

WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CHAT

10/9/95
10



With Compliments

WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CLUB.

President : Miss PAULIN.

Vice Presidents :

L. ABBOTT
C. J. BAKER
W. J. BAKER
E. S. BIRCH
P. G. BLACKWELL
F. H. BOWLES
W. K. BROOKS
Mrs. H. B. BROWN
H. G. BROWN
L. E. BROWN
R. B. BROWN
P. CALKIN
E. H. CAMPBELL
W. E. CAVELL
E. R. COLLIER
G. W. CROSS
W. G. DANCE
H. J. DIGGINS
A. D. DONALD
H. J. DUCK
N. DUNKLEY
M. ELEGORN
J. FERRABY
H. H. GOWER
J. GOWERS
Mrs. R. W. C. GOWERS

C. GRANT
G. HANCOCK
L. HANCOCK
W. H. HANCOCK
H. T. HASSALL
G. HAYWARD
S. F. HOOK
H. HOWL
L. S. HOWELL
T. L. HOWSON
J. HURST
R. H. INGLE
J. JUPP
F. KEER
J. KILBY
G. J. KNIGHT
H. S. KNIGHT
J. LEE
H. M. LLOYD
S. MARSHALL
H. MURNAGHAN
R. H. McLEOD
J. NORTH
J. V. PICKARD
Mrs. J. V. PICKARD

R. PLATT
S. S. PRYKE
F. B. READ
A. S. REID
A. RISSBROOK
E. ROWBOTHAM
E. SCAVINGTON
F. SHELDRAKE
C. W. SKINNER
F. SMITH
J. G. W. SMITH
L. J. W. SMITH
L. THOMPSON
Mrs. L. THOMPSON
H. TIDY
E. O. WELSFORD
Mrs. E. O. WELSFORD
H. WHITTARD
P. WILDE
H. V. WIMPENNY
L. WIMPENNY
E. P. WILLIAMS
D. C. H. WRIGHT
T. J. WRIGGLESWORTH
A. YOUNG

Life Members : G. DEACOCK, R. H. McLEOD.

Captain of the Club : R. L. B. GUETTIER.

Hon. Treasurer :
E. O. WELSFORD,
66, Burford Gdns, N.13.

Hon. Team & Match Secretary :
E. CHRISTIE,
43, Halstead Gdns, N.21.

Hon. Secretary :
L. E. BROWN,
86, Queen Elizabeth's Drive,
N.14.

Committee :

L. J. W. SMITH (Chairman), H. BROWN, L. E. BROWN, E. CHRISTIE, A. COOPER,
R. L. B. GUETTIER, J. HAYNES, E. INGS, H. KNIGHT, D. NEWLING, L. THOMPSON,
E. O. WELSFORD.

WINCHMORE HILL CRICKET CLUB.

Hon. Secretary :
O. C. DUPONT,
26, Queen Anne's Gardens,
Enfield.

Hon. Team Secretary :
E. O. WELSFORD,
66, Burford Gdns, N.13.

Hon. Secretary—Tennis Section :
F. E. CHAPPLE,
21, Branscombe Gardens,
N.21.

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'S DRIVE,
SOUTHGATE, N.14.

No. 6 Vol. 2]

Compiled, Arranged and Edited by GEORGE DEACOCK.

[AUGUST, 1944.

Editorial

* * * *

AT a time when the Club has reached one of the peak periods of its career, we mourn the loss of two outstanding members, to whom so much of the success achieved during the War Period is due. Their optimistic enthusiasm was such that in their company one thought only in terms of success, and both gave so unsparingly of their time and effort that we are inevitably the poorer for their loss.

We convey to their relatives our most sincere sympathy in their bereavement, and the hope that the knowledge of the very great esteem in which both Mr. P. F. Hockley and Mr. Harold Brown were held by all members of the Club will be a comfort to them in the loneliness which we know must inevitably follow the loss of those whose lives were devoted to the happiness of others.

The 1943/44 season was perhaps especially notable for the fact that there was no falling away in the last few weeks, a failing which marred some of our pre-war years. The 1st XI finished in a blaze of glory winning the Hospital Charity Cup before a large crowd in no uncertain manner. Let us see to it that the many new friends that have been attracted to the Club by the polished football displayed on that occasion are not disappointed in the coming months.

All members both at home and away will welcome the election of Leslie Smith as our new Chairman. His long service on the Committee coupled with an intimate knowledge of the Club's history and a proved ability to handle a meeting made him the obvious choice. We wish him a successful term of office and feel sure that with the possible exception of Robert McLeod, there is no other member we should have wished to lead us out of War into Peace.

In Memorium

P. F. HOCKLEY.

Mr. P. F. Hockley joined the Club in 1928 when he first came to live in the district and within a year was elected to the Committee of which he was an active member up to the time of his last illness.

His appointment as Treasurer in 1934 saw the commencement of a period of financial management which, when the present war broke out, had established the finances of the club on so sound a footing that today the members have every reason to thank Mr. Hockley for the policy he pursued steadfastly year by year.

In 1940 the then hon. team and match secretary found it impossible to continue his duties, and Mr. Hockley stepped into the breach, relinquishing the treasurership. With so many members leaving and teams and matches becoming ever more difficult to arrange, he brought the same skill and perseverance to his new task as he showed previously, and the fixture list and the teams to-day are surely as good as could be fixed in any club.

In 1941 he was unanimously elected chairman of the club in succession to Mr. Robert McLeod, but retained his duties as hon. team and match secretary. As chairman his wide views served not only to ensure a continuance of the best interests of the club, but he held together the officials and members of the committee in such manner that friction was avoided and the good work went on uninterruptedly.

His enthusiasm was infectious and his kindly consideration brought out the best efforts of all who came into contact with him.

He will be sadly missed at Fords Grove and the success achieved by the Club during the War Period will always recall his memory.

Mr. Hockley was in business in the City as an import and export merchant, having founded his own company in 1931, and was highly esteemed among his commercial connections, both at home and abroad. He had served during the 1914-1918 war in the King's Royal Rifle Corps.

A prolonged illness during the winter prevented him enjoying the success which he had worked so hard to achieve and he passed away in his sleep on Thursday 4th May, 1944.

In Memorium

H. B. BROWN.

The sudden death of Mr. H. B. Brown early on Saturday morning the 8th July came as a great shock to members, for whilst he had been attending his doctor for some time, there was no reason to suppose that his condition was in any way serious.

He was an enthusiastic member of both Cricket and Football and during the last two years had taken an active part in the management of both sections.

He will perhaps be best remembered for the really tremendous amount of work he did for Charity. His genial personality and keenness brooked no refusal and even the less ready donors gave liberally and cheerfully under his persuasive guidance. With the co-operation of Mr. Welsford he organised many of the Charity Matches and their work in this sphere was recognised when they had the privilege of captaining the sides in the Right Handers versus Left Handers match which was inaugurated last season.

For the Football Club he stepped into the breach at a moments notice when Mr. Hockley had to relinquish his duties as Hon. Team Sec., and in this capacity worked hard not only to see that the teams had a full side each week, but also to ensure that new members were quickly placed at their ease.

His successful organisation of a Club Supper in which all difficulties were brushed aside and an evenings enjoyment provided equal to a peace-time occasion was typical of his ability, and desire to promote good fellowship.

As assistant secretary of the Cricket Club he was particularly interested in the development of young talent. He coached the Colts XI and was with them on the ground the evening before he passed away.

Keenness was evident in all his activities. At the time of his death he was reigning Master of the Winchmore Hill Lodge and had been looking forward to being a founder member of a new Lodge in the Autumn.

Although his business had been brought almost to a standstill by War conditions and he had been bombed out of his home in Green Moor Link, no buffeting of fortune ever impaired his joviality and his death following so quickly on that of Mr. Hockley leaves a gap that cannot be filled for some time to come.

1st XI. REPORT.

Although season 1943/44 is already fading into memory, for the benefit of members overseas we append a few notes of games played since our last report, all of which have been won.

On March 4th we were away to Norsemen in the semi-final of the Wood Green and Southgate Hospital Cup and after being 3 goals up at half-time eventually ran out worthy winners 4-0. Our excellent team play was very evident in this match. Keenan opened the scoring after 5 minutes when, veering to the left, he converted a good long pass, but the best goal was the second which Geoffrey Birch netted with a grand left foot drive from just outside the penalty area. The Home side could make no effective impression on our well knitted defence despite a number of praiseworthy efforts and thus we passed on into the Final.

The following week, at home to the Old Stationers, we completed the double over that Club this season with a 6—3 victory. The Hill had the unusual experience—at least unusual these days—of being 2 goals **down** in ten minutes following good work by the Old Boys' attack. After this, however, we bestirred ourselves and were leading 3—2 at half-time. We opened the second half strongly and playing a fast open game added 3 further goals through Barber and Birch (2). Wootton at right half played an outstandingly good game admirably combining attack with defence.

On March 18th we travelled quite a way to play Brentwood and were rather too much for the local side who, although they strove hard, were defeated 6—1.

The following Saturday a very enjoyable match was played at Fords Grove with Barclays Bank in aid of Southgate Prisoners of War Relations Association, resulting in another win for us and this time by 4 goals to 1. The Hill deserved their victory chiefly by reason of their attack having accepted most of the chances which came their way in the first half and to the fact that the defence played a very steady game throughout. Alec Cooper was in a particularly aggressive mood that afternoon and besides giving his opposing winger rather a lean time he had the audacity to tear up the field on one occasion and deliver a scorching drive from 35 yards — no kidding 35 yards ! — which the Bank 'keeper, however, just managed to hold.

No match was played the next week and on April 8th, our last game was staged at Hazelwood Lane Sports Ground when we met Mayfield on the Broomfield pitch in the final of the Wood Green Cup. Jim Keenan was not available and so Geoffrey Birch moved into the centre forward berth and Frank Thompson was brought in at inside left. Our opponents were unfortunate in finding us right on top of our form and we eventually ran out easy winners 9—0, Birch getting a hat-trick. Each member of our side played a strong constructive game and no one falls to be singled out for special mention except perhaps Noel Barber who netted the all important first goal by collecting a ball from a goalmouth melee and confidently slipping it into the corner of the net well wide of a helpless goalkeeper, and who shortly after scored a really excellent goal with a hard left foot drive which again gave the keeper no chance. As may well be imagined there were high jinks back at the Club that evening—at which we were very happy to have the Mayfield players—during which a modicum of gin was supped from the Cup and much beer from glasses.

We have thus had a most successful season on the field, but what is more, the eleven has been composed of a grand set of chaps who have not only blended thoroughly in the dressing room, which factor has to no small extent contributed to the playing success, but also (and this is most important !) in the bar.

CLUB SUPPER.

To celebrate the completion of our fifth War Time Season a Supper was held at the Green Dragon on Wednesday 3rd May.

The event was a great success. Over 50 members and guests sat down to a good spread and we append a report as seen through the eyes of one of our guests.

It was pleasant to relax : to free oneself for a couple of hours from the obsession of a war which, closely engaged by the young, virile men of the nation, yet touches the average civilian at every turn. So it was a refreshing change to sit in the supper room—to eat, to chat, to drink a little, to listen to well-phrased speeches and to incline one's head towards the yawning cavern of a "loving cup."

Presiding over the supper tables was "grand old gentleman" Robert H. McLeod, who has been associated with the Winchmore Hill Football Club for a quarter of a century as true friend, counsellor and sound (if sometimes voluble) critic. Supporting him were Mr. Leslie Brown (hon. secretary), the late Mr. H. B. Brown (team secretary), Mr. E. O. Welsford (hon. treasurer), Mr. L. J. W. ("Tiger") Smith (toastmaster, and member of the committee), and Mr. R. L. B. Guettier (captain)—all of them excellent workers and good fellows.

All members deeply deplored the absence of the Club chairman, Mr. P. F. Hockley, through serious illness, this regret being feelingly expressed by Mr. McLeod when he proposed the toast of "The Club." It was unanimously agreed to send to Mr. Hockley a telegram of hearty good wishes.

Mr. McLeod, commenting that this was the 25th year of Winchmore Hill F.C., declared that it had justified its existence. The start was modest, and although it had had a somewhat chequered career in many leagues, it did establish a name as an upholder of the pure amateur status. They could all be very proud of that, suggested Mr. McLeod.

He recalled that the Club won the Middlesex A.F.A. Senior Cup on two of its three appearances in the final, the third event being decided in favour of old and friendly rivals, Broomfield. Much of the success of recent years had been traceable to Mr. Len Thompson, who "brought on" the talent and saw that the men trained properly. All this was now bearing good fruit.

From the beginning the football club had enjoyed the cordial encouragement of the parent organisation, Winchmore Hill C.C., and he was glad that the hon. secretary, Mr. O. C. Dupont, had been able to join them. Mr. McLeod coupled with the toast the name of the captain, Mr. Guettier, "a very good leader," who, they hoped, would long remain with them.

In a modest, well-phrased speech, Mr. Guettier declared that the last season had provided one of the finest combinations with which he had ever had the honour of playing. There had been nothing to touch the first eleven during the war period ; and he was proud that with it all had been good sportsmanship. He named some of the stalwarts, emphasising that the team spirit had been marvellous.

Its average age, however, was about 33. The men could not go on indefinitely, because even in the second eleven "old age" was mixed with youth. They would have to look to the young men and to those who would soon return, he hoped, from the Forces ; they must be industrious in seeking talent. Mr. Guettier paid warm tribute to those holding office in the Club and reiterated his pride in being skipper.

Another first-rate speech was that of Mr. Leslie Smith, who gave cordial welcome to Mr. Ken Cushen (hon secretary of Mayfield Athletic Club) and Mr. Rogers ; Mr. F. C. Hawker (Southgate C.C., to whom they were grateful for assistance in their refereeing troubles) ; Mr. S. James (hon. secretary of the Wood Green and Southgate Hospital Competition) and Mr. Mills ; Mr. Clifford Topping (oldest friend and skipper of Norsemen) ; Mr. Williams, of Barclays Bank (whose fixture bureau had been so helpful) ; Mr. Dupont (" half-and-half visitor "), and Mr. Jack Pearl (" certainly not a visitor," but one they were immensely pleased to welcome).

The toast was musically honoured, and a witty reply was made by Mr. Clifford Topping, who extolled " the Hill's " prowess and its grand spirit of hospitality.

Mr. Leslie Brown, toasting " The Press," was in great form while delivering one of the best speeches of the evening. He had several subtle " digs " at newspapers, both national and local, and yet contrived to pay tribute in a very acceptable way—as this writer endeavoured to emphasise when replying to the toast.

Finally, old friend Mr. George Deacock toasted Mr. McLeod (" Rob "). It was a neat and humorous speech with a reference to Mr. McLeod's effective touch-line persuasion on the subject of corners. When he was at his best as an onlooker there were no such things as goal-kicks and fouls : only corners. Whether referees were more timid in those days he did not know, but certain it was that " Rob " usually had his way.

He had been a great friend and supporter, having acted for no fewer than 21 years as chairman of the Club committee. Now he was a " back-room boy," ready unfailingly to give counsel and to help forward the Club's interests. This toast, too, was musically honoured, and Mr. McLeod, replying, said that he and Mr. George Deacock were proud to be life-members of Winchmore Hill F.C. " My heart is still with you," he said.

Mr. George Ellis (comedian) and Mr. Henry Brown (a member of the reserve team) at the piano added to the enjoyment of a splendid evening.

* * * *

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Club Pavillion on Friday 26th May. Mr. Guettier took the Chair and expressed the sincere regret of all members at the passing of the Chairman Mr. P. F. Hockley. After Mr. Guettier had paid tribute to the services which Mr. Hockley had so generously rendered to the Club, members stood in silence as a mark of respect to their late Chairman.

The Committee's report which was circulated amongst those present referred to the outstanding success attained by the first XI culminating in the winning of the Wood Green Hospital Cup.

The complete results for the season were :—

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Goals	
					For	Against
1st XI	24	20	3	1	116	46
2nd XI	24	10	14	0	75	88

Membership, although slightly down on 1942/43, had been well maintained and the fact that we had been able to run two elevens throughout the fifth season of the War was a matter for congratulation. Reference was made to the sterling work put in by Mrs. Welsford in running the Canteen and thanks were expressed to Messrs. E. T. Campbell and F. C. Hawker for acting as referees during the season, and to George Deacock for producing "The Chat."

No one had any comment to offer and the report was adopted without discussion, believed to be almost a record.

The Hon. Treasurer then presented his report, commenting on the Accounts which had been circulated. Income again exceeded Expenditure and a further £30 had been restored to the balance on deposit, which now stands at over £150. There was little to discuss and the Accounts were formally adopted.

The next item on the Agenda was the election of President. This was of course unanimous and Mr. Dupont referred to the interest that Miss Paulin took in the activities of all sections of the Club.

Vice Presidents were as usual re-elected en bloc and here we might mention that the names of those with whom we have lost contact owing to the exigencies of War are being retained in the hope that they will again be with us when happier times return.

Following the death of Mr. Hockley a new Chairman had to be appointed, a very rare occurrence in the history of the Winchmore Hill Football Club. All members obviously had only one candidate in mind and Mr. Guettier proposed from the Chair that Mr. Leslie Smith be elected Chairman of the Winchmore Hill Football Club. This was received with acclamation and 'Tiger' as he is perhaps best known to older members at once took up his duties.

After thanking members for the confidence they had expressed in him, he referred to the fact that while the Chairman had to be elected annually, it had almost become understood that once a Chairman was elected, he was automatically re-elected until such time as he was unable to continue in office. Whilst he felt that a certain amount of continuity was desirable, he felt that it was equally desirable that the office should change hands periodically and that even if he should still hold the office of Chairman in three years time he proposed to ask the Club to review the matter then, when more settled conditions might make possible the consideration of a long term policy. Mr. L. E. Brown was re-elected Hon. Sec. and after the meeting had agreed upon the desirability of re-uniting the office of Hon. Team and Match Sec. Mr. H. B. Brown was duly elected. There being only one nomination for Hon. Treas. Mr. E. O. Welsford was quickly re-elected to continue his successful stewardship of Finance. (As reported elsewhere Mr. H. B. Brown has died—Editor).

The election of seven members to complete the Committee necessitated a ballot—always a healthy sign—Messrs. J. G. Smith and O. C. Dupont acted as scrutineers and the successful candidates were :—Messrs. Henry Brown, Alec Cooper, John Haynes, Eric Ings, Ham Knight, D. O. Newling and Len Thompson. This increases the number of playing members to six a better proportion than has been possible during recent years.

Arrangements for 1944/45 were of necessity left in the hands of the Committee, but members expressed the wish for the 1st XI to enter a league should there be a suitable combination of A.F.A Clubs, and also that a Charity Match should be arranged with the British Empire XI as guests if a suitable date could be arranged. It was reported that the 1st XI would defend the Cup won in 1943/44 and that the 2nd XI would compete in a junior division of the same tournament.

Reference was made to the work of the Parent Club Comforts Fund Committee who were thanked for all they had done on behalf of Football Members.

The Meeting terminated in good time with a joint vote of thanks to Messrs. Guettier and Smith for their conduct of the Meeting.

ADVANCE NOTES FOR SEASON 1944/45.

Following the sudden death of Mr. H. B. Brown, Mr. Eric Christie has taken over the duties of Hon. Team and Match Secretary. Please note his address **43, Halstead Gardens, N.21.**

Unfortunately he is not at present available on the telephone so if any member has to cry off will he please do so **early** in the week. Mr. Welsford has kindly offered to act as assistant to Mr. Christie and in an emergency players could telephone Palmers Green 6199 or Central 8080.

The ground is available for light training during September and ball practice will commence on the 20th. Players wishing to take advantage of these facilities should get into touch with the captain of the club : telephone Cannonbury 1966 or Holborn 1121.

The Special Effort which enabled us to build up a handsome reserve in pre-war years is being resumed this season. Alec Cooper is in charge and all members are asked to help their utmost in the sale of tickets.

In the Hospital Charity Cup the 1st XI have been drawn away versus Old Stationers and the 2nd XI at home against Crouch End Vampires.

The fixture list includes the usual Charity Match against Barclays Bank in March. New-comers to Fords Grove will be the British Empire XI on Boxing Day (proceeds devoted to the Red Cross Fund) and London University in March.

Fixtures for the beginning of the season are as follows :—

1st XI.			2nd XI.		
Oct. 7	Home	Old Stationers	Away	Old Stationers	Res.
14	Away	Norsemen	Home	Norsemen	Res.
21	Home	Broomfield	Away	Old Aloysians	Res.
28	Away	Edgware Town	Home	Crouch End Vampires	(Cup)
Nov. 4	Home	Alexandra Park	Away	Alexandra Park	Res.
11	Away		Home	Mayfield	Res.