

WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CHAT

CLUB COPY

NO 20

DEC 40



with Compliments

WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CLUB

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[December, 1940.

Editorial

APPROACHING the half-way stage of the season our first thought must be one of thankfulness to those incomparable men of the Forces, included in which are our own serving members in particular, who have assisted so splendidly in holding off the challenge to this country since our last "Chat" was published in the Spring. Were it not for them we should not now be enjoying our football nor keeping the Club going in trust for them against their return. Looked at broadly any efforts we at home may make must seem insignificant when mentioned in the same breath with their contribution, and yet our Club is still a rallying point for us, as well as for them when opportunity offers, so perhaps their sport may seem to them of some importance when they think of their next leave. Certain it is that they would not have been able to give so good an account of themselves during these last fourteen months as has been the case had they not been perfectly fit, and their Club has at least provided them with facilities in the past for their physical well-being on which so much depends now and in the coming months.

This number of the "Chat" is the first, but, we trust, not the last, in which each Section of the Club has a place. Many of our members must be interested in the news of fellow-members in other Sections, and since the Comforts Club is spreading its benefits to all, though it was started originally for cricket and tennis members only, this spirit of co-operation being fostered now must not be allowed to fade. Co-operation must surely be the key-note of any sports club in these difficult times if it is to survive, and those of us who have advocated it so strongly in the past see the fulfilment of our hopes in looking forward to the post-war developments of the Club.

The season has gone very well up to now, in fact it seems that the football is better and the membership stronger than at the commencement of last season. This is due in no small part to the efforts during the summer of our good friends Hockley and Welsford, who took every opportunity of securing such new members as they could before the season started. Although the Services continue to make calls upon us, and in spite of the fact that everyone has his time fully occupied, there is plenty of enthusiasm. Results must not be taken too seriously, as most clubs are only too happy to turn out teams which may vary considerably in strength week by week so long as their sides remain in being. That is the aim of this Club, and if our members after the war find the organisation there and the name still well upheld we feel sure they will be content no matter what "goals for and against" may have to say to them.

It remains only to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year. To our serving members we send specially Hearty Greetings, and assure them that we think of them, and miss them, and look forward to their return.

TEAM REPORTS.

Our Club, in common with almost all others, has suffered further this season by reason of the calls of the Armed Forces and other unavoidable causes, but it can be safely said that, as compared with our neighbours, we have been relatively fortunate. We have continued to run two Xls., and have seriously considered a third, and although the standard of football is not up to pre-war it certainly is good. For these two blessings we must thank largely our tireless Team Secretary, Hockley, and the fact that a number of promising youngsters are with us, who, happily, are not likely to be called for military service just yet awhile.

The 1st XI., under Guettier's able captaincy, has had a very successful time to date, having won all games, mostly with large margins, except one, and our victories have included doubles over Crouch End Vampires, Old Tollingtonians, and Old Ignatians. Perhaps the most enjoyable game, however, was the recent one in which Broomfield narrowly defeated us at Hazlewood Lane by 4—3 after they had gained an early, and, we might be permitted to say, a lucky two-goal lead. One of the team's best "finds" has been undoubtedly Bailey, a young centre-forward who has plenty of ideas aided by two good feet, and who has netted a heap of goals. The remainder of the forward berths have been filled by many different players, owing to business and National calls upsetting the fielding of a regular formation, but on every occasion the attack has accounted for itself well. Geoffrey Birch played very forcefully at inside-forward, and we have had also the assistance of Gunner Welsford (Home Forces) on one or two occasions, one of the latter's goals against C.E.V. being probably the best of the season so far. Of late a newcomer, Two-ton-four-furlong Fincke, has performed "forcefully" at inside-forward, showing many deft touches although being somewhat on the slow side. This gentleman derives his nickname, by the way, from the fact that he is con-

tained by more hectares than any other footballer anybody seems ever to have heard of.

Our half-back line is exceptionally strong, Horwood, Pearl, and Wiseman providing an excellent trio and their effectiveness would be even greater if the wing halves on occasion would be more judicious in their feeding of the forwards. Their staying power is prodigious, and Wiseman, the "old man" of the line, obviously has a secret hoard of Newtown Pippins somewhere on which he is able to maintain his youth. Our backs have played well, and Chapman in goal has been his reliable self throughout. In general the team has functioned together admirably.

The 2nd XI., although not showing such good results as the seniors, has yet enjoyed itself. This side has so far won 2 games, lost 6, and drawn 3, but as it has not been possible to run three sides consistently, as was at one time hoped, the 2nd XI. has had many members on whom to draw and has seldom fielded the same side, or nearly like it, two Saturdays running. Stalwart Bill Earle is skipping this side, and he has had some of his most promising recruits stolen from him as the 1st XI. required them.

The game which was probably the best from the point of view of team play was that in which Old Stationers were beaten 5—0, and the most even that with A.P., which resulted in a draw of 4-goals each. This was very good to watch, both sides playing consistently well and with each hoping for a win right to the end. Some of our younger players are likely to show considerable improvement in due course, Brown in particular, and Hockley fils is coming on so well now that we have great hopes of him; but the older players are doing good work for the Club in holding the side together and in ensuring that a 2nd XI. will continue to function—quite an achievement nowadays, as is evidenced by the fact that not many local sides can rise to two Xls. each week. Chief among the veterans must be mentioned Slatter, whose ex-

perience saves his legs and whose positional play is an example, and "Terrier" Grout, who is always in the thick of it and tries the whole time.

We were very glad to have been able to arrange two further fixtures with the Royal Dental and Charing Cross Hospitals Combined XI, since we rather disappointed them last season when snow and ice ruined their dates. We hope this may be one of our permanent friendly appointments in the future. Some of the local schools sides too are welcome additions to our fixture list during the war, as it is mainly from these sources that we may hope to attract future players who for various reasons may not be available for their own Old Boys.

It will be seen from a glance at the fixture list to date (printed on page 8) that the games arranged between now and the end of the season are quite attractive, but at the moment it is not certain whether the Boxing Morning game with Broomfield will be possible. A late notice about this will appear in the local press just before Christmas, and if it does come off it will be for local charity as usual, so please roll up in your masses and give such substantial support as you can.

Mention has been made of the two skippers. To them we owe a debt of gratitude for their good sportsmanship in taking such responsibility when their sides may look quite different on the field on a Saturday from their appearances on paper some days previously. Guettier has found some of his pre-war form in the goal-scoring line, and we hope we may continue to have him to lead the Club for many moons to come. Bill Earle surely must be a grand example to his fellows, and is just the man to encourage the youngsters. Nobody could slack off, or refuse to turn out, with Bill's name in his mind, and to see him go 90-minutes is a tonic. Long may he, too, be willing to shoulder his burden—but probably he doesn't think it a burden; rather a stimulant.

And our referee! It was said in our last issue that Charles Grant was one of the best referees seen on the ground for a long time, and this opinion has been amply confirmed. He turns out every week—sometimes at inconvenience to himself, since he is a very busy man—but so much do we rely upon him now that we should hardly reckon it a "day" without him. Scrupulously fair, quick in his decisions, and with a knowledge of the rules and the game greater than that of many "official" referees, we are glad to acknowledge his services and to sincerely hope for their continuance.

The social side of the game has, of necessity, suffered from black-outs and blitz, and the wonted adjournments to the "Discerned Heifer" or the "Spotted Cow," as the case may be, after the match have been unfortunately much restricted. We think, however, that most of us, and our opponents too, look forward to the cessation of the war more for the reason that the interchange of gossip over the friendly tankard after the game will be resumed than for most others!

* * *

FOOTNOTE to CRICKET.

It is with pleasure that we endeavour to introduce a whiff of new-mown hay and a burst of summer sunshine with a short résumé of the Cricket Season. Cricketers will have seen the results and short details of matches in the various Bulletins, so it will suffice if the results of the different sides are given in tabular form.

	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Tie.	Abandoned.	Scratched.
1st XI.	4	9	7	1	1	2
2nd XI.	12	5	4	—	—	—
3rd XI.	3	8	—	—	—	—
Sunday XI.	7	5	6	—	1	2
	26	27	17	1	2	4

A few of the games lost might have been saved, but the skippers preferred losing an exciting game to one ending in a tame draw. One or two games were won for the same reason.

As to the individual side, Jack Hurst, who took over the captaincy after Percy Blackwell had been evacuated for the second time, scored most runs with 504 and an average of nearly 22. He was closely followed by Maurice Wright with 496 and an average of just over 18. E. S. King actually heads the list with an average of 33, but he only batted six times, the low limit for qualification. Alec Hayward, a tennis member, has proved a real find as a consistent opening bat and a smart field. In bowling Hedley Bennett, Jack Pearl, and Lowry Flower took most wickets, with 53, 51, and 49 respectively, followed by Bill Marcus and Alec Cooper each with 37.

The prevailing conditions have given chances to the younger members of the Club, some of whom have shown decided promise of a useful cricket future if opportunity permits. Mention might be made of V. S. Tyrrell, R. H. Wilgoss, J. Marshall, and J. Pearl, who, in the order named, are at the head of the bowling averages. Marshall was also a useful batsman.

It only remains to add that the bomb craters are being filled in and re-turfed, and barring further troubles of a like nature it is hoped that the ground will be in condition to give any of you on leave an afternoon's change and recreation with your old friends next season. Adverting to the said craters, a word of congratulation is due to Cooper for the manner in which he tackled an out-size levelling job; it may be prophesied that no trace will remain of them when he has finished it.

* * *

SERVING MEMBERS.

Army.

P. Attwood.
J. Bartley.
~~W. Bartley.~~

Bufs.
Army.
R.A.

T. A. J. Bennett.	Army.
D. J. Bentham.	R.A.
D. E. Bingley.	O. & B. L. I.
G. Blake.	R.A.
E. Blandford.	H.A.C.
D. J. Brewer.	R.A.
T. G. Brooking.	R.A.
W. K. Brooks.	I.A.
G. Brown.	Army
A. W. Brunton.	R.A.S.C.
B. V. Buck.	R.E.
B. E. Carter.	R.A.C.
~~E. G. Christie.~~	Devons.
H. E. Cooper.	H.A.C.
A. Dabbs.	R.A.
H. H. Dupont.	R.A.C.
C. F. Garbett.	R.A.M.C.
R. W. C. Gowers.	R.A.
S. R. Hancock.	R.A.
R. Haycraft.	R.A.
A. G. Hayward.	R.A.
K. Howard.	Army
D. Howl.	Ldn. Scot.
R. Hughes.	Qu. West.
~~L. F. Ireland.~~	R.A.S.C.
W. E. Jacques.	K.R.R.C.
F. H. Kenyon.	R.A.
~~H. H. Kilbey.~~	R.A.
E. J. King.	Army
D. Lee.	Ldn. Scot.
J. W. Leese.	R.A.
S. Pain.	R.A.S.C.
J. W. Pickard.	R.A.
D. M. Robertson.	R.A.
P. Rollings.	R.E.
L. Roper. ?	Army
H. V. Spence.	R.A.D.C.
G. Summerfield.	R.A.
V. S. Tyrrell.	K.R.R.C.
E. W. Varley.	R.A.
N. O. Welsford.	R.A.
E. G. Woollends.	R.A.
D. C. H. Wright.	R.A.

Royal Navy.

C. H. Ambridge.	H. Locking. (?)
E. Bryant.	D. J. Wintrup.
B. Lloyd.	

Royal Air Force.

T. L. Howson.	J. North.
F. B. Hunter.	G. Southcombe.
~~D. Huntley.~~	G. Sparrow.
R. Morrell.	E. B. Weatherhead.

Of the above the following have obtained their commissions.

T. A. J. Bennett.	S. R. Hancock.
D. J. Bentham.	T. L. Howson.
W. K. Brooks.	W. E. Jacques.
A. W. Brunton.	J. North.
E. Bryant.	G. Sparrow.
H. E. Cooper.	H. V. Spence.
H. H. Dupont.	D. C. H. Wright.
R. W. C. Gowers.	

The following are at O.C.T.U's.

D. E. Bingley.	E. G. Woollends.
P. Rollings.	

* * *

THE COMFORTS FUND.

Every one of our serving members should be grateful to Mrs. Stuart Hancock (that sounds strange when she is known affectionately to all and sundry as Olive) for the great work she is doing in sending out parcels of comforts to them. One or two of us have been privileged to get a low-down on how it is done, and we are very glad indeed to know that these parcels are so much appreciated, because it is no light matter to get the contents together, pack them, and dispatch them. Olive says what a great pleasure it is to her to have news of you all, and that the time and trouble you take in writing to her is appreciated more than you imagine.

Some of you may not yet have received the promised parcel. There may be two reasons for this; difficulty sometimes in procuring suitable contents, and complications in obtaining your addresses. If, by the time you receive this "Chat," your parcel has not arrived, will you please let us know; it may have strayed, or your address may be still needed. The Comforts Fund will also be pleased to send each week the local "Paper" to any of you who may wish for it—but it is most important that you keep us right up-to-date with your addresses.

One of our good sources of income for the Fund is the fortnightly afternoon Whist Drive in the pavilion lounge. This has, if anything, increased in popularity, and it is hoped that those who have opportunity and inclination will turn up for a game and in support of such a fine cause.

* * *

AN AMBITION.

Our Tiger has an idea. We have, of course, heard this sort of thing before, but on consideration and in discreet conversation with a few members, we think there might be something in this one if it could be worked.

A glance at the list of those of our members who served during the last war shows that most of their names are now but names, and only a few of the older members even know who they were and what they did. Now this is a great pity. There is no record to go among the Club papers, and remember they, in their time, did all they could having in view the same objects as have those of our serving members to-day.

It is probably not possible now, and may not be until the war is over, for experiences to be set down and communicated in letter form; but memories of happenings are very short and uncertain, and it seems that if some record could be kept somehow of the things men do in times like these, it would be treasured by all members in years to come.

It is suggested, therefore, that those who wish should keep such notes as may be convenient, either by jotting down points for communication by word of mouth when opportunity offers, or by making available such letters as may be possible which have been sent to their folks at home. After all, everything seems to be censored nowadays, and a due sense of proportion should serve to provide the basis for a detailed record for use when the ban is ultimately lifted. Any information sent to Mr. L. J. W. Smith at 11, Hamilton Crescent, London, N.13, will be carefully noted, and any personal letters addressed to members' homes, and lent to him for this purpose, will be returned intact.

It is thought that, if sufficient support be given to the idea, the results might be published in book form, with members' photographs, after the war. This, however, is hardly the point now. The fact that some sort of record could be kept and even put only among the Club's papers should be sufficient to make the effort worth while. It would be interesting to have the views of members themselves, and their suggestions; that some of them have experiences well worth recording is certain if they can be prevailed upon to speak of them.

RANDOM NOTES.

Our congratulations and good wishes to the following who have taken unto themselves wives since our last issue: Wally Varley, Gordon Brooke, Bill Marcus, Gordon Summerfield, Harry Ratcliff, D. J. Wintrup (our Jock), and Ken Howard. The last married Vera Wright, a most appropriate "doubles" partner.

* *

Wally Varley, who had been very ill indeed in the early part of the summer, is now quite recovered, and is back on military duties; we are delighted at this sign that there cannot now be much wrong with him.

* * *

Bill Marcus, evacuated to the backwoods of North Wales, found there Norman Nicholson and our old friend, Frampton. We understand Bill started a cricket team immediately on arrival, afterwards unpacking his bags.

* * *

Fred Kenyon ran into Wally Bartley on descending from the train at his first military station. Both being at the same game, Fred has expressed the opinion that it is not likely to be such a bad war after all. We regret to hear, however, that he considers himself by now an expert floor-scrubber, and has sent home for his knee-pads and spats.

* * *

News has reached us that Pain, having been in the "Lancastria" show and got away by the skin of his teeth (he had a four-and-a-half hours' swim before being rescued) is now far away in the very hot tropics, where he will probably have to play his football in gym. shoes against natives in bare feet.

We hear that Gordon Summerfield crept out of France by the Marseilles back-door and must have got home via Gibraltar or somewhere down there. It was long after the collapse of France that news of his safety was received.

* * *

T. A. J. Bennett arrived home safely from Dunkirk at the beginning of June, and thus, with Harold Dupont and Brunton, shares the distinction of being, as far as we know, the only other member of that famous Force whose acquaintance we claim.

* * *

Gus Gowers fell in with exalted cricketing company at his O.C.T.U., and now numbers among his mentors Bill Bowes, E. M. Wellings, and such like. Others with him were Geoff. Lisle, of London Devonians, du Pre, of Barnet, and Eric Eames, formerly of Highgate F.C.

* * *

Bryant is home indefinitely, after exciting experiences at sea. He was in command, and could probably spill a few beans were it not for the hush-hush times in which we live.

* * *

Winter tennis is flourishing, with an enthusiastic membership of about twenty, including several new members. As in the summer, any Club members on leave are very welcome to use the courts.

* * *

Leave-coming members are asked to let us know, as far in advance as possible, so that football may be arranged for them during their stay with us if they wish it.

Some of our members and their families have suffered varying degrees of inconvenience, and, in some cases, grievous loss, due to the activities of the enemy air forces. From those we have seen and talked to we can only marvel at the wonderful spirit they display, and our sympathies go out to them in such a severe trial. We do not wish to infer that their number is large, but this horrible business is affecting every one of us in some form or other, and it is cause for very great gratification that no loss of life has been reported among them.

* * *

Mrs. Welsford continues to dispense tea for the footballers and the band of supporters which turns up in force each Saturday. Mere thanks cannot express our appreciation of her efforts. Cooper, our inimitable groundsman, too is helping to ensure that everything possible is done for our players, and it is no exaggeration to say that these two worthies between them are largely responsible for the taken-for-granted things being not forgotten.

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We are informed that the Parent Club (which is to say the Club as a whole) is likely to show a deficit of something like £40 on the year's working. This is very serious, and it would be pleasing if every member could ensure that his promise of financial support is carried out as soon as possible, or, if there be any who have made no promise, that they could reconsider the matter. The A.G.M. will probably be held about the middle of January, and notices will soon go out.

FIXTURES - SEASON 1940-41

1st XI				2nd XI			
Date	OPPONENTS	Result		Date	OPPONENTS	Result	
1940				1940			
Sep. 28	Trinity Cty. Old Boys -	W	12—2	Sep. 28	Wood Grn Town "A"	L	1—9
Oct. 5	Crouch End Vamps -	W	4—1	Oct. 5	Alexandra Park - -	L	2—4
12	Crouch End Vamps -	W	8—2	12	Old Stationers - -	W	5—0
19	Old Ignatians - -	W	8—0	19	R.D. & Char. X Hosp.	D	1—1
26	Old Ignatians - -	W	7—0	26	Alexandra Park - -	D	4—4
Nov. 2	Old Minchendenians -	W	9—1	Nov. 2	Army Pay Corps. -	L	1—6
9	Old Tollingtonians -	W	4—3	9	Old Latymerians -	L	2—4
16	Old Tollingtonians -	W	7—1	16	Old Glendalians -	L	2—5
23	Broomfield - -	L	3—4	23	R.D. & Char. X Hosp.	W	6—1
30	Southgate C.O.B. -	W	3—2	30	Edmonton County Sch.	L	3—6
Dec. 7	Alexandra Park - -	W	4—2	Dec. 7	Norsemen - - -	D	1—1
14	Broomfield - - H			14			
21	Old Minchendenians - A			21			
26	Broomfield - - H			26			
28	Trinity Cty. Old Boys - H			28			
1941				1941			
Jan. 4	Southgate C.O.B. - A			Jan. 4	Old Glendalians - H		
11	Alexandra Park - - H			11	Old Latymerians - A		
18	Old Stationers - - H			18	Old Stationers - - A		
25	Mayfield - - - A			25	Southgate C.O.B. - H		
Feb. 1	Old Owens - - - H			Feb. 1	Norsemen - - - A		
8	Old Stationers - - A			8	Old Owens Res. - - H		
15	Mayfield - - - H			15	Southgate C.O.B. - A		
22	Old Owens - - - A			22			
Mar. 1				Mar. 1			
8	Norsemen - - - A			8	Edmonton County Sch. H		
15				15			
22				22			
29				29			
Apr. 5				Apr. 5			
12	Norsemen - - - H			12	Old Owens Res. - - A		
19				19			