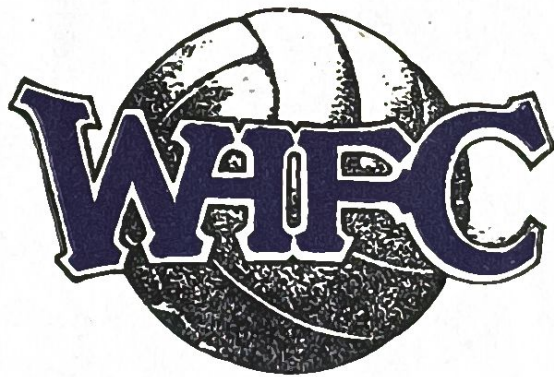


WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CHAT

APRIL 1946



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Compiled, Arranged and Edited by GEORGE DEACOCK.

[APRIL 1946.

Editorial

* * * *

THE age of austerity is upon us and we try to bear it with as bad a will agin the Government as is the lot of all Governments.

However, the brighter side shows itself in many ways. One of which is the pleasure we all feel at the sight of the returning warriors. They continue to come in in ones and twos as their groups come round, and by the time the 1947 Season opens we should have a good muster of pre-war members all ready to gather up the threads they dropped at the Country's need.

It may mean that many ex-service men will find the bar and dressing rooms crowded with unfamiliar faces, and whether those faces give rise to pleasure or to acute pain, we can only say that they are known to us, and they hide warm and honest hearts. They want to know you, for although you may be unacquainted with some of them, they all know you, both by name and by reputation.

There was a splendid opportunity to meet old and new friends at the Club Supper held on April 12th. This get-together was held in the Club Pavilion and was a great and memorable occasion, with a muster of some hundred lads of all ages.

Of the football itself this season ; it has been good pleasant stuff. Not quite up to the standard of the last two or three seasons perhaps, but good enough to give the Hill a fair showing in the resurrected Southern Amateur League. The reserve team is greatly improved and has done well in the Junior Hospitals Cup this year. They meet Wood Green Town reserves in the Final. Three full sides every week, and with players to spare, is fair going, even for the Hill.

With reconstruction, rehabilitation, recovery, and so many other words beginning with 're' as thick in the air now as G.I. Brides in Hoboken, we are beginning to think seriously about our own plans for the future. We hear of a tremendous amount of work done by the Parent Club's Reconstruction Committee during the past few years and many projects for the general improvement of the Club. We ourselves envisage a vastly improved playing surface, a bigger and better stand, a plunge bath, and several other features—just for a start anyway.

1st XI REPORT.

November 10th.

Old Aloysians shook our chaps in the first half of the Hospital Cup for, playing excellent football, they secured the useful lead of 2—0 by half-time. However, it was then the turn of the C.O.B.'s, who regularly retire to the Pavilion at half-time in search of inspiration, to receive a shock for when they returned the Hill had taken the lead. Len Thompson's few words during the breather apparently had their effect for immediately on resuming the Hill set up a hot attack and Hasemore, at inside-left, taking a pass just outside the penalty area rounded the back and scored. Gone was the indecision of the first-half, the pressure was maintained and a long shot by Ron Carter levelled the score. Elmer completed a good run down the left by cutting in and scoring with a grand shot and the same player a few minutes later crossed the ball to Hasemore who found the net with a well-judged header. The visitors rallied and fought back but Bernard Thompson broke through the middle to score before Aloysians in the last few minutes obtained their only goal of this half.

Winchmore Hill 5—Old Aloysians 3.

November 17th.

Hastings playing a man short throughout were easy victims in this S.A.L. fixture. It was not a very exciting game, the visitors attempting to correct their deficiency by using off-side tactics, this being particularly evident, and understandable, in the second-half which they commenced 4 goals behind. Ron Carter and Bernard Thompson were in very good form, the latter achieving the 'hat-trick'. Alec Cooper and Ernie Wiseman were much in evidence in the defence.

Taking the initiative from the kick-off the 'Hill' were soon hammering at the visitors' goal and it is to the credit of their goalkeeper that 10 minutes passed before Sid Hasemore opened the scoring. In a matter of minutes we were two up, a corner well taken by Elmer being turned into the net by a Hastings back. Hastings rarely got out of their own half and after Ernie Wiseman had failed with a penalty for hands, Bernard Thompson scored twice before the interval.

The second-half was a scrappy affair in which stoppages for 'off-side' were frequent and though the Hastings forwards enjoyed a greater share of the ball, fine individual efforts by Bernard Thompson and Ron Carter brought the 'Hill's' total to 6. Hastings scored a few minutes from time, the final score being :

Winchmore Hill 6—Hastings & St. Leonards 1.

November 24th.

For the first thirty minutes our forwards did everything but score goals in their match with Norsemen at Hyde Side. Time after time our forwards, by excellent passing movements, forced the Norsemen on the defensive only to break down in front of goal and at least three apparently certain goals were missed. At last from a corner taken by Haskell, Elmer scored. The heavy going took the sting out of the Hill's thrust and Norsemen quick to take advantage turned defence into attack and equalised before the interval. Resuming, the Norsemen set a terrific pace and quickly took the lead. Peters, injured in attempting to save and though obviously still feeling it, resumed after attention. The Hill appeared to have no reply to the Norsemen's attacks who led after 20 minutes, by 4—1. Frank Thompson who had been at outside-left, resumed his regular place at left-half and Vic Haskell moved to centre-forward; these changes considerably improved matters and Vic went through to reduce the arrears. The Hill were still pressing when the final whistle blew with Norsemen still holding on to win 4—2.

December 1st.

Two changes were made in the side which opposed Alexandra Park in a friendly match at Fords Grove—Ken Bain and Cuttler (a new member) coming in at outside-right and outside-left respectively. Playing fast, open football we had the best of the first-half but 'A.P.'s' backs and goalkeeper with excellent understanding prevented an early score but, after 15 minutes, Vic Haskell, at inside-right, held a long pass and raced through to open the scoring. Though 'A.P.'s'

play improved considerably they were forced to concede a corner and from this Eric Ings scored with a 'first-timer'. 'A.P.'s' outside-right, starting from his own half, took play to the Hill's goal line and after a lively 'scrum' in the goal-mouth the centre-forward snapped up a weak clearance and scored.

'A.P.' went all out for the equaliser early in the second-half and Johnny Peters came through a hectic period with flying colours. The pace slackened and with neither side showing any marked superiority the match ended with the Hill holding on to a lead of 2—1.

December 8th.

The match with Brentwood O.B.'s is a popular fixture and this year it had an added interest, Noel Barber appearing at centre-forward in the side which visited Fords Grove.

Though not at full strength the Hill forwards combined well and receiving strong support from the halves kept Brentwood mainly on the defensive. The duel between Ernie Wiseman and Noel was definitely won by the former and Noel was given little scope in which to exploit that raking stride and devastating shot. The visitors were individually good but lacked cohesion.

The Hill quickly took the lead, Vic Haskell making a characteristic run, centred to Hasemore who pushed the ball forward and Smith, coming in from the left, scored. The O.B.'s goalkeeper was kept busy and after saving from Haskell and Bernard Thompson, Sid Hasemore fired in a shot which gave him no chance. Bernard Thompson went through the middle to score with a grand shot just on half-time.

Though more aggressive in the second-half the visitors failed to make the most of their chances, preferring to go through when a pass would have yielded better results. Thompson and Hasemore out-manoeuvred the O.B.'s defence with a smart bout of inter-passing and Sid scored his second goal to be followed a few minutes later with another from Bernard.

An excellent run and centre by Brentwood's outside-right started a sustained attack which ended when their centre-half held a weak clearance and scored with a long shot.

Winchmore Hill 5—Brentwood O.B.'s 1.

December 15th.

Away to Orpington, a new fixture, the 'Hill', though further weakened by the absence of Vic Haskell through injury, had a good day and finally won 2—0. It was a lively first-half, Orpington playing a vigorous if not particularly scientific game but our chaps always had the situation well in hand. An Eric Ings header from a corner taken by Ken Bain gave them a first-half lead.

The second-half also favoured the 'Hill' and Sid Hasemore who had been outstanding throughout the match, put the result beyond doubt with a fine goal.

Winchmore Hill 2—Orpington 0.

December 22nd.

Old Finchleians' forwards produced some clever football in a friendly match played at Fords Grove but their defence was not good enough to hold our forwards, Bernard Thompson getting through a tremendous amount of work and collecting 5 goals in the process. From the kick-off Vic Haskell and Ken Bain showing excellent combination, opened the attack and at the right moment Vic slipped the ball to Bernard Thompson who scored. Sid Hasemore went through a minute later to add another goal. Moving the ball quickly from wing to wing they kept the visitors penned in their own half and raised the score to 4—0, Bernard Thompson getting both goals. The Old Finchleians' outside-right got in a fine run from his own half put the ball nicely to his outside-left who scored.

The early part of the second-half was all Old Finchleians, the 'Hill's' defence being hard pressed but the effort petered out without result and the 'Hill' again took up the running. Bernard Thompson scoring twice more to make the final score :

Winchmore Hill 6—Old Finchleians 1.

December 26th.

For the annual charity match we should have entertained the Royal Netherlands Navy but the Navy were unable to send a team and our friends and neighbours, Norsemen, were prevailed upon to fill the breach at short notice.

The first-half went well with our side and though some opportunities were missed they secured a lead of two goals. Towards the close of this half Norsemen began to assert themselves and reduced the lead.

Norsemen were superior to the 'Hill' especially in their anticipation of a colleague's intentions. A pass was rarely wasted and in consequence the 'Hill' defence was kept at full stretch. That they were beaten only twice in this period is to their credit.

Winchmore Hill 2—Norsemen 3.

December 29th.

No match.

January 5th.

Old Stationers fielded a very different side from the one beaten at Barnet earlier in the season. They were a heavier lot than ours who, though without Ernie Wiseman, injured, were strengthened by the return of Jimmy Keenan and Alan Eccles.

The Stationers were completely outplayed in the early stages, Keenan showing all his usual skill opening up the game and sending Haskell and Bernard Thompson through with well-placed passes. Eccles opened the scoring, heading through from a corner taken by Haskell and Keenan's pass a few minutes later sent Vic through and Sid Hasemore turned a well-placed centre into the net. The Stationers improved and in the keen tussle which followed both sides missed chances through unsteadiness in front of goal. Ray Livermore who, as usual, got through a tremendous amount of work scored with a brilliant shot from just outside the penalty area and at half-time we led 2—1.

The 'Hill' re-shuffled their forwards which was all to the good for Stationers were putting up a stout resistance. It was a typical Keenan effort which finally gave Vic Haskell a grand opportunity and Vic taking the ball at top speed cut in and scored with a terrific shot. Bernard Thompson who had done a fine job at centre-forward rounded it off with the last goal of the match and within five minutes of time.

Winchmore Hill 4—Old Stationers 1.

January 12th.

The Hospital Cup changes hands as a result of the Hill's third clash with Norsemen, on the latter's ground.

It was unfortunate that Ernie Wiseman was still unfit for though Sid Hasemore put up a very good show in an unaccustomed position, Ernie's presence would probably have made all the difference.

The 'Hill's' supporters were there in force when, with a strong wind behind them the Norsemen attacked strongly and from a penalty Reed scored to give them an early lead. Exploiting their success Norsemen piled on the pressure and scored again. Pulling themselves together the 'Hill' hit back, Jimmy Keenan at inside-right opening up the play and Haskell and Bernard Thompson tested Mac Forde, in the home goal, with hard drives. There were thrills in plenty but no goals until a minute or two from half-time when Norsemen scored again to lead 3—0.

Norsemen lined up with seven in the forward line and tried to force a quick goal but were checked by the keen tackling of Alec Cooper, Frank Thompson, Sid Hasemore and Phil Manners. A free kick relieved the pressure and another free kick just outside the penalty area taken by Keenan gave the 'Hill' their first goal. It was the 'Hill's' turn to force the pace and when Keenan pushed forward a perfect pass for Vic Haskell to race through and score it looked as though they might still win. Norsemen were distinctly fortunate when, after a grand run, Vic Haskell delayed his shot and the ball was scrambled away, and again when with Mac Forde on his knees following a hard drive, Bernard Thompson just failed to hook the ball into the net.

Winchmore Hill 2—Norsemen 3.

January 19th.

Last-minute 'cry-offs' were remedied by the inclusion in the side which met Catford Wanderers at home, of Bell at inside-right and Lowther (a new-comer from Leeds University) at inside-left and both players acquitted themselves well in difficult circumstances. The heavy frost made the going treacherous and Catford in adapting themselves more readily to the conditions were the more impressive side. The forwards seldom attempted to turn with the ball preferring to pass back to a half who would lob it forward for a colleague to take on the run. It was the 'Hill' who scored first however when Haskell, five minutes from the start, got away on the right, crossed the ball to Eccles who, coming in from outside-right, slammed it into the net. This success was short lived, the Catford forwards indulging in a bewildering passing movement which gave them the equaliser a few minutes later. Catford kept the upper hand but were met by a determined 'Hill' defence, in which Alec Cooper, Eric lngs and Johnny Peters were particularly effective and half-time was called with the score 1—1.

The 'Hill' were much more impressive in the second half and with conditions such that anything might happen, both goals had narrow escapes. A draw seemed likely when ten minutes from time Bernard Thompson taking a long through pass went through and scored but the referee, after consulting the linesman, reversed his decision. Almost immediately afterwards Catford's inside-right, receiving a pass in an off-side position, went through despite appeals and appeared to assist an awkwardly bouncing ball into the net with his fore-arm.

Winchmore Hill 1—Catford Wanderers 2.

January 26th.

Visiting Mayfield, at Hazelwood Lane, the 'Hill's' forwards included Alec Lambert (brother of Harold) at inside-left playing in his first game for us. Making a successful debut he controlled the ball both on the ground and in the air and opened up play with accurate passes to both wings. Lowther playing at inside-right also had a good match scoring one of the 'Hill's' 2 goals, Haskell being the other scorer. Mayfield, who have been consistently good throughout the season were more at home on their smaller ground and in a closely contested game could have secured the verdict when awarded a penalty for a mild infringement but the player entrusted with the kick sportingly placed it outside.

Winchmore Hill 2—Mayfield 2.

* * * *

2A XI REPORT.

November 17th.

The 'Hill' kicked off with the wind behind them at Woodside Park and were on top throughout the first-half. There were many chances missed in front of goal until Bain made no mistake with a hard shot after receiving a pass from Chapman. There was no further score in the first-half in spite of the continual pressing by the 'Hill' forwards. Gilroy was hardly disturbed in goal and looked very cold.

On resuming play the 'Hill' maintained heavy pressure and Bell scored from a pass by Geary at left-half. Our defence was playing well up the field as we were well on top and it was owing to this that the Vampires scored two goals in quick succession. The second one appeared to be off-side to everyone except the referee. This was no excuse, however, as the 'Hill' should have piled up a far greater lead. All efforts by the 'Hill' to draw ahead were unsuccessful and the game finished with no further score.

Tim Ward excelled in the defence and Tony Chapman was the best forward.

Crouch End Vampires 2—Winchmore Hill 2.

November 24th.

The result of this game was very gratifying as we were without three of our usual players.

It was a hard-fought game with both sides attacking in turn. Bell opened the scoring for the 'Hill' from a pass from Chapman. The second goal was scored by Bacon, who received a pass from Bell and ran through by himself to beat the goalkeeper easily. Stan Bell scored two more in the first-half to complete his hat-trick. Old Minchendenians replied with one goal, making the half-time score 4—1 in the 'Hill's' favour.

Our opponents attacked strongly after the interval and scored two quick goals. This steadied the 'Hill' somewhat and the fifth 'Hill' goal followed shortly after. This was a result of good work by Elliot, Smith and Cuttler, the last-named scoring. There was no further score.

Winchmore Hill 5—Old Minchendenians 3.

December 1st.

Although defeated in this game, the 2A XI put up a very creditable performance. We had most of the game, but just could not finish off the moves with the ball in the net.

The first goal for 'A.P.' came from the head of a 'Hill' defender who was trying to clear a high ball under the crossbar. The 'Hill' rallied well from this initial setback and replied with a goal almost immediately from the kick-off. Following some good work by Bacon and Bell, Chapman scored with a well-placed shot. There was no further score in the first-half.

With the score equal, play was resumed at a fast rate. Alexandra Park scored their second goal after fifteen minutes. For all the 'Hill's' efforts 'A.P.' added a third one shortly before the final whistle.

Dave Gilroy played one of his best games to date.

Alexandra Park 3—Winchmore Hill 1.

December 8th.

As the score suggests, the 'Hill' had no difficulty in beating the Vampires. The 2A XI played very well together. The passing was accurate and the opposing defence was swamped throughout.

The scorers for the 'Hill' were Chapman 5, Cuttler 3, and Bell.

The game finished with the 'Hill' half-back line taking long (but unsuccessful) shots at goal.

Winchmore Hill 9—Crouch End Vampires 1.

December 15th.

The 'Hill' opened the score by an excellent shot from a narrow angle by Tony Chapman, after some good work by all the forward line. A ding-dong battle followed this with both sides attacking strongly. Stan Bell scored the second goal shortly before the whistle for half-time sounded.

On resuming play the Old Boys attacked strongly and scored two goals in a short space of time. With the score 2—2 both sides struggled hard to draw ahead. The Old Boys scored the winning goal shortly before the final whistle went.

The loss must be attributed to the 'Hill' defence which was not up to its usual standard, with the exception of Harold Lambert.

Trinity County Old Boys 3—Winchmore Hill 2.

December 22nd.

Having drawn a bye in the first round of the Junior Section of the Hospital Cup, we met Guys in the second round.

From the kick-off it was a very hard and fast game with several minor injuries and frequent penalising. There was no score in the first-half although both goalkeepers were kept very busy. Maynard in the 'Hill' goal made several very good saves.

Play was resumed at an even faster and more furious rate. Finally, Beech, who had been moved to the right wing owing to an injury scored a magnificent goal from thirty yards. From then on the 'Hill' had their time fully occupied in preventing Guys equalising. For the last ten minutes we had only ten men on the field. Ted Beech twisted a thigh muscle of an already injured leg.

We left the field well satisfied in mind (if bruised in body) after the toughest game of the season to date.

Winchmore Hill 1—Guys Calculating Machines F.C. 0.

December 26th.

The 2A XI staggered bleary-eyed on to the heavy Edmonton field to receive this defeat at the hands of the Norsemen. The aftermath of Christmas Day cannot be taken as an excuse however.

Johnny Haynes was loaned to our opponents who were two men short. The fast forward line of Norsemen soon opened the scoring and had the 'Hill' defence spreadeagled. Stoker (at time of going to press) Graves started several good moves but the finishing was poor. Norsemen added another goal shortly before half-time.

Tony Chapman scored the only 'Hill' goal, and Norsemen added one more to their total before the end of play.

After a regrettable accident the twitching body of Johnny Haynes was carried from the field. When interviewed later he stated that he hoped never to play against Winchmore Hill again. This remark astounded his loving team-mates who supplied him with medicine of his own choice.

Norsemen 3—Winchmore Hill 1.

December 29th.

The 'Hill' unfortunately had to field ten men in this game as one member could not find the ground. The team was strengthened however by Hasemore and Bain from 1st XI.

Both sides found difficulty in controlling the slippery ball on the very heavy pitch. The 'Poly' soon opened the scoring with a shot from short range which gave Gilroy no chance. The fast hard shooting of our opponents whenever an opportunity arose was very conspicuous and kept Gilroy well occupied. He played his usual magnificent game and dealt with them very well. The 'Poly' scored their second goal after their very fast inside-forwards had left the 'Hill' defence wide open. The 'Hill' replied immediately with a goal from Chapman. Thus the half-time score was 2—1 against the 'Hill'.

The 'Hill' attacked strongly in an attempt to equalise but failed to score after repeatedly getting the ball into the opposing penalty area. In a break-away during this spell Borough Polytechnic scored again. From a corner by Hasemore, Smith scored for the 'Hill' with a fine first-time shot. The 'Hill' were outplayed however and our opponents netted again shortly before the final whistle.

Hasemore and Bell were outstanding, the latter playing at left-back.

Borough Polytechnic 4—Winchmore Hill 2.

January 5th.

The 2A XI visited Barnet for a game with the Old Stationers. The result was a correct reflection on the play, and in the first-half we were unlucky not to score more than three.

We started kicking up the hill and were soon two up through Cuttler and Chapman. Old Stationers replied but soon some spirited play in the Old Stationers' goal-mouth resulted in a penalty which was successfully taken by Bell. Lambert, ten minutes later, was not as successful when a second penalty was awarded.

Old Stationers replied again and this completed the first-half scoring. After half-time we increased our lead with a goal by Smith, but Old Stationers hit back once more before we started our goal-rush and added five more goals without reply.

The highlights of the game were the good all-round play of Stan Bell who scored three goals and a successful debut by Lowther.

Old Stationers 3—Winchmore Hill 9.

January 12th.

After fifteen minutes play on a very slippery home pitch Alexandra Park opened the scoring in this very fast and exciting game. An equaliser from the 'Hill' followed at once from the kick-off. Lowther received the ball and worked his way alone through the A.P. defence; finishing off with a well-placed shot. A ding-dong struggle followed this and there was no further score in the first-half.

An unfortunate misunderstanding between the right-back and goalkeeper resulted in an own goal against the 'Hill'. The whole team played well after this set-back and Tony Chapman soon made the score equal with a shot from close range. We then took the lead through another hard-worked-for goal by Lowther.

There was no further score, and we left the field well satisfied. The whole team played good football and really deserved to win.

Winchmore Hill 3—Alexandra Park 2.

January 19th.

Owing to injuries and calls from the 1st XI we fielded a rather weaker side than usual, and were no match for the 'Poly'.

Our opponents scored shortly after kicking off. Their forward line was very fast and swamped our defence. Maintaining pressure they scored two more goals in the first-half making the score 3—0 against the 'Hill'.

This lead was increased by two more goals after the interval. Throughout the game our forwards moved the ball well, but never into the net.

Winchmore Hill 0—Regent Polytechnic 5.

January 26th.

The 2A XI turned out a much stronger team than on the previous week and outplayed Mayfield convincingly.

The 'Hill' forced the pace from the start and Hunter soon opened the scoring. Bell scored the second goal after some fast short passing between himself and Geary. Tony Chapman went in with the ball to score the third 'Hill' goal after receiving a pass from Bain. The whole team played well together and kept the Mayfield defence on their toes. Stan Bell scored his second goal from a pass through the middle by Lambert. Mayfield then rallied well and scored two quick goals.

Mayfield really forced the pace after half-time and had most of the play until the last ten minutes. That they did not score was due to the steadiness and vigorous tackling of the 'Hill's' defence. Hunter then received a long pass down the middle and ran through alone to score his second goal. The final Winchmore Hill goal was scored by Geary to make the final score 6—2.

Winchmore Hill 6—Mayfield 2.

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2B XI REPORT.**November 3rd.**

We played the return game with Mayfield and for the second time this season a draw was the result. The 'Hill' were slightly the better side throughout and at one time held a 4—1 lead, but a strong Mayfield effort brought them three goals, and to even terms. The closing stages of the game saw the 'Hill' fully extended in preventing the visitors from scoring a winning goal, and the closing score stood at 4—4, Barratt 2, Kibbell and Hunt, scoring for the 'Hill'.

November 10th.

Visiting Tottenham Road we were beaten by Old Aloysians 7—2. On this occasion the 'Hill' fielded a very unusual team, which included four pre-war members who were having a run-out whilst on a spot of leave. Sad to relate, these inclusions in the team were mainly the cause of such a heavy defeat, as the older members appeared not to trust in the ability of the younger ones and were consequently guilty of too much individualism. The Old Boys took every advantage of this and inflicted upon us our first defeat of the season. Barratt and Bingley scored for the 'Hill'.

November 17th.

Pinner Reserves were our guests at Fords Grove and we were beaten 6—3.

Pinner had the better of the exchanges for most of the game and built up a lead of 6—0, when with about 15 minutes to go the 'Hill' rallied and took complete command scoring three times in 10 minutes, and, had time permitted would have scored three more, but ninety minutes is the limit and the best team won. Barratt, Elliot and Hayes scoring the goals.

A report of this game would not be complete without a word of thanks to Pinner for the clean, sporting and energetic game, which all concerned very much enjoyed, and we look forward with much pleasure to our next meeting.

November 24th.

A strong Norsemen XI played a sadly depleted 'Hill' team at Fords Grove. 'Cry-offs' were the 'order of the day' and we suffered accordingly, losing by 9 goals to 1. Denis French scoring the only goal.

December 1st.

Durnsford Road was the scene of action, where a hard and fast game versus Alexandra Park III's ended in a draw 1—1, Barratt once again obliging for the 'Hill'. During the second-half of this match Sid Cooper, playing at centre-half, was completely knocked-out after stopping a hard shot with his head. He left the field for a while and on his return played at outside-left, and surprised all and sundry by playing a 'blinder', being unfortunate not to score on more than one occasion. It was not known until after the game that he had been playing in a semi-conscious state and had little recollection of what had taken place throughout.

December 8th.

The 2B XI took over the league fixture versus North-Western Polytechnic at Edgware. Once again a strange side appeared for the 'Hill', this time owing to some obscure piece of paper known as 'the rota'. Unfortunately the team having little knowledge of one another's play could not settle down and were beaten by 5 goals to 2. D. Peacock scoring twice for the 'Hill'.

December 15th.

Old Parkonians were our visitors and owing to illness etc. were faced by only ten 'Hill' players at the kick-off. This was reduced to nine after about 10 minutes play, Bacon being forced to retire with an injury to his back. Playing with only three forwards we did very well to lose by only 5—0 as 'Old Parks' are a tough nut to crack even with a full team.

December 22nd.

A further defeat was suffered when we travelled to West Harrow to play Old Lyonians. The Old Boys fielded a much stronger side than that which lost to the 2A XI earlier in the season. Play was fairly even throughout, but the 'Hill' paid the penalty for poor finishing in front of goal, although many missed chances can be excused owing to the very heavy state of the pitch. A win for Lyonians of 4—1 was truly representative of the game. The 'Hill' goal was scored by an 'O.L.' defender.

December 29th.

Cuaco were our visitors, and playing on the top pitch, we put up a hard fight but lost by 4 goals to 1. This was a game of age and experience versus youth, Cuaco having one player aged 51, with as much stamina as a young man, whilst we had at least four lads under the age of 19. In this case, age and experience was the telling power, but the 'Hill' put up a very good show with Barratt scoring our one and only.

January 5th.

We visited White Hart Lane (N.22) to play Trinity County O.B. Having only 9 men our opponents kindly lent us a player to even matters. We had the upper hand for the most part of the match and should have won easily but were dogged by hard luck right from the kick-off. In the first few minutes Barratt hit the crossbar with a grand angle shot, and then a little later slipped over in the mud with only the goalkeeper to beat.

But third time lucky is a good stand-by, as Barratt gave us the lead in his third attempt. The Old Boys soon levelled matters and we changed ends on even terms. The 'Hill' attacked for the greater part of the second-half, but Trinity County took advantage of sudden break-aways and netted three times bringing the score to 4—1. In the closing stages of the game Barratt was most unlucky when, with nobody to beat, his well-judged shot stopped dead in a pile of mud about a foot short of the goal line.

January 12th.

This was a sad day for the 2B side. Old Finchleians visited Fords Grove with almost the same XI as had played our 1st XI on December 22nd. Being one of the rare occasions when we play on the top pitch it was unfortunate that it resembled a farm-yard more than a football pitch, so abundant was the mud. Fielding a team which, on paper, appeared to be the strongest this season proved in fact to be the exact opposite, and Finchleians gave us a lesson in football apart from scoring ten goals without reply.

January 19th.

At Colindale we met Royal Dental Hospital and lost 3—2 after a hard tussle which was played on a hard and frosty ground. The R. D. Hospital having only 9 men we loaned them McKenzie, who in fact, was mainly responsible for another 'Hill' defeat, scoring two goals for the home team. Our goals were scored by Brand and Hunter.

January 26th.

Thirteen proved to be a lucky number for Winchmore Hill. Not having won for 12 games we atoned for it on the 13th, beating Old Egbertians at Chingford by 11 goals to 1, a result that was well deserved. Much credit must go to both Smith and Hunt who, as inside-forwards, continually opened out the opposing defence with fine individual efforts, also for scoring 5 and 4 goals respectively, Barratt scoring the remaining 2.

Such was the supremacy of the 'Hill' towards the end of this game, that right-back Hitchman came down field to take corner kicks, whilst goalkeeper Ratcliffe was often standing nearer the centre circle than the goal line.

* * * *

AFTER THE GAME.

The final whistle has been blown and the stampede into the pavilion begins. Spectators and players jostle each other at the counter which is loaded with buns and cakes and teacups. A certain amount of back-chat flows across the counter—someone innocently remarks to the lady pouring out the tea that 'it looks like rain', and someone else says, 'Have a vaseline tart, old man'; another generously offers to make do with only three spoonfuls of sugar. These and other wits are all dealt with in turn. The players, plastered in mud more often than not, don't usually dally, they just want 'a cup of tea, quick'.

Two officials of the Club generously choose this moment to start an earnest discussion, placing themselves either in front of the till or in the kitchen near the gas stove. It seems they don't mind where they stand so long as they cause the maximum amount of obstruction.

After the first rush for tea and cakes is over, the second or Sausage and Mash stage is reached. This entails a good deal of scurrying back and forth between the counter and the kitchen and as time passes and the stock is depleted, complicated calculations are made dividing the remaining 'S. & M.' between the last customers. Even the Chairman himself has been refused on occasion through failing to 'shop early'. Sometimes, of course, there is a surplus of food, so the Guvnor in his capacity as Canteen Manager, gives his Expert Sales Talk to the visitors.

These good people are often very appreciative, so much so that on one memorable occasion a C.I.D. team made a collection for the 'waitresses'.

It seems at last that trade is over for the day. The once-laden counter looks as though it had been visited by a swarm of locusts. There remains only the collection of crockery strewn over the tables in the pavilion and lounge, the despatch of a special envoy to fetch the cups from the men's dressing rooms, and that is the end of another Saturday Canteen.

And now to adjourn to the lounge and relax. An unmistakable 'Coo-ee' at the Bar door indicates a need for refreshment and shortly afterwards out come the drinks—usually gin and orange (Wot ! No Whisky ?).

Various eminent members of the Club are playing Pontoon. A certain literary gentleman is having phenomenal luck as banker, turning up 'Pontoons' and 'Five-cards' with monotonous regularity. Comment tends to get somewhat lurid until at last he is beaten, and amid loud cheers an immediate adjournment is made to the Bar to help him spend his winnings. To the casual observer he seems singularly little in need of advice and assistance showered on him by his fellow players.

It may be mentioned here that at one session, when the banker was not so lucky, the pack was found to contain five aces, and regarding this as too many even among friends, one of the members has since brought his own cards guaranteed to contain the regulation number.

The evening passes very pleasantly. There are little conferences here and there with work and pleasure agreeably mixed. Returned warriors tell of their adventures, tired business men forget their worries, and it is with reluctance that we leave this genial atmosphere of good fellowship and start our journey home.

* * * *

PEN PORTRAITS.

THE THOMPSON BROTHERS.

As a country we have cause to be grateful to New Zealand, as we have to other members of the Commonwealth, for many things and Winchmore Hill must say 'thank you for those two mighty atom-ic bombs' the brothers Thompson, Bernard and Frank. It is fitting that one pen portrait should serve for both, as although like most brothers they do not altogether see eye to eye at times, nevertheless they take a pretty good view of one another and one of the quickest ways to commit suicide, or at least to collect a beautiful black eye, is to utter derogatory remarks about one in the presence of the other. In fact we recall a certain occasion in Enfield after a convivial Club Supper when only timely intervention saved a somewhat reckless individual from being 'atomised' after some careless talk concerning Junior.

(Don Juan) Bernard although the elder of the two did not come to the 'Hill' until some time after Frank, for the perfectly good reason that up until then he had been assisting in a spot of bother in the desert with Rommel & Co. He is no line-shooter otherwise he could probably a tale unfold of long and arduous campaigning in Africa, Greece and Italy, for he joined the first New Zealand unit to be formed in this country as a gunner, finally being brought home to enjoy a well-earned rest performing various duties as driver, — attendant (when in disgrace), etc., at the Fernleaf Club, New Zealand Forces' 'home from home' in London. Bernard commenced at centre-forward for the Reserves, later gaining promotion to the 1st XI as outside-left and then centre-forward which latter position he has occupied ever since. Although lack of inches prove a handicap when the ball is in the air, his astonishing speed off the mark is ample compensation when the right passes are forthcoming, and woe betide the back or goalkeeper who hesitates, for any loose ball is Bernard's 'target for this afternoon' and he is no respecter of persons.

Spectators will not forget his plucky display in the Cup Final against our old friends and enemies the Norsemen last season, when he took sufficient punishment to remind him of active service days and yet came up smilingly to score the necessary goals to make the Cup ours once again.

Frankie, or Junior as he is known in family circles, started as an outside-left and has since filled most positions on the field with varying degrees of success, although we are rather inclined to think he has no further ambitions as a full-back, perhaps our right-winger can throw some light on this attitude. He has certainly rendered very valuable (if somewhat loquacious) service to the 1st XI at left-half however as the shins of opposing inside-rights can probably testify. When one sees this human atom bomb rushing all over the field, including the penalty area, ill-treating all the opponents alike and all from sheer exuberance (and in so doing we are afraid sometimes leaving a long-suffering back high and dry) it is difficult to believe that he should not really be playing football at all owing to the after-effects of an unfortunate blow in early life. Frank began the war as a member of that famous combination 'Fred Slatter and His Swingers' and after entering the Forces was transferred to the R.A.P.C. as a driver. The roads are safer now though, he has joined his big brother in the New Zealand Forces at the Fernleaf. Frankie can turn his hand to most things from ironing delicate articles to delivering coal in builder's barrows but is probably at his best smoothing things over for brother Bernard.

Although regular playing members of the Cricket Club for whom they have batted and chatted successfully on frequent occasions, the cricket field will not see them next summer for they are expecting to return to New Zealand in April where a farm awaits their attention. Judging by their efforts with a recalcitrant motor mower in the summer jungle season we anticipate a well-run highly-mechanised farm, and we sincerely hope the animals will be handled more gently than opposing footballers.

Well, good luck Bern and Frank in your new venture, and when you are living on the fat of the land, spare us a thought eating our weekly sausage—98% bread.

TED BARRETT.

Since 1942 Ted Barrett has played regularly for both junior teams at Winchmore Hill.

He has played mainly at centre or inside-forward and has netted a considerable number of goals every season. His right foot is his best. Most of his goals have been scored by very accurate and hard shooting with this foot. On various occasions, when necessity has demanded, Ted has played some very good games at wing-half.

It is this versatility combined with experience, that has made him such a valuable member of the 2B XI. This team includes most of the younger Club members, and a stiffening of experienced players is needed to hold the team together and to build it up.

His leadership and sportsmanship were especially noticeable last season when he skippered the junior team. Only rarely was Ted able to lead a full team on the field, and it was due to his keenness that the team did not become discouraged, but always gave of their best although outnumbered.

After home games Ted can be seen drinking thoughtfully (and beer). This usually continues until he is ejected at closing time in spite of his earlier statement that, 'I will just have a couple before going to the pictures'. He almost always makes this vow, but rarely carries out the good intention. This is just as well for, once again, we are able to hear the story of his Easter soccer tour in Belgium with his old club. It is interesting listening, although little mention of football is made.

Ted is in the tobacco trade and tells many gruesome tales of the preparation of the narcotic cylinders that rob us of our wind. Apart from occasional attacks of virtuousness however, he is usually smoking with the rest of us.

He is a very keen cyclist and has covered most of England and Wales at various times on his touring holidays. It is said that the chestnut about the chap 'who had a bike', originated from one of these tours.

A love of good music, particularly on the piano or organ, completes this sketch of Ted, and all readers will agree that as a footballer, bar-stanchion, raconteur, cyclist or music lover, he will always be a welcome member at Fords Grove.

"THE FLOWER"—(Lowrius Fornix Floris).

Yes, not a flower, but 'THE FLOWER', no annual or even bi-annual but the nearest approach to a perennial as could be achieved by one who is flower in name alone.

This rarest bloom, this tender Flower, first opened his petals and peeped at the thinning sun in the autumn of 190?, quite evidently a vintage year in the world of horticulture.

Nature's achievements are wonderful but surely none other can rank with the production of a Flower, not merely decorative and the better part of 75 ins. in height, but capable of taking part in manly pursuits such as Football, Cricket and other sports—some of an indoor variety—and the reference is not to Ludo.

But are we concerned with sweet scents, delicate shades of colour or textures so fine as to pass man's understanding?

Football. Lowrie came to W.H.F.C. in the 1926-27 season in company with such stars as Laurie Punchard, Ted Boden and others from the all-conquering but then disbanded local junior side, St. Monicas. For the next ten seasons he played regularly at centre or wing-half for the 2nd XI and skippered this side for a season or two. A most useful player, able to keep the ball on the carpet and with definite ideas of positional and constructive play. With a slightly lower centre of gravity and a little more weight (in those days) a place in the 1st XI would have been more than a possibility.

Making the best possible use of his ability to 'get away' with things, Lowrie on the football field went one better than Mother Brown, for he always kept his elbows as well as his knees up.

Cricket. In September 1945, Lowrie completed 20 years of continuous play for the Cricket Club and there's life in the old dog yet. A left-arm slow spin bowler with a very easy action, he has many fine performances to his credit. One opponent of some standing in Club cricket has it that Lowrie does not spin the ball at all but lends credence to the illusion by snapping the fingers of the right hand at the moment of delivery, but be that as it may, many a good batsman has been lured to an untimely end.

Until the last season before the war Lowrie had collected many useful runs for the Club, combining some dainty tickles round the corner with occasional Woolley-like shots through the covers and, not quite so occasionally, some downright cow-shots to, as would be expected, all parts of the field. Unhappily, a serious accident has impaired his ability as a batsman but he is still a cool customer in a crisis and probably holds the Cub record for being 'not out' single figures.

On the field, well why go into that? As an exhorter to colleagues rapidly to ascend a very high ladder and catch a ball clearly destined to land either in the road or on top of the pavilion, there is no parallel in Club cricket. Himself, well just a thought sluggish but opposing batsmen should not be misled, for a rapid change from the static to the dynamic takes place when there is the merest smell of a chance of a Catch-and-Bowl.

Other Sports. Under this all-embracing heading much could be written which would provide entertaining reading, but alas, the last word is with the Editor. Lowrie is keenly interested in all the social activities of the Club and is a much-appreciated member of the Social Sub-Committee, as witness the sounds of high girlish laughter which indicate that he has remembered to attend a meeting.

Footnotes.

- (1) The writer apologises for omitting previously to state that Lowrie also holds the Club record for bowling Maiden (plural) Overs (singular).
- (2) A recent aerial trip to Czecho-Slovakia on business was highly successful. On the return journey the wind was somewhat high, at times reaching Listerian velocity.
- (3) 'By any other name, the Flower would smell as sweet.'

* * * *

CLUB JOTTINGS.

Although it would appear that there is but one definition of Gambling, the Elder Brethren of the Parent Club draw distinctions (without differences) as briefly tabulated below:—

APPROVED.

Tossing the coin for the first innings.
 W.H.F.C. Pontoon.
 Snakes and Ladders.
 Raffles.
 Contract Bridge.
 Derby Sweeps.
 Snap Dragon.
 Whist for Prizes.
 Summer Special Effort.
 Solo Whist.
 Post Office Savings.
 Deposits (a gamble with the Government).
 An appeal to Honorary Members for increased
 Subs. (the biggest gamble of all).

DISAPPROVED.

Vingt-et-un.

* * * *

'NAIVE' AT THE SUPPER :

- 'Which toast is he proposing?'
- 'When do we dance?'
- 'What are the "trackless wastes of the oceans"?'
- 'Do they like Bovril?'

FORCES' REMINISCENCES.

In previous issues of 'The Chat', under the heading of 'News from the Forces', we tried to give a little news about as many members as possible.

From now on we hope to devote this space to one or two members, each time telling of their experiences throughout the War Period.

Our first story deals not only with the 1939-1945 episode, but starts with the 1914-1918 affair and is the record of none other than the 'Old War Horse' Sergeant Ambridge, who writes as follows :—

"I served from 1916 to 1919 in the Royal Field Artillery (12th Division A/64 Brigade), was in action in France and Belgium and finished in Russia. I was wounded on the right arm and finally discharged to Reserve as a Corporal in 1919.

"In 1933 I joined the St. John's Auxiliary Sick Berth Reserve (Royal Navy) and it was in connection with voluntary work with St. John's that I first became associated with the Club.

"I was called to the Colours on 4th November, 1939, arrived at H.M.S. Drake, Devonport, where I took a refresher course in Hospital Nursing Routine until 1940. Transferred to H.M.S. Raleigh I took part in Convoy work and on 'Hush-hush' trips etc., and then helped in conveying troops back to England from Dunkirk aboard the destroyer H.M.S. Campbell.

"My next move was to the H.M.S. Trent based at Belfast, and made numerous trips to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

"During 1941-43 I visited Malta, Gibraltar, Algiers and Mombassa, and then crossed the Atlantic again to pick up H.M.S. Antigua, an American frigate named after one of the small islands of America.

"My next scene of operations was on the Russian convoy routes for thirteen months, during which I saw many ships torpedoed and sunk, including my own ship H.M.S. Bullin in December 1944.

"I had further Convoy work until 'D' Day when I was there in one of the small ships with H.M.S. Roberts etc. for attacking the Normandy beaches.

"I had the job of bringing in several submarines after the surrender, and eventually returned to Londonderry on the H.M.S. Antigua until released under Class A on 10th October, 1945, and rejoined the boys at Winchmore Hill.

"Finally I must express my thanks to the Club Comforts Fund for the very welcome gifts and copies of 'The Chat' which kept one ever in touch with home."

Sergeant Ambridge—Late S.B., P.O., D/X7499, Royal Navy.

FIXTURES 1945/46.

Date		FIRST ELEVEN				SECOND ELEVEN							
1945		OPPONENTS		Ground	Result	OPPONENTS		Ground	Result	OPPONENTS		Ground	Result
Oct.	6	Mayfield	...	Home	4—3	Old Latymerians	...	Away	2—0	Old Ignatians	...	Home	6—1
"	13	Royal Netherlands Navy	...	Away	1—3	Merton Res.	...	Home	0—3	Mayfield Ill	...	Home	3—3
"	20	Eastbourne	...	Home	5—0	Mayfield Res.	...	Away	0—7	Trinity Cty. Old Boys	...	Home	5—3
"	27	Old Stationers	...	Away	9—3	Regent Polytechnic	...	Away	4—2	Old Stationers Res.	...	Home	5—3
Nov.	3	Carford Wanderers	...	Away	2—3	Old Lyonians	...	Home	9—1	Mayfield Ill	...	Away	4—4
"	10	Old Aloysians	Cup	Home	5—3	Trinity Cty. Old Boys	...	Away	3—1	Old Aloysians Res.	...	Away	2—7
"	17	Hastings & St. Leonards	L	Home	6—1	Crouch End Vampires	...	Away	2—2	Pinner Res.	...	Home	3—6
"	24	Norsemen	...	Away	2—4	Old Minchendenians Res.	L	Home	5—3	Norsemen Res.	...	Home	1—9
Dec.	1	Alexandra Park	...	Home	2—1	Alexandra Park Res.	...	Away	1—3	Alexandra Park Ill	...	Away	1—1
"	8	Brentwood Old Boys	...	Home	5—1	North Western Polytechnic	L	Away	2—5	Crouch End Vampires	...	Home	9—1
"	15	Orpington	...	Away	2—0	Trinity Cty. Old Boys	...	Home	2—3	Old Parkonians	...	Home	0—5
"	22	Old Finchleians	...	Home	6—1	Guys Calculating Machines	Cup	Home	1—0	Old Lyonians	...	Away	1—4
"	26	Norsemen	...	Home	2—3								
"	29			Home		Borough Polytechnic	...	Away	2—4	Cuaco	...	Home	1—4
1946													
Jan.	5	Old Stationers	L	Home	4—1	Old Stationers Res.	...	Away	9—3	Trinity Cty. Old Boys	...	Away	1—4
"	12	Norsemen	Cup	Away	2—3	Alexandra Park Res.	...	Home	3—2	Old Finchleians	...	Home	0—10
"	19	Carford Wanderers	L	Home	1—2	Regent Polytechnic	...	Home	0—5	Royal Dental Hospital	...	Away	2—3
"	26	Mayfield	...	Away	2—2	Mayfield Res.	...	Home	6—2	Old Egbertians	...	Away	11—1
Feb.	2	Ealing Association	L	Home	0—1	Cuaco	...	Away	1—1	Alexandra Park Ill	...	Home	7—2
"	9	Brentwood Old Boys	...	Away	2—3	Crouch End Vampires	Cup	Home	2—1	Old Ignatians	...	Away	1—1
"	16	Norsemen	L	Home	3—3	Norsemen Res.	...	Away	2—4	Old Parkonians	...	Away	3—1
"	23	Merton	L	Home	2—3	Merton Res.	...	Away	2—2	Old Egbertians	...	Home	9—1
Mch.	2	Ealing Association	L	Away	7—2	Old Minchendenians Res.	L	Away	1—10	Old Latymerians	...	Home	Scr.
"	9	Merton	L	Away		Old Aloysians Res.	...	Home		Old Finchleians	...	Away	
"	16	London University	...	Home		Borough Polytechnic	L	Home		Ealing Res.	...	Away	
"	23	Hastings & St. Leonards	L	Away		North Western Polytechnic	L	Home		Royal Dental Hospital	...	Home	
"	30	Orpington	...	Home						Norsemen Ill.	...	Home	
Apr.	6	Eastbourne	L	Away		Crouch End Vampires	...	Away		Northern Polytechnic	...	Away	
"	13	Guys Hospital	...	Away									