pressure in the second and completely over-ran the defence. Four goals were scored in quick succession, to which we only replied with two, the final score being 3—5. The game proved very strenuous and provided good movements on both sides, the Hill failing to turn these to good account. Wing halves did not keep pace with the game in the second half and were a contributory cause to our downfall, leaving five frisky forwards to frighten the full-backs! "Our Freddie," at right back, is discovering that 'Youth will find a way,' even round bachelor boys, and on this occasion was up against an all too youthful winger who found a good many 'ways.'

Enfield Old Grammarians provided us with a bustling game on November 4th, and had they managed to score a goal would no doubt have bustling a good deal more. As it was they became rather disheartened. The game as a whole provided good football, but our opponents being a little less experienced could not produce those extra movements, and no reply was made to our five goals.

Our game against Broomfield the following Saturday produced a really sparkling display, and compared favourably with the best performance put up by the Club in any game during the previous season. In view of the fact that there were two players on the field by the names of Hulme and Thompson, perhaps this is not so remarkable. However, both teams responded well to these two expert touches and many classic passes were made. The Hill forwards, so ably assisted by Thompson, kept the Broomfield defence in constant danger, and succeeded in obtaining three goals in the first half against our opponent's one. Thompson opened the scoring with a useful goal through the centre, and these were followed by goals from Messrs. Pluck and Hunter. The second half found weaknesses in the wing halves, however, as in the match against Alexandra Park, and Broomfield secured 4 goals against our 1, making the score 4—5. Messrs. Thompson, Pluck and Hunter all had bad luck in all but scoring further goals. The Hill were fortunate in having Harwood at centre-half, a new and invaluable member; unfortunately in the succeeding game against Old Stationers the return of a previous leg injury necessitated a rest and we shall not have his services until after Christmas.

This is the second centre-half we have lost through injury, Gerry Wood also having leg trouble, has had to rest after the first few games in which he proved a valuable key in the defence, and of course a definite social asset in the bar with his reminiscences on equitation.

Old Stationers took on rather a handful in playing a reserve team against us on November 18th. Admittedly our forces have been somewhat depleted, but surely we deserve to meet the best of the O.S.'s! Naturally a duel in which the very prestige of W.H.F.C. was challenged could not be allowed to pass

without suitable punishment, and this was duly handed out to the extent of seven goals. (An ex gratia allowance of one goal was made in view of past associations, but needless to say this did not make allowances for the loss of the captain's car which so neatly vanished on this occasion). Hunter had an enjoyable time collecting about three goals in the first five minutes, Pluck also scoring a couple in the first half. The O.S.'s rallied well in the second half and kept the defence busy, but this unfortunately was due to the forwards on our own side resting too much on their laurels, only scoring a further two goals.

Southgate County O.B.'s proved another successful win for us, and a result of 3—1 was fully justified. Our treatment of them must have been rather robust, as on one occasion only 8 O.B.'s remained on the field. The first half did not produce any goals, possibly due to the absence of "Four Goal Hunter," and the play was fairly equal, although the Hill had many more opportunities. A change of tactics in the forward line proved more profitable in the second half, and a goal resulted from a header by Thompson. After continual pressing we decided to bring our Tank Corps into action, and Carter forced another goal from a corner. Shaw finally clinched the result by a good left shot into the far corner of the net.

With the hard and most enjoyable return match with Broomfield on December 2nd, the Hill lost to an undoubtedly better side. We missed good opportunities of scoring however, and this combined with a spot of bad luck resulted in a win for the Brooms. They swept along in very clean style on many occasions, and but for a series of Guerilla tackles by Uncle Alec the result would have been somewhat different. One of the faults of the game lay in the wingers, who centred too near the opponents goal-keeper for "——Hunter" to

connect. Incidentally we were pleased to have "——Hunter" back with us on Saturday but fear his goal rations must have become exhausted. We trust he has applied for his supplementary !

The first goal resulted for Broomfield from the inside left position, the ball having been conveniently steadied with the hand before shooting, unsighted by the referee ! Almost immediately the Hill replied by a goal from Hunter which turned out to be off-side. Guettier had very bad luck on one occasion in the second half, hitting the far corner of the post, the ball then rebounding along the goal line to be cleared rather late by the Broomfield defence ; this, and an earlier shot by Guettier of which the least said the safer, proved his unlucky day. A second goal was scored by the Brooms after a scrimmage in our penalty area, and a third from a well timed run and shot past our centre half and right back. The outstanding player in the Hill Team was undoubtedly Paine, and congratulations are due to him for such a good performance this season.

2nd XI REPORT.

The first game of the season v. Southgate County O.B. at home we lost 3—5.

Against quite strong opposition the Hill put up a very good show indeed, and in the first half played really well, goals by Rissbrook and Marcus equalising two scored by the Old Boys, and the interval arrived with the score 2—2. After the interval, however, the visitors exerted greater pressure and scored two goals in quick succession. The Hill returned to the attack and Littlestone reduced the Old Boys lead with a very good goal, but towards the end Southgate scored again to make the match safe. Hobbs played very well in goal and Lloyd worked extremely hard at centre half.

In the return game the following week, the Hill were greatly handicapped by having Eldred crocked after the first quarter of an hour, and although he hobbled about on the wing for a while, retired for good well before half time. The Club put up quite a good performance in the circumstances, but was generally outplayed and the final score, 2—5, fairly accurately represented the run of the play. Hobbs again played excellently in goal and Robinson was sound at right back.

On Saturday, October 28th v. Alexandra Park II at Alexandra Park, we drew 3—3.

This was the Hill's best performance to date. On a surface which, owing to the rain before and during the game, resembled a skating rink, the Club were rather unlucky not to win. There seemed more life in the forward line and more soundness in defence than in the previous games, and the Club led 3—2 for most of the second half and looked like pulling it off, when shortly before the end an unfortunate misunderstanding in defence gave A.P. their equalising goal. After that the Hill attacked again but could not score. Walker and Brown played well at back, and Hockly did well on the right wing. The Hill, who would otherwise have been one short, must thank the Park for a very able substitute, who played extremely well at left half.

Saturday, 4th November, we visited Enfield Old Grammarians II at Enfield and lost 6—1.

With a somewhat unfamiliar looking side, the Hill put up a very disappointing display in this game. The first half was very even, but after the interval the Hill defence cracked badly and the very young and active home forward line, who combined very well, took full advantage of the Hill's defensive lapses.

On the 11th Broomfield II beat us at Home 2—1.

Greatly strengthened in defence by the inclusion of two 'evacuees' in Cooper and Watson, the Hill put up a very good show in this game and although up against very useful opposition, were a trifle unlucky to lose. The game was very evenly contested throughout, with the defences in both cases being on top of their opposing forwards. Littlestone scored for the Hill.

At Home to Alexandra Park on the 18th we lost 6—1.

After the very good show the Hill had put up earlier in the season against the Park, their display in this game was very disappointing. Once again as in the Enfield Old Grammarians game there were bad lapses in defence although the game was by no means as one sided as the score would suggest.

On the 25th we had a grand tussle with Old Stationers at Barnet the result being a 1—1 draw. The forwards found some difficulty in controlling the ball on the slippery ground but the defence played soundly although they could not prevent the Stationers scoring once by which they led at half time. In the second half the Hill got more grip on the game and Eldred and Brewer combining well on the right wing led a number of attacks. Hesitancy on the part of their colleagues spoiled several chances but eventually Brewer equalised with a real pile driver.

December 2nd we had our return game with Broomfield and went down 9—0.

After the very fine home game with Broomfield, this was another disappointment, although once again the game was not nearly as one sided as the score would suggest. The Hill, who, owing to the "rota" system and other causes, had to field a very unbalanced side, with several members playing out of their usual positions, never got together.

"Somewhere in England."

December, 1939.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,

I cannot tell you how glad I was to hear that, despite the upheaval caused by the War and war conditions, the Football Club is still carrying on. In previous years I must confess that I had taken the Club too much for granted. Games were to be had every Saturday, training facilities were there for such as cared to take advantage of them, as well as expert criticism and advice for those humble enough and/or keen enough to turn up on Tuesday evenings.

To those of us who have been forced to shut up our homes, say "au revoir" to old friends and adapt ourselves to entirely new surroundings, the measure of our loss was not at first apparent. Only now, after an interval of some months, are we beginning to realize how great a part the Club, almost unbeknown to us, had begun to play in our lives.

The things that I, who have now no opportunity for regular weekly games, miss most are many and varied. I miss those keenly contested games with old and tried opponents who, win or lose, never failed to joke and drink with us after the game; the rare hospitality extended to us everywhere—a hospitality which we endeavoured to return in like measure; and above all, I think, I miss that atmosphere of friendly comradeship, so free from petty quarrels, distrust or intolerance, which exists among "veterans" and newcomers alike.

And, lest I give the impression of an altogether too incredible earthly paradise, let me not forget the vociferous "pavilion critics," the memory of whom, exasperating though their exhortations and oft misguided comments may have seemed to us on the field, now fills me with nostalgic longings for Ford's Grove!

To all those who are doing their bit to keep this spirit alive, whether as supporters or players, I should like to convey my very best wishes and thanks.

To all those who, like myself, have been called away, I send my sincerest wishes for a safe and speedy return and many more seasons of good sport and good fellowship.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

"ALMOST A VETERAN."

* * *

CARRYING ON

Well, it's good to find the Club still going, somewhat slowly and creakily perhaps, but going. It hardly seemed possible, in the first few days of this latest German War, that enough players would remain to carry on, and, indeed, had it not been for our good fortune in having the co-operation of those old friends, Southgate Wanderers, whose ground has been commandeered, it is doubtful whether we could have raised more than one scrappy side, whereas we are running two comfortably.

Games have been found for Service and evacuated members on leave or a short visit home; and chosen players have more than once willingly stood down to let someone in.

Our young gentlemen of the Forces are obviously in good fettle when we do see them, and it appears that they all manage to get more football now than they ever did as civilians. And the amount of leave some of them wangle is most astonishing. One fears that if this sort of thing continues somebody will write to the "Times" about it and ruin the whole show. However, the more we have their company the better we like it, and after all the Club is now probably more to them than to us who still enjoy the comforts of our own firesides.

Mr. Thompson has proved himself a 'stout feller' too. He was keen to continue his talks on Tuesday evenings, and his enthusiasm has communicated itself to a handful of faithful souls, including not a few Wanderers, who feel their way to the pavilion to train and argue with him to their great benefit. It is pertinent to observe, in this connection, that several of these hopefuls have discovered that there are still rose bushes along the front of the pavilion, and that barked shins and scratched limbs are a commonplace. The faithful Cooper attends also, and he is, after our coach, the most essential factor in the success of this venture.

We could have wished that the playing surface might have been better preserved, but the difficulties in doing this are quite substantial. There is now only Cooper to do all the work on the ground, and if, up to now, he has sought an opportunity to cut or roll the pitch the weather has prevented it. Still,

let us consider ourselves fortunate that we have a ground at all when so many clubs have been deprived of theirs.

The war has done some good, at any rate, since it has brought us into contact with neighbouring Clubs whose members we never get to know during normal seasons, though they live on our doorstep. The turmoil and set opposition of League and Cup football has perforce, chiefly owing to travel difficulties, had to be abandoned in favour of friendly matches with local sides, and plenty of good fixtures have been easily obtained. It is probably true that some of these Clubs have been longing to have a crack at us owing to their own ideas of their playing capabilities. Some of them look as though these ideas were well held, and any idea that a season of all friendlies would lack interest has soon been dispelled. Our object is to provide our members with that good comradeship we have always stressed so much, and to do this the playing of the always best sides is not possible if all are to join in and have as few idle Saturday afternoons as possible.

We have been fortunate in finding a ready volunteer to take over the provision of 'Teas' during Horace's absence and after one local Derby the Canteen looked quite like 'Old Times.'

The Bar is always well populated and fully justifies its existence as a meeting place for those on leave or a brief visit to their old haunts. Even if the beer is a little chilly the latest Army stories soon restore the temperature.

The "Chat," which only appears now for the first time this season, and will probably appear

only once more—at its end—is one of our links which has weakened, but we gather what information comes our way as to the whereabouts and doings of our members, and we hope they will not forget to keep in touch with us when they cannot visit us.

Our good wishes and our thanks for all they are doing, and will continue to do on our behalf go out to our serving members wherever they may be. They may rest assured that those of us who are left to keep the Club going will do it to the best of our ability.

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SOUTHGATE WANDERERS

ATHLETIC CLUB

The Southgate Wanderers Athletic Club, which was founded in 1919 by a number of boys, the majority of whom were at the City of London School, was due to celebrate its coming of age this year. Unfortunately, however, owing to the large proportion of members engaged in war work of one kind or another, the Club has been forced to suspend activities for the duration of hostilities. Those members who are still available have joined Winchmore Hill in a body, thus keeping in contact with one another and keeping a foundation on which to rebuild the Club in more peaceful times.

The Wanderers started with only one side in 1919, but increased to two elevens in the 1925/6 season. The Club became members of the A.F.A. in 1927, and in addition to competing in the A.F.A. Cups, has for many years had an excellent list of "friendly" fixtures, including regular games with all the "big five" Banks, several of the hospitals, many of the leading Old Boy sides, and Clubs such as the Norsemen, Ibis, H.A.C., Exiles, and, of course Winchmore Hill, with whom the Wanderers have had a regular Boxing morning fixture since 1927.

The Wanderers in their earlier days had several grounds, including one in Firs Lane, opposite the Hill ground. Since 1931, however, the Club has been lucky enough to have an excellent ground and headquarters at Ladysmith Road, Enfield, where visiting sides were assured of a warm welcome in every sense.

The Wanderers ran a cricket section for nine seasons from 1920 to 1928 and a tennis section during the three summers 1926, 1927 and 1928, but after losing the Firs Lane ground for building at the end of the 1928/9 "soccer" season, the Club had no alternative but to disband these two sections, most of the cricket and several of the tennis members joining the Hill.

A pleasing feature has been the large number of members still playing for the Club in recent years who had belonged to it for ten or twelve years and more. Three of the original members were still playing regularly for the Club last winter, and last year's General Committee of seven members could boast of over 110 years' active service between them.

ABSENT FRIENDS

The following details of our absent members, while not perhaps complete, are up-to-date so far as we know them at the time of going to press.

Sgt. C. H. Ambridge. Royal Navy.
Gordon Summerfield. Royal Engineers.
[France.

P. Rollings. Royal Engineers.
B. V. Buck. Royal Engineers.
Denis Huntley. Royal Air Force. France.
J. W. Pickard. Royal Artillery.
Dudley Wright. London Scottish.
Tom Brooking. Royal Engineers.
D. J. Brewer. Royal Artillery.
D. J. Bentham. Royal Artillery.
Bernard Carter. Royal Tank Corps.
W. E. Jacques. Queen Victoria's Rifles.
W. K. Brooks. Queen Victoria's Rifles.
E. G. Christie. Devonshire Regiment.
R. W. C. Gowers. Royal Artillery.
Norman Welsford. Royal Artillery.
E. W. Varley. Royal Artillery.
E. G. Wollends. Royal Artillery.
Douglas Howl. London Scottish.
T. E. Howson. Royal Air Force.

The following, who have been evacuated with their various business houses, schools, etc., seem to be making the most of things, but it looks as though they may all be back fairly soon unless Adolf makes a game of it and induces their concerns to stay where they are.

F. J. Ramsbottom.
W. R. Bacon.
Fred Kenyon.
Alec Cooper.

* * *

CLUB JOTTINGS

Donations in addition to the usual subscription are always welcome, but especially so this year when we have no Special Effort upon which to rely. Our very best thanks are

due to the following members who have already helped in this way :—

H. H. Dupont, Esq.
W. H. Hancock, Esq.
P. F. Hockley, Esq.
H. W. Whittard, Esq.

* * *

Comment has been occasioned by the fact that some of our coloured shirts are somewhat tattered. This perhaps explains the spectators' somewhat frequent admonitions to the players recently to 'Pull themselves together.'

Football in war time is bound to include some inconveniences, but our general 'Gordon' hardly anticipated having to fetch his car from Holloway when he parked it at Barnet Hill. We understand there is no particular inference in the fact that it was eventually located outside Holloway Prison.

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Visitors at a recent **needle** match were privileged not only to witness a game of football, but were also entertained by a Male Voice Choir. That both were produced at the same time is presumably a tribute to the efficiency of our Training.

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Members will be sorry to hear that the secretary of the Parent Club, Mr. Huson has not recently enjoyed the best of health. We are sure everyone joins in hoping that Mr. Huson will shortly have better reports from his Doctors and regain all his usual vivacity.

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The finest sight at the Hill this season was the magnificent aplomb with which the referee led his men from the field one Saturday in November. Unusual situations demand unusual handling. The originality of his technique on this occasion was undoubtedly more than equal to the situation.

FIXTURES 1939-40.

1st XI				2nd XI			
Date	OPPONENTS	Result		Date	OPPONENTS	Result	
1939				1939			
Oct. 14	Highgate - - - A	—	Post	Oct. 14	Sth. Cty. Old Boys - H	L	3—5
21	Highgate - - - H	W	10—1	21	Sth. Cty. Old Boys - A	L	2—5
28	Alexandra Park - - H	L	3—5	28	Alexandra Park - - A	D	3—3
Nov. 4	Enfield Old Gram. - H	W	5—0	Nov. 4	Enfield Old Gram. - A	L	1—6
11	Broomfield - - - A	L	4—5	11	Broomfield - - - H	L	1—2
18	Old Stationers - - - A	W	7—1	18	Alexandra Park - - H	L	1—6
25	Sth. Cty. Old Boys - H	W	3—1	25	Old Stationers - - - A	D	1—1
Dec. 2	Broomfield - - - H	L	0—3	Dec. 2	Broomfield - - - A	L	0—9
9	Trinity Cty. Old Boys A	W		9	Mayfield - - - - H		
16	Enfield Old Gram. - A	L		16	Enfield Old Gram. - H		
23				23			
26	Broomfield - - - H						
30	Mayfield - - - - H			30	Mayfield - - - - A		
1940				1940			
Jan. 6	Mayfield - - - -			Jan. 6	Trinity Cty. Old Boys H	—	
13	Trinity Cty. Old Boys H			13	Trinity Cty. Old Boys A		
20	Crouch End Vamps - A	L		20	Southgate Olympic - H	D	1—1
27	Centymca - - - - H	W		27			
Feb. 3	Highgate - - - - A			Feb. 3	Crouch End Vamps - H	L	1—2
10				10	Centymca - - - - H		
17				17	Old Minchendenians - H		
24	Southgate Olympic - H	L		24	Old Tollingtonians - A		
Mch. 2	Old Minchendenians - H			Mch. 2	Old Minchendenians - A	W	5—0 ✓
9	Old Minchendenians - A			9	Old ~~Tollingtonians~~ ^{Tring Somers} - H	W	2—1 ✓
16	Crouch End Vamps - H			16	Royal Donsl Hrs A	L	6—7 ✓
23	Southgate Olympic - A	L		23	CEV WBPW H	W	2—0 ✓
30	Alexandra Park - - A			30	Roy Dons Hrs H	W	3—1 ✓

Apr 6 CEV 2—0 ✓
 9 Trinity City Old Boys L 1—2
 13 Parkhurst L 0—2
 20 CEV A L 1—0