

WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CHAT

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FEB 1945



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Ground:
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WINCHMORE HILL, N.21.
Telephone: LABurnum 1271.



Hon. Secretary:
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86 QUEEN ELIZABETH DRIVE,
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Compiled, Arranged and Edited by GEORGE DEACOCK.

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Editorial

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THE good luck we enjoyed last season has not been quite so kind to us this year. Several games have had to be cancelled owing to severe weather conditions, and two of our best players are on the sick list and probably out of the game for the rest of the season. We have however promising recruits to take their places, and whilst the team naturally lacks the confident understanding and finish that characterised its play last season the introduction of fresh talent promises well for the future.

As is inevitable, absence of players is eventually felt most by the junior elevens and it is particularly unfortunate that in their first war-time season the 2A XI has sometimes had to play short and has had several games cancelled at short notice. Nevertheless they appear still to be in the best of Good Spirits and quite confident they will finish the season better than they began.

Membership shows a continued increase, as does the number of players and supporters thronging the Pavilion after the game, and in future we hope to tell you something of this side of the Club's activities in each issue of The Chat under the heading "After the Game." This will not merely be a record of events but will include anecdotes and impressions as seen through the eyes of various members. Once again we appeal to all members who enjoy this part of the Club's amenities to make a written contribution for the benefit of the fellows who cannot be with us at present but who are always so eager to hear the latest from the old Club.

Finally we thank all those who have contributed information, reports and articles to this season's Chats : also those members whose untiring work behind the scenes in arranging fixtures and teams, preparing ground and gear, and seeing that we can eat drink and talk in comfort makes the Club run so easily that we are led to take all these things for granted. We know they will not wish to be mentioned by name but to each and every one we say "Thank you."

1st XI REPORT.

November 18th—Several changes had to be made in the forward line for the home match with Davis Sports. In addition to continued absence of players, Barber was also compelled to "Cry Off" through illness. To fill gaps Haskell moved to inside right, Hasemore was brought in to inside left whilst Thompson outside left, Elmer, centre-forward and Bell, outside right, completed the line.

Despite these changes Winchmore Hill settled down remarkably quickly and always appeared better than the visitors. Hazemore in particular impressed with thoughtful passes and came very near to scoring on several occasions with powerful snap-shots at long range. Rather against the run of play however, Davis Sports were the first to score, their speedy outside left, snapping up a faulty clearance by a home back, burst through and put in a shot which gave Peters no chance. Following this reverse the Hill exerted more pressure and it was no doubt due to the heavy ground that several promising movements broke down. Eventually a movement, which started on the right wing and continued by each of the forwards, was completed by Thompson turning a difficult pass into the goal.

Though unproductive of goals, the second half was quite up to standard and had there been a little more steadiness in front of goal the Hill must have scored several goals. Instead they had to be content with a final score of 1 all.

November 25th—We were successful in our away fixture versus Mayfield by 3 goals to 2. The opening exchanges were fairly even, but the Hill found their men to better advantage and eventually Laderman, a new young player making his initial appearance in the first eleven, fed Haskell with an excellently judged pass and the latter cut in to put the Hill one up.

Mayfield's defence was a very useful one and successfully broke up a number of Hill attacks and on occasions sent their forwards away with passes to the wings. On one of these occasions, an accurate centre from the left wing enabled Jarvis to put them on even terms. This was short lived however, Barber breaking away through the centre to give the Hill an interval lead of 2—1.

The second half saw the Hill soon on the offensive and the home goalie made several fine saves before being finally beaten by Haskell whose shot gave him no chance. Mayfields' forwards were always dangerous and though Ernie Wiseman gave his usual sound display, they managed to obtain a second goal; but the effort appeared to tell on them and when time was called, the Hill were again well on top.

December 2nd.—Having failed to arrange a home fixture, we travelled to Wembley to meet Davis Sports. The side included P/O Don Ashby, recently returned from America, where he qualified as pilot, and is now enjoying a spell of leave.

In a game which never flagged, the Hill were always a little better than the home side; Manners in particular, playing in his original position of left half, giving a sound display.

Leading at the interval by 2 goals to 0, the Hill finally won 4—1. Goals were scored by Barber, Bell, Elmer and Haskell.

December 9th—The 1st XI broke new ground when they visited Brentwood and defeated the home side by 5 goals to 2.

Among the spectators were a number of the Hill's supporters including "Guett" who unfortunately was still unable to play.

Eric Ings, captain, caused some apprehension in the dressing room but on the field was his usual efficient self.

The team again included Don Ashby, whilst Jimmy Keenan, making a welcome re-appearance, gave a magnificent display of ball control and was the outstanding player in a very pleasant game.

The Hills goals were scored by Barber (2), Elmer (2) and Haskell.

December 16th—In the away fixture with Old Aloysians we scored a decisive win by 6—0.

The Hill side, which included two promising young reserves in Laderman and Graves, was superior in all departments and goals came at regular intervals. The scorers were, Barber (3), Elmer (2) and Laderman.

December 23rd—This match versus Royal Netherlands Navy, produced the finest football seen at Fords Grove for a long time. The visitors were, individually, very good, and had they played together more often, might easily have reversed the result.

The Hill were really good, both individually and as a team.

A feature of the game was the goalkeeping ; Peters and his opposite number " doing their stuff " in grand style.

In the field, Wiseman, Ings, Barber and Haskell in the home side took the eye ; whilst the visitors were well served at centre-forward and centre-half.

The ground was rather heavy, and, with the advantage of the slope, the hefty visitors looked like having things their own way, particularly when their centre-forward crashed in a first time shot. Peters, however, brought off a fine save and from his clearance, Haskell showed his pace on the right wing and put in a shot which the visitors keeper cleared with difficulty.

Play ranged up and down the field in this style, but with superior team work, the Hill began to get the upper hand and just before half-time, Barber scored with a grand shot.

Within a few minutes of the resumption, the Hill were two up when Hatch, playing outside-left, scored, and this was quickly followed by one from Haskell on the opposite wing.

The visiting forwards were quick to seize any opportunity that came and following a hot attack, their centre-forward scored after Peters had fisted out two shots in rapid succession from the same player.

Their defence were finding the home forwards too much for them and before the final whistle, the Hill had scored twice more, the scorers being Laderman and Elmer.

December 30th—The side which met Mayfield at Fords Grove gave a good account of themselves though conditions were by no means ideal for good football. A slight thaw had softened the ground making it difficult to maintain a foothold and in consequence both sides missed opportunities. The Hill played four of the reserves who, in the circumstances, acquitted themselves well, Slatter at right back, in particular being very effective. Ings, the captain, playing at right half seemed least affected by the conditions and gave an outstanding display.

Play during the first half was rather scrappy, the early stages favouring Mayfield. The Hill however adopting long passing tactics made ground but conditions prevented them from making the most of some promising movements. A few minutes before the interval Elmer pulled a muscle and moved to outside left, where he was virtually a passenger for the rest of the game.

The second half produced much better football and again Mayfield dominated the early stages but the Hill resisted their efforts and with the advantages of the slope soon took the initiative. The visitors defended well, their right back and goalkeeper doing particularly well. Fifteen minutes from time however, a centre by Haskell from the right wing was only partially cleared, the ball falling at the feet of Trevelyan who scored with a well placed shot. The Hill continued to dominate the game but could not improve their score.

January 6th versus Metropolitan Police No. 3 Dis.

The first half provided some attractive football with little to choose between the sides though it was soon evident that in the Police defence the Hill forwards had a tough proposition to overcome. At the other end, the police found it no easier and though, after fifteen minutes,

they forced a number of corners they could not break through a determined defence in which Wiseman was a tower of strength and Peters, after a shaky start, brought off some fine saves.

The interval came with no score but soon after the re-start, the Police outside right broke through and squared the ball to his centre-forward who scored.

Good work by Haskell, Barber and Thompson often took the Hill forwards to the visitors goal but their efforts to secure an equaliser were successfully resisted and the Police won a hard fought game by the only goal of the match.

January 20th—Winchmore Hill entertained their old friends the Norsemen under conditions which were far from ideal for football.

Frost had hardened the ground and a recent covering of snow did not improve matters ; yet both sides gave a good account of themselves.

The Norsemen had a strong side out whereas the Hill were without Ings and Elmer, both on the sick list.

The Norsemen playing down hill, were the first to attack and despite resolute tackling by the home backs, Peters was called upon to deal with several hard shots.

Eventually the pressure was relieved and Haskell racing down the right wing almost scored ; his shot, from an acute angle, striking the side of the net. Following this the Norsemen again forced play into the Hill half and their outside right put in an accurate centre to Reed who scored, Peters appearing to be unsighted.

Almost immediately afterwards, Haskell again took the ball down to the visitors goal and passed to B. Thompson, a new member at present serving with the New Zealand Army, whose shot struck the base of the goal-post and the ball, rebounding into play, was scrambled away to safety. The Norsemen were, however, having much the better of this half and the keen tackling of Wiseman, Cooper and Manners was not sufficient to prevent a further penetration before the interval, Markwell scoring with a grand shot.

On resuming, Winchmore Hill had much more of the game and for a time it looked as though they would at least draw level particularly when Laderman receiving near the Norsemen's penalty area rounded the back and scored with a carefully placed shot. The Hill maintained a slight superiority until Cooper, injured in a tackle, had to leave the field and shortly after this, the Norsemen's outside right beat the Hill back crossed the ball to Markwell who scored.

There was no further scoring and the game ended with the Norsemen winners by 3 goals to 1.

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2nd XI REPORT.

November 25th—A keen contest was anticipated for the return match with Old Stationers at Fords Grove. The first game of the season, away at Stationers ended in a well fought out draw of 5 goals each. The Hill fielded a stronger side than of late. Stan Bell was back after a spell of absence with the first team, and three Service men turned out to bolster up the defence. These were Gordon Brook and Teddy Beach at left and right back respectively and Ken Norman at left half. The game, which ended in a win of 3 goals to 1 for the Hill, was one of the best seen here this season.

The sides were very evenly matched although the Hill kicking downhill were doing most of the attacking. Stan Bell headed against the upright and again into the goalkeepers hands from successive corners, while Haynes and Chapman sent high over the bar. A number of other chances were missed, mainly owing to the extreme greasiness of the surface. Old Stationers scored first and at half time were leading by this goal.

The second half brought a change of fortune and conditions. Old Stationers found the same difficulty in overcoming the slippery surface of the downward slope, while the Hill found conditions much easier kicking uphill. Some nice pieces of combination brought about three goals, scored by Bell, Graves and Chapman. All three were fine efforts and this was the Hill reserves at their best. The three chaps from the Services were a tower of strength, and we wish that they were available more often. Ken Norman, who gained the M.C. on D Day on the beaches, has been recovering from a bullet wound in the arm, but is now due to return to duty. We all wish him the best of luck.

The defence was further strengthened by the inclusion of young Ratcliffe in goal, promoted from the 3rd team. He proved himself well worthy of his promotion.

December 9th—We welcomed the bright lads of the Royal Dental Hospital at Fords Grove. The Hill won by 4 goals to 1 in another really good game. Again the Hill kicked downhill, and again found the surface greasy and treacherous. Several chances went awry though some came near to scoring. The opposition opened the scoring as usual, and this goal was the only one scored in the first half. The Hill pressed strongly but the R.D. defence stood up, particularly good work being done by the centre half, a bearded lieutenant of the Navy, who's first time kicking rather resembled a broadside of 16" guns.

In the second half the Hill played stronger and better football, and soon found themselves on the target. Four goals were scored at more or less regular intervals throughout. Bell (2) Chapman and Graves were the scorers. Skipper Bill Earle, himself a leading light at the Royal Dental, was outstanding in the defence. His tackling was magnificent, and hearty. Wells also played a fine tireless game. The R.D. centre half probably saved his side from a heavier defeat by his fine defensive play. He brought his superior armament to bear, sinking Haynes at outside left, and intercepting some promising passes from Stan Bell, who had changed from centre forward to outside right.

Laderman at inside left was an outstanding schemer for the Hill's attack.

December 16th—The reserves were again at home, and registered their third consecutive win by beating Polytechnic by 5 goals to Nil. Unfortunately the Poly could only field nine players and thus had not a fair chance. They played very well however, and with a full side would have put up a very different show.

The Hill kicked uphill first and maintained a fairly steady pressure. Trevelyan scored a fine goal, and shortly afterwards Bell added another. The Poly defence, although a man short put up good resistance but were unable to cope with the Hill forwards. Trevelyan and Bell were always a menace to them, and the fleet footed Tony Chapman had plenty of room to show his pace. Chapman added a third goal before half time.

In the second half the Poly had more of the game and on several occasions took the ball up into the Hill's goalmouth but were unable to score. Wells was sound at right back, and Ratcliffe in goal made no mistakes. Maynard at centre half was playing his first game with the Hill, and created a very favourable impression. His heading was really good, and the Poly forward line, though depleted, found him a great stumbling block.

The Hill were nevertheless always exerting pressure during this time, and Bell added another goal by a fine solo effort, side stepping two defenders before banging home a shot that gave the goalkeeper no chance. After sustained attacks Haynes added the fifth goal from a centre by Chapman just before time.

December 23rd—The Hill travelled to Woodside Park with the intention of avenging the Cup defeat suffered at the hands of Crouch End Vampires. The defeat was avenged, but hardly in the manner anticipated. The Vampires could only muster eight men so Skipper Bill Earle decided to play for the Vampires, making thus nine against the Hill's ten. As no referee was available the goalkeepers took turns as timekeepers, and the players themselves decided by mutual agreement such infringements as offside and foul play. Thirty minutes each way on a sodden pitch sufficed to give the Hill a victory of 4 goals to nil.

The first two goals came fairly quickly. Ted Barratt at centre forward took a nice flick with his head from a corner and the ball went in, brushing a defender on the way. Barratt followed up by slamming home a loose ball a few minutes afterwards. The Vampires tried hard and Bill Earle in the forward line got himself covered all over from head to foot, more in mud than glory.

The second half brought two more goals, scored by Stan Bell, who made sure after the goalkeeper had put down a shot from Haynes, and Peter Graves, who being determined to score ran through half the side.

The two new half backs Barker at centre and Maynard at left were sound, but found the mud rather too much for good football, but Wells being as much at home in the mud as an eel had a good day against the opposing left wing.

The Hill scored two goals which were mutually decided by the Vamps to be offside. They were therefore discounted! There were less infringements and more good feeling in this game than is usual with a referee in attendance.

December 30th—The Hill were halted in their winning streak in the home game against Old Minchendenians when they lost by the odd goal in fifteen. The glut of goals, and indeed, the whole shape of the game, was dictated by the vagaries of this, the worst Winter of the war. The ground was iron hard underneath and slippery on the surface because of the early morning thaw. It was impossible to turn. The result was that once the ball was past the defenders, there was only the goalkeeper left to stop the forwards, who in full flight, could hardly stop themselves.

The Hill were much weakened by calls to the first team, and were in danger at one time of starting a man short. Norman Chesher filled the breach however, at outside right, and the first two goals came from his centres. The ball went from one end of the field with such rapidity that it became hard to keep the score after a while. There was never more than two goals difference in the score, and although the Hill were leading ten minutes from time, two quick goals at the end clinched the issue for Old Minchendenians, who came out winners of a very pleasant game by 8 goals to 7. Scorers for the Hill were Barratt 3, Chapman, Haynes and Graves, and one goal by a Minchendenian fullback.

January 6th—The Hill resumed the offensive by beating Trinity County Old Boys by 8 goals to 2 at Durnsford Road. The Old Boys were very young boys, and although they showed a very fine spirit, and not a small amount of football, they were overwhelmed by the Hill's superior weight.

The ground was much as it was last week, being hard underneath and slippery on top. It was easier however to control the ball, and one was able to turn with more facility. The Hill took control from the start and indulged in some shooting in. There were some narrow escapes and it was some time before Ken Norman, just back from convalescence, put in a high shot from half back which the goalkeeper just could't reach.

The game gradually developed into a goal scoring competition which was won by Stan Bell who notched 3. Peter Graves came in second with 2. Also ran: Norman, Chapman and Haynes with one each. The competition came to a close when the Old Boys came into the picture some quarter of an hour from the end by running wild and scoring two very nice goals. They seemed pleased with their effort, and it must be said that they were not more pleased than the Hill team were, for they deserved the goals for their very plucky display throughout.

January 13th—The Hill reserves lost to Bayston Athletic by 6 goals to nil at Tottenhall Road. It was a very fast game in which Bayston were too fast and too good for the Hill.

The pitch was in perfect condition, and with a strong wind behind them the Hill appeared to be on even terms for some time. They should have gone ahead when Stan Bell hit the upright

after ten minutes. The Bayston goalkeeper conceded a corner by just getting his fingers to a shot from Haynes, one or two other chances might also have been taken. Meanwhile, Bayston were getting more aggressive and were giving the Hill defence plenty to do. Phil Manners at left back was a stumbling block however, and was instrumental in getting the Hill out of some dangerous situations. Fred Slatter at right back also put up a very good show against the fast Bayston forward line, and at half time the Hill had cause to feel satisfied that they were only two goals down.

The second half with the strong wind against them, the Hill never looked the same team. Their clearances were not getting through and the Bayston side put on the pressure which brought nearly all the play into the Hill's half of the field. Bayston scored four more goals, and could have got yet another four with luck. Their right half scored with his head from one corner. From another he hit the crossbar, and from two or three more he skimmed the bar. Manners and Slatter were still working hard and did not let up for a moment, and Hasemore, on leave, kept as close to the centre forward as that slippery player would allow, making some fine tackles. Some ten minutes from the finish the Hill made an effort to come back and showed a disposition to try a few shots. Nothing came of it, however, but a centre from Haynes was just entering the net off the head of a defender when the whistle blew for time.

The Hill will play worse than this and win matches, and although losing 6 to nil, enjoyed the game thoroughly. We look forward to the return game at Fords Grove next March when we hope at least to reduce the deficit.

January 20th—The Reserves drew 3 all with Norsemen Reserves at Edmonton. A draw was the best result there could have been. Conditions were most unpleasant, and both sides suffered from a surfeit of snow and wind, and it would have been bad luck for either to have lost. The ground was covered with snow, and a Northerly gale bringing constant snow flurries which almost obscured the play, howled throughout the game.

The Hill kicked downwind and were soon chasing the ball, which showed a tendency to blow over into the next field when kicked high. Norsemen defence put up a good show in clearing. The Hill didn't realise how good until the next half when they had to try it. Norsemen in fact overcame the conditions and scored first. In the scuffle which produced the goal, Slatter at right back strained a muscle and had to go to outside right, Tony Chapman coming to fullback. Except for Fred Slatter's pain in the leg, the change proved to be fortunate, for he put over some good centres. Chapman used his speed to good effect in stopping the Norsemen attacks. The Hill then scored three quick goals. Graves and Barrett each hit one of Slatter's centres first time on the volley and left our friend Benyon in the Norsemen goal helpless. Shortly after Smith put one out of reach in the top corner of the net. One began to wonder if the Hill were about to repeat the drubbing dished out to Norsemen early in the season. This wishful thinking however was shortlived, for the Norsemen pulled round and the promised glut of goals did not materialise.

From the changeover it became apparent that the Hill were not going to find conditions any easier than did the opponents. In fact they did not weather them as well. The wind seemed to have re-doubled its vigour, the ball seemed twice as heavy, and the snow flurries twice as thick. In fact the Hill were not happy. Norsemen scored two goals, and it looked anything but promising for the Hill. They rallied round however and had a few breakaway rushes at goal. On one occasion they scored but were ruled offside. Both sides became vociferous regarding some offside decisions against the Hill, but not so as to endanger the friendly spirit of the snowy frolic.

The game was curtailed to forty minutes each way, and by the time it was over nobody was eager for more. Hot tea was the order, and the sight of the Norsemen getting outside sausage and mash was most warming to the Hill players.

January 27th—The Reserves fulfilled their home engagement with Old Aloysian Reserves and though conditions were difficult a good game resulted.

In the absence of Bill Earle and Johnny Haynes, Frank Thompson captained the side and, incidentally, was the outstanding player on the field. Repeatedly he broke up the visitors attempts

to make ground on their right and with judicious passes to his forwards, turned defence into attack. Ratcliffe, in goal also gave a sound performance.

The first half, though not lacking in interest, was goalless, largely due to the Old Aloysians' sound defence ; but also to the Hill forwards unsteadiness in front of goal.

The Hill re-arranged their forward line for the second half, a move which gave them greater cohesion and soon after the resumption, they took the lead when B. Thompson completed an excellent movement with a grand shot.

The visitors defended stubbornly but were unable to prevent a further penetration, Smith, at outside left, putting Winchmore Hill 2 up with a high dropping shot from a narrow angle.

The Hill's defence dealt effectively with all efforts on the part of Old Aloysians to reduce the deficit and, following one such effort, a well judged pass down the centre sent Chapman away to score the third and last goal of the match.

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2A XI REPORT.

Since the last issue of the Chat we have only played four games, of which we drew one and lost three. Owing to illness and injuries among members of the 1st and 2nd elevens, and consequent calls on the 2A XI to fill the gaps, it has not always been possible to field a full side. During this period Elliot, Woodgate, Barratt, Trevelyan and Smith were called upon to play for the 2nd XI and all gave a good account of themselves. Special honour was bestowed upon Trevelyan when called to play for the 1st XI, and we congratulate him on scoring the only goal of the match.

On December 2nd we entertained Mayfield 3rd's, and for the first time played on the top pitch before quite a number of spectators. Mayfield opened the game with many fierce attacks but the Hill defence held well together, with Ratcliffe making some fine saves in goal. The Hill soon settled down and goals by Barratt and Smith took the sting out of the visitors. A further goal for the Hill scored by Hearne, plus a Mayfield goal brought the half-time score to 3—1. Within a few minutes after the restart Barratt added a fourth for the Hill, scoring with an overhead kick following a corner by Hearne. Mayfield then went over to the attack, and after continuous pressure broke down the Hill defence and scored three times, bringing them to even terms. With but a few minutes left for play Mayfield netted again, and although the Hill defenders claimed the goal to be off-side, it was allowed, giving the visitors a 5—4 win.

On December 9th we were at home to Bartlett Juniors, and after a disappointing game the visitors won by 14—3. We could only muster eight players for this game, our opponents bringing along three extra, one of whom played in goal although unaccustomed to the position. Goals for the Hill were scored by Geary 2 and Barratt.

December 16th brought another tale of woe, both the Hill and Mayfield 3rd's having only seven players each. Having decided to play 30 minutes each way, both teams settled down to a mixture of fun and football, with Groundsman Cooper, as referee, having a bash at the ball when it came his way. After twice taking the lead with Mayfield equalising each time, the Hill showed signs of tiring, allowing the opponents to score three times, but with a rally in the closing stages the Hill added two more to their total, but lost by the odd goal in nine. Highlight of the game was a hat-trick by Geary, with Barratt scoring the fourth.

Old Glendalians visited Fords Grove on January 6th and with only 9 players held us to a draw 3—3. The Hill opened the scoring, Geary netting with a hard low shot from a narrow angle. After an equaliser by the visitors, Geary gathered a loose ball, neatly beat an opponent, and with another terrific shot regained the lead. For the majority of the second half, Glendalians were

predominant, and Henry Brown in the Hill goal, saved many ugly situations. The Hill further increased their lead when Geary after a fine run down the left wing, centred squarely to Barratt, who unmarked netted with ease. A defensive error gave the visitors their second goal, Williamson in passing back to H. Brown sliced his kick, the ball going to an opponent who made no mistake. With a 3—2 lead the Hill made every effort to protect their goal, and were unfortunate when a defender handled in the penalty area. With almost the last kick of the game, Glendalians equalised from the penalty spot.

As space does not permit us to mention all the seasons newcomers, we must confine our remarks to a few 'shining lights' of the team. The most outstanding being Ratcliffe and Trevelyan both of whom have now been deservedly elevated to the second eleven. In the defence, Woodgate, Peacock and Elliott are very consistent, all three possess a very strong kick and tackle well, but have an occasional tendency to forget to mark their man.

Of the forward line, Bacon, Geary and Smith combine well together. Bacon at outside right, although only small in build, gives opposing left backs many headaches, and shows great promise for the future. Geary at inside left is not a spectacular player, but possesses a good left foot drive, and up to the present has most goals to his credit, namely seven, Barratt running a close second with six. Smith is the schemer of the forwards, and can always be relied upon to keep the line moving, and is now often to be seen playing for the second XI.

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NEWS FROM THE FORCES.

PRISONERS OF WAR.

One of the most welcome cards to arrive in Winchmore Hill this Christmas was one from Norman Welsford. He says he is fit and patiently waiting for the boat home from Japan where he has been for the last eighteen months.

THE NAVY.

S. B. Davis has been in France for the last three months. He managed to get home on leave for Christmas and is still in this country although expecting another change shortly.

W. D. Engeham has been moving about every few weeks and has no hopes of leave at present. He managed however to play soccer all through last summer and hopes to continue during the winter.

Congratulations to Doug Grout who was married on 21st December to Miss Devenney.

Sidney Hasemore has been enjoying a long leave which started before Xmas and at the time of writing is still at home pending further courses.

We hear from Sidney that Jimmie Horwood is at Harwich—mine sweeping.

R. H. Willgoss was recently home on 10 days leave.

Dennis Wade is still based on the Gold Coast. The following extract from one of his letters seems too good to miss and we quote it in full :—

"Just returned from a fairyland trip. Went to a place in French Ivory Coast to unveil a Monument to British Merchant Navy. After ceremony went ashore with the Governor of French Ivory Coast, who gave us a car to use as we pleased, had dinner and lunch with him two days running—seven course meals with wine and champagne—went to a New Year's Eve party where French women (not girls alas) were resplendent in glorious technicolour evening dresses, danced and kissed them Bon Santé at midnight. We slept in a great hotel with showers in bedrooms and everything laid on, and dreamed of the Governor's palace, a magnificent epic in white stone, furnished as I've never seen anything furnished before. It was gorgeous, beautiful, amazing, incredible, I've barely come to earth yet. And so in the New Year, I'll be home soon."

At last we have news of our old friend Sgt. Ambridge. Owing to an incorrect address we had lost contact with him for some time but can now report that he is safe and well aboard H.M.S. Antigua.

B. L. A.

There is little to report from this theatre in the matter of special events. Among those who are expected home on leave in the near future are A. Lucas and Harry Warman but A. Rissbrook just missed being included in the first draw for leave by 6 hours.

Tudor Williams is looking forward to leave in March when he hopes to visit the Club. Meanwhile he has asked for his football kit to be sent over and is evidently finding some time for sport.

Fred Kenyon reports spending a splendid Xmas and New Year. He also states that the people are very kind to our Boys and make them very welcome.

C. M. F.

Douglas Howl writes to thank the Club for the gifts and Chats which are very much appreciated. There is not a great deal of opportunity for sport, but they occasionally get games with other regiments or the Italian Civvies, who are quite good at times.

R. B. Fowler is still with the Fifth Army and fit and well. His Regiment's Xmas celebrations were given an added zest as they included a due appreciation of the award of the V.C. to one of their Lance Corporals.

E. R. Jacques had hopes of Xmas leave, but this came to nil. However he may be home for 28 days anytime during the next few months—conditions permitting.

M. E. F.

Gus Gowers is expected home by March 1st and we hope we shall see him at the Club before the end of the season. All his friends will however learn with regret that his wife Vi has been ill recently although we are glad to say that latest reports show a satisfactory improvement.

GOLD COAST.

News is to hand of B. V. Buck, who reports on the incongruity of Turkey and Christmas Pudding eaten in the jungle. He appears to have been fishing but like many others to have caught nothing. Since landing in Nigeria he managed to get in one game of football—Officers versus N.C.O.'s.

INDIA.

Don Ashby arrived in India after a wonderful plane trip. He is happy and fit in his new surroundings, and hopes to get some powered Aeroplane flying in addition to Gliders.

S. C. H. Cooper has moved to Assam where he states there is no opportunity for sport.

E. Hollings has now got his second pip up, and has had an occasional game of Football and Golf. In his last letter he says he is on the move so do not expect any mail for some time.

News is just to hand that Gordon Southcombe received his Xmas parcel with many thanks. He is expected home some time in August.

MISCELLANEOUS.

E. B. Weatherhead after several weeks in Canada and New Jersey during which time he was able to spend leave in New York has moved on to Nassau, Bahamas. In a brief letter dated December he describes the climate as really hot and ideal for swimming.

Gordon Brooke who now has his 2nd pip went overseas in mid-December, destination unknown.

C. B. Forster has also been posted overseas with no news yet of his destination.

We have just heard that T. A. J. Bennett is safe and well. This has been confirmed by the War Office and is welcome news after the rumour to the contrary which has been circulating the Club recently.

HOME NEWS.

Edward Sandrock was able to spend Xmas at his parents home together with his wife and son. We are pleased to hear that his home which was blasted last July has at last been repaired and his wife has been able to return home.

C. Hatch has moved to a new location on the south coast. His previous work of looking after troops going abroad is now finished and he looks forward to joining the B.L.A. shortly.

E. G. Woollends has moved to another part of Kent where he is attached to a Fost. Regt. His wife, and son now aged 8 months have evacuated until V1's and V2's are heard no more.

Gordon Summerfield is still on sick leave and awaiting a Medical Board.

Frank Hunter has nothing special to report but expresses his appreciation of the Committees work in keeping the Club going for the benefit of service tykes on leave. The atmosphere is extremely friendly he says and entertainment rife ! but what about a few new songs ?

Wilfred Bacon has been in and out of hospital since damaging his knee when working on a plane last October. He has recently had a cartilage removed and hopes this will cure the trouble.

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS.

Sgt. AMBRIDGE, H.M.S. Antigua, c/o G.P.O. London.

F/O. D. W. ASHBY, Officers Mess, 343 Wing, R.A.F., India.

Lieut. G. A. BROOKE, Draft RJBAR/T., R.E., A.P.O. No. 7575.

Lieut. B. V. BUCK, 4th Batt. Gold Coast Regt., Tamale, Gold Coast.

Cadet H. T. CAMPBELL, 1811140, Hut 76, R.A.F. Station, Wigtown, Scotland.

Cpl. B. E. CARTER, R.A.C., 27th Armoured Brig. W/Shops, R.E.M.E., B.L.A.

Sub./Condr. C. S. H. COOPER, 10548806, R.A.O.C., c/o Movement Control Dett.,
Neamati, Assam, S.E.A.C.

Sub./Lieut. S. B. DAVIS, L.C.T. 2047, c/o G.P.O. London.

Cpl. C. B. FORSTER, * 7, Lakenheath, N.4.

Sub./Lieut. D. GROUT, H.M.S. Khedive, c/o G.P.O. London.

Sgt./Pilot D. J. JUDSON, 1811065, c/o R.A.F. H.Q., M.E.F.

R. MORGAN, * 7, Stanley Road, N.9.

Lieut G. E. SUMMERFIELD, 4, Bazile Road, N.21.

Lieut E. G. WOOLLEND, 1st A.A. Fost. Regt. R.A., Militia Camp, Maidstone Road, Rainham, Kent.

* Home address—Present Service address unknown.

PEN PORTRAITS.

" THE WELSFORDS "

Memory goes back to one midsummer afternoon in the gloomiest period of the war and a quiet stroll around the ground during the course of a cricket match. For company one had the "Guv'nor" as Ernest O. Welsford is known with affection at Fords Grove. We were talking about the Club and Club matters when the "Guv'nor" said, "If this ground is green and well kept and the Hill is still going when the boys come home, I shall be satisfied."

The "Guv'nor" would be the last to deny that some personal consideration lay behind the remark, and what could be more natural, as his interest in the Club commenced when his son, Norman, joined both football and cricket sections in 1933. But one is sure beyond doubt that the broader idea of keeping the Club alive for all those who love it but at present are debarred from enjoying its amenities, was uppermost in his mind.

Thus from 1933 the "Guv'nor" and his wife became regular supporters and, slowly but surely, in the way lasting friendships are made, we came to know them and to like what we know. Then in 1938, Mr. Welsford was elected Treasurer of the Football Club, which office he has fulfilled admirably ever since, but to describe him as Treasurer, and leave it at that, would be a masterpiece of understatement. He is ever ready to serve the Club in any way within his power and none has done more to bring new members to the Hill. He has achieved a monumental amount of work in connection with our Charity efforts, in addition to seeing that vital matters concerning the equipment and ground in the winter season receive as much attention as restricted labour permits.

That rarity amongst human beings, the "Guv'nor" is perhaps the ideal committee man, for he speaks only when he has something to say.

It followed then that when the Cricket section was in some difficulty over a Team Secretary in 1942, they looked to Mr. Welsford and not in vain. These duties, too, have been carried out with unruffled efficiency and additionally a considerable portion of the work of organizing the Cricket Charity Games has fallen on the same willing shoulders.

In appearance the "Guv'nor" is youthful, slight and dapper and if he sees the world from an altitude somewhat lower than some, he has most successfully avoided the faults which are sometimes associated with those who lack inches. The successes of Norman at both soccer and cricket were many, but were accepted with modesty by both father and son. At the time he joined the services, Norman had become an outstanding member of a very good 2nd XI soccer side, with some good performances in the 1st XI to his credit, whilst on the cricket field he had become an outstanding Club wicketkeeper and as a batsman was adding some good scoring shots to a very sound defence and exceptional concentration. These successes, though undoubtedly a matter for paternal pride, were never allowed to become wearisome to others.

Mrs. Welsford, too, has served the Club right royally during the last 5½ years. The arduous task of winter catering has been, and is, her wartime contribution to the Club. In spite of rationing and transport difficulties and whatever the weather, we have always been sure of tea at half-time, tea at full time, to be followed, this season, by excellently prepared sausages and mashed. The problems of shopping, the preparatory work, the rush at the Canteen at the end of a game and finally the intimidating spectacle of an enormous pile of washing up, are all accepted and dealt with, with smiling competence by Mrs. Welsford and her helpers.

So, "Guv'nor" and your lady, we are grateful and wish you well. May that reunion which you so ardently desire take place sooner than you dare to hope for. May we, at the Hill long continue to enjoy the pleasure of your company and the benefit of your help.

ERIC INGS.

Any one of our supporters who chanced to wander on to the ground at Fords Grove on one Saturday afternoon in the late September of 1941, would have noticed an elderly looking gentleman in the home colours daintily threading his way through the opposing defence from the inside left position to score three good goals.

With the game over and the Hill comfortable winners, this same supporter, with the memory of these goals, would probably have felt that appearances deceive, and in this he would have been right, for this method of progress has now become known as "weaving" and the said elderly gentleman was none other than the comparatively youthful Eric H. Ings, popularly known to all his friends—and no one knows him other than a friend—as "Ferdy."

Ferdy who holds a responsible position in the Standard Telephone Company and is a B.Sc., is a product of the Abbey School at Barking, where we understand he gained his nickname by giving a lifelike imitation of Ferdinand the Bull during Charter Week.

Despite his initial success in the forward line, Ferdy has filled a variety of positions on the field from time to time and has now settled down at left half where he has put in some sound work, and from which position he is skippering the side in the absence of Ron. Guettier.

Never spectacular he nevertheless combines a sound knowledge of the game, as evidenced by his positional play, with a good head and a very solid tackle which usually ends up with him in possession. If one has a complaint it is that on occasions he is apt to drift up the field and be left stranded with direful results to the poor unfortunate back.

We feel sure that on these rare occasions it is the flesh that is weak and not the spirit (perhaps Roger was on leave).

Ferdy is a man of many accomplishments, not the least of which is the faculty of falling asleep anywhere at any time and in any position. No one who was privileged to be a witness of the scene will forget a benign countenance peering out from the depths of an armchair, on what must have been the coldest Sunday morning of the year and remarking with a bland smile "Warmer isn't it."

Ferdy is also no mean cricketer and during the summer months visitors may espy a stolid figure in a pair of "off white" flannels successfully stopping swingers, shooters, yorkers and generally defying all the artifices of opposing bowlers. Albeit it must be mentioned one sufferer was moved to comment on his 'forcing' shot to short leg. When necessary he is capable of great agility behind the sticks, and in between the fall of wickets, may be seen by word or deed endeavouring to persuade a long suffering skipper that his 'tweakers' would dismiss Walter Hammond himself.

When he had time to spare from his many pursuits Ferdy was also an occasional member of the Home Guard and rumour has it that a wave of terror swept through the Luftwaffe when Barking H.G. went over to 'Ack-Ack.'

Genial and easy going by nature Ferdy can be very pertinacious in argument, and whether the subject be football, politics, bridge or beer, once his teeth are in the bar, habitues are in for some lively exchanges.

Ferdy is in fact, as you will by now have gathered the ideal Club Member.

BILL EARLE.

Bill Earle, like so many more of our outstanding personalities, is one of the war's windfalls. It's an ill wind..... This wind did blow hard on so many of the smaller clubs. It blew Southgate Wanderers out of existence and in doing so it blew Bill Earle and a few more of the Wanderers over to the Hill. They helped to form the nucleus of the reserves side which Bill has since skippered with outstanding success.

As an ex Southgate Wanderer himself, the writer may perhaps be excused for remarking that the Wanderers had a team spirit second to none, and not often equalled. This spirit seems to be personified by Bill. One of the Old Campaigners to whom nothing is too much trouble, no journey too far in this wilderness of wartime travel, and no job impossible for the good of the side, Bill has always put everything into his game. One of the Old Brigade who never gives up until the final whistle. With his "face it Hill" he is always to be seen in the thick of it, battling away at half or full back.

A rare stopper and useful with either his head or his tail—or any other part of his anatomy which happens to be handy for that matter—he has been known to blot out many a good centre forward, or to administer the quietus to many a hopefully flying winger.

Bill's qualities as a skipper become manifest to a marked degree when the game is over and the teams gather for a social hour in the bar. As faces glow with well being from the cumulative effects of a hot bath and Mrs. Welsford's sausage and mash and the anticipation of conviviality, Bill's prowess as a raconteur expands as the jugs of good cheer go round, and another memorable evening is in the making. Yes, decidedly a good windfall.

* * * *

AFTER THE GAME.

We climb the back stairs of the pavilion ; steps that recall to mind those of the crazy, top-heavy bathing machines of our boyhood. And we hope, as we ascend, that, later, we may descend as successfully. The heartening fragrance of steaming tea welcomes us ; and we have also the happy thought that sausage and mash, old friends of our vagrancy, may later be our portion. Thus, in spite of war, are we cherished and coddled ! (Who was the helpless mutt who said he preferred a club for men only. Let him hence and sign on for a monastery).

Talk over tea embraces an intriguing variety of subjects. Philosophy, literature, art, medicine—and naturally, sport. To a company less enlightened, many of our notions of sports and pastimes might appear somewhat unorthodox. But we are accustomed to the raised eye-brows that result from our passion for progress, from horror of the commonplace and the obvious.

A visitor was once heard to remark that tea-cups didn't suit our dials (Dials !—to describe our faces thus !) But we must confess that we ourselves have at times been conscious of a certain incongruity ; we have noted with sorrow the furtive glances at Mr. Cooper's clock ; and we have attempted, by quoting saint and sage, to delay the impending stampede. Alas, in vain.....

Here we are, in our corner again. Poet's Corner, we've heard it named. We remember one soulful chap gazing with rapture upon our sunset from our corner window. He enjoyed our sunset so much that we were able to drink his beer in perfect comfort. And there was a song in the beer that night.

A song ! That reminds us of the occasion when we first heard the Winchmore Warblers. The lyric beauty of the words ; the grace of the actions that gave emphasis to them ; the sincerity and sweet simplicity of the singers—we were deeply moved. Our visitors from Holland were greatly impressed—especially when we carefully repeated the words to them. They had no idea the English language had such a wealth of lovely words. How gratifying it is to think that we have been able to demonstrate to our allies the beauty of our language !

The appreciation of our noble tongue is wide-spread at Winchmore Hill. After any game the visitor may see in Mr. Cooper's salon groups of men in earnest talk. Upon each face is a look of happy expectancy ; each has the rapt expression that the recital of lovely words produces. Then "shut that open door !" calls someone. He is anxious that nothing shall distract, that the full effect of what is being told shall be enjoyed.

As the evening advances a gentle haze envelops the scene ; a haze that soon ripens to a comfortable "fug." Without, the wind howls across our wide acres ; within, our time-mellowed club-house it is snug enough. From our walls long-ago members look down approvingly ; the essential pattern of things has not greatly changed, they would say. But in one way at least we are more blest than they : A benign and understanding committee has decreed that ladies are no longer entirely debarred from Mr. Cooper's salon. We are thus refreshed and inspired by occasional glimpses of glamour amid the press of brawn and muscle. If fortune is very kind a smile may come our way ; and that is how a song steals into our bar.

Time is getting on. Someone has been outside to observe the weather. "It's simply pelting down" (or words to that effect) or, "Bother it, it's beastly dark" (again or words to that effect). But sometimes there's the glad call, the call so fitting to our mood "The moon's up !"

Homeward convoys are formed. The cry "Another bottle !" is raised, but the laggards are sternly admonished, and we steal away. Bless us, there's no moon at all ! That moon must have been last week's. It is dark. But we are vagrants, far-wandering men. By the stars we will steer our course. Now we're all right : straight ahead blokes..... Here we are..... But, bless my soul !—our stars have mislead us. This is Fords Grove not Firs Lane !

* * * * *

Christmas, they say is a time of "Peace on earth and Goodwill to all men." Well any who care to wander into the bar at the "Hill" may view a somewhat unusual photograph, which amply demonstrates that, on the occasion in question, if the Peace was missing the Goodwill was very much in evidence.

The time was Christmas week-end and the occasion the first (and we hope not the last) visit of the Royal Netherlands Navy to Winchmore Hill.

Following a sporting game of football enjoyed by players and spectators alike we settled down to enjoy the evening.

We believe our visitors were considering an early departure but for the benefit of any of their womenfolk who may have been patiently waiting at home, we hereby accept full responsibility for the late arrivals.

One of our number innocently suggested a song or two and the Navy proceeded to render in fine voice (and perfect English) some of our best known songs, we must get them to teach us the words some time.

We were particularly gratified by two very fine solo renderings by their centre forward with chorus by everybody.

The evening was considerably brightened by the glad news that 'Guv'nor' and Mrs. Welsford had heard from Norman now in Japan, and of course there was nothing for it. Mrs. Welsford had to sing with naval assistance.

Needless to say it was not quite a teetotal evening, in fact bar takings must have been nearly, if not quite a record, besides little extra offerings from one or two of our genial vice-presidents, which helped to establish the following scientific formula which we place at the disposal of the Brains Trust: "Lemon Gin and Beer and violent change of temperature = Black-out."

All good things come to an end—the time for farewells came but not before our cheering opposing skipper had thanked us for our hospitality in a neat speech, to be acknowledged by our own "Ferdy" in his quietly humorous way, and the National Anthems were then sung.

This was only the beginning of the end however, for our old friend "Kinny," supported (not literally) by Lowther, was waiting in the lounge with his camera to place the evening on record in photographic form.

One or two of the subjects denied the evidence contained therein, so we can only conclude the camera was faulty, or the operator's hands were unsteady—Perish the thought!

Whilst we wish our Dutch Friends a speedy return to their own country, we can assure them they will always be welcome at the "Hill" and we for our part are quite sure that if when we play on the Continent it will be in Holland.

So it is only farewell, and good luck to you, Holland!

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CLUB JOTTINGS.

We regret to learn that Eric Ings is to enter hospital for an operation and that neither the football nor cricket field will see him as an active participant for several months.

On behalf of all your friends Ferdy, we wish you the best of luck, may we soon see you convalescent and by this time next year we shall hope to be drinking beer with you and applauding some more dazzling displays of 'weaving.'

* * * *

Keen disappointment is felt by those responsible for the catering at the Club at the failure of the new cocktail styled the "Dupont Special" to become a popular drink. Enormous and profitable sales were anticipated with high confidence but statistics show that so far only one quart jug has been sold. No secret is made about the ingredients and no proprietary rights are claimed and we have been given permission to state that this truly delicious admixture consists of some 75% Adams Ale and 25% Ullage with a liberal garnishing of froth. Can any member suggest a means of increasing the sales of this admirable beverage?

* * * *

A feast of football is being provided for the fans at Easter. On the Saturday (31st March) Barclays Bank are the visitors and the proceeds will be given to the Southgate Branch of the Prisoners of War Relatives Association.

On the Monday (2nd April) we entertain the British Empire XI. Proceeds devoted to the British Red X. This game originally fixed for Boxing Day could not be played owing to weather conditions and tickets purchased for 26th December will be available for 2nd April. The visitors will include many players well known to members of the Summer Sections and we look forward to their generous support.

FIXTURES 1944/45.

Date	1st XI Opponents	Result	2nd XI Opponents	Result	2A XI Opponents	Result
Oct. 7	Norsemen A	4—3	Old Stationers Res. ... A	5—5	Polytechnic 4th A	1—4
14	Old Stationers H	2—2	Norsemen Res. H	8—2		
21	Broomfield H	13—0	Old Aloysians A	1—3		
28	Edgeware Town A	3—3	Crouch End V. (Cup 1st R.) H	4—8	Mayfield 3rd H	0—2
Nov. 4	Edgeware Town H	2—6	Alexandra Park Res. ... A	1—7	Alexandra Park 3rd ... H	1—2
11	Old Stationers (Cup 1st R.) A	4—1	Mayfield Res. H	2—2	Old Ignatians H	0—6
18	Davis Sports H	1—1	Old Minchendenians ... A	3—14	Mayfield 3rd H	2—4
25	Mayfield A	3—2	Old Stationers H	3—1	Alexandra Park 3rd ... H	Scr.
Dec. 2	Davis Sports A	4—1		A	Mayfield 3rd H	4—5
9	Brentwood A	5—2	Royal Dental Hospital ... H	4—1	Bartletts Juniors H	3—13
16	Old Aloysians A	6—0	Polytechnic Res. H	5—0	Mayfield 3rd H	4—5
23	Royal Netherlands Navy H	5—1	Crouch End Vamps A	4—0		
26	British Empire XI H	Scr.	Crown Manor A	Scr.		
30	Mayfield H	1—0	Old Michendenians H	7—8		
Jan. 6	Met. Police No. 3 Dis. ... H	0—1	Trinity Cty. Old Boys ... A	8—2	Old Glendalians H	3—3
13	Mayfield H	Scr.	Bayston Athletic A	0—6	Alexandra Park 3rd ... H	Scr.
20	Norsemen H	1—3	Norsemen Res. A	3—3	Old Ignatians H	Scr.
27	Broomfield A	Scr.	Old Aloysians H	3—0		
Feb. 3	Old Aloysians H	5—0	Old Colfeians A	3—1	Old Glendalians H	0—8
10	Barclays Bank A	0—3	Trinity Cty. Old Boys ... H	5—2		
17	Alexandra Park (Cup S-F.) H	3—2	Alexandra Park Res. ... H	4—5		
24	Brentwood H		Polytechnic Res. A		Davis Sports 3rd H	
Mar. 3	London University H		Mayfield Res. A		Alexandra Park H	
10	Old Stationers A		Crown Manor H		Alexandra Park A	
17	Met. Police No. 3 Dis. ... A		Southgate Olympic Res. H			
24	Royal Netherlands Navy A		Bayston Athletic H			
31	Barclays Bank H		Royal Dental Hospital ... A			
Apl. 2	British Empire XI H					