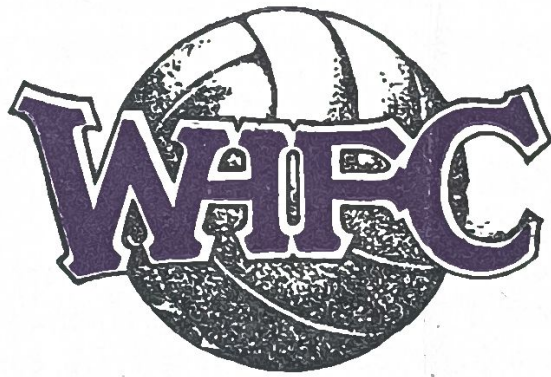


WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CHAT



With Compliments

WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CLUB

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[APRIL 1947.

Editorial

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THERE never was such a season. Outside, nearly 50 per cent. of matches have been cancelled since mid-January and the rest have been played on deep soft snow, crisp ice and snow, water and ice, and finally in a blinding snowstorm. Inside, at times, baths and lavatories have been frozen up, beer has been literally cold, and the ladies have done a marvellous job by keeping spectators and players comfortable with hot tea and warm food.

The 1st XI continue to head Division 2 but their lead has been appreciably reduced and in their thirteenth game they have sustained their first defeat. Their close-passing style has been ill-suited to climatic and ground conditions, but these have been so appalling that judgment is best reserved until the return of more normal weather. The Reserves are also on top of their section and they have consolidated their position. They are an outstanding and young side who play really clever and fast football and are replete with prospective first-team talent. It is good to report that some success has recently rewarded the efforts of the 3rd XI who had so unsatisfying a period in mid-season. And no wonder, for on paper, at least, the best 3rd XI is as good as a normal 2nd team. The gap between the first three teams is so small that while it is possible to go from 3rd to 1st XI, the reverse is equally true. This is really a healthy sign for the Club, albeit somewhat of a shock to individuals. In fact, "cries off" are few, so keen is competition.

The thaw has come at last to reveal the green grass for the first time in two months. On the whole, the ground looks very well, though the deterioration of the lower half of the 1st XI pitch reinforces the necessity of the re-levelling planned for the coming close season. We must be worthy of Division 1 S.A.L. in our playing surface as in our playing strength. Meanwhile we believe it is a happy omen that when a "Hill" team last won promotion the 1st and 2nd XI's were jointly successful. That was as long ago as 1929-30 when in their first season in the S.A.L. the 1st XI were runners-up in Division III and the reserves won their section. It is now the IDES OF MARCH.

1st XI REPORT.

December 21st, 1946.

Winchmore Hill made a shaky start in their S.A.L. match against Kew Association, away. The frozen ground made play difficult, but Kew quickly adapted themselves to the conditions and within five minutes had taken the lead. For the next half hour they had slightly the better of the play, but Pearl at right-back retrieved some awkward situations and Gilroy, in goal, playing his first match for the 1st XI showed good judgment in coming out and causing the opposition to shoot wide. As the "Hill" settled down attacks were developed on both wings and Kew's goalkeeper did well to hold some hard drives. Haskell and Cuttler combined well on the right wing and from Haskell's centre Saw opened the "Hill's" account.

On resuming the "Hill" took the initiative, the left-wing being particularly prominent, though the whole of the forwards played with confidence and understanding. Gus. Gowers, playing at left-half, tackled well and fed his wings with great skill. Saw, at centre-forward, also fed his wings with well-timed passes and from one of these Alec Lambert gave the "Hill" the lead. Alec was in devastating form and with his brother, Leslie, indulged in some bewildering passing and interchanging of position and scored two more goals for the hat trick. Kew's attacks, though less frequent, were capably dealt with by the "Hill's" defence whose long kicking repeatedly put the forwards on the attack. A well executed movement on the left sent Leslie Lambert through to score a grand goal and shortly afterwards the same player scored again but was adjudged off-side. Saw completed the scoring of this exhilarating second half to make the final score:—

Winchmore Hill 6—Kew Association 1.

December 26th, 1946.

Winchmore Hill were worthy winners of this friendly fixture with Norsemen, played at Fords Grove on Boxing Day morning and produced some first rate football.

From the kick-off the "Hill" attacked strongly and but for good goal keeping and bad luck they would have established an early and substantial lead. Norsemen then pressed for some period and their right wing was always dangerous, but a break away on their left gave them the opportunity to notch the first goal, but their lead was short-lived. More "Hill" attacks on both wings had Norsemen in trouble and Alec Lambert levelled the score.

In the second half Peters effected several good saves from the Norsemen forwards who swung the ball about and moved it quickly but the "Hill" took the lead when Leslie Lambert's shot struck the cross-bar and Saw scored from the rebound. During the closing stages the home side were on top and when Alec Lambert sent Saw away to score the "Hill's" third goal, the result was beyond doubt.

The game was played at a surprisingly fast pace with no suggestion of "The morning after the night before."

Outstanding for the "Hill" were Peters, Murray and Saw. Alan Murray gave his best performance for the 1st XI and his play was marked by forceful tackling, controlled length of kicking and thoughtful passing.

Winchmore Hill 3, Norsemen 1.

December 28th, 1946.

After the Lord Mayor's show Old Latymerians proved to be a sound side with a most promising schoolboy centre-half and a powerful inside-left who was the cleverest player on the field. By contrast, the "Hill" gave a most disappointing display, not entirely explained by four positional changes, due to injuries and holidays.

As in all recent matches, they attacked from the start, but though they led by 2—0 at half time with goals scored by Alec Lambert and Saw, they were most fortunate not to have been in arrears. In the second half, the "Hill" deteriorated still further and were outplayed for long spells. The Old Boys reduced the lead and the home side, over anxious for victory and fearful of defeat, panicked and reduced the spectators to anguished suspense and plaintive appeals. Ten minutes from the end, Saw received a long through pass from Alec Lambert and fired home a hard shot from fifteen yards. Tension was relieved and in the closing minutes the "Hill" settled down to play more confident football.

December 28th, was Johnny Peters' birthday and in presenting the club with two points, he gave the finest display of goal keeping seen at Fords Grove for many years. Shots high and low were all the same to him and it is no exaggeration to say that he saved at least half-a-dozen apparently certain goals. Happy birthday, and thanks a lot, Johnny.

Winchmore Hill 3, Old Latymerians 1.

January 4th, 1947.

Match cancelled.

January 11th, 1947.

Winchmore Hill gained two more points and established themselves at the head of Division 2 of the S.A. League, when they defeated West Wickham at Fords Grove.

The "Hill" took the initiative after the first five minutes and held it throughout. West Wickham's forwards were given few opportunities of developing an attack, the swift, hard tackling of the "Hill's" wing halves, Gowers and Murray and inside forwards, L. Lambert and Cuttler, being a decisive factor in a game which, despite continuous rain, never lacked interest. On the occasions when the visitors did break through, Wade and Brooks, at full-back, were fully equal to the demands made upon them, whilst Peters in goal and E. Wiseman at centre-half gave their usual sound display.

The game opened with a strong attack by the visitors, but this soon petered out, and the "Hill's" swiftly moving attack took up the running. Using both wings, they soon had the opposition's defence in difficulties and although their goal keeper gave a brilliant display, he was well beaten when Haskell, at outside-right, crossed the ball to Alec Lambert to score. Saw put the "Hill" two up and then Alec Lambert, with a fine individual effort, worked his way close in and completely deceived the Wickham goal keeper when he hooked the ball back to Saw whose shot gave the "Hill" a half-time lead of 3—0. The "Hill" continued to dominate the game during the second half and though the visitors stuck grimly to their task Saw did the "hat-trick" when he made the score 4—0. The heavy ball and muddy ground combined to spoil some excellent movements and though hard-pressed the visitors conceded only one more goal, Haskell being the scorer.

Winchmore Hill 5, West Wickham 0.

January 18th, 1947.

Winchmore Hill repeated their home success of the previous week when they visited West Wickham for the return match. Hatch successfully deputised for Murray, who was down with Flu, in an otherwise unchanged "Hill" side.

With the advantage of a slight slope, the "Hill" quickly took the offensive and the home goalkeeper again proved his worth with some spectacular saves including one particularly hard drive from Alec Lambert. Haskell and Cuttler were prominent on the

right wing, the latter getting through a lot of hard work both in attack and defence, while Haskell's speed and accurate centres frequently had the home defence in trouble. After ten minutes play Alec Lambert put through a nicely timed pass to Saw who opened the scoring. West Wickham's forwards could make little headway against the "Hill's" defence, in which Wiseman dominated the centre, and Wade and Brooks held the wingers in check. Hatch at right-half distributed the ball with neat ground passes and from one of these Les. Lambert went through to score.

On resuming after the interval, West Wickham, taking advantage of the slope, developed some useful attacking movements and came very near to scoring when, with Peters drawn out of his goal, the final shot went wide of the upright. A "Hill" attack, in which the forwards combined with speed and accuracy, culminated in Les. Lambert scoring with a grand shot. The home team were now held completely on the defensive and Saw, with a well placed shot, scored the final goal.

Winchmore Hill 4, West Wickham 0.

January 25th, 1947.

The frozen ground made control of the ball difficult, yet Winchmore Hill and Brentham in their S.A.L. Match at Fords Grove provided plenty of thrills in a free-scoring game which the home side eventually won. The keen tackling of the "Hill's" halves and the excellent service they gave to their forwards were decisive factors in a game, the result of which, was in doubt to the end.

The "Hill" were the first to attack, Alec and Leslie Lambert getting in some useful work on the left wing, but the frozen ground prevented the best use being made of the final passes. After five minutes play Murray held a Brentham clearance, just short of the half-way line, took the ball up and sent a through pass to Leslie Lambert, who shot wide of the goal-keeper to give the "Hill" the lead. Brentham, however, were never out of the picture and this reverse stung them to greater efforts. For the next twenty minutes or so they had the better of the exchanges, the "Hill" goal having some narrow escapes before the visitors levelled the score with a good goal. Near misses were plentiful at both ends, but Leslie Lambert made no mistake when he went through and lobbed the ball over the goalie's head to give the "Hill" a half-time lead of 2-1.

Within two or three minutes of the resumption the "Hill's" left wing developed an attacking movement and from about 20 yards out Leslie Lambert shot high into the far corner. Brentham retaliated strongly on their right and again reduced the arrears, but the "Hill" were not to be denied, and this time it was Alec Lambert who scored with a shot almost identical with that of Leslie's last goal. Brentham again reduced the lead but though Gus. Gowers was absent from the field for a while through injury and resumed at outside-left, the "Hill" maintained their lead until the final whistle.

Winchmore Hill 4, Brentham 3.

February 1st, 1947.

Our away match with Ibis was postponed owing to the unfit state of the ground.

February 8th, 1947.

On a treacherous surface Winchmore Hill maintained their leadership of the League with 100 per cent. wins when they defeated Kew Association in a return fixture at Fords Grove.

The "Hill" completely dominated the first half, the forwards, with excellent support from the wing halves, developing attack after attack. The Kew forwards were rarely out of their own half, their occasional sorties being adequately dealt with by the "Hill's" defence and though Peters was occasionally called upon to handle, his charge was never in serious danger. Kew's goalkeeper gave a confident display and undoubtedly saved his side from being more heavily in arrears at the interval.

The "Hill" opened the scoring after ten minutes play when Saw drew the defence, pushed the ball forward to Les. Lambert who passed to Alec Lambert to score. Shortly afterwards Alec went through on the left and from his pass Saw scored. Several scoring opportunities went astray due to the condition of the ground, but before half-time was called Alec Lambert scored with a grand shot from 25 yards.

The "Hill" continued to have the better of things in the second half but uncertainty in front of goal spoiled some good movements and against the run of the play a Kew inside-forward followed up a long pass through the middle, from what appeared to be an off-side position, to reduce the arrears. The "Hill" returned to the attack and, taking a pass from the left, Cuttler scored with a grand shot. Exploiting the tactics which yielded their first goal Kew got within striking distance again. Peters came out to narrow the angle, but the shot beat him and, although Pearl got to the ball, he could not prevent it entering the net. Before time was called Kew Association engineered another break-away to make the final score:—

Winchmore Hill 4, Kew Association 3.

February 15th, 1947.

Our home match with Alexandra Park was postponed owing to the unfit state of the ground.

February 22nd, 1947.

Despite the vociferous efforts of a coach-load of supporters, Winchmore Hill dropped their first league point when they drew with Reigate Priory away, 4—4. Conditions were anything but ideal either for playing or watching, for below the snow which had fallen during the previous night, the ground was icy, and with snow still falling the lines needed to be swept before and during the match. Nevertheless, those who braved the journey were well repaid by the whole-hearted efforts of both sides. Alec Lambert on the left-wing, who appeared to revel in the conditions, gave a brilliant performance, and was well supported by Les. Lambert and Gus. Gowers. Saw at centre-forward was a continual source of trouble to the home defenders, and scored all the "Hill's" goals. The defence had a difficult task against a well-balanced Reigate forward line, in which the outside-right and centre-forward were outstanding, Jack Pearl at right-back giving a sound display, and Bill Brooks at left-back kicked and headed well, but was liable to find himself out of position at critical moments.

The "Hill" did most of the attacking and should have secured an early lead but for some good work by the Reigate goalie, and the home team, following a break-away on the left, opened the scoring. The "Hill" resumed the attack for some time without any luck, but eventually Alec Lambert drew the defence and crossed to Saw who scored. The home goal had several narrow escapes, but again a break-away, this time on their right, caught the "Hill's" defence napping and the inside-right gave them a half-time lead of 2—1.

Soon after the interval Reigate went further ahead when a defensive error let in their centre-forward who, controlling the ball admirably when Peters came out, scored a good goal. Until 20 minutes from time Reigate deservedly held their lead and then Murray put in a long shot which struck the underneath of the cross-bar, and Saw following up bundled it into the net. Almost from the kick-off the Reigate centre got away again, and again as Peters came out pushed the ball past him into the corner of the net.

The next 15 minutes produced the best football of the match, with the "Hill" dominating the game. The left wing was particularly prominent with some excellent movements. With Reigate's defence concentrating on this wing the ball was whipped across to the right, and Martin centred for Saw to head in. With 5 minutes to go a similar manoeuvre again put Saw in possession, and with a deliberate shot he scored the equaliser.

Winchmore Hill 4, Reigate Priory 4.

2nd XI REPORT.

December 21st, 1946.

At home, the reserves obtained another two S.A.L. points at the expense of the Bank of England. The "Hill" adapted themselves admirably to the conditions, the pitch being completely frozen, and scored a comfortable win.

Goals were scored by—Ward 3, Bailey 2, and Dennis Wade, making a welcome reappearance, 2.

It took the "Hill" a little time to settle down, but by the interval were two goals up. In the second half, play was largely confined to the opponents' half of the field and five more goals were added.

Wade was outstanding at left-half and Ashby, now returned to this country, played a very confident game at left-back. The whole team must be congratulated on a fine display especially when it is remembered that conditions were not conducive to good football.

Winchmore Hill 7, Bank of England 0.

December 26th, 1946.

On Boxing Day the reserves visited Norsemen and won easily. The game in the first half was fast and keen, the "Hill" having the greater part of the game. Although the "Hill" only scored once, the pace they set early on was responsible for the collapse of the home side in the second half. The score at half time was one all, a long pass down the middle enabling the Norsemen centre-forward to score just on half-time. Soon after the restart the Norsemen went ahead, but the "Hill" equalised from a free kick. Following further pressure, the "Hill" went ahead and then the Norsemen collapsed—five more goals being added before the final whistle. Goals were scored by Bailey 3, Meyer 2, Bell, Manners and Plant 1 each.

Winchmore Hill 8, Norsemen 2.

December 28th, 1946.

Playing their second game in three days, the reserves went to Merton and were deservedly beaten by the home side in a S.A. League game, this being the reserves second defeat in the League this season.

We were forced to make several changes in the side and the "Hill" never really settled down on a very heavy ground. Although having more of the game, territorially, the "Hill" never looked like scoring, all efforts petering out in the opponent's penalty area. Merton, by moving the ball about, instead of the closer passing adopted by the "Hill," always seemed more dangerous. At the end of the first half, Merton were leading by the odd goal and although the "Hill" had more of the game in the second half, the home side increased their lead and in the closing minutes added a further goal.

Winchmore Hill 0, Merton 3.

January 4th, 1947.

Southgate County O.B. visited Fords Grove for a friendly game. For the first ten minutes, the O.Bs. attacked strongly but for the rest of the game, the "Hill" were attacking almost continuously. Once again, as shown in the first half, the weak point was the finishing, or rather lack of finishing, by the "Hill's" forwards. However, they made amends in the second half, as the score testifies. Goals were scored by Bell 3, Hatch and H. Lambert 1 each. Hatch, who was playing in his first game of the season for the "Hill" played a strong attacking game at left-half, whilst both inside-forwards, H. Lambert and Meyer, got through a lot of hard work.

Winchmore Hill 5, Southgate County O.B. 0.

January 11th, 1947.

With both teams level on points at the top of the League table, a keen game was played against Crouch End Vampires at Enfield, the "Hill" eventually winning comfortably. The game was closer than the score suggests, as the last two goals were scored towards the end of the second half. In the first half, play was very even and although playing against the wind, the "Hill" changed over, one goal up, scored by Ward. In the second half, the "Hill" had more of the game, but owing to some keen tackling by the Vampires' defenders, it was not until half way through that the "Hill" were able to increase their lead. Before the close two further goals were added. The goals in the second half were scored by Ward and Bailey 2, Bailey's second goal being an excellent first time shot from 25 yards.

In view of the excellent team work it would be out of place to mention any one particular member for his performance—each played his part in a very good victory. The "Hill's" defence was sound and the forwards combined well and brought off some fine movements, in fact great improvement was shown in rounding off the attacks.

Winchmore Hill 4, Crouch End Vampires 0.

January 18th, 1947.

In a S.A.L. game, the "Hill" gained a well deserved victory over Merton and thereby displaced them as leaders.

Although the "Hill" put in some early attacks, it was Merton who scored first—a high shot right in the sun baffling goalkeeper Gilroy. This reverse did not upset the "Hill" for after further pressure Manners equalised following good work on the right wing.

By playing very good football Merton were kept on the defensive for the remainder of the half and at the change over the score was 3—1 in favour of the "Hill" both goals being scored by Ward.

In the second half, the "Hill" were never quite able to produce the good form shown earlier on, and with Merton grimly determined to prevent more goals being scored against them, play became rather scrappy and no further goals resulted.

Some of the football produced by the "Hill" was first class—halves and forwards combining well. Ward had a good afternoon, thanks mainly to H. Lambert.

Winchmore Hill 3, Merton 1.

January 25th, 1947.

Playing at Dulwich in a S.A.L. game the "Hill" were somewhat lucky to draw with Borough Poly—the home side missing a penalty in the closing minutes of the game.

The "Hill" gave a somewhat disappointing display, especially after their form of the previous week, although it must be admitted that the frozen ground, on which the ball performed queer tricks, was not conducive to good football.

Following early pressure by the "Hill," Bailey opened the scoring. Although attacking hard, the "Hill" were not able to increase their lead and gradually the home side had more of the game and scored an equaliser just before half time.

The second half was very even, neither goalkeeper being seriously troubled until the last ten minutes, when Borough Poly pressed very hard and during this period Gilroy brought off several excellent saves including the one from a penalty.

Winchmore Hill 1, Borough Poly 1.

February 1st, 1947.

The "Hill" gained two more S.A.L. points at the expense of Ibis. The game was played on a ground covered with a heavy layer of snow and the "Hill" soon settled down to the conditions. By playing good football, the "Hill" were able to cross over at half time with two goals lead, although the defence of Ibis resisted strongly.

However, in the second half it was mainly all Winchmore Hill, and more goals were scored, but, if chances had been taken and the left-wing had moved the ball about more, the score would have been doubled.

Martin, in his first game for the reserves, played a strong attacking game and scored a goal. Other scorers were—Manners, Meyer, Hasemore one each and Bailey 2.

Winchmore Hill 6, Ibis 0.

February 8th, 1947.

Playing at home in a friendly match against Old Foresters the " Hill " had a very easy passage and won comfortably. The scorers were—Bailey 4, Ward, Manners, Meyer, and Martin 1 each.

Winchmore Hill 8, Old Foresters 2.

February 15th, 1947.

Our away match with Old Stationers was cancelled owing to the unfit state of the ground.

February 22nd, 1947.

Our home match with Reigate Priory was postponed owing to the frozen ground which was covered with several inches of snow.

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3rd XI REPORT.

December 21st, 1946.

Game cancelled owing to the unfit state of the ground.

December 28th, 1946.

Entertaining Norsemen in a friendly at Fords Grove, we managed to draw after a grand sporting game. During the first half, the " Hill " maintained pressure throughout, but could not penetrate the strong opposing defence until about fifteen minutes' play. Pain sent in a glorious twenty yards' drive which gave the goalkeeper no chance at all.

After the change over the " Hill " continued to press hard but Norsemen made some very dangerous break-aways and twice the ball was cleared from our goal line. These Norsemen efforts were continually frustrated by the fine play of Medlock and Pain, who both played very well. The equalising goal was an unfortunate affair for the " Hill," a faulty free kick given for offside went straight to the opposing centre-forward, who shot hard and straight into the net.

Winchmore Hill 1, Norsemen 1.

January 4th, 1947.

Owing to injuries, and promotions to the Reserves the 3rd XI fielded a greatly depleted side against Old Finchleians at Woodside Park, and paid the penalty. The " Hill " were constantly battling to overcome the superior teamwork of their opponents. At half time the score of 3—1 rather flattered the Old Boys, because during this half Alan Bacon was very unlucky with a drive against the cross-bar and three fine efforts by Sid. Cooper at centre-forward only produced one goal.

The second half, however, proved that knowledge of one another's play was a great advantage for Old Finchleians and they demonstrated this by scoring three further goals without reply. A final score of 6—1, however, does not reflect at all against a very hard-trying " Hill " side; the spirit was in the side but without good fortune to back it.

Winchmore Hill 1, Old Finchleians 6.

January 11th, 1947.

Crouch End Vampires won their match against the " Hill " as a result of their ability to speed up the game in the last twenty minutes of play. This period gave them three snap goals and a victory.

At half time, the score was one all, Pain, at left-half, showing the forwards the way to goal with a fine first time effort. On the resumption, the "Hill," although the mid-field play was very impressive, failed to turn opportunities to good account, in many cases due to over eagerness and sometimes just plain bad positioning.

When the Vampires eventually turned a stubborn defence into a forceful attack, the result was never in doubt.

Winchmore Hill 1, Crouch End Vampires 4.

January 18th, 1947.

Owing to several "cry-offs" the thirds had to make changes for their game against a strong Cuaco side at Catford Bridge. The "Hill" opened the score through Wilf. Bacon, but a defensive lapse, however, brought an equaliser. Two further goals to our opponents made the half-time score 1—3. The second half proved a repetition of the first and the final score in favour of Cuaco represented a fair result of the match. Wilf. Bacon and Pain added the two second half goals.

It was, however, an extremely enjoyable game on a first class pitch and judging by recent Cuaco results, the "Hill" scratch side put up a very creditable show.

Winchmore Hill 3, Cuaco 6.

January 25th, 1947.

On a frost-bound ground, when meeting Boro' Poly both sides played rather cautiously until getting the "feel" of the surface. The play, however, speeded up and a nice movement on the "Hill" left forced a corner about ten minutes after the start, and from the kick, an upswinger taken by Wilf. Bacon, the ball travelling to the far post was touched in by Bain.

On the resumption, Boro' changed their tactics and swung the ball about, this method brought results when a fast centre bumped awkwardly on the frozen surface and was breasted in by their centre-forward. After this rather unexpected equaliser, the "Hill" put on pressure and both Barrett and Jacques went close with fierce drives. The Boro' goal, rather fortunately for them, survived the onslaught and their half-backs got the forwards going, but they were firmly held by the "Hill" defence.

When everything pointed to a drawn game, a slip by a "Hill" defender allowed the Boro' right-winger to cut in and his drive to the far corner resulted in a full length save by the goal-keeper, who had the misfortune to see the ball cannon off his arms to the left-winger, who had closed in and scored the winning goal for the Boro' right on time.

Winchmore Hill 1, Boro' Poly 2.

February 1st, 1947.

The game against Norsemen proved to be exciting and well-fought on a ground covered deep with snow. Both sides were fully extended from the start and a little steadiness in front of goal would have given the "Hill" a comfortable first-half lead. The Norsemen, however, packed their goal tightly and kept their score sheet clean. In the second half, the "Hill" were facing a stiff breeze and the Norsemen quickly exploited the advantage it gave them and after a quarter of an hour, their pressure was rewarded when the winger put in a fast curling shot which found the net.

This rebuff had the effect of livening up the "Hill" attack but we could not press home the fine approach work. The Norsemen never flagged in their attempt to increase their lead and from a melee in front of the "Hill" goal mouth, the ball ricocheted off a defender into the net. From this goal, which was against the run of the play, the "Hill" stormed the Norsemen goal and eventually Jacques had the satisfaction of scoring a well-deserved goal. All efforts to get an equaliser failed and Norsemen grimly held on to their lead.

Winchmore Hill 1, Norsemen 2.

February 8th, 15th and 22nd, 1947.

All matches cancelled owing to the unfit state of the ground.

4th XI REPORT.

December 21st, 1946.

Game cancelled, owing to the unfit state of the ground.

December 28th, 1946.

Playing away to Old Stationers the "Hill" should have won by a fairly comfortable margin with a little more luck in front of goal. Within five minutes the "Hill" were one down owing to a defensive error, but quickly got on even terms when Alan Bacon nipping in smartly to a loose ball put it right away from the goalie. Ten minutes later, after continuous pressure, "Hill" went ahead through a first timer by Cooper.

Crossing over, one up, "Hill" were all attack and were very unlucky not to score several times—finally after Cooper and Bacon had hit the bar and posts—Alan Bacon banged a beauty into the net to make it 3—1. During the last ten minutes, however, O.S. fought hard and were lucky enough to get two goals to even the score. Eve was the best forward on the field and very good work was put in by Brand and Bonnet in defence, but the game was spoiled by too many petty fouls by the opposing defence.

Winchmore Hill 3, Old Stationers 3.

January 4th, 1947.

Playing at home against Crouch End Vampires, under very muddy conditions, our side lost, Wilsher scoring for Winchmore Hill.

Winchmore Hill 1, Crouch End Vampires 3.

January 11th, 1947.

Playing our return, away, against Crouch End Vampires, our side were again beaten. Gleed and Watterson scored for Winchmore Hill.

Winchmore Hill 2, Crouch End Vampires 6.

January 18th, 1947.

At home, on this occasion, our boys showed greatly improved form and won comfortably against National Provincial Bank. Goals were scored by Spence 2, Barker and Eve.

Winchmore Hill 4, National Provincial Bank 0.

January 25th, 1947.

Away to Crouch End Vampires, with only 10 men playing, our team received a trouncing, the final score being :—

Winchmore Hill 0, Crouch End Vampires 10.

February 1st, 1947.

Norsemen visited Fords Grove and lost. Our scorers were :—Cooper 2, Eve and Watterson.

Winchmore Hill 4, Norsemen 1.

February 8th, 15th and 22nd, 1947.

All the matches were cancelled owing to the unfit state of the ground.

OTHER CLUBS WE MEET.

Kew Association Football Club.

Strange to relate The Kew Club was formed from the Choir of St. Anne's, Kew, in the year 1906, competing originally in the Middlesex County Amateur League until 1914. From 1921 the Club competed in A.F.A. Senior Football, reaching the final of the A.F.A. Senior Cup in 1926-27, being beaten by Ealing Association at Highbury after a close game.

In 1928-29 won S.A.L. Division II without being defeated throughout that season gaining promotion to the Senior Division. Continued to make history in the Senior Division by losing practically every game and returning to Division II without delay where we have remained ever since.

Restarted this season with very high hopes which have not materialised, but nevertheless have enjoyed many fine games, particularly the one against the "Hill."

The Founder of the Club, Mr. K. W. G. Leatherdale, has this season been elected President, and continues to work wholeheartedly for the Club.

Harold Brookes (or Brookie to so many) will be well remembered, and although no longer associated with the Club continues to inspire the present Secretary. S. D. Corby is the present Captain, and in recent weeks our pre-war Skipper, Ken Brodie, has returned from the Navy and is assisting the Club again.

The majority of our old members have rallied round the Club again, and several new members have joined. We hope to run three teams regularly next season, the third competing in the Nemean League as previously.

Officers of the Club :

President : K. W. G. Leatherdale (Founder).

Hon. Treasurer : Dennis Oglesby; Hon. Match Secretary : C. R. S. Bartlett; Hon. Team Secretary : D. R. Sampson; Hon. Press Secretary : E. W. Fisher; Hon. Secretary : J. S. Taylor.

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PEN PORTRAITS.

VIC. HASKELL.

Vic. was well known at the "Hill" before he became an actual member, having figured in the opposition ranks on a number of occasions. In those days he was a member of a strong R.A.P.C. unit team and on his last appearance for this side against the "Hill" he notched three sparkling goals before realising that the unfortunate "Hill" goalie was a fellow native of his home town—Fulham.

This fact and the congenial atmosphere of the "Hill" bar resulted in Vic. deciding to become a member of our club. Immediately, Vic. was amongst the goals and with Noel Barber formed one of the most successful right-wings we have ever had.

Besides football he is keen on tennis, squash and has been known to bowl a pretty wood. In addition to these accomplishments, he is one of the few players who has aspired to sit in the great school of "vingt-et-un" which officially never sits.

We hope his stay with us will be long, but in friendly criticism, it is hoped that it will never be necessary for the other players again to suggest taking their newspapers on to the field.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS.

I played my first game of football at Winchmore Hill in the 2nd and 3rd XI trial match. After changing "new boy" style I was handed over to Gus. Gowers with a rather dry (it was 2.30 p.m.) "This is your centre-forward." I suppose a trial match does not inspire spectators to any great heights of vocal expression, beyond the usual descriptive epithets, and it seemed that the Winchmore Hill V.I.Ps. had an unusual control over their vocal organs. It seemed that the guardian Spirit of peaceful Sunday afternoon cricket still ruled. I have since noted that the flow of comment, criticism and opinion increases proportionately with the flow of that other stuff from bottle or barrel. Maybe 'tis better so, for the give and take to be tempered with mild and bitter. The lack of touchline life did seem a little strange to me. And talking of the touchline, I was surprised to find that on many Saturdays the club supplied no linesman.

In spite of a warm welcome by the officials, I was not very happy in my first three or four games. I did not seem to fit in with the Winchmore Hill scheme of things. My own failings seemed to loom large. However, having negotiated the introductory stage without being thrown out of the team (yet) or bar (yet), I have come to look forward to Saturday afternoons with both players and officials.

Since we visited West Wickham, I think it is a grand idea for certain officials to accompany the team on away trips. Not only does their enthusiasm encourage us but they also set such a cracking pace after the match.

My thanks to the players for enjoyable games, to the officials for encouragement and long suffering, and to the good ladies for their sausages and mashed.

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My first introduction to the Club was the summer of 1940, when taking a hasty three days' leave whilst my ship was undergoing repairs, I played a game of cricket for the "Hill." Many thanks due to my uncle who kindly stood down to enable me to play. I was impressed then by the friendliness and the "hail fellow, well met" spirit which was accorded me, even though I appeared from out of the blue, a "foreigner in a strange land." I was also well impressed by the facilities offered by the Club, the grand condition of the ground and wicket, and the way things were done generally. There and then, I knew that this was just the type of Club for me.

Fate and the war have brought me in this direction and I needed little prompting to join the club for the soccer season, wondering and hoping the while that I would make the grade.

My original impressions were fully justified by my reception, and I was immediately made to feel at home by the Hon. Secretary and the Match Secretary, together with Len Thompson and the bunch of jersey-clad figures, with whom I was soon tearing madly around the ground.

I was pleased to find a system of training before the opening of the season, and also the playing of trial games to give the selectors some idea of the talent at their disposal. Naturally enough, trial games are not always a fair test, and here again, I found the organisation quite good, for no matter how good a player appeared to be, he had to prove his worth by playing in the reserves sides before his selection for a higher side; this naturally inspires one to give of his best. I realise that we cannot all play for the first XI but in order to retain our good standard of football, we must have strong reserves to fall back on, in cases of injury, sickness, etc.

I also feel that the club has the right idea socially—there is a definite “esprit de corps” or shall I say club spirit, which I maintain is vitally essential to any club or any sport. What use as a team would we be if we were all daggers drawn in the dressing room and there was ill-feeling between members? Many a game can be either won or lost in the dressing room—it is half the battle taking the field as a team bound together by a strong team spirit—and the “Hill” has it.

And last, but not least by any means, I am a strong believer in the “odd jug” after the match which promotes the team spirit and assists greatly in fellows getting to know and understand each other—another great factor on my list to the credit side of the “Hill.”

All in all, I am extremely happy in being a member of the club and feel that my colleagues are a grand bunch of fellows.

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FORCES REMINISCENCES.

“THE ANDREW” (which translated means “The Royal Navy”) AS I SAW IT.

February 22nd, 1941, was a Saturday, and a very eventful day in my life. Not only was it my wife's birthday, but it was the day on which we were engaged. Moreover, it was the day I volunteered to serve in the Royal Navy. I suppose it was in my blood—my father served 12 years and my grandfather 36 years.

I received my papers calling me to the Colours on May 1st, 1941, and I started on my journey to Skegness to join H.M.S. Royal Arthur, wondering just what it was going to be all about.

My stay at Skegness lasted for five months and I completed a course which fitted me to become an ordinary signalman. Many pleasant hours were spent here on the sports field, cricket, football and athletics. I brought away numerous prizes for athletics, including a pair of bronze shields which now adorn the fireplace at home.

After leaving Skegness, Chatham Barracks was my port division. I stayed there just a short time and then came my first sea-going draft—a yacht on Irish Sea convoy escort duties, based at Holyhead in Anglesey. This job turned out to be fairly uneventful, up and down the Irish Sea, from Liverpool to Swansea, escorting small parts of ocean-going convoys. Christmas, 1941, arrived and the ship was in dock at Liverpool for repairs, and I did not get Christmas leave, also, to make matters worse, my Christmas parcels arrived ten days late, so I had a fairly grim time. From here the ship pushed on to Belfast and cut down her complement, and once again I travelled the long journey back to Chatham Barracks. Upon arrival, I was granted nine days “in-from-sea” leave and during this break I married my school-day sweetheart.

Four days later, I was on my way to Scotland to join an ocean-going destroyer which was escorting convoys across the then dangerous North Atlantic. On my way to join the ship I picked up three more ratings and was put in charge of them and instructed to deliver them safely to the ship. One of them was a handful, but I got him there eventually. He turned out to be a deserter, and at a later date shot his way out of the tiller flat of the ship with a revolver, narrowly missing an officer and two ratings.

I served aboard as leading hand of a signal watch, until November, 1942, having then completed thirteen crossings to Newfoundland. A point worth mentioning is that on the next trip the ship was torpedoed in mid-Atlantic, but by then I had had a strict medical and some well-earned leave, and started the long three months' grind for a commission, and what a grind.

Three Admiralty Selection Boards had to be negotiated before I started my training at the famous H.M.S. King Alfred at Hove. This course lasted for 3 months and, at last, the final day came and I went very thankfully to the tailors for my uniform and then home for a long week-end leave. I might mention here, that on my way home as an officer for the first time, I was mistaken at Wood Green for a bus conductor by a man requesting to know "Have you got any coppers, Joe?" I ask you, what a beginning.

I held my commission for just over three years and made many friends and many moves. During the summer of 1945 I skippered H.M.S. Westcliff at cricket and we had a record of 42 matches played—30 won, 8 drawn and 4 lost. During this season I compiled my one and only century to date.

Of course, at this time the invasion of Normandy had come and gone. I spent three months over the "other side" from D-Day morning until the end of August and living on a board 36 ft. long all the time was mighty uncomfortable.

Eventually, I was promoted Lieutenant and became 1st Lieut. of a trawler of the Isles class, engaged on the hazardous task of blowing up the wrecks around our coast to make it fit for shipping. For this I underwent a course of deep-sea diving and explosives—all very interesting.

Then, the big day came—I was demobbed on May 15th, 1946, having served for 5 years and 2 weeks. Not one moment do I regret, in fact, I would do it all again willingly, but there, I was one of the lucky ones who had liberal leaves to break the monotony and I take off the cap of the Senior Service to the boys of the Far East, whatever Service, who were away from home so many years, whether fighting, or, far worse, as prisoners, and I say "Well done" and "God bless you."

S. W. HASEMORE.

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CLUB JOTTINGS.

It is very much regretted that the publication of this issue has been unavoidably delayed owing to circumstances over which we had no control. Our printers were forbidden to use their machines on account of the fuel cuts.

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A very jolly and select band of supporters, including several ladies, accompanied the team by coach to Reigate on 22nd February, 1947. It was a most enjoyable trip, despite the arctic conditions, and the vocal efforts of the team on the way home added considerably to the pleasure of the journey.

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Who said "Come along sonny" and to whom?

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We have lost the services of Alan Bacon who joined the R.A.F. on January 22nd, 1947.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

(DIVISION 2—SENIOR SECTION)

Positions up to and including 15th March, 1947.

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals for	Goals agst.	Points
Winchmore Hill ...	13	10	2	1	59	18	22
Reigate Priory ...	11	7	2	2	38	21	16
Alexandra Park ...	9	6	1	2	39	15	13
Brentham ...	9	6	1	2	27	17	13
Old Parkonians ...	11	4	3	4	34	37	11
West Wickham ...	11	4	2	5	35	33	10
Kew Association ...	13	2	3	8	29	48	7
Old Latymerians ...	9	2	2	5	18	27	6
Alleyn O.B. ...	12	1	2	9	20	53	4
Ibis ...	8	1	2	5	11	41	4

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(DIVISION 2—RESERVE SECTION)

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals for	Goals agst.	Points
Winchmore Hill ...	12	8	2	2	40	13	18
Reigate Priory ...	10	7	1	2	34	15	15
Merton ...	12	6	2	4	33	18	14
Crouch End Vampires	9	6	1	2	25	18	13
Borough Poly ...	10	4	2	4	23	19	10
Midland Bank ...	10	3	3	4	23	25	9
Old Stationers ...	10	4	1	5	18	27	9
Ibis ...	11	2	—	9	11	48	4
Bank of England ...	10	1	—	9	6	30	2

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NEMEAN AMATEUR FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

(DIVISION 3.)

Positions up to and including 29th March, 1947.

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals for	Goals agst.	Points
Winchmore Hill 3rd.	17	10	1	6	66	35	21
Alexandra Park 3rd.	12	10	0	2	41	20	20
Ealing Association 3rd.	13	9	2	2	47	26	20
Borough Poly. 3rd....	14	10	0	4	47	27	20
Mayfield 3rd. ...	16	7	2	7	52	43	16
Crouch End Vps. 3rd.	13	7	1	5	51	30	15
Norsemen 3rd. ...	14	6	2	6	36	42	14
Lensbury 3rd ...	15	4	0	11	27	56	8
Trinity Old Boys 3rd	14	2	0	12	14	60	4
Old Latymerians 3rd.	12	1	0	11	14	56	2