WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CHAT

MAY '45



with Compliments

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Editorial

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WITH the coming of VE-Day, the first part of the task which we set ourselves in 1939 has been accomplished. Football has been played at Fords Grove throughout six seasons of European Warfare, and with the reopening of the second pitch this season and the resumption of the Special Effort our financial and playing resources are as great as they were at the outbreak of war.

There remains the second part of our task, namely to guide the Club through the coming transitional period so that when full peace time activities are resumed we may be able to take our place on merit among the leaders in A.F.A. Football.

We look forward next season to a resumption of the Southern Amateur League, of necessity in a limited form, and to a renewal of mid week training and coaching. We hope that many of our old players will be able to rejoin us, and that the steady stream of newcomers will continue. The efforts we have made during the past six years have brought a rich reward and on our ability to take advantage of our opportunities will depend the future of the Club.

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1st XI REPORT.

February 3rd—The return encounter with the Old Aloysians at Ford's Grove, provided excellent football, particularly during the first half.

Alec Cooper captained the " Hill " and he and Phil Manners were in good form, Frank Thompson, at left-half, gave another sound performance, whilst the return of Elmer to centre-forward after an absence of several weeks due to injury, gave an added thrustfulness to the forward line.

Playing downhill during the first half, the " Hill " were quickly on the offensive, clever passing taking them down to the visitors goal, but a tendency to delay the final pass or to shoot when a pass might have yielded better results, spoiled some excellent approach work and fifteen minutes passed before Barber opened the score. This was followed by two quick goals scored by Laderman ; one from a corner and the other during a scrimmage in the goal mouth.

Efforts by the Old Aloysians to get on terms were successfully parried by the " Hill's " defenders ; Peters, in goal, stopping some hard drives. With superiority in both attack and defence, the " Hill " went further ahead when Elmer broke through to score a fine goal and just before the interval B. Thompson, playing at outside-left, made the score 5—0.

Noel Barber pulled a muscle and had to retire early in the second half and with the Old Aloysians holding the ground advantage, play was very even.

The heavy going slowed the pace and though both goals were subjected to some pressure, there was no further score.

February 17th—Our visitors for the semi-final of the Wood Green and Southgate Hospital Cup were Alexandra Park, the game being watched by a good crowd.

Both sides were at full strength and " A.P. ", having won the toss, played downhill in the first half and made full use of it. The " Hill " were slow to settle down, many passes going astray and it was no surprise when " A.P." took the lead, their centre-forward hooking the ball into the net during a tussle in the home goal.

The " Hill " improved, Vic Haskell and Noel Barber giving " A.P.'s " defence some anxious moments with neat inter-passng but " A.P." increased their lead when the centre-forward, taking advantage of a mis-kick by one who shall be nameless, raced through to score his second goal.

The " Hill " were well together in the second half and inside five minutes Elmer picked up a long pass near the penalty line, cut through and scored.

We did everything but score goals after that, shots striking the upright and cross-bar and " A.P.'s " goalie brought off some remarkable saves. With one minute to go and " A.P. " still leading Noel Barber sent out a long accurate pass to Vic Haskell who, taking it at top speed, cut in and scored with a terrific shot along the ground.

The " Hill " still had the advantage of the slope in the first 15 minutes of the extra time and forced play into " A.P.'s " half, but the visitors defence was good. A free kick gave the " Hill " a golden opportunity. Frankie Thompson took the kick and sent the ball to Barber who, standing almost un-marked, slammed it into the net.

With the second period to come the result was still in doubt but " A.P. " could not produce the extra effort required to force a replay, and so we entered the final by 3—2.

February 24th—In their home fixture with Brentwood, the " Hill " won by a comfortable margin.

With the exception of Laderman at inside-left for Keenan, we played the same side as last week and were on the top of our form. Brentwood were, however, very patchy ; their forwards initiated many clever movements but their finishing was poor. Their defence, after the first quarter of an hour was no match for the lively " Hill " forwards.

The opening exchanges were very even, the Brentwood forwards impressing with some neat movements and Peters was soon called upon to save. However, our defence soon got the measure of the opposition, forcing play into the visitors half and, after about 15 minutes play, Laderman opened the scoring with a shot from close range. Five minutes later Haskell cut in from the right wing to score the second goal and Barber soon afterwards added a third. Following a good solo effort Elmer scored the fourth and, neatly heading a centre from the left-wing, Barber made the interval score 5—0.

The second half opened in much the same way as the first and after Haskell had increased the " Hill's " score to six, Brentwood's only goal was scored by their centre-forward, following a good run and centre by their outside-right. After this the " Hill's " domination of the game was complete and with goals from Barber 2, B. Thompson, Laderman, Haskell and Wiseman, they finally won by 12 goals to 1.

March 3rd—Played under ideal conditions, the match against the London University ended in a draw. The University goalkeeper gave a brilliant performance, his anticipation and a safe pair of hands frequently saving what looked like certain goals.

The " Hill " captained by Gus Gowers playing at inside left, for the first few minutes found the speed of the opposition rather disconcerting, but the halves, by resolute tackling and accurate passing, put their forwards on the offensive and the University goalkeeper was soon called upon to show his skill. Rather against the run of the play however, the visitors scored first, a long dropping shot from their outside-right just passing under the bar. The " Hill " soon took play into their opponents half and Wootton, at right half, was frequently prominent with good tackling and judicious passes. Eventually a hot attack developed from the right wing during which the ball travelled across the goal close to the line and Laderman, running in, breasted it into the net.

Shortly before the interval the University outside-right got in a good run and shot from an acute angle, the ball striking the far upright, rebounded into play towards the outside-left who ran in and scored.

The second half was fought out at the same pace and though the visitors had the advantage of playing downhill, they were given few opportunities to visit the home goal. The " Hill " kept up a steady pressure and during a scrimmage in front of the goal Haskell got his foot to the ball and put it safely into the net.

Though retaining their grip on the game, the " Hill " could not force the winning goal and one of the best games seen on the ground this season ended with the score 2 all.

March 10th—Old Stationers have suffered many losses and provided only weak opposition in this away fixture.

The " Hill," with the advantage of the slope and a strongish breeze made the running, but the Stationers, with Livermore and their goalkeeper playing prominent parts, defended well and with Wiseman, Cooper and Manners dealing effectively with the raids of the home forwards, twenty minutes of the first half elapsed before a goal was scored. During a sustained attack on the home goal B. Thompson, playing at outside-left, fastened on to a weak clearance and shot low into the corner of the net.

Within a few minutes the " Hill " were two up; Barber, from near the centre line, sending out a well judged pass to Laderman at outside-right who squared the ball across the goal and Elmer, though impeded by two defenders, scored.

The second half opened with B. Thompson at centre-forward, Elmer, who had injured an ankle towards the close of the first half, moving to outside-left and taking little part in the remainder of the game. Though the " Stationers " now had the advantage of the slope they could not penetrate the " Hill's " sound defence and Barber, seizing a long pass down the centre, cut through and scored. Towards the end of a not very spectacular second half, B. Thompson scored his third goal, to make the final score 5—0, in our favour.

March 17th—We did better than was generally anticipated in this away match by holding to a draw the powerful Metropolitan Police Team of No. 3 District. Though several of the regular first team were absent, the " Hill " gave a fine performance. Wiseman at centre-half was brilliant; whilst Peters, in goal, gave a grand display.

At the interval the Police were leading by 1—0, but soon after the re-start the " Hill " drew level with a goal by Noel Barber and another goal by B. Thompson put them in the lead. The Police, however, rallied strongly and secured the equaliser.

Final score :—Winchmore Hill—2, Metropolitan Police No. 3 District—2.

March 24th—The Royal Netherlands Navy visited us again and brought with them a crowd of spectators from both the Navy and the Army. Though only one of the eleven who played earlier in the season was available, the rest being at sea, nevertheless Saturday's visitors were an attractive side and delighted the spectators with fast, open football.

We were without Haskell and Elmer, both injured, but " Guett " and Jimmy Keenan, of whom too little has been seen this season, played.

The Navy won the toss and electing to play downhill with a moderate wind were soon attacking by wing to wing passes, but the good understanding between the " Hill " backs and the goalkeeper prevented an early penetration. The " Hill " adopted similar tactics to the visitors and combined forward movements, in which B. Thompson, Keenan and Guett were prominent, threatened the visitors goal. Play ranged from end to end until Guett, receiving the ball near the centre line sped down the left wing and centred for B. Thompson to head into the net. The " Hill " continued to press and from a corner B. Thompson scored again to make the half-time score 2—0.

With the conditions in their favour it was expected that the home team would go further ahead but the sailors had other ideas and working well both in defence and in attack they had their reward when after 10 minutes their centre-forward scored.

The pace slackened somewhat and with the Navy having slightly the better of the exchanges they drew level with rather less the quarter of an hour left for play. Both sides made every effort to obtain the winning goal the visitors being the nearest with a shot which hit the crossbar just as the final whistle blew.

March 31st—For the second consecutive week our visitors were the Royal Netherlands Navy. This time they deputised for Barclays Bank in a match in aid of the Southgate Prisoners of War Relatives Association. The " Hill " side included Dennis Wade, home on leave from West Africa where he has been serving with the Royal Navy.

The visitors had the advantage of a strong gusty wind during the first half and, making full use of it, kept play for the most part in the " Hill " half. The " Hill " defence particularly Peters, Manners and Gowers gave a fine performance and it was unfortunate that the Netherlands first goal came when a defender in attempting a pass back to the goalkeeper, put through his own goal.

Occasional sorties by the " Hill " forwards brought no reward and despite the fine goal-keeping of Peters, the visitors scored again before the interval.

With conditions reversed, the " Hill " forwards came more into the picture and Hirst, a promising young new-comer, converted a centre from the left-wing. The " Hill " continued to press but the visitors sound defence held them until about 10 minutes from time, when Hirst sent out a pass to Keenan who centred for Haskell to score.

And so the third of these sporting encounters ended for the second time in a draw—2 goals each.

April 2nd.—The postponed match against a British Empire XI in aid of the Duke of Gloucester's Red Cross and St. John Fund was played on Easter Monday.

The visiting team included Cyril Hawker and Ken Bain, the former at right-back and the latter at outside-right.

The effort was well supported and though the start was delayed the spectators were well recompensed for their wait.

The first half went entirely in the favour of the home team and in a few minutes Wade scored from B. Thompson's centre. The same player went through the centre to score the second goal soon afterwards and Frank Thompson added a third. A break away on the visitors right and a well placed centre gave Halliday his chance to reduce the deficit but just before the interval Wade put the " Hill " further ahead.

The second half saw the visitors playing much better together and Halliday (2) and Ken Bain made the score four all. The " Hill " made strenuous efforts to score the winning goal but the visiting defence held out and the score remained 4—4.

April 7th—In beating our old friends and opponents the Norsemen by 6—3, we hold the Wood Green and Southgate Hospital Cup (Senior Section) for another year.

There were doubts as to whether Noel Barber would be fit or that Vic Haskell's ankle would hold out but in the event both played and Noel with two goals to his credit and Vic's tricky runs up the right wing, amply justified the Selection Committee's faith.

Bernard Thompson at centre, " Guett " at outside-left and Jimmy Keenan, inside-left completed the forward line. Johnny Peters was in goal with Alec Cooper and Phil Manners backs ; Norman Wootton, Ernie Wiseman and Frankie Thompson were the halves.

The game opened with the Norsemen attacking and they kept our fellows on the run for some time but the defence was adequate and perhaps a little against the run of play defensive errors by the Norsemen let our forwards through and that excellent opportunist Bernard Thompson scored. The " Hill's " second goal was a gift from the Norsemen, a back in endeavouring to make a hasty clearance put through his own goal.

Play became very even and the first half was well advanced before the Norsemen opened their account, Read scoring a good goal. The " Hill " were not to be denied and following an excellent movement Bernard Thompson scored again.

The " Hill " started the second half confidently, and soon increased their lead, Barber scoring in characteristic fashion. The " Hill " were definitely on top but opposed to such players as Read, Markwell and Topping no liberties can be taken and following a hot attack Markwell scored, though to some spectators the scorer appeared to be offside.

The " Hill " retaliated and Bernard Thompson in attempting to reach a high ball collided violently with Turnbull the Norsemen's goalie both being injured. Turnbull left the field, Cliff Topping taking his place, and Thompson resumed at outside-left. Despite their handicap the Norsemen developed a hot attack which was repelled with difficulty. Turnbull returned to the field and shortly afterwards a neat movement by Haskell and Barber gave the latter his second goal.

Norsemen were awarded a penalty for a foul on their outside-left and Read scored. B. Thompson, returning to centre-forward, converted a centre with a fine header to score the last goal of an exciting if not skilful game.

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2nd XI REPORT.

Saturday, February 3rd, Old Colfeians at Lee.

This report should (and will) start with both an apology and a vote of thanks to Old Colfeians. We have to apologise for turning up with seven men, and we have to thank Old Colfs for sportingly lending us two men, and thus making an even nine a side game.

It seems that whenever the Hill journey to Lee the skipper has a red face because he has to make his excuses for arriving with half a side. It seems that Lee is generally considered too far to go, and it is always very difficult to find a team. (Men in the Burmese jungle please note).

In the circumstances the game was most enjoyable. The pitch was in perfect condition and the weather at it's best. None of the Hill players regretted the journey, and all played in better form than is usually seen. In a nine a side, there is of course, much more room to move, and it is usually fast and furious. This game was no exception and plenty of fast open play resulted. The sides were very evenly matched and both defences had to work overtime. Bert Wells who played at left back did time and a half. He was everywhere, stopping and tackling, and next moment sending constructive passes and attacking with vim and vigour. Young Jack Peacock at right back played a sterling game, and between them stopped many a dangerous looking situation. The Old Colfeians were not niggardly in the men they lent us and their player who took the position of centre half completed a fine defensive trio. At half time the score was one all, our borrowed centre forward having scored for the Hill.

After the changeover the Hill were soon off the mark. Peter Graves hit the upright a resounding smack with a left footed shot and shortly after scored with a fine shot which grazed the bar on it's way in. A few minutes later the centre half sent in a hard shot from outside the penalty area, which the Colfeians goalkeeper just failed to hold. Being two up gave the Hill an appetite for more goals which nearly proved to be their undoing. The defence got a bit too far down on several occasions, and Old Colfeians' breakaways found Ratcliffe high and dry in goal. Only some poor shooting by the Colfs saved him on two or three occasions. Colfeians did get one, and the Hill defence fell back a little and held out until time

Saturday, February 10th, Trinity County Old Boys, at Fords Grove.

The Hill again proved too strong for Trinity County Old Boys. Trinity County had a heavier side than previously it is true, and seemed a more experienced team than when we last met at Durnsford Road. The Hill nevertheless came out winners by 5 goals to 2.

The Hill kicked down the slope, and although the surface was greasy and treacherous, the pace was fast and the two teams seemed fairly evenly balanced. Gradually the Hill took the initiative and began to control the game, spending most of the time in the Old Boys half of the field. Although only two goals were scored there should have been more. Sitters were missed from nought feet, and other chances went begging. Haynes opened the account and Stan Bell followed with another, these two being the only goals scored at half time.

The second half, although bringing five more goals, was mostly remarkable for the icy blizzard which swept across the field leaving a carpet of hailstones which gradually dissolved into a sea of slush. The hail came so thick and fast that it was almost impossible to see across the pitch. It continued for about half an hour and it seemed as though the game would have to be abandoned. The referee did actually suggest this highly commendable course, but the sturdy youth of the Old Boys would have none of such spineless stuff. From here onward all is a chilly, murky blank, punctuated by the rattling of hailstones and the slithering of bodies in the slush. One is credibly informed that goals were scored, five in fact. Three for the Hill and two for the Old Boys, but who did the scoring was not perceived.

As if to add insult to injury the storm abated as the final whistle blew, but one had no time to stand and rail at fortune. Hot water and hot dogs were calling.

Saturday, February 17th, Alexandra Park at Fords Grove.

The Reserves game was played on the lower pitch and was somewhat overshadowed by the Titanic struggle in progress on the upper pitch, where the Hill were playing A.P. in the semi-final of the Hospitals Cup. There was the temptation to glance in that direction every time the ball seemed to be a safe distance away. Nevertheless it was a keen game, and the issue was in doubt right up to the last minute. The Hill lost by the odd goal in nine. They might have won if they had started with eleven players instead of eight.

The first goal was rather unfortunate in the circumstances. A half hearted back pass to Ratcliffe failed to reach him. It reached the back of the net instead, via the foot of the A.P. right winger.

By the time the team was complete, about fifteen minutes from the start, A.P. had scored two goals. As soon as the late starters arrived however, things eased up a little and the Hill had a chance to do some attacking. Laderman scored a fine goal after a solo run, and Stan Bell scored a similar sort of goal " on his own." The score stood at 2 all at half time. The Hill had been kicking with a strongish following wind which enabled them to get the ball into A.P.'s goal area fairly easily, and it needed more than an even score at half time to put them in anything like a winning position.

On changing ends it was soon found that it was no easy job controlling the rather light ball, which bounced too easily for comfort. In fact the darned thing stubbornly refused to be kicked up the field. The A.P. attack made the most of it and seized on any loose ball, which I fear was oftimes, and scored another three. The Hill however were in no mood to stand and be pushed around. They fought back and had several scoring attempts. Laderman was in good form and was a constant worry to the A.P. defence. He scored a second very good goal, finishing off a long run by shooting in hard after walking round three defenders. Soon after, a good movement on the right wing resulted in the Hill's fourth and last goal, Haynes converting a centre from Stan Bell.

Saturday, February 24th v. Polytechnic at Chiswick.

The Hill lost a good game by 3 goals to 2. Once again fortune was not on the side of the Hill, who might with justice declare that they were robbed of victory. The Hill maintained their habit of scoring first—for the opponents, and Hasemore had the mortification of placing the ball out of Ratcliffe's reach in the Hill net. The Hill were soon on the attack however and the Poly goalkeeper was called on to do some fast work. On one occasion a back kicked clear when the ball seemed to be well over the line. Chapman soon cleared all doubts however by tearing through and bundling both ball and goalkeeper into the net. The pace was fast, and the firm ground and strong wind kept the ball on the move all the time. The Hill defence played one of it's best games, and Hasemore at centre half atoned for his early lapse by brilliant tackling and stopping against a dangerous centre forward. Jack Peacock also tackled and kicked strongly. " Flying Fish " Bert Wells really went to town with his flying headers. There was a lot of mid-field play for the remainder of the half but scoring chances were few for either side.

After the interval the Hill failed to take advantage of the following wind, and the ball did not come down the field as it should have done. The Poly were definitely on the offensive for the first twenty minutes or so. The Hill had bad luck in having a penalty for hands awarded against them as the referee mistook Ted Barrett's thigh for his hand. Poly scored from the spot. The Hill equalised straight from the kick off as Stan Bell ran through to score. Bell again scored a few minutes later but was ruled offside in view of the strong Poly appeals. As if to cinch the Hill's misfortune the Poly went on to score a fine goal, and Ratcliffe never knew what missed him when the centre forward hit it from quite a way out.

From then on the Hill hit everything but the inside of the net. Graves, Bell and Hasemore all had shots which would have scored nine times out of ten. Hasemore headed from a centre and the referee blew for a goal only to see the ball miraculously turned for a corner. So all told, the Hill were out of luck, but there is no complaint on that score for it was one of the best games of the season.

On **March 3rd** we visited Hazelwood Lane and beat Mayfield Reserves by the only goal scored. We had a good side including Guettier making his return after a long absence and 'Twinkle-Toes' Pope home on a spot of leave. For the greater part of the game we overplayed the home side and but for the many missed chances in front of goal would have won by a considerable margin. The only goal came near the end of the first half, when Smith scored with an overhead kick following a pass from Guettier.

On **March 10th,** the reserves entertained Crown Manor at Fords Grove and won by 2—1 after a hard and unusually robust game.

Although the Manor attacked for the greater part of the game, especially in the second half, they were prevented from scoring through the sound display of the Hill defence, which included the old war-horses Fred Slatter and Bill Earle as backs and Lambert, Maynard and Barratt as halves, plus Ratcliffe in goal. All the goals were scored in the first half, the Hill's scorers being Bell and Graves.

Incidently this was one of Harold Lambert's first games of football for quite a few years and although he picked one of the hardest matches of the season he came through with flying colours and a little wind left.

March 17th Southgate Olympic fielded a very strong side for this home match and deservedly won, though it must be said, in extenuation, that the "Hill" played throughout with only ten men. Hasemore, Medlock and Ratcliffe worked hard in the defence and "Guett," playing in his second game after a long absence, showed that he had lost none of his speed and hits the ball as hard as ever.

The first half was closely contested but our chaps lost many opportunities through holding the ball too long. The well balanced visitor's side moved the ball freely and by the interval had secured a lead of 2—0.

With the advantage of the slope the "O's" dominated the second half and four more goals were scored by their forwards.

Hasemore completed a fine individual effort to score the "Hill's" only goal just before time. Final score 1—6.

The **24th March** brought the surprise result of the season with the reserves beating Bayston Athletic by 8—4 at Fords Grove, following a crushing defeat of 6—0 at Tottenhall Road, earlier in the season.

What appeared to be a much depleted "Hill" side entered the field and proceeded to take their opponents apart bit by bit. The game opened with a galaxy of goals by both sides, and within 15 minutes 6 had been shared, with Baystons opening and the Hill equalising immediately afterwards and soon Bayston again, followed an immediate Hill reply.

This happened 4 times in all and brought the half time score to 4—4.

On the resumption the Hill took command and were soon a goal ahead, taking the lead for the first time. This took the sting out of Baystons who slowly but surely fell to pieces, first their forwards and then defence, until at the final whistle the Hill were leading 8—4, and very nearly partaking in kicking practice.

Goals for Winchmore Hill were scored by :—Hirst 3, Bell 3, Smith and Barratt, 1 each.

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2A XI REPORT.

On **February 3rd** we played the return game with Old Glendalians at Fords Grove. Team shortages were again the ' order of the day,' the visitors having 10 players and ourselves 9, and although the Hill team included Stan Bell, hopes of success were very small, considering that Glendalians had held us to a draw only a month previous, when they had 9 to our 11.

The visitors, playing fine football, attacked for the greater part of the game, with only an occasional break-away by the Hill. Woodgate obliging as goalkeeper in the first half, played well, but even with Bell taking over in the second half and giving a typical ' ding-dong ' display, Glendalians won a well deserved 8—0 victory.

Owing to injuries, etc. to members of higher elevens, and consequent calls on the II's, we were unable to field a team until March 3rd, when a strong side travelled to Durnsford Road to meet Alexandra Park III's. With new blood infused into the team, namely in Gilroy as Goalkeeper and Howe at half-back, we took to the field with great confidence. The Home side opened the attack, and Gilroy was soon tested—and proved, by stopping all that came his way. With our defence gathering strength we soon became masters of the game, and although the smallness of the pitch was sometimes confusing, plus the many missed opportunities, we held a lead of 3—0 at the change over.

Alexandra Park gave us a shock on the resumption of play, by scoring twice within as many minutes, and were making every effort to equalise, when Bacon, who had played excellently throughout, added a fourth, with a shot from a very narrow angle. All credit goes to Bacon for the fifth goal of the match, although the ball entered the net off a defender.

The most notable event of the game was a shot by Jack Peacock, who, from the halfway line hit the crossbar of our opponents goal, with Geary scoring the opening goal from the rebound. Other goals were scored by Hardesty and Cheshire.

This being the 3rd eleven's first win of the season, spirits were naturally high after the game, with an abundance of good humour, most of which was centred around Skipper Barratt, who could almost hear those now famous words ' Never have so many been missed by so much by so ———— ' (with apologies) ringing in his ears, especially as one of his misses nearly beheaded a small boy who happened to be standing behind the goal.

On **May 10th** Alexandra Park visited Fords Grove, and victory still in our minds coupled with the fact that A.P. had a much weaker side than the previous week, we could feel success in our bones.

With Tony Chapman skippering the team and taking centre forward position, and Hirst, a new lad from Welwyn Garden City, at inside right, the Hill were even stronger than the previous week.

Taking control of the game from the kick-off, our opponents were virtually strangled. Hirst showing all and sundry how football should be played netted 3 goals, with 3 by Smith, 2 Geary, and Elliott, Bacon and Chapman 1 each, bringing the total to eleven. With a final score of 11—1, the Hill scored all 12 goals, a defender netting on behalf of our opponents.

March 17th brought to a close the fixtures for the 2a eleven, and with only ten men we lost by 2 goals to nil to Trinity County O.B.

Although losing this match we feel that we ended the season on a happy note.

Our opponents had the better of us in all departments, and kept us on the defensive throughout, and we pride ourselves on holding the score down to 2 goals, against an older and superior team.

A pleasing feature in the 2a XI throughout the season has been the sporting way in which disappointments and defeats have been accepted. The team, consisting mainly of younger members of the club, have always given their best in all circumstances, and we hope that their efforts will be rewarded in the near future, and that many of them find their place in higher elevens. We wish them every success in this direction and hope that their stay with Winchmore Hill will be a long and happy one.

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NEWS FROM THE FORCES.

PRISONERS OF WAR.

Of the Prisoners of War previously in German Hands **Percy Attwood, Pat Rollings** and **Gordon Hayward** are all back in this country. At the time of writing no news is yet to hand of **Vernon Tyrell** who is believed to be in one of the isolated pockets not yet liberated.

Pat Rollings (Africa Star) toured round quite a large area of the world calling at Freetown, Capetown, Bombay and thence to Basra. He spent 18 months in Persia, Iraq, Palestine, Egypt and Libya and then moved to Salerno where he was taken prisoner early on. He was taken by train (cattle truck) through Italy and Austria to Munich ; from Munich to Czechoslovakia and from there to Brunswick. He was released by the 9th Army and flown home in late April.

Percy Attwood was reported missing in March, following a Glider operation over the Rhine. He was captured by the Germans on 24th March and the part that annoyed him most was that they took his lunch which included two hard boiled eggs. They also took his watch and for the next three days his food consisted of a few potatoes after which he received a quarter of a Red Cross parcel. He arrived back in this country on 12th May and except for looking a bit thin is quite fit.

ROYAL NAVY.

Jack Pearl has been drafted from H.M.S. Mauritius to Saundersfoot, South Wales, where he is taking a course of signals. We offer him our congratulations on his marriage to Muriel Willgoss.

Incidentally **R. H. Willgoss** who is still in the Orkneys reports he has little of interest to report except that he has been kept very busy of late.

Doug Grout is also uncommunicative but is known to have recently taken part in " Current Operations " and is still around in the Pacific.

F. Bailey is senior signalman aboard a leading minesweeper, spends most of the day on the flag deck and is glad to get back to bed at night. He recently had a few days in harbour including some good nights ashore, and is now expecting to be transferred shortly to Japanese waters.

W. D. Engeham has only had two leaves since joining the Navy, but hopes to be home in June when he looks forward to a game of Cricket at the ' Hill.'

S. B. Davis (Africa Star) has just returned to the U.K. after a long spell of opening up liberated ports on the Coast of Europe. He spent two weeks in R.N. Hospital Haslar and is now undergoing a revision course at ' King Alfred.'

AFRICA.

Dudley Wright is now attached to District Commissions to assist in matters dealing with African Soldiers : would like to bring a team of his Africans to play ' The Hill,' though he is doubtful whether his Askaris would display the traditional S.A.L. spirit. He plays some Cricket on matting but feels better at refereeing than playing football. His latest excitement appears to be the killing of a snake. Has recently moved to MBEYA, Tanganyika.

H. T. Campbell is at the 75 Air School, Nigel, Transvaal. He finds the hospitality extended to our boys really remarkable, but even so would still like a 48 hour leave home.

B. V. Buck is now getting used to the climate of the Gold Coast, and has been visiting the natural haunts of Crocodiles and Hippos. From recent photos sent home he has apparently witnessed a native Durbar, and joined a fishing expedition which however resulted in a poor catch. He gets in a little football but prefers conditions nearer home.

S. F. Plant who is now Flight Sergt. Navigator has been flying from place to place on various expeditions. He is quite fit and has hopes of being home again at the end of this year.

B. L. A.

Owing to the rapid movement of troops news from this sphere of operations is somewhat sketchy. We have however recently heard of **Bernard Carter** who was with the Armoured Personnel Carrier Regt. on the Rhine, **Fred Kenyon** who has been in Germany for some time and finds little time to write letters, **A. Rissbrook** who has recently been in Holland and Germany and hopes to be home on leave during June, **K. Titmus** who has recently gone overseas and was in Brussels at the time of writing, **Tudor Williams** who was home on leave during April but missed seeing anyone as it was between seasons at Fords Grove, **Harry Warman** who has been on Special Duty and consequently unable to send news home at present and **A. Lucas** who is expecting to perform garrison duty in Germany.

C. M. F.

W. E. Jacques had seven days leave in April which he spent visiting Amalfi, Capri (scene of Axel Munthe's San Michele). Does not mention any hopes of repatriation and thinks he may possibly be moved to S.E.A.C.

Douglas Howl (Africa Star) had the misfortune to break his right leg in February and is still in hospital but making good progress. The accident happened while on 3 days rest out of the line. He was billeted in an old Castle, the floor of his room gave way and he dropped 30 feet into the Orderly Room—without knocking !

Pat Larkin and **R. H. Wilson** both write from this area to say they are fit and well but have no special experiences to report.

Frank Hunter is back in Italy but as he has recently been on the move, little information is to hand either of his activities or his whereabouts.

Lew Smith has been playing a fair amount of football which he has found enjoyable and amusing particularly the way in which the Italians mob a player who has scored. He has actually played with an Italian team and writes " I thought we in England got excited over a football match but not half so excited as the people here."

M. E. F.

The only news from M. E. F. comes from **R. B. FOWLER** whose regiment was recently taken out of the line in Italy and sent to Palestine for rest. He is fit and well and expecting local leave which he plans to spend in Beyrout.

S. E. A. C.

Don Ashby who is Sports Officer of his unit is indulging in a variety of activities. Won a 1 Mile Walk for the Squadron for which he received a silver replica of Cup. At Cricket has taken some wickets and scored a 56 not out. Plays in Goal for the Hockey Team and outside left to a professional partner at Soccer. Needless to say he is reported quite fit and well.

Gordon Brooke landed in Bombay where he stayed 3 weeks, then on to DEHRA DUN for a further 6 weeks. He was then transferred to S.E.A.C and settled at H.Q. Is at present in charge of a Litho unit, mainly printing maps.

T. H. Hollings has been on the move quite a lot recently and is at present near Calcutta. Consequently his mail has been irregular, and he has little of particular interest to report.

J. W. Pickard (Burma Star) tells of a recent match between the local lads and an International Touring Team. The Stars included Ted Ditchburn in goal and Tommy Walker at inside right. The Visitors won 4—0 but as the local lads included several pros. and some good amateurs, they gave the Visitors a good run for their money.

C. B. Forster arrived in India at the end of February and has been at Delhi but has since moved to another station.

D. E. Bingley, C. S. H. Cooper, G. Southcombe and **Ken White** have all been in this area for some time and hope to be back in England towards the end of this year. Incidentally, congratulations to Ken White on his recent promotion to F./Lt.

HOME NEWS.

E. B. Weatherhead is back in this country. He returned from Bahamas via New York and Canada and is at present in Scotland near Elgin, but expects a further move shortly.

Gus Gowers is at present settled at Tenby, South Wales, where he is studying latest and future equipment, and so acquiring a body of knowledge which would be of value if he were a regular soldier. His work, though interesting is consequently academic. He was able to spend VE and VE+1 days with Vi who is showing marked improvement.

C. Hatch also stationed in South Wales has spent the last four weeks travelling from Salisbury Plain to Thetford co-operating in a scheme with a reformed Airborne Division.

F. W. Pope has passed for another stripe and is expecting 10 days leave. Is keeping his fingers crossed as he was recalled from his last leave after only 4 days.

Wilf Bacon is still waiting to see the Specialist to see if his knee is O.K. He has recently been on two drafts for overseas, so expects to be sent abroad shortly if graded I again.

G. Hardesty our latest recruit is at present training near Warrington as air mechanic in the Fleet Air Arm. He is looking forward to his first leave in June.

D. J. Brewer is now at Watchet in Somerset where he is taking a special course of Field Gunnery, Radiolocation, etc.

Roy Morgan is hoping for a game of Cricket when on leave but is out of practice as football is being played at Camp throughout the summer. As he is getting two games a week, he is getting somewhat browned off with it. If he can succeed in passing 3 interviews and a selection board, he hopes to be drafted to O.C.T.U. shortly.

On pages 19 and 20 are a further list of alterations of addresses and additions to the list of football members printed in the last two issues of The Chat. We also append a list of members of the summer sections who are not footballers but whose addresses may be of interest to fellow members.

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RANDOM REFLECTIONS ON RETURNING FROM EXILE.

These reflections are based on very flimsy evidence—that of having played five games for the Hill in March, 1945, two of them away, and of having viewed three Saturday evenings at the Club with the myopia induced by mild alcoholism and tobacco haze. Family circumstances prevented my attendance at the Parent Club A.G.M., and owing to a not unreasonable War Office decision that I should earn as well as draw my pay, a sudden posting made it impossible for me to witness the Cup triumph over Norsemen and partake of the Annual Supper. The inadequacy of this picture will be apparent to those who are gracious enough to read on.

Since the Club exists in name for the pursuance of soccer, perhaps I should first comment on the game as now played at the Hill. From close study of wartime " Chats," I knew that the Club was still lively, but I did not realise that the 1st XI had maintained so high a standard. The evergreen Alec Cooper emerged each Saturday from his rural exile to skipper the side with grim determination and no apparent loss of speed, and Ernie Wiseman, at centre-half, dominated the game as none other has done during my twelve years' association. The team has been fortunate to acquire a sound left back, and the new goalkeeper and outside-right rank with the best that we have had. On the right flank, thanks to Norman Wootton and Noel Barber, there was sound constructive midfield play and the faithful followers on the cold, stand benches showed their appreciation and their higher standard of education by imploring their players to " Get rid of it " only when this was really necessary. It was with every regret that I did not see Guett perform again at outside left.

From observation of the younger players of the existing 1st XI and of the Service members who appeared in odd games, it is clear that there is the nucleus of a good, post-war side, and one with an excellent spirit both on and off the field.

In the pavilion it was pleasant to meet members of the Parent body—notably Jimmy North,

younger now that his pedagogic worries are over, and Pa Dupont, as evangelistic as ever about the financial and sporting propensities of the Hill. In the Soccer section itself, it was apparent that acceptance of the highest office has not diminished the Tiger's fire, while the Governor and Mrs Welsford continue to lavish on the Club that affection which binds them and us to the short, rounded, smiling figure whom we hope to see again at inside-left when VJ has been celebrated.

I had wondered what inroads Lord Woolton and his succesor had made into the sausage and mash trade, but did not realise that business had so expanded, that in emulation of L.P.T.B. the hungry queues were now regulated by post and chains.

I had expected to return to a green but comparatively beerless England, and yet I found that consumption at Winchmore Hill had attained record heights (or depths). One supposes that the black-out and the wartime lack of amenities, especially that of motoring, has induced a revival of Club life. The hot-gospellers of this renaissance are none other than Ham Knight and Lowrie Flower, who emerged from the chrysalis of sober family life to become the butterflies of a rollicking but innocent cultivation of Bacchus and good fellowship.

It takes more than drink to make an enjoyable evening, and to those of us who have been for some years ' men without women,' it takes both sexes to make social life complete. I was therefore interested and amused to observe that after 7 o'clock, with or without official permission, there is a steady infiltration of wives and girl friends into that male holy of holies—the Inner Bar. There exists a mild spirit of divine and feminine discontent, and I hope that when the next Pavilion plans are drawn up the ladies will have access to the Bar by right and not by male condescension. Allied to high principle is the expediency of tapping and expanding source of revenue.

Like London itself, the Club is not remarkable for what it has lost, but for what still remains, for its sameness rather than for its change. Thanks to a Committee of wise, old hands to whom has been joined a Team Secretary, Eric Christie, of outstanding keeness, and thanks to comparative freedom from bombs, doodles, rockets and Government requisitions, there exists a playing field " that is for ever England."

GUS—15/5/45.

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PEN PORTRAITS.

H. NOEL BARBER.

H. Noel Barber is an Edwardian and, in fact, a fairly early example of the Era. He will not mind the confession for indeed his looks and his play give the lie to the fact to a most marked degree.

Somewhere around 1928 we first saw him play at the Hill but then he was an opponent and he gave material assistance to the Midland Bank XI in knocking us out of the A.F.A. Cup.

Noel is an old Enfield Grammar School boy and thus early, when playing for the School XI, he gave promise of the ability which has carried, and will, it is hoped carry him for some seasons more, through a long and in every way honourable football career.

In 1922 Noel started Club Football with Alexandra Park and there continued until 1925 when he commenced playing for the Midland Bank F.C. This latter association continued until the outbreak of war and from 1935 he skippered the 1st XI, in fact he still is their Captain.

But in 1939 the Bank Club decided that, pro tem, they could not carry on. This decision coincided with Noel's evacuation to Leamington, where, for four years, he played no soccer at all. Then, in 1943, he returned to his old home in Winchmore Hill and the Bank Club still being dormant, he was persuaded to turn out for us.

Maybe, at first, there were " Bellows to mend " and for the initial game or two, to quote Noel himself—not quite literally—" Spent most of the afternoon on my backside." But the re-acclimatisation did not take long and very soon he had settled down in his almost automatic position at inside right and Hill Fans who had not seen him before learned to know what they had missed and the side started to profit accordingly.

The last two seasons, particularly that of 1943-44, have given us one of the best sides we have ever had and in no small measure Noel has contributed to the high standard and our two consecutive successes in the Wood Green Hospital Cup Competition.

A natural ball player is Noel. Not too long and not too short, not too heavy and not too light, a long raking stride—even if it has slowed down a little these last few years—and two good feet (or should it be said that one is good and the other of quite exceptional quality ?). If is added to these virtues that rare possession a " Football Brain," real ball control, a micrometric accuracy in passing and an unselfishness which, with uncanny discernment, never fails to observe and make use of a better placed colleague, it might be concluded that all has been said, but the end is not yet.

Noel believes that anywhere within twenty yards is a suitable place from which to shoot at goal and he carries into effect this belief with dire results to opposing Custodians, and many of them have marvelled at his skill in selecting the part of the goal where, at the critical moment they cannot reach.

Few players in amateur soccer can claim either so long or so distinguished a career, for in addition to games played with us, the Midland Bank and Alexandra Park, Noel has turned out for the Casuals (1928-32), the Corinthians 1928-30) and has played in Representative Matches with F.A, XI's, A,F.A. XI's (at home and on the Continent), the Athenian League, the Southern Amateur League, London Banks and the Middlesex County Amateur League.

As would be expected from a natural ball player, Noel is no novice in other branches of sport. Had he devoted the full summer season to cricket, instead of playing only occasionally, he might well have earned as high a reputation in the small as in the big ball game. Instead, for many years he was a Club tennis player of some note, with Championship wins to his credit, particularly in Men's Doubles.

In his business, too, Noel has merited considerable success, as his appointment to Branch Managership in 1944 will show. The location selected is Brentwood, a most inconsiderate decision by the powers in question from a Hill point of view, but, nothing daunted, and with youthful keenness, he has made the tedious journey almost every week throughout the 1944-45 season to turn out for us. Only the most pressing business or injury could keep him out of the game of football.

The above brief details are mainly factual and a volume has been left unsaid. In a good Club player skill alone is not enough, it must be allied to the right spirit and attitude, both towards the game and the Club. We know that the Hill is not Noel's first love, but from his loyalty since he joined us, this is hard to believe.

Off the field he has an easy manner, a friendly smile and a deep rooted conviction that the game is not over when the final whistle is blown. He is modest as to his own successes and generous to others, in particular to those who, perhaps, themselves will never touch the high spots in sport. He can knock back a nifty pint with the best and we also have to thank him for the introduction of at least one song to the Hill. Though memory is in no doubt as to the tune of this, the exact title and words escape the writer. However, it does contain some reference to a Pussy Cat.

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LEN THOMPSON.

In 1938 when Winchmore Hill football was at a rather low ebb with forwards, when they did shoot, hitting the corner flag, the half backs giving beautiful passes to the opposition and the backs and goalkeeper shewing a marked disposition to let each other have the ball rather than deal with it themselves, it occurred to some unknown genius that perhaps the positional play of the side might be a little at fault.

With this in mind the Committee decided that what the Club needed was a trainer and coach and thereupon were fortunate enough to secure the services of Len Thompson, then known

to us only by reputation but now known to everyone as just " Len."

Any player with his record, first as a schoolboy international (we won't say when but it was after 1900) and later as a professional with Birmingham, Swansea and the Arsenal, might have been forgiven, had he adopted a somewhat lofty attitude to " this A.F.A. stuff " at first, but not so, Len ! Admittedly he was perhaps a little shocked at some of the things he saw on the field, but being a good sportsman himself and realising that the death defying tackles were just sheer enthusiasm and that tempers were seldom lost, he soon appreciated the spirit of the game and **was even heard to confess after one particularly fierce contest, that he had never been so excited before.**

There were many faults to be corrected however and accordingly after training on Tuesday evenings, discussions and inquests on Saturday's games were held **(complete with blackboard).** As one who was present at the first of these, I well remember a room full of young—and not so young—footballers, all strangely silent, whilst a diffident teacher must have wondered how he was going to make these dimwits talk ; however with a little judicious drawing out, enlivened by some flashes of dry Yorkshire humour, the ice was broken and before the evening was over young Jones was telling old Smith exactly what he thought about his passes last Saturday and of course old Smith had his reply. Discussions were frank but without rancour and as the season wore on the effects began to be seen in the play of all teams, for Len took as much pains with the rabbit as he did with the better player.

Unhappily war and blackout, etc., put a stop to these activities but Len has expressed his eagerness to start again next winter, so all you budding young footballers make sure you are there, and incidentally the older ones can still learn too.

Len is quiet and unassuming in manner, but, as becomes a Yorkshireman, holds decided opinons. However, whilst on occasions some very pungent asides have been heard on the touch-line, the player is usually taken quietly on one side later, to be told where he has erred, and what to do next time and in this connection those inclined to be downcast can be comforted by the knowledge that Len's " Aye he's not so bad " conveys a wealth of meaning.

Len did actually turn out for the Club on a few occasions **during the war** although each time when Wednesday came and he was up and about again we believe he made a mental vow **(he hadn't got breath to speak)** "Never again."

The Cricket Club also owe the Football Club a vote of thanks, for they have gained a keen cricketer **who has skippered the Sunday XI with marked success.**

A fine fielder **particularly in the slips** and left arm spin bowler. Len is also a very quick footed batsman always looking for runs (albeit sometimes a little too hard) and any unthinking off spinner who watches with anticipatory delight a slight figure coming into bat with knees apparently tied together should beware, because they are not and he will be surprised how close the leg boundary seems.

Len is also a family man, his daughter being a tennis member and his son who is scoring for the 1st XI. at cricket, promises well at both games. Briefly then bringing Len to the Hill was one of the best days work the Club did for he is indeed a credit to his profession.

In your own words Len " Aye you're not so bad."

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AFTER THE GAME.

Well, another Football Season is over, and we spectators who have reduced ourselves to nervous wrecks, cheering, urging, and telling 'em how to win, are now recuperating on the other side of the Pavilion in deck chairs, when really we should be in bathchairs.

It was in such a reclining posture, lulled into dreamland by the sun gently kissing my brow, that my mind went into retrospect, and I lived over again some of the highlights of the past football season.

I was back again in that palatial grandstand with the plush seats, and draughtproof win-

dows. The Hill are fighting a great naval battle, for we are up against those gallant and delightful lads of the Royal Netherlands Navy. A throw-in is taken by the Dutch boys and one of the players gives a curt order in his native tongue. Result : a complete break-away by the Navy. A Dutch sailor sitting by my side chuckles to himself, and then explains that the curt command was to pretend to throw the ball one way and then to throw it the other way. Of course the Hill boys, only speaking two languages—good and bad—were completely sucked in. But being Christmas Eve, we forgave this Naval manœuvre, and the battle finished in a draw, both sides losing two ships.

Another apparition comes before me : with head bowed and slightly on one side. Can it be a mad bull charging ? No, it is Cyril Hawker the Referee. Maybe his head is bowed in shame for if the remarks from the Stand are true, he is either blind, crackers, on the payroll of the opposite side, or just a rotten Ref. Of course, the things that Lowrie (the whispering baritone) called him can't possibly be true. I know that Harry Hubbard doesn't think he's been bribed, because in the bar afterwards I heard him say something about " He was poor but he was honest."

Parts of other matches pass through my slumbering brain. Noel Barber, always delightful to watch. Alec Cooper, with jaw set as if to say " They shall not pass "—knowing full well that if they do pass he can't catch them ! The Thompson twins, Frank and Bernard, full of pep, finding 45 minutes each way just a mere stroll after their army training. Ah, here comes that dancing Lockhart elephant Phil Manners laughing all over his face and knocking off the attackers with his famous Rump Charge. As the elephant vision fades I see a green panther. (I must spend less time in the bar after these matches). No, I am not so far gone as I thought. It's our panther-like goalie, Johnnie Peters wearing his green sweater, springing from one upright to another, clutching the ball to his bosom, singing : " All is safely gathered in." And here comes a small but dapper Gas Collector. What on earth is he doing on a football ground ? Why, of course, it's young Ernie Welsford, enticing the pennies out of the spectators and filling the Charity box. Great work, Guvnor !

Dusk is falling and we are back in the Pavilion enjoying a cup of tea. The air is blue from cigarette smoke, and the best—or should I say the worst—stories of the week. A particularly loud crack of thunderous laughter indicates that Kinny has just retailed one from Fleet Street.

And now that long and eagerly-awaited aromatic odour reaches our nostrils, an indication that Mrs. Welsford's famous Sausages and Mash are ready. We tuck in with gusto, for we are laying a foundation before being called to the bar. And well (Jack) trained sausages they are, too, for they stand upright on the plate and say " Wel-ford ever more."

Now I find myself fighting my way through a crowd. Can it be that this is Cup Final day at Wembley ? No, I am endeavouring to get to the bar. A surging, seething mass of humanity is dexterously passing glass jugs around, jugs that look as if they contain a dark floor stain. They are obviously the lower class. The middle class are filling glasses with lightish amber coloured liquid. While the upper class, having formed a magic circle, are endeavouring to hide their actions by putting a cigar smoke screen . It is interesting to watch this ritual, as the leader or head man, after quoting a few magic words, produces a half bottle labelled Johnny Trotter—no, it's Johnny Runner . . no, my mistake . . Johnny Walker—Oi !

As the evening draws on, drink and discussion both become faster. What are you going to have ? And what Johnny should have done with his pass ; what a lovely goal by so-and-so ; and no, I don't think it was a foul. We will lick them easily ; and the tail end of a doubtful story are all mixed up like Hot Pot.

Then suddenly a fairy appears in our midst. Is it a fairy ? No it's one of the girls slightly more daring than the rest who has broken into our stronghold. Risqué stories are suspended, or finished in a hushed voice. The feminine intruder, having filled her tray with Orangeade, acting accordingly to the laws of Charles the First, beats a hasty retreat.

A nightingale in the far corner then breaks into song, and soon the finest male voice choir in North London are singing lustily. I have not yet learnt the words of the classics they sing, but I gather that one of them is about a Huge and Gory Revolving Wheel, while another is about an

overgrown and bloodstained Blackbird. The most popular tune is obviously taken from the Indian Love Lyrics, and is all about a place in India called Ringarangaroo.

The orangeade has given the girls Dutch courage, and they break out of their concentration camp and storm into the bar. Many touching scenes are witnessed as Husbands, Wives and Sweethearts are reunited. (It is usually the husbands who are touched most, usually for a double Gin.)

Again I float into space, only to land gently in Broomfield Park, just before the Cup Final between Winchmore Hill and Norsemen. A game full of thrills. Norsemen are playing well, but a breakaway by the Hill and a lightning dash by Berny Thompson, and the Hill are one up. We never lost the lead after that, and although Norsemen played like Trojans they could not go up the Hill like the Winchmore boys, and the result of 5—3 in favour of the Hill was a very fair reflection of the game. Yes, the result was as fair as Alec's charge.

After the match Stan Pryke auctioned the ball and other prizes in the best Caledonian Market style, and raised a handsome sum for the benefit of the hospitals.

One more trip I must make while this daydream lasts. I find myself at the Holly Bush Hotel, Enfield, where the Football Supper is being held. Tiger Smith is in the chair, and 56 members and guests are seated very comfortably around the tables. It is nice to see Guettier sitting on Tiger's right hand, looking quite fit after his recent indisposition. The spoils of war in the shape of the gleaming cup stand on the top table. The evening slides merrily on. A few speeches after an excellent meal ; a first-class entertainer, and a steady flow of wine—all went towards making the evening a real success. To the Landlord of the Holly Bush and his wife we give grateful thanks for making us so welcome.

I am awakened by Stan Leavens shaking me and saying " Wake up, lazybones, you have just missed a lovely catch by " Ham " off of one of Lowrie's Chinaman.

Now that I am wide awake and my brain is under control, I look back on the fantasy I have just lived through and feel that I want to say to all concerned : Thanks for the friendship ; thanks for the games ; and continued success to the Winchmore Hill Football Club.

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CLUB SUPPER.

The Club Supper was held at The Holly Bush at Enfield and about 60 members spent a really merry evening. Guests included visitors from Norsemen, Alexandra Park, Old Aloysians and Old Stationers. Mr. Huggett and John Ginn of " The Gazette."

An excellent meal was provided by mine host and all arrangements including Menus, Flowers, etc., were excellently carried out by the Social Committee (Messrs. Kynaston, Haynes and Harry Brown).

Tiger Smith was in the Chair and kept on his feet for much of the evening responding to numerous calls from his Toastmaster who commenced by asking various celebrities to take Wine with the Chairman but eventually bowed to reality and called for toasts in good old Beer.

After the Chairman had given the toast of Absent Friends, particularly remembering Service Members abroad, Rob McLeod proposed the health of the Club. Declining to reminisce he congratulated the Club on the successes achieved during the Season and on the worthy superstructure that had been raised on the sure foundations laid in the early days of the Club. The Cup was then filled and members proceeded to drink the health of the Club both from their glasses and The Cup.

The response was by Alec Cooper who in Guet's absence had skippered the side most of the season. He referred to the excellent spirit now prevailing and to the need for encouraging the younger players on whom the future would depend.

Mr. George Gray entertained and by the enthusiasm of the applause was able to put across a few new ones to even the most seasoned of regulars, and to tickle the palate of youth and age alike.

Leslie Brown proposed the Health of the Visitors getting in several cracks at the expense of visitors and members alike. After this toast had been liberally drunk, Cliffe Topping replied. He pointed out that there was danger in asking the same person to respond to this toast too often. On the first occasion one endeavoured to find a number of nice things to say about ones hosts. On the second occasion there was not so much to say, and if a third occasion should arise listeners might hear the 'orrible truth !

Cyril Hawker having been invited to say a few words told a fishy story in emaculate style and there followed further effusions from George Gray.

After Kinny had introduced Mine Host and Hostess to the company and after they had been suitably applauded with musical honours, the elder brethren began to make their adieus, whilst the male voice choir gathered around the piano and with Henry Brown leading or following rendered some of the season's traditional melodies, ably conducted by a respected professional gentleman.

Interest never flagged even whilst waiting for the last trolley bus from the Town, and the evening was unanimously voted a great success celebrated in traditional style.

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CRICKET CLUB NOTES.

There was quite a good attendance at the A.G.M. held in The Club Pavilion on March 25th. Thirty-five members, including several honorary members attended and Mr. J. North was in the chair.

The following officers were elected :—

Hon. Match Secretary : R. Lister.
Hon. Team Secretary : E. O. Welsford.
Captain of the Club : F. H. Bowles.
Captain 1st XI :R. Lister (also Sunday XI.).
Vice Captain : S. G. Blackwell (also Sunday XI.).
Captain 2nd XI : S. S. Pryke.
Vice Captain 2nd XI : A. G. Cooper.
Captain 3rd XI : J. Haynes (also Captain Sunday 2nd XI.).
Vice Captain 3rd XI : T. D. Oakley.

In the proceedings following election of Officers and Committee the Secretary gave details of the important matches fixed for season 1945. These are June 24th, British Empire XI in aid of Red Cross, July 8th in aid of P.O.W. Relatives Association, Right Hand versus Left Hand, August 5th, West Indies in aid of Colonial Comforts, September 2nd, in aid of P.O.W. Relatives Association, R. Lister's XI versus L. W. Newman's XI. The last mentioned is the second of what is to be an Annual Match played on a different ground each year and is limited to Clubs in the Postal Area N. with Enfield and Barnet added. The Charity is nominated by the Club staging the game and we have for this game elected to support the Southgate Prisoner of War Fund.

Most of the old players are available but we sadly miss the services of Laurie Punchard, himself a match winner. At the time of writing the 1st XI have yet to record their first win but with the influx of new members, among whom are included A. P. Shaw, one time a member of Horsham, and A. B. Hollowood, ex Staffordshire County, it seems there is hope for the future. With the return of men in the services it does seem possible to visualise the time when Winchmore Hill 1st XI are one of the strongest sides in North London. Moreover it is the policy of the Club to look further ahead with strong Junior and Colts Sections carefully tended by Walter Sell and Bill Bedford.

And so in conclusion may I mention what a welcome awaits the return of those members overseas and serving members in locations remote from the Club. Throughout the war a good fixture list has been maintained and they will return to find the Club in a very healthy state with ideas of still more progress. It is hoped then that they with those fortunate to be left at home during the war years will continue to carry on the tradition and uphold the prestige of Winchmore Hill Cricket Club.

CLUB JOTTINGS.

Congratulations to Lowrie Flower on his election to the " S " Section of the Summer Social Sub-Committee. Can this be the answer to the Maiden's Prayer ?

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For Committee Men only. The difference between $\frac{25.8125 \times 100}{63.75000}$ and $\frac{26.84475 \times 100}{66.30000}$ is .00038%, or for practical purposes and in " Bar Parlance " Sweet Fanny Adams.

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Herewith a few statistics from season 1944/45 :—

Leading scorers for the 1st XI were :—Barber 24, Elmer and Haskell 19 each.

Phil Manners was the only member of the side who did not miss a game. Incidentally this was the first season for a long time in which he did not score a goal.

Both 1st and 2nd XI skippers gave a penalty. The 2A XI skipper played forward.

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The following Lectures hopefully arranged did not take place :—

Away games by J. Haynes.

The 30 yard pass by Alec Cooper.

Right foot kicking by P. Manners supported by R. L. B. Guettier.

Back (side) play by N. Wootton.

Friday night training by E. Ings.

Passing back by E. Wiseman (with comments by J. Peters).

Life of a Celibate by B. P. Simmonds.

The Sandwich by F. Slatter and C. Bristow.

The Time Theory by F. Bowles.

Beer is best by E. H. Hubbard.

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Noel Barber and Vic Haskell were selected to play for a Representative side drawn from North London A.F.A. Clubs versus an R.A.F. XI in May. Unfortunately neither were able to play but J. Peters kept goal and gave a good display

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At the A.G.M. the Chairman presented Handbags to Mrs. Welsford, Mrs. Ferraby and Mrs. Williams in token of the members appreciation of the great service these ladies have performed in providing Teas throughout the War. Mrs. Welsford in a delightful little speech thanked the members for the gifts which she said had been happily chosen and would always be treasured.

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A full report of the meeting will appear at a later date but for the convenience of members we append a list of the Officials for next season :—Chairman—L. J. W. Smith ; Hon. Sec.—J. Ferraby ; Hon. Treas.—E. O. Welsford ; Captain of the Club—E. Ings ; Committee—H. Brown, L. Brown, A. Cooper, R. Guettier, J. Haynes, H. Knight, L. Thompson.

SERVING MEMBERS ADDRESSES.

FOOTBALL SECTION.

Alterations and Additions to previous lists.

F/O D. W. ASHBY, Officers Mess, 669 Squadron, R.A.F., S.E.A.A.F.

Leading Sig. F. BAILEY, L.T. JX 30926, B.Y.M.S. 2033, c/o G.P.O. London.

A/C W. R. BACON, 1466255, Sigs. Servicing Sect., Baldown Farm, near Titbury, Gloucester.

Major D. E. BINGLEY, 1st (Nig.) Batt. K.A.R., S.E.A.C

Lieut. G. BROOKE, Survey Directorate, Main H.Q., A.L.F., S.E.A.C.

Bomb. D. J. BREWER, 1433596, A. Batt., 14 Squad., 21st R.A. Training Camp, Watchet, Somerset.

S/Sgt. T. G. BROOKING, A.A. Comm. Research Work Shop,Minerva Road, Park Royal, London.

Cadet Pilot H. T. CAMPBELL, 1811140, 75 Air School, Nigel, Transvaal, S.A.

Cpl. B. E. CARTER, 420277, ' B ' Squad (40 Troop) 49th A.P.C. Regt., B.L.A.

S.A. W. D. ENGEHAM, R/Mx 702151, R.N.A.S., Yeovilton, Somerset.

Cpl. C. B. FORSTER, 1439505, 47 S P, c/o 307 M.U., R.A.F., S.E.A.A.F.

Cpt. R. B. FOWLER, 1st Batt., The Duke of Wellington's Regt., M.E.F.

Major R. GOWERS, School of Anti-Aircraft Artillery, Manobbier, S. Wales.

† P. GRAVES, 38, The Larches, N.13.

G. HARDESTY, FAA/FX 741904 Camp 5, H.M.S. Gosling, Near Warrington, Lancs.

Bdr. C. HATCH, 1156359, ' E ' Troop, 505/141, Field Regt. R.A., G.P.O. Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire.

Trooper J. V. HOBBS, 1807167 ' B ' Squad, 1st S.A.S. Regt., c/o 2nd Canadian Corps, Canadian Army Overseas.

Sgt. S. P. HOCKLEY, 10541868, No. 1 Workshop Training Group, R.E.M.E., Sconce Hill Camp, Newark, Notts.

Lieut. T. H. HOLLINGS, 89 Indian Field Coy., I.E. Indian Command.

Sgt. D. HOWL, 2878044, 2nd British General Hosp., C.M.F.

Sig. P. J. LARKIN, 14760934, 189 W/T Sect., 3 Coy., 8th Army Sigs., C.M.F.

L/Cpl. R. MORGAN, 14873550, 3 Coy. 3 O.T.B., R. Sigs., Whitby, Yorks.

Marine J. PEARL, PO/X 112749, St. Brides Hotel, R.M. School of Sigs., Saundersfoot, S. Wales.

L/Cpl. F. W. POPE, 14753204, S. Squad., E. Coy., 10th I.T.C. R.S., Oreghorn Camp, Colinton, Edinburgh.

Cpl. C. G. SOUTHCOMBE, 1208220, 5 Base Sigs. Depot, R.A.F., S.E.A.A.F.

Pte. K. TITMUS, S/14751054, Sig. Sect., G.H.Q., 2nd Echelon, 21st Army Group B.L.A.

Sub/Lt. A. G. W. WALKER, H.M.S. Braganza, c/o G.P.O. London.

F/O E B. WEATHERHEAD, R.A.F. Station, Milltown, Near Elgin, Scotland.

F/Lt. K. WHITE, H.Q., 228 Group, S.E.A.C.

Cpl. R. H. WILSON, 1647398, No. 60 E.V., R.A.F., C.M.F.

Lieut. D. C. H. WRIGHT, 1st (E.A.) Mainland Coast Regt., E.A.A., c/o P.O., Mbeya, Tanganyika.

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CRICKET AND TENNIS SECTIONS.

Playing Members.

L/Cpl. J. BARTLEY, 2580279, No. 4 Coy., 3rd Air Formation Sigs., M.E.F.

† AC/1 E. BODEN, 17, Cranleigh Gardens, N.21.

Major T. A. J. BENNETT, A.P.M., Freetown, Sierra Leone, W.A.F.

AC/1 H. A. BENNETT, 1419510, 26 Staging Post, R.A.F., India.

Midm. J. W. BURNELL, H.M.S. Burwell, G.P.O., London.

Lt. H. BARTLEY, The Buffs, 5th Batt., I.R.T.D., C.M.F.

† S/Lt. R. BRUCE, 56, Fords Grove, N.21.

† Home address, present service address unknown.

Lt. Cdr. A. J. BIRTWELL, The Admiralty, Queen Annes Mans., S.W.1.
Cpt. A. W. BRUNTON, c/o Lloyds Bank, Hornby Road, Bombay India.
Cpt. E. BLANFORD, G.S. (1) Branch, 14th Army H.Q., S.E.A.C.
Lt. R. E. BENNETT, c/o N.O.I.C., Manfredonia, Italy.
† Miss J. BEDFORD, 6, Hilton Avenue, N.12.
Cpl. R. G. BROWN, 1380908, 590 A.M.G.S., R.A.F., India.
Sgt. G. W. BROWN, 120246, H.Q. E.N.S.A., Rome Area, Allied Command, C.M.F.
AC/1 W. V. BUCKLAND, 1469723, Hut 371, D. Sect., R.A.F. Station, N. Frant, Gib.
† Sig. D. CURRIE, 59, Broomfield Avenue, N.13.
† S. CHEETHAM, 53, Willow Walk, N.21.
Capt. A. DABBS, R.E., No. 10 Eng.B.L., I.E., S.E.A.C.
F/O R. EATON, 2 S.F.T.S., Uplands, Ontario, Canada.
Pte. J. S. FARTHING, 10665157, Camp Office, Main H.Q., 8th Army, C.M.F.
Cpl. C. F. GARBETT, No. 1 Coy. R.A.M.C., Div. Med. Office, Cambridge Hosp., Aldershot.
Lt. S. R. HANCOCK, R.A., 321 S/L Bty. R.A., High Road, Tottenham.
Lt. R. E. HAYCRAFT, R.A., 207/58 H.A.A. Rgt., C.M.F.
B.Q.M.S. K. C. HOWARD, 37 Wall St., Room 9011, New York City.
Cpt. E. J. S. HANNAM, 113 Bty., 76th Med. Regt., R.A., C.M.F.
† E. J. KING, 93, Oxford Road, Cambridge.
F/O R. O. KENDELL, 24 Air School, Nigel, S. Africa.
Major J. W. LEESE, A.E.C., Area Education Offices, H.Q., 17 Area, M.E.F.
Sgt. J. D. LEE, Gordon Highlanders, General Base Depot, E.A.C.
Lt. H. G. LOCKING, Naval Party, 1645, c/o B.F.M.O., Reading.
Lt. D. S. LAWRENCE, 27/28 Med. Bty. R.A., 7th Med. Rgt., R.A., B.L.A.
† F/O T. MAGEE, 71, Colne Road, N.21.
† R. MORRELL, 111, Park Avenue, N.21.
Rev. J. NICKELLS, R.M. Engineers, Lyness, Orkneys.
J. NORTH, R.A.F., Reykjavik, Iceland.
S/Lt. N. ROBINSON, 854 Squad., c/o G.P.O. London.
Lt. L. ROPER, R.C.S., Baragwanath Hosp., Nr. Johannesburg, S. Africa.
F/Ldr. G. SPARROW, Officers Mess, H.Q. Maintenance Command, Andover, Hants.
† Miss M. E. STILES, 103, Upsdell Avenue, N.13.
† Miss J. STILES, 103, Upsdell Avenue, N.13.
† Miss B. SELL, 68, Upsdell Avenue, N.13.
Lt. A. C. STEPHEN, No. 1 Dett., W.K.S.P.O., c/o D.P.M.E., Palestine.
O/seer G. STROUD, C/JX 731183, H.M.S. Ardrossan, c/o G.P.O. London.
† B. SAUL, 63 B.H.Q., M.E.F.
O/Tel. R. L. VALE, C/JX 310495, 124 Fotheringham Road, Enfield.
Dvr. F. M. WHITTAM, 2375290, 1st British Armoured Div., Sigs., C.M.F.
† Lt. A. YOUNG, 50, Hadlow Road, Tonbridge.

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HONORARY MEMBERS.

Lt. C. DEACOCK, 15/14 Punjab Regt., c/o A.P.O., Saharanpur, U.P., India.
† Cpt. D. H. DEACOCK, 116, Wades Hill, N.21.
Cpt. C. M. GAUNT, 399/121 Lt. A.A. Regt., B.L.A.
Pte. F. OYLER, T/241466, H.Q. Rome Allied Command, C.M.F.
Cpl. J. L. WHITE, 1247318, No. 12 Staging Post, R.A.F., M.E.F.

† Home address. present service address unknown.

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	Edgware 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	12—1	Polytechnic Res.	A	2—3	Davis Sports 3rd ...	H	Scr.
Mar. 3	London University ...	H	2—2	Mayfield Res.	A	1—0	Alexandra Park	H	5—2
10	Old Stationers	A	5—0	Crown Manor	H	2—1	Alexandra Park	A	11—1
17	Met. Police No. 3 Dis. ...	A	2—2	Southgate Olympic Res.	H	1—6	Trinity Cty. O. B. ...	H	0—2
24	Royal Netherlands Navy	H	2—2	Bayston Athletic ...	H	8—4			
31	Royal Netherlands Navy	H	2—2	Royal Dental Hospital ...	A	Scr.			
Apl. 2	British Empire XI ...	H	4—4						
7	Norsemen (Cup Final) ...		6—3						