

WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CHAT

CLUB COPY

V2 - 4

DEC 43



With Compliments

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WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CLUB

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President : Miss I. PAULIN.

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No. 4 Vol. 2]

Compiled, Arranged and Edited by GEORGE DEACOCK.

[DEC., 1943.

Editorial

* * * *

WE regret that with this issue we have to record the death of Mr. S. M. Spratley, for many years Treasurer of the Parent Club.

There can be few if any who have contributed as much to building the Club as we know it to-day or to shaping its Traditions, and his passing is the greatest loss to all sections of the Winchmore Hill Club.

To find someone similarly steeped in the history of the Club and as well loved and respected by all sections will prove a difficult task, and it is particularly unfortunate that at the present time so many of those members among whom we might look for a successor are abroad serving with the Forces. Nevertheless, a club imbued with the spirit of such men as Sam Spratley and his colleagues cannot fail to grow in strength, and the greatest tribute we can pay him is to make sure that the Club to which he gave so much is a real memorial to his devotion.

Despite ever increasing difficulties, the Football Club has started its fifth season with undiminished confidence. With the loss of several of last seasons players it did seem at one time as though we might not be so strong in the field as last year, but the welcome return of Geoffrey Birch and the addition of new members has restored the balance, and after a shaky start both elevens have settled down to play good football.

Once again we at home send our Greetings to those members who are away this Christmas. We wish you Good Luck and a Safe Return and then the Bumper Celebration !

S. M. SPRATLEY, Esq.

To older members, the Winchmore Hill Cricket Club will not be quite the same without their Hon. Treasurer, Mr. S. M. Spratley. He was an active member of the Club for 58 years, having joined in 1885 and there is in the Pavilion a club photograph, showing him as Captain in 1887, a position he held with but a short break for about 30 years.

In those days he was a very free bat and a most brilliant outfield. Those who remember his play in the 1890 - 1910 period doubt whether the Club has ever had a more active or safer fieldsman. He batted at that time number one, two or three and with Lou Favier often knocked off the runs made by the opponents. It was only after a knee injury which caused him to wear an iron socket that his batting slowed down and he fielded at Point.

Although Sam would have been 81 the day following his funeral, last season was really the first that he ceased to take part regularly in club games, thus completing 57 years as a regular playing member. He loved his cricket and enjoyed his game equally in the first, second or as in later years the 2A XI. For years his opening partner was Charlie Yardley—almost as old in years and certainly as young in mind as was Sam. Under the captaincy of Harry Tidy they were known as "Harry's boys," and a partnership equal to their combined ages (nearly 150 years) was not beyond them.

Mr. Spratley has been a life member of the Club for over 20 years and Hon. Treasurer since 1926. He was one of the original Trustees, and when Frank Ward, the Australian Test Player, presented a bat to the Club, it was Sam who accepted it on behalf of the Club. Previously he had had the honour of making a presentation to the then Hon. Secretary (F. J. Huson) which he did with an excellent speech.

By profession an engineer he readily placed his knowledge at the service of the Club, and not only supervised but more often personally carried out repairs of all kinds. Only the season before last he supervised and helped to re-erect the Football Stand, and even two days before he went into Hospital he was repairing the front steps of the Pavilion.

He was appointed Engineer at the Northern Hospital in 1885, a position which he occupied until his retirement, and it is interesting to note that he installed the Electric Light plant as it exists there to-day. He was a regular attendant at meetings of the Engineers of the M.A.B. over which for a time he presided.

He had several interests outside cricket, and showed in all his activities the same unselfishness and eagerness to help others. He served on the Wood Green Conservative Executive Committee since its formation and was for more than 50 years a member of the Lansdowne Habitation of the Primrose League. He read both widely and deeply and served as Chairman of the Barrowell Green Allotment Holders Association for many years. He was a member of the Civil Defence, being one of the first to enrol as a Warden.

He showed a keen interest in the Club Comforts Fund, regularly attending the Whist Drives since their inception, and was always ready to help in such things as providing a collecting box, adapting a picture frame to house the list of Serving Members and erecting a notice board to mention only a few.

Sam Spratley was in fact the traditional English Gentleman ; clear thinking, generous in outlook, with a sympathetic understanding to those of more tender years. He had an abundance of friends and no enemies and will be missed not only in the Club but by many in the district he served for so many years.

He was interred in the family grave, just a length of a Cricket Pitch from the Southgate Cricket Ground a day before he would have reached his 81st Birthday.

1st XI. REPORT.

The 1st XI. is again happy to report that playing strength is being maintained at a relatively high standard for War time and again we have welcomed a number of newcomers who have filled in the further gaps suffered by way of the "loss" of some of the previous seasons players through call up and other reasons. Frank Thompson (left half and utility man) has very recently joined H.M. Forces and others who are not now with us are Jennings (centre-forward) and Ashby and Brooks (both left backs). Our gains, however, have included Geoffrey Birch (centre-forward) making a very welcome return after having been unavoidably out of the game since the commencement of hostilities, Noel Barber (outside or inside right)—Midland Bank Skipper until that Club temporarily closed down—Peters (goalkeeper) Newling (left half) and Lucas (left back).

From the viewpoint of results, season 1943/44 has so far been a good one and apart from the two opening practice matches, fielding "mixed" XI's, lost to Parkside Sports and Guys Hospital, the position is as follows :—

Played 9, Won 6, Lost 2, Drawn 1, For 39, Against 24.

We started with a home game on October 2nd against Catford Wanderers but lost narrowly 1—2, the winning goal coming shortly before time when Wiseman at centre half slipped at a critical moment to let the centre forward through. The visitors, however, were good value for their win being quicker on the ball throughout.

The following week, meeting Bexley Heath for the first time, we scored a good away win 4—1 and we won the next game also, at home versus Old Stationers to the handsome tune of 9—2. We were very much the superior side in the latter game a feature of which was the notching of 6 goals by Geoffrey Birch at centre forward.

October 23rd found us away to Edgware Town, who, after the defeat we administered to them last season, thought fit to avenge themselves of that unpleasant surprise by beating us fairly and squarely 6—0.

Next week we had a home fixture against Broomfield and—what now appears to be inevitable—it resulted in a draw, this time 1—1. A lively but pleasant game ensued and although we had far more of the play our poor finishing work—and Hagger in the Brooms goal—prevented us from gaining the victory.

The first of our encounters with Norsemen (away) was won 5—4 which was thoroughly deserved despite the fact that we were in arrear 1—3 at half-time. In the second half we varied the short and long passing tactics skilfully and the result was—goals, the last of which was cleverly scored by Barber from a grand pass inside the back by Ings.

At Fords Grove the following Saturday we won a rather scrappy match 5—3 versus R.A.P.C. (Kensington), the most significant feature of which were the tortoise and crab-like movements of the respective vanguards.

Amends were made for the previous week's poor display, however, when we visited Alexandra Park. The home side was fresh from an excellent cup victory over Tufnell Park in their previous game and we were without Wiseman—who had again this season been a tower of strength at centre half—and so prospects were not too bright. Nevertheless we set about the task in determined fashion and after leading 3—1 at half time won eventually 8—2. Dennis Wade deputised finely at centre half, Birch scored five good goals and in fact everyone played a rousing game.

On November 27th at home we beat Norsemen, in the return fixture, 6—3 and here again the victory was well-deserved. Jim Keenan, making a welcome return, netted two excellent goals, and we were very glad to have Jimmy Horwood—home on leave—turn out for us at left-half.

Our team is a happy mixture of youth and experience but as one or two of the old stagers must be nearing their "Swan" games we all look forward to the return of the Serving Members, which it is fervently hoped will be in the very near future.

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2nd XI. REPORT.

October 2nd a most enjoyable game was played at Colindale with Royal Dental Hospital. After a fast and somewhat even game, Hospital scored 3 to our 1, Cullum being the scorer for us. The highlight of the day was the enjoyable time our opponents gave us at the bar—after the match—when Johny Haynes told of his grand times in Canada.

October 9th we had our first win this season against Old Aloysians at home the score being 6—4. Slatter and Bristow played well as old stalwarts and Cullum always in a tussel came out with the ball to help Bell score 2, Haynes scored 2 also, Pope 1 and Tony Chapman the other. A very keen game with a very sporting team.

October 16th, Old Ignatians beat us 3—2 after a very close match on their ground. Titmus was back in goal with us and showed good form. Bell and Chapman were very happy and they say, they would rather put balls in the net than pick them out. Pope had to stand good humoured barracking for missing an open goal in the last minute of the game.

October 23rd, Mayfield brought a very fine side to Fords Grove and gave us a good lesson in football, winning by 10—2. Our lads tried hard throughout but were outplayed by a much superior team.

October 30th—A trip to the South to play Barts Hospital was a most enjoyable time. Owing to flu the Hill were represented by only 5 players. Barclays Bank kindly lent us 2 and Barts, lending us 2, we played 9 aside. It was a very fast match with skipper Bill Earle maintaining a solid defence, and the centre forward Barts sportingly lent us scored 2 very good goals for us, Cullum getting the other. Barts just managed to beat us by the odd goal.

Most of the team stayed behind to give Simmonds a good start for his 21st Birthday—which it is said he can't remember.

November 13th saw us at Barnet playing Old Stationers Reserves. The team played exceptionally good football and so proved too good for Stationers. Henry Brown in goal gave the team great confidence in his ability to pick the ball out of the air from any direction, and Tony Chapman showed us how easy it is to go faster than the ball. Johnny Haynes and Willie the Kid put two of our goals in with Cullum getting 1 making the score 3—2 in our favour.

November 20th, a very fast and even game was had against Old Minchendenians at home. The Hill had most of the play in the first half but did not take advantage of it, consequently Old Minchendenians being of young blood, managed to pull together more and scored 3 to our 2.

November 27th, we had the return game with Old Aloysians on their ground under very difficult conditions, the mist being so thick at times one could hardly see the halfway line. Newling managed to see well enough to be a stonewall defence also Offer who played well. Those who could see said the skipper was working very hard and never mis-kicked. Willie the Kid hustled his way through twice to score excellent goals, Chapman and Haynes each added another to their credit, making the score 4—1 in our favour.

FORCES NEWS.

The news of Rollings previously reported missing from Salerno and now P.O.W. in Germany will now be known to many, but though there is no definite news of G. Newsham, R.A.F., D.S.O., who was reported missing after a raid on Germany, two of the crew from his plane are known to be prisoners.

Tyrrell has now been moved to Germany, but there is no news to hand of Gordon Hayward.

A letter from Doug Grout tells of his taking part in the invasion of Sicily and also mentions a decrease in his girth though it never equalled that of Bill Earle, with whom he hopes (with fingers crossed) to play Soccer before the end of this season.

Ray Bennett has moved from Sicily to Taranto.

To date two cards of Xmas Wishes for the F.C. have been received from India—from C. S. H. Cooper and J. Pickard. Well known to many older members of the Tennis Section and recently arrived in India is Reg Cowper (Lt. R.E.) whose address is "Grindley's, Bombay." He is hoping to renew some of his old acquaintances.

Having served with the R.N. since the outbreak of war, we hear that E. Bryant, well-known on cricket tours, has recently been invalided out of the service.

Bobby Haycraft is in B.N.A.F.

The latest additions to the serving members list S. Cheetham, F. Thompson.

Acknowledgements of Xmas parcels have already been received from the Middle East. We apologise to those whose parcels and greetings arrived out of season—the fault of the Post Office who gave the date for posting to India as being correct for all parts. Xmas Postal Orders and Cards have been sent to all members still in the British Isles—about 65 excluding all Naval members.

Hedley Bennett and Ken White have had a cheery (very !) meeting in Bombay.

Jock White recently passed through Cairo in a Westerly direction.

Don Ashby has reached Ottawa.

There was recently quite a gathering of Service Members on the Ground. Playing were Hollings, Hobbs and Buck, whilst an interested spectator was G. Blake just returned from the Middle East.

Doug Pearson who learnt his flying in the U.S.A. has been reported missing after a raid over Western Germany.

A card from Norman reached Mr. and Mrs. Welsford just before Christmas.

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CRICKET.

What proved to be a novel and most interesting match for the last game of the season was played on 26th September, between Right-handed and Left-handed members of the Club, H. B. Brown and E. O. Welsford acted as non-playing Captains and the teams were 12 a side.

The Left-handers batted first and declared at 148 for 8. In an exciting finish the Right-handers just won in the last over with 149 for 9.

The game was arranged as a Charity Match in aid of the Southgate Prisoners of War Relatives Association and the proceeds realised over £33.

On the following page appears a photograph of the teams.

**RIGHT-
HANDERS**

A. E. Smith
(Umpire)
H. Knight
L. Moore
H. Lambert
F. Attwood
F. Dent
J. Hurst
E. Birch
A. H. Brown
A. Cooper
E. Ings
A. Hayward
R. Lister



**LEFT-
HANDERS**

F. Keer
(Umpire)
L. Flower
H. Brown
L. Punchard
P. Blackwell
T. Graves
S. Pryke
C. Drakes
E. Wiseman
L. Thompson
R. Guettier
J. Haynes
F. Thompson

CLUB JOTTINGS.

We regret that in addition to the passing of Mr. Spratley we have to record the death of two other Vice-Presidents, Messrs. H. Studd and J. A. Price. We extend to their relatives our deepest sympathy in their loss.

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We have to thank one of our Vice-Presidents who wishes to remain anonymous for providing fixture cards for the current season. This is a luxury we have hitherto refrained from enjoying during War time.

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Winter membership of the Tennis Section this season has been remarkably good, but the weather has not been quite as kind as last year, the last two week-ends being decidedly wintry. However, there is a marked improvement in the courts following the attention recently given to them and we hope to see all the members enjoying the week-ends in the New Year.

It is pleasing to note that many of our new members of last summer have joined for the Winter Season and remember, all members now in H.M. Forces are welcome whenever on leave.

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The proceeds of the Boxing Day Charity Match with Broomfield, played this year at the Hedge Lane Recreation Ground, will be devoted to the Southgate Prisoners of War Relatives Association.

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We are making our own special effort on March 25th, 1944, when Barclays Bank visit Fords Grove. Full details will appear in our next issue.

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This season we have broken fresh ground by entering the Wood Green and Southgate Hospital Charity Cup Competition. We have been drawn away to Wood Green Town in the first round (on Saturday 8th January) and it is hoped that as many members as possible will support the club and help swell the contribution to the Hospital Funds.

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Mr. O. C. Dupont has asked us to convey his best wishes to all members both at home and overseas. Unfortunately work at present occupies most of his day and consequently his correspondence is perforce in arrears.

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Members are reminded that contributions to 'The Chat' are welcomed from all members and should be sent to the Secretary not later than the 15th February for inclusion in our next issue. We should particularly like to include at least one article from a member serving in the Forces. Please don't be shy of putting pen to paper as it is a tradition that all contributors remain anonymous.

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Our income for the first two months of this season is considerably below that of the corresponding period last year.

May we remind members that the current rates of subscriptions are as follows :—

Vice Presidents	...	...	...	...	...	10/6
Playing Members	...	...	...	5/-	plus 2/- per game	
"	"	(under 20)	...	5/-	" 1/6	" "

and that our Treasurer having recently moved, now resides at 66, Burford Gardens, N.13, Telephone Palmers Green 6199.

Fixture List, Season 1943/44.

Date	FIRST ELEVEN	Results	SECOND ELEVEN	Results
1943				
Oct. 2	Catford Wanderers ... H	L 1—2	Royal Dental Hospital ... A	L 1—3
" 9	Bexley Heath Sports Club A	W 4—1	Old Aloysians Res. ... H	W 6—4
" 16	Old Stationers ... H	W 9—2	Old Ignatians ... A	L 2—3
" 23	Edgware Town ... A	L 0—6	Mayfield ... H	L 2—10
" 30	Broomfield ... H	D 1—1	Barts Hospital ... A	L 3—4
Nov. 6	Norsemen ... A	W 5—4	Alexandra Park Res. ... H	L 1—4
" 13	R.A.P.C. (Ken) ... H	W 5—3	Old Stationers Res. ... A	W 3—2
" 20	Alexandra Park ... A	W 8—2	Old Minchendenians ... H	L 2—3
" 27	Norsemen ... H	W 6—3	Old Aloysians Res. ... A	W 4—1
Dec. 4	A		Norsemen Res. ... H	
" 11	H		Old Ignatians ... A	
" 18	Norsemen ... A		Royal Dental Hospital ... H	
" 27	Broomfield ... A			
1944				
Jan. 1	Old Aloysians ... H		Polytechnic Res. ... A	
" 8	Wood Green Town (Cup Comp.) ... A		Old Minchendenians ... H	
" 15	Imperial College ... H		Crown Manor ... A	
" 22	Barclays Bank ... A		Old Stationers Res. ... H	
" 29	Bexley Heath Sports Club H		Alexandra Park Res. ... A	
Feb. 5	Broomfield ... A		R.A.P.C. (Ken.) Res. ... H	
" 12	Alexandra Park ... H		Norsemen Res. ... A	
" 19	Old Aloysians ... A		Polytechnic Res. ... H	
" 26	Edgware Town ... H		Mayfield ... A	
Mar. 4	Imperial College ... A		Crown Manor ... H	
" 11	Old Stationers ... H		Old Colfeians ... A	
" 18	R.A.P.C. ... A		H	
" 25	Barclays Bank ... H		A	
Apl. 1	A		A	
" 8	Polytechnic ... A			
" 15	A			
" 22	A			