

WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CHAT



With Compliments

WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CLUB

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Editorial

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WE rejoice that both 1st and 2nd XI's have won their leagues and have secured promotion to Division 1 S.A.L. Senior and Reserve Sections for the first time in an existence of 27 years. That performance is a credit to the entire Club.

We have been cursed with the worst weather in a half century, but have been blessed with that element of good fortune which comes at the right time to successful teams but seems to desert the less fortunate. We thank this season's rivals for the good soccer and pleasant companionship which we have enjoyed together, and we wish them good luck in the coming season and an early reunion in Division 1.

Inevitably, thoughts turn to 1947-8 and playing success depends in no small measure on the plans elected by your Committee this summer **before** the season opens. Every effort will be made to increase playing strength, to complete the levelling of the 1st XI pitch and to render training more attractive so that we achieve a flying start in our new divisions.

Much has been said about our successes this year, partly because we feel them to have been well-deserved and partly because since 1931 our only achievement has been the winning of the Wood Green Hospital Cup, 1943-4. However, it is to be hoped that none of us will lose sight of the fact that, as a club, we exist primarily to provide exercise of body and relaxation of mind in congenial surroundings and in pursuit of a game where the manner of winning is no less important than victory itself. The winning of competitions is incidental to and not the purpose of our existence. If we said that, at a moment when applying for re-election it might sound like an apologia for failure; in the present happy circumstances it will not be so misconstrued.



Photo by Courtesy of S. H. Kynaston.

Our Champions

1st XI REPORT.

March 1st, 1947.

Though a number of volunteers from among the supporters put in a useful hour's work clearing the pitch, conditions were far from ideal when Winchmore Hill played their postponed S.A.L. match with Alexandra Park at home.

Despite treacherous surface, both sides played methodical football, but many promising moves came to nothing owing to the difficulty of maintaining foothold. A.P.'s mid-field play was impressive, but it speaks well for the "Hill's" defence, in which Wiseman and Brooks were prominent, that Peters had little trouble with the shots that came his way. The "Hill" developed numerous attacks on the wings, mainly the left, and with Saw at centre-forward alert for any opening, A.P.'s goalie had a busy time and was fortunate to keep his charge intact when Haskell, who made a welcome reappearance at outside-right, shot inches wide.

Half-time arrived with no score and on resuming, A.P. paid marked attention to Alec Lambert at outside-left, but Skipper Gowers countered this with some long passes to the right wing and from one of these Saw opened the scoring. The "Hill" returned to the attack and A.P. were very fortunate to escape further penetration following a mix-up in goal. Following this, a long pass sent one of A.P.'s forwards away, and eluding the backs, he levelled the score.

The "Hill" made vigorous efforts to recover the lead and, with the right-wing more in evidence, Haskell and Cuttler, with powerful support from Murray, kept the opposition busy. Several scoring opportunities were narrowly missed and the game ended with a draw.

Winchmore Hill 1, Alexandra Park 1.

March 8th, 1947.

Game cancelled owing to unfit state of ground.

March 15th, 1947.

Winchmore Hill journeyed to Barkingside on Saturday to meet Old Parkonians but the ways of Local Authorities are often unfathomable and play was forbidden on a pitch that seemed to be in perfect condition. Perhaps they had forgotten it was Saturday. Both teams thereupon returned to Winchmore Hill and were just in time to play their League match in a raging blizzard. The Old Boys won 2—1 and although the home side may be considered unfortunate in that the visiting left-winger was palpably off-side when he received the pass that led to the first goal, they could not cavil at the result. The visitors did not waste their energy whereas Winchmore Hill team was loth to use one kick when five would do.

It is disappointing to see players running into position for the ball and finding themselves off-side because the inside forwards delay their final pass. The defence played well, particularly the half-backs and skipper Gowers, despite a nasty knock in the face, certainly remained "bloody but unbowed."

The home side scored first, a good centre from Haskell going in off a visiting defender, then came the visitors' equaliser and the half-time score was 1—1. Midway through the second half a breakaway led to the visiting inside-left netting from close range. This was Winchmore Hill's first League defeat but it will do no harm if the side profit by the experience.

Winchmore Hill 1, Old Parkonians 2.

March 22nd, 1947.

After weeks of football on grounds covered with ice and snow, Winchmore Hill had the pleasure of playing on a grass surface once again, when visiting Brentham and showed their appreciation by returning to winning form in a convincing manner. Perhaps even more encouraging than the score was the manner in which victory was obtained. On a very heavy surface the ball was made to do the work, added to which the whole side tackled as though they meant it and even more important, we had our men running into open spaces, calling for the ball and getting it, surely the axiom of good football.

As a result of all this, Brentham were played out well before the finish, although credit must be given them for never giving up against a younger side which was of stronger physique generally. Winchmore Hill scored first through Saw who converted a centre from Haskell whom, we are pleased to see is, at last, returning to his best form. Brentham equalised from a penalty, one of many queer decisions which mystified both teams. Saw restored the lead with a well-placed cross shot and Les. Lambert broke away to have a third.

In the second half, Murray, a half-back, making his debut as an inside-right registered a hat trick. Two good shots being followed by a penalty after a home defender had given quite a good imitation of a goal-keeper. Winchmore Hill can be well pleased and a continuation of this form will certainly ensure the League Championship.

Winchmore Hill 6, Brentham 1.

March 29th, 1947.

Game cancelled owing to unfit state of ground.

April 5th, 1947.

Winchmore Hill visited Alexandra Park and by winning 2—1 overcame their stiffest obstacle in their quest for promotion. The individual who coined the phrase "The slough of despond" must have played football once at A.P. in the mud. The conditions were appalling and 22 very weary players left the field after 90 minutes' gruelling play. Saw scored after eight minutes from a through pass by Denis Wade who seemed able to dig the ball out of the mire better than most. On one of the few occasions it was possible to get a passout to the wing, where the ground was firmer, Haskell completed a good run by crossing to Saw who scored again. A.P. fought back, however, and ruined the Winchmore Hill supporters' nerves by reducing the arrears with a goal from close

range. In a side, all of whom played well, Wiseman at centre-half was a tower of strength and one wonders how he managed to look comparatively clean at the end of the game. Finally, a bouquet to the referee, who was always on the spot, and controlled the game admirably.

Winchmore Hill 2, Alexandra Park 1.

April 7th, 1947.

Easter Monday. A leg-weary eleven played away to an even more leg-weary Old Latymerian side—their fourth game in four days. Winchmore Hill, however, were worthy winners and goals were scored by Les. Lambert 2, Martin 2, Saw, Alec Lambert and Haskell 1 each.

Winchmore Hill 7, Old Latymerians 2.

April 12, 1947.

Alleyn Old Boys visited us for our last game of the season. Winchmore Hill were on top from the start, the forwards, with able prompting from the wing-halves, making many swift raids and goals came at regular intervals, the half-time score being 6—0. Not unnaturally, perhaps, the pace slackened in the second half and the Old Boys, who never gave up trying, sandwiched in a good goal from a free kick for a foul by Wiseman.

Winchmore Hill goal-scorers were Saw 4 (a grand ninety minutes player if ever there was one), Alec Lambert 2, Haskell, Murray and Wiseman 1 each.

Winchmore Hill 9, Alleyn Old Boys 1.



Photo by Courtesy of S. H. Kyndston.

Our Champions, Also

2nd XI REPORT.

March 1st, 1947.

The match against the Royal Dental Hospital played at Colindale resulted in a win for Winchmore Hill. This game was played on an ice-bound surface with a very strong cross-wind and it did not reach any great heights as the opposition was rather poor. The scorers were:—Martin, Meyer and Bailey.

Winchmore Hill 3, Royal Dental Hospital 1.

2nd XI REPORT.

March 8th, 1947, and March 15th, 1947.

Both games cancelled on account of the unfit state of the ground.

March 22nd, 1947.

Midland Bank visited Winchmore Hill and had all the play in the opening stages of this game and scored after twenty minutes' play, but this goal saw the end of the supremacy of the Bank, as Winchmore Hill scored three times through Bailey, Manners and Ward. The "Hill" had the better of the second half when playing down the slope although, by this time, the pitch was very badly cut up and extremely muddy. Ward and Manners added further goals and by the time the final whistle was sounded both teams had "had it."

Winchmore Hill 5, Midland Bank 1.

March 29th, 1947.

This match against Borough Polytechnic was played at Herne Hill owing to the Fords Grove pitch being unplayable. The Polytechnic were hoping to go one better than the draw in the previous encounter, but had their ideas rudely shattered by our boys scoring 3 goals in the first fifteen minutes. The "Hill's" wing play was particularly prominent. The Polytechnic had their moments but found skipper Attwood and Kebbell (in goal) in excellent form. The "Hill" scored two more goals by half time and then three more in the second half to one by the Poly.

Wade, at right-half, played a strong game and scored two fine goals, the other scorers were Ward 3, Bailey, Cuttler and Hasemore one each.

Winchmore Hill 8, Borough Polytechnic 1.

April 5th, 1947. No match.

April 7th, 1947.

Easter Monday. Reigate Priory visited Fords Grove and had to play one man short for the first twenty minutes and Winchmore Hill took full advantage of this by scoring four goals through Ward, Manners, Cuttler and Bailey and completely dominated the play in the first half. Play slackened somewhat in the second half but Winchmore Hill had the best of the exchanges and scored two further goals through Frank Thompson and one own goal. Sandwiched between these Reigate Priory scored the best goal of the match for which their inside-right was responsible. This game marked the return of F. Thompson to the second team after a long absence through injury.

Winchmore Hill 6, Reigate Priory 1.

April 15th, 1947.

Tuesday evening. Playing away to Old Stationers the pitch at Barnet was in a deplorable state and right against any kind of good football. Winchmore Hill started off at a fast pace and had a shot at goal on every possible occasion and were unlucky not to score more than once (a terrific shot by Bailey) in the first half. Old Stationers goal had a charmed life, if the goalie was not there, either a back or half-back got in the way. Bailey scored again in the second half and the scoring was completed by Meyer, a nicely placed header. The members of the second team much appreciated the attendance of the Winchmore Hill supporters, especially seven members of the 1st XI team.

The good results of the season's play cannot be attributed to any one outstanding player, but to the excellent team spirit and enthusiasm which has existed throughout the season, and this has been particularly noticeable in the matches played away from home.

Winchmore Hill 3, Old Stationers 0.

March 1st, 1947.

3rd XI REPORT.

Trinity County O.B. visited Fords Grove and Winchmore Hill gained their biggest victory of the season, also it was the first occasion without any goals in the "against" column. Playing on a very icy surface, the "Hill" adapted themselves to the conditions much better than the Old Boys, who found it very difficult to control the ball. A very welcome inclusion in the team was Denis Wade who found the net three times, being beaten only by Stan. Bell who scored four goals, Wilf Bacon made the total eight.

Winchmore Hill 8, Trinity County O.B. 0.

March 8th, 1947.

Game cancelled owing to unfit state of the ground.

March 15th, 1947.

Two games were played in one afternoon both versus Old Latymerians. This arrangement was brought about owing to previous cancellations through the bad weather. The first game is the only one really worthy of note, as both teams were reasonably well-matched, with the "Hill" getting the better of the exchanges and finding the net four times to their opponents' one. Stan. Bell, who was really on his toes during both games, scored three times and Sid Pain (penalty) once.

Winchmore Hill 4, Old Latymerians 1.

The second game was played in a blinding snow-storm, the "Hill," coming home at a canter, winning by 8—1. The "Hill" brought in four fresh players for this game whereas Old Latymerians had to be content with the same eleven and this gave us a very unfair advantage as the score suggests and very few members gained any satisfaction from the result, more sympathy being felt for our unfortunate opponents. The scorers were Bell 5, Spence, Barratt and Pain (penalty) one each.

Winchmore Hill 8, Old Latymerians 1.

March 22nd, 1947.

Playing against Trinity County O.B. away and despite the prevailing floods, the surface, though very slippery, was tolerable. The "Hill" was strengthened by the inclusion of Hasemore, F. Thompson and Martin. Winchmore Hill pressed but the slippery conditions made ball control, near goal, difficult. Bell's effort was rewarded by a good goal by Martin, after some fifteen minutes. Shortly after this, an equaliser came from a break-away by Trinity and at half time the score was one all. Some indecisive football by the "Hill" followed through holding the ball too long. Goals, however, were bound to come and a good effort by Bell put us ahead again. Frank Thompson then placed a fast ball across the goal-mouth with the defence spreadeagled and a further goal to the Hill resulted. Trinity County reduced the lead by a good goal, but in the closing stages Bell and Jacques clinched the issue. The scorers were Bell 2, Martin, F. Thompson and Jacques one each.

Winchmore Hill 5, Trinity County O.B. 2.

March 29th, 1947.

A seemingly weak XI visited Teddington to meet Lensbury. The result was indeed an achievement, the team being composed mainly of 4th XI players strengthened by three regular members of the 3rd XI, namely, Bain, Barratt and Bonnett.

Playing on a perfect surface, Winchmore Hill played good football always making the ball do the work, passing at the right time and seldom giving way to individualism. The three B's formed a triangle on the right wing and gave the Lensbury defence no peace throughout, continually opening out the play with grand bouts of inter-passing, a policy which paid with interest, as all five goals came from that direction. Although failing to score himself, Barratt took the honours on the day's play, giving direct passes for four of the five goals, two finding the net via the head of Gleed and two by way of Brand's right foot. Bonnett scored the fifth with a fine drive of over 30 yards. One must mention the good play by Gleed who, at outside-left, was always a menace to the Lensbury defence and apart from scoring twice with nicely directed headers, went very close with some sure-footed drives. The sixth goal was scored by a good drive from Barratt.

Winchmore Hill 6, Lensbury 1.

3RD XI REPORT.

March 29th, 1947.

A second 3rd XI team was fielded on this day to enable us to fulfil 3rd XI League fixtures and on this occasion we visited Crouch End Vampires at Enfield. The side should have been captained by Bill Jacques, but unfortunately he was taken ill suddenly and Pain acted in his stead. We were very fortunate however in being able to call on the services of Reg Saw to fill the vacancy. Crouch End Vampires started strongly and before Winchmore Hill had settled down, they opened the scoring. Their success, however, was short-lived as Martin and Saw developed a very good understanding and the Vampires were forced more and more on the defensive, consequently goals came regularly and at half time the "Hill" led 4—1. On the change-over Winchmore Hill continued to have the better of matters in the second half but C.E.V. who were always trying to reduce the arrears, kept the "Hill" defence busy. Winchmore Hill scored two further goals and the Vampires one. Our scorers were :—Saw 2, Martin 2, Meyer and Pain 1 each.

Winchmore Hill 6, Crouch End Vampires 2.

April 5th, 1947.

Playing away to Ealing Association, we completed our League fixtures but on a sad note, being defeated by 5—3. This was an unfortunate result as we were at one time leading by 3—1, Ealing however, ringing the changes, in the second half by rather unnecessary rough play. Although the "Hill" were partly responsible for their defeat through playing the ball too close and confining play to the right wing and completely starving the left. Bell opened the scoring within a few minutes of the kick-off, Gleed adding a second very shortly after with a fine header from a centre by Sid Cooper and Pain made no mistake from a penalty for hands. Ealing replied twice and at the change over the Hill were leading 3—2. Ealing equalised after about fifteen minutes' play in the second half and almost at once took the lead through a defensive error. The "Hill" pressed hard to equalise and went close to scoring but without any luck. Ealing produced a fifth goal just before the final whistle.

In all fairness it must be said that the better team won after a very hard-fought and robust game. Another factor which added to the Hill's defeat was, that five of the team having played the previous day (Good Friday) were very leg-weary owing to the muddy and heavy state of the ground.

Winchmore Hill 3, Ealing Association 5.

4th XI REPORT.

March 1st and 8th, 1947.

Both matches cancelled owing to unfit state of ground.

March 15th, 1947.

Played at Perivale and resulted in a win for Ealing Association. Ealing won because they played together, whereas Winchmore Hill were individualistic. In all fairness, however, it must be stated that our boys were not accustomed to playing together regularly. Meakin, in goal, Pamm at back and Eves at left-half played extremely well. The "Hill's" forward line suffered through Cooper having to go on the wing, owing to injury. It must also be noted that Winchmore Hill had to face a blinding snow blizzard throughout the second half.

Winchmore Hill 0, Ealing Association 3.

March 22nd, 1947.

We visited Ealing to play against Barclay's Bank but it was a day of misfortune for Winchmore Hill as a late cry-off compelled them to start one man short and after ten minutes' play, Buck injured his knee and was a passenger for the rest of the game. The going was very heavy and under the circumstances our defence put up a good performance in holding a very useful Bank side to 3 goals. Meakin (in goal) played particularly well.

Winchmore Hill 0, Barclay's Bank 3.

FORCES REMINISCENCES.

It seemed odd to be asked to write about my experiences instead of being urged to "Get some time in," as more usually happens. The charge may well be laid against me but although my career was enviably short, many things stick out in my mind. The first of these still makes me smile when I recall it.

As one of the fortunate London students evacuated to Cambridge, I submitted myself for the initial breaking in to the vagaries of the Navy, to the University Naval Division at Downing College. It was my lot, one day, to take over a small class for field training with a sphere of operations in the drive, just inside the main gate. Marching my six stalwarts away from the gate, turning them about to advance towards me, I was standing with my back to the road and was blind to the fact that a large contingent of R.A.F. trainees had just swept in through the gate and was bearing down on us. When I did discover their presence, the sight of this vast array about to swamp my tiny squad was absurd enough and amusing enough, to make it difficult to get any corrective orders out. The picture which came to my mind of a 180 degree turn, with the R.A.F. chasing us down the drive was funnier still, and I was thankful to avoid a precipitous withdrawal by turning them off at an angle so that they skirted round the flank of the opposition, rather in the manner of an Austin Seven and a double-decker bus. I breathed again and readily gave over command to another victim.

Those early days of training in the cold, curtainless, carpetless rooms of Downing were full of a spirit which was to stay with us as a group throughout the whole of the year, and which then, I fancy, we took away individually to our many different spheres. It was born of a quick excitement at what lay ahead, and a faint nostalgia at knowing that in a few months we would meet there no more, that we should have to give up all that we had in Cambridge and which seemed so good, and that we would miss this very spirit of the Downing rooms when we had mustered and been dismissed there for the last time. In the seven days of a week, we were students for six and ratings for one, and were living in the past, the present, and the distant future in our work, and in the immediate future in our training. It was a very unique spirit we fostered there. Although we met later in varying sized groups at different places, between Inverness and Pompey, we had by then lost our double identity and had the real business in hand, in place of a sense of uniqueness.

Some of us, in fact, came to earth with a bump in our first meeting with the sea—a Friday the thirteenth. I might have taken an omen from that. Two or three days out I could cheerfully have jumped into the angry waves which were surging round us and have done with it all! And yet, even through all that ghastly wretchedness of sea-sickness I was impressed enough to remember still the stirring picture our squadron made in the greyness of that storm.

I was perched up during one Morning Watch in a revolving look-out's chair on a wing of the bridge being thrown violently about by every lurch the ship made. For all my kicking against the bridge plating, I could not stop a sudden twist which brought me facing aft. There on the stern was the Ensign fluttering on its staff, a silly little piece of bunting flapping across the view of the next ship in line ploughing into every wave and rearing up covered in foaming spray and green water which gushed off her deck as she kicked and rolled and struggled on. Only four hundred yards away, and she was as inaccessible as though she were four hundred miles! Yet there was, somehow, a unity about us for she would follow us at that distance until we were back at anchor in harbour, while still being inaccessible. It was a strange feeling, and a wonderful sight. It even made me forget how ill I was and how damned uncomfortable was my seat which still writhed about beneath me like some mad thing.

After that ignominious beginning, I knew that I need expect nothing worse—I'd been ill before we passed the Butt of Lewis on that first night—and although I could usually reckon on seeing two or three meals come and go without being touched on any but the quietest trip, I was, broadly speaking, right.

In West Africa, I was on one occasion very impressed by the sudden changing of the weather and its reactions on us. Its infinite variety is a well known theme, and on this trip I found a close relationship between her mood and ours.

For three days we had beaten our way into a head sea and wind, and in a small motor launch that meant a lot of buffeting and very little sleep. For three days we had faced biting, stinging rain, which at night reduced visibility to nil and made things even more uncomfortable, and had watched the tiny bows of the craft dip into the waves and fight their way through. There was a sort of personal triumph in watching this. The ship was so small and yet seemed to come through the buffeting so easily and dive in for more. She seemed to be a part of the whole scene, perfectly at home, quite confident of coming through.

We became stimulated by this activity. The boisterous sea and howling wind seemed to give us vigour and power. Though we were without sleep we felt alive and bright, and we joked and laughed and felt invigorated.

And then suddenly the storm blew itself out in the night, and when dawn came the sea was flat and still. Hardly a ripple broke the surface and only the swishing of water down the ship's side could now be heard. The sky was overcast and dull, the far horizon straight and flat. We seemed suddenly to be isolated from everything. We didn't belong in that hot, dead, quiet calm, and involuntarily we lost our sparkle and life. A four hour watch seemed an eternity. The dull, grey, tropical heat-haze seemed to put us all to sleep and we became dull and bored.

West African weather gave us many a bad moment, the worst I think one night at anchor off the Ivory Coast, when a hurricane sprang up. Half the crew, including the C.O., were stranded ashore and spent the night in an African village while we, as the saying goes "rolled our guts out all night." The most pitiful thing I ever remember was the sight of our African galley-boy on that occasion. He was at sea for the first time, and when I saw him he was crouching on the deck, cringing up against a table leg trying to make himself small. There was sheer terror in his eyes as he looked up and saw the whole mess-deck around him switching violently from side to side, accompanied by the clattering and crashing of loosened tins, boxes, cutlery and china, a howling wind and the roaring of the waves on the beach. He thought his end had come that night, and when we reached harbour he fled ashore and never returned.

He went, I believe, with The Sailor to make his home so far inland that when he unpacked an anchor from his bag, he was asked to explain what the instrument was for!

And would I join them there? No, I think not. I must own to a certain affection for the sea.

DENNIS WADE.

When one comes to think of it it's quite amazing what a lot can happen in six and a bit years yet leave hardly anything worth the telling. Which goes to prove what a humdrum, boring, existence it all must have been, when one excepts, of course, the short, sharp, leaves (both "French" and otherwise) in the "fleshpots" of Cairo, Alex., Jerusalem, Haifa, Tunis, Algiers, Naples, Rome, Sorrento, Capri, Florence, Como, Venice and—I say, what an awful lot of leaves one must have had! Better shut up, I suppose, before I'm told that I'm anxious for the next war!

Other more prolific minds and pens having expounded of the joys of Bacchanalian revelry I'll leave them to it and see what, of passing interest, I can conjure in other directions.

Friendly Matches. Yes, the words alone make you sit up, don't they? It's well known that never do we gird our loins, grit our teeth, square our jaws and sally forth with such set intent as when about to participate in a "friendly" game. The Rules though well established are omitted from the Handbook. They can be summarised thus:—

1. Get stuck in: show these pals of ours that although we are the jolliest and kindest chaps in the bar we don't take sentiment on to the football field.

2. Apply the velvet glove: a policy of partial appeasement should be pursued by a "Sorry, old boy," as one's opponent bites the dust. It costs very little and helps to preserve the amenities.

Here are a couple that spring to mind:—

The First. The scene—the soccer ground of the R.M.A., Woolwich. The occasion—Officers versus Sergeants match, March, 1940. Having been posted on orders for a week or two beforehand a considerable amount of publicity within the Bn. had been given to the affair and a Bn. "turn out" was expected for the occasion. It was accepted generally that the football would not be of the highest order; almost a secondary consideration in fact. The officers were not expected to "have a clue" as to the game in the opinion of the masses, whilst the Sergeants had only two representatives in the Bn. side and were not considered "much cop."

The Bn. was very soccer conscious having a side composed of youngsters (chiefly real football "brains" from the new intake) which had recently killed many giants and drawn with the Garrison side (the previous year's finalists in the Army Cup or United Services or something). The teams took the field—howls of applause, tempered with derision, rent the air. The figures of certain of the officers, never seen before outside their "pretties," excited a certain amount of ribald and good-natured comment. Whilst well disciplined we were after all a T.A. Bn. and a certain genial understanding existed when it came to fair comment in the open. The kick-off—and then a flurry of excited, keen, but poor football ensued. The Second-in-Command (Captain of the All-India Hockey side in his day) darted away with the ball at his feet and was straightway dubbed "Twinkletoes" by the crowd.

The M.T. officer was told he ought to have brought his motor bike with him.

The Adjutant, when beaten to the ball and pushed abruptly on his face, was adjured to "shove him on C.O.'s orders."

The C.O., who was playing a nimble game in goal, was greeted with enthusiastic "Well played, Sir-s," every time he did anything at all and sympathetic "Jolly bad luck, Sir-s," when he retrieved the ball from the back of the net.

Meantime, certain opponents in the game were "sorting themselves out" in the approved style and shouts of "Do 'im, Sarge," and "Week's Orderly Sergeant for you" were heard from the touchline. One officer, about 6 ft. 3 ins. and 14 stones of bone and muscle, an Olympic Games running man, was more than holding his own in the fray and, when he got in the midst of things and the Sergeants were falling like hay in the wind, there was vociferous applause from the line. Naturally enough, one of the fleetest Sergeants was told off to slide tackle him whenever he looked dangerous and various tableaux of bodies, arms and legs were thereby afforded—howls of amusement!

Things were reaching a climax when a rugger playing officer tucked the ball in the crook of his arm and sped away willy nilly. The pace was too hot to last and the reaction set in. Gradually the Sergeants were allowed to move the ball around without too much interruption, although their too enthusiastic defence left wide gaps through which the officers, with little cohesion, would make electrifying dashes from time to time.

At full time the officers had "had it"—the Sergeants were replete in victory and the crowd had worn itself out with laughing and shouting. And so the teams limped in to the hospitality of the Officers' Mess and welcome drinks.

The officers wreaked their revenge in the Rugger match.

The Second. In sweltering heat in the summer of '45 the Bn. team met a powerful Milan club side on a fine pitch in a large stadium. Some very good football was served up in the first half with the "wops" beating us for speed and doing some very clever things but most of the football brains being supplied by us. Some excited handling and questionable play by the "Ities" up to half time but nothing to complain about really. We were one up.

On the resumption, when our chaps went to mark their erstwhile opponents, eyebrows were raised when it was found the Italians had made five changes in their side introducing fresh men. "Okay," said the Skipper to the ref. "Let's forget it and play on." So play on they did. The Italian side scored a good goal and then went down the field again the ball being passed to a man in a palpably offside position. The ref., of course, blew up but short of a good burst from a tommy gun there was nothing on earth which would stop Pasquale putting the ball in the back of the net. Then ensued the pantomime: the ref. (a neutral) pointed to the place for the free kick for offside to be taken. Eleven screaming Italians (even including the goalkeeper) hurtled down the field and clustered around him calling upon all the saints in their overcrowded calendar to convince this poor fool of a ref. that it was **not** offside and that it couldn't have been for 17 different reasons. Pandemonium! Our team couldn't get a look in.

The ball was placed for a free kick; an excited "wop" picked it up and rushed upfield to place it on the centre spot. One of our boys rooted it back again and—our opponents left the field with waving arms, foaming mouths and terrible maledictions to all and sundry.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS.

(1) Part of the Bn. was out in "the Blue" in early 1942 with a U.M.F. (Ultra Mobile Force—not to be confused with an M.F.U.). An officer with a truck, a few men, and a set had been ordered to a certain location to report movement, etc., at certain stated times or in the event of anything popping. Came the evening check up on the air: "No, nothing happening—haven't seen a thing—(a bit more "waffling" about nothing)—all quite dull—just having evening brew—hello, what's this—a Jerry armoured car—and—Christmas!—another!—I'm afraid I'm in the bag . . ." Silence! He wasn't seen again for years!

(2) The truck and crew all alone enjoying a brew. "That's not a 109 it's a . . ." Ten seconds later: "All okay? Here quick—the xxxxx—right through the blue pencil brew can and half the char gone."

(3) To driver in truck whilst "swanning" (meandering around by oneself). "Hold it—that truck just ahead has got it's back wheels blown off." "So it has."

"And that quad over there's got a front wheel blown off." "Well, well."

(The dawning thought: "Oh, goody, goody! We're in a minefield.")

"Now put her in reverse—take her very slow—and I'll stand up and direct you back on our tracks. We'll be quite safe then." WOOMP!!

COLD COMFORT.

(1) The trite remarks to a chap who was caught literally "with his trousers down" by a surprise Jerry ground strafing plane and was thereby "pipped" in the calf.

"It might have been a lot worse, pal."

"That's what comes of exposing yourself to the enemy; lucky he didn't score a bull."

(2) The rifleman's remark after cadging and smoking one of his pal Nobby's home-made fags and being told, after a few puffs, what they were made of (a subtle mixture of "V" dog-ends and tea leaves well dried after the seventh immersion). "Ah well, I always was fond of a nice Egyptian cigarette." Puff, puff—blissful long drawn inhaling of smoke—"Better'n Camels."

W. JACQUES.

* * * *

On 21st December, 1946, I was demobilised and so ended a period of $4\frac{1}{2}$ years service in the Army. I entered the Royal Regiment of Artillery (Field) and had the pleasure of staying with the "Gunnery" throughout my Army career, during which I served with six Regiments. It was with the 77th and 22nd Field Regiments that I saw service in Greece.

The time spent in Greece was very interesting. One of the most enjoyable locations was at Eleventhropolis, a little village ten miles from the port of Kavalla in Eastern Macedonia. The Regiment was stationed in a Greek Cavalry Barracks on the outskirts of the village which consisted of three thousand inhabitants. It was during the stay in this location that wolves attacked the camp, sending eleven of the guard to hospital to be treated for prevention of rabies.

A very good time was spent during the Regimental Football tour, when Salonika and Verroia were visited. This tour took place during the summer months in weather more suited to cricket and swimming.

Whilst stationed in Athens I was sent on a course to the School of Artillery at Civita Vecchia (two hours' journey from Rome) and as passes could be obtained during the weekends, I was able to see most places of historical interest in Rome. The return to Athens gave me the opportunity of seeing Naples and Bari.

Promotion was gained steadily, the rank of Sergeant being obtained in June, 1946. While holding that rank I had two months' spell as Battery Quartermaster Sergeant.

CYRIL D. HATCH.

WINCHMORE HILL F.C.

SUPPER

E.O. WELSHFORD

J.A. SIMM

J. FERRABY

P. ATTWOOD

R.W. GOWER

L.J.W. SMITH

R.H. McLEOD

W.E. JACQUES

E.S. BIRCH

T.A.J. BENNETT

L.B. BROWN

C. COUTTS

D. ATTWATER

S. GARBETT

Sgt. AMBRIDGE

D. WRIGHT

D. ASHBY

R.C. BENSTEAD

F.L. SQUETTIER

H. ELINGORN

A. RISSBROOK

A.H. RISSBROOK

J. LOMATH

C. WHITE

E.H. HURBARO

S. LLOYD

J. FLAXMAN

J. LAXTON

H. COUTTS

E.P. WILLIAMS

K. CUSHEN

IAN. BRUCE

A.G. COOPER

D. WEEEDON

J. DIGGINS

E. WATSON

J. PARTRIDGE

J.G.W. SMITH

R.A. BRAND

S.E. CUTTLER

S. LEAVENS

D. STEVENS

B. TATIERMAN

T. KINGSBURY

W.T. WALLACE

MYLTON CLEAVER

J. LOWMAN

J. PETERS

V.A. HASKELL

O.S. EVE

A.S. GLEED

J. SPENCE

J. PEARL

L. LAMBERT

F. THOMPSON

A.E. MURRAY

E. WISEMAN

J. MEYER

D.H. SANDELL

B. CARTER

K. BAIN

J. JOHNSON

C. GARBETT

S. KYNASTON

E.S. KYNASTON

H. NEWTON

R. SAW

K. CHAMBERS

E. EAMES

E. GRINT

A. LAMBERT

H. LAMBERT

W. BROOKS

K.H. NORMAN

D. WADE

J. HAYNES

A.H. HARWOOD

F. HILL

L. MOORE

A.E. RANDLE

G.R. ROBERTS

C. TOPPING

H.S. KNIGHT

N. BARBER

F.C. HAWKER

L. FLOWER

A. HOWARD

A. HAYWARD

T. MARSHALL

S. F. PLANT

F. BAILEY

L. THOMPSON

C. HATCH

S. SMITH

F.G. HARRADENCE

R. LISTER

C. STACEY

W. DANCE

S. THORLEY

K. WHITE

H.C. WOOTTON

G. SMITH

F. HUNTER

H. BENNETT

S.S. FRYKE

G.K. BARKER

S. BELL

P. MANNERS

G.E. WILSHER

C.J.H. PAM

C.B. BRIGHTMAN

S.R. WADE

H. BROOKS

R.G. JAMES

W.A. VICKERY

F. KEER

B. CLARK



Annual Supper

Under the Presidency of the Chairman, Mr. L. J. W. Smith, the Club held its Annual Supper in the Pavilion on Friday, 17th April, 1947, and straightway it can be said it was a huge success.

Over one hundred players, members and friends sat down to an excellent repast. Mr. L. E. Brown, who has been a player, Hon. Secretary, and a member of the Committee for a considerable number of years, in proposing the toast of the Club, stated that its success was not due merely to a few star players but to years of steady progress. From friendly matches in the early days we had progressed through various leagues and divisions and had now reached the height of our ambition by being promoted to Division 1 of the Southern Amateur League. Mr. Brown paid high tribute to the Captain of the Club, Mr. R. W. Gowers, and said that while credit for the season's success went first to the players, praise must also be given to the officers, for they were just as proud of the club's success as were the players.

Mr. R. W. Gowers, responding to the toast, said there was a difference of opinion as to whether the present 1st XI was the best that had ever represented the club, but whether or not it was so, the present was the best all-round season ever, as the first and second teams had both won the championship of their respective divisions. Despite their success there were in the 1st XI no fewer than six men playing in positions for which they considered nature had not designed them. (Laughter.) While all had played their part, he must specially mention Johnnie Peters, one of the best goalkeepers in the League, Alec Lambert, whose ball control and opportunism is of a high standard, and Reg Saw, centre-forward, who has scored 38 goals, despite his unselfish play.

Mr. Gowers also said that there was no doubt whatever that the second team had had its best season ever. F. Bailey, centre-forward, had scored 33 goals and was well worth a place in the first team. The 3rd XI had scored 21 points in 18 games and finished fourth in the Nemean League 3rd Division. For them Stan Bell had scored 21 goals and for the second team 8. The fourth team had played seventeen games, won 7, drawn 3 and lost 7. Our Captain also praised the work of the officers of the club and specially mentioned the Chairman; the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. Ferraby; the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. E. O. Welsford and the Hon. Team and Match Secretary, Mr. E. P. Williams. The spirit of the club was a guarantee to the future and he ended with these words:—"Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we will have a crack at Division 1." (Great applause.)

At 9 p.m. a toast to "Absent Friends" was proposed by the Chairman.

Mr. R. H. McLeod, former chairman and Life Member, admirably proposed the toast of "Our Guests." He extended a very warm welcome to all guests and friends and said it was most refreshing to see such a good gathering and he felt sure they all appreciated the homely atmosphere and he knew they were all enjoying themselves.

Mr. D. R. Attwater (Old Latymerians F.C.) in responding, thanked the Club for its hospitality and congratulated all concerned on its success. He stated that it was a pleasure to meet players of the A.F.A. who played the game, not for what they got out of it, but for enjoyment and with good sportsmanship.

Mrs. Welsford, Mrs. Ferraby and Mrs. Williams were congratulated and thanked for the splendid meal served and also for their wonderful organisation. Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. Gowers, Mrs. Randle and Miss Marjorie Styles, their helpers, were also thanked.

During the evening, Mr. Reg Salmon, M.I.M.C. (Illusionist), Mr. Geo. Gray (B.B.C. Entertainer) and Billy Cunard, Comedian, entertained. Mr. S. H. Kynaston was a very enthusiastic and capable Toastmaster. A memorable evening closed with "The King" and Auld Lang Syne.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Football Club was held in the pavilion on Friday, 30th May, 1947, and the attendance was very satisfactory, considering the oppressive heat. Members being in a conciliatory frame of mind, no matters of acute controversy arose for discussion, and the chairman had an easy time. A good deal of business was dealt with and it seems that next season may be as highly successful as the one just past.

Before proceedings began all present stood for a few moments to mark the passing, since the last Meeting, of Mr. E. G. Christie, former player and Team and Match Secretary; and of Mr. Edward Scavington, one of our vice-presidents of very long standing.

The Committee's Report for the year was read by the Secretary, and accepted without discussion. The Report showed that the final results for the four XIs for season 1946/7 were :

			Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals for	Goals agst.
1st XI	...	...	24	18	2	4	102	37
2nd XI	...	...	23	18	2	3	100	30
3rd XI	...	...	23	11	2	10	80	57
4th XI	...	...	17	7	3	7	50	51

After the season proper was concluded the 1st XI played a friendly match, for Charity, against a Finchley F.C. 2nd XI on Saturday, 31st May, and won by 5—3.

The Accounts were submitted by the Treasurer and accepted by the Meeting after little discussion. The Treasurer pointed out that the cash balance had been reduced by approximately £50 as a result of the season's working. He commented on the very satisfactory increase in the profit made in the canteen. Some items of expenditure were non-recurring, but steps were taken, by resolution later during the Meeting, to increase the income in the course of next season. It was reported that the amounts paid over to the Parent Club as a result of its share of proceeds of the Special Effort were being placed in the Ground Development Account separately kept in the Parent Club's Accounts, and would not be brought into its General Account.

Mr. R. W. C. Gowers proposed, and Mr. A. G. Cooper seconded, that alterations in Rules 3 and 5 should be made to permit of subscriptions being increased in order to meet the fall in income and/or increase in expenditure recorded during last season. After an amendment proposed by Mr. L. Lambert and seconded by Mr. V. Haskell, which retained the Junior Membership subscription as before, had been accepted, the Meeting carried unanimously Mr. Gower's proposition, as a result of which the subscriptions for next season will be :—

Vice-Presidents	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Honorary Members	...	...	...	...	0	10	6
Senior Playing Members	...	...	...	...	2	2	0
Junior Playing Members	...	...	...	...	0	15	0
Entrance Fee (payable before election)	...	...	...	...	0	10	6

The following Officers were elected for season 1947-8 :

President :	Miss I. Paulin.
Vice-Presidents :	Elected en bloc.
Chairman :	Mr. L. J. W. Smith.
Hon. Secretary :	Mr. J. Ferraby.
Hon. Team and Match Secretary :	Mr. E. P. Williams.
Hon. Treasurer :	Mr. E. O. Welsford.
Captain of the Club :	Mr. R. W. C. Gowers.
Hon. Auditor :	Mr. R. L. B. Guettier.
Committee :	Messrs. P. A. Attwood, A. Murray, A. G. Cooper, S. Garbett, P. Manners, R. L. B. Guettier, L. E. Brown.

The Chairman thanked the Members for his re-election, and stated his intention to retire from that Office at the next A.G.M. He considered that, as he would then have served for four years, it would be time to make room for another, and that it would not be difficult to find a thoroughly competent successor.

Regarding arrangements for season 1946/7, it was reported that the 1st and 2nd XIs, having each won championships in Division 2 of the Senior and Reserve Sections respectively of the S.A.L. would be competing in Division 1 of that League. Congratulations were offered to the captains of the XIs, Mr. R. W. C. Gowers and Mr. P. A. Attwood, and also to all players who had loyally supported their captains. It was further remarked that every assistance had been given to the Selection Committee by players in the lower sides, who had suffered somewhat at times by the necessity of playing the strongest sides possible so that the 1st and 2nd XIs might have every opportunity of being successful in securing promotion. It was mentioned that there was a possibility of the 4th XI being able to compete in the Nemean League, as before the war, and if that became certain the Meeting agreed that the 4th XI should be so entered, failing which efforts should be made to enter it in some other suitable League, preferably a local one. It was decided to enter for the A.F.A. Senior, Junior and Minor Cups, but, after discussion, not to enter for the Middlesex A.F.A. Cups, next season. Attention was drawn to the lack of linesmen provided by the Club during last season, and the Committee was instructed to remedy this. The Committee was also requested to do all possible to ensure that suitable arrangements be made for the lower sides to be watched so that players deserving promotion should not be overlooked. It was decided to continue the operation of the rota for all sides save the 1st XI, and to advise players who were placed on the rota for any particular day, so that they might have opportunity to take advantage of these bye-days.

Several matters were brought forward when "Any other business" was reached. An emphatic appeal was made from the Chair that all players should do their utmost to attend for training on Wednesday evenings throughout the season, and the Committee agreed to arrange for hot drinks to be provided on those occasions. Some discussion arose as to tactical talks, and it was agreed that these should be held separately on Monday evenings from 8 to 9 p.m. The Committee was instructed to see that the training equipment was overhauled and brought up to proper standard. Request was made that the Parent Club Social Committee be asked to co-operate with the Football Club in arranging Dances in the pavilion during next season, and appreciation was expressed to Mr. Fred Hill who offered to attend to Football matters on the Social Committee. Mr. D. Wade suggested that the earliest opportunity be taken to alter

the Club Colours from white to Purple, Black and White, which were the well-known colours of the Winchmore Hill Club as a whole. This was agreed to, and as soon as sufficient shirts and stockings could be obtained in these colours the players would turn over to them and the rules of the Club altered accordingly.

It was reported that Cooper, late head groundsman, who had been seriously ill for many months, was still not able to return to work, and the Committee was asked to ensure that a suitable contribution be continued to be made to the Parent Club, as required, from time to time so that the fund, instituted by the Parent Club, for assisting Cooper could be augmented.

A former player, Mr. H. T. Diggins, had presented a very fine plaque, showing the club donors on a pennant in metal on a polished teak base. This would be hung in the bar in due course.

The Special Effort would be revived next season, and would be handled as before by Mr. A. G. Cooper. Its form would be somewhat altered, but the Committee hoped that this would make no difference to Members' support. It would run during the whole of the F.A. 1947/8 season.

Unanimous and cordial votes of thanks were passed to Mrs. Welsford, Mrs. Ferraby, and Mrs. Williams for their splendid work in the canteen, and for the wonderful results achieved in a season of unusual difficulty, to Mr. C. H. Ambridge (the one and only "Sarge") for his attendance at the ground and his grand efforts in keeping the players fit, to Carter, our head groundsman, who was mainly responsible for preparing the new 1st XI pitch at short notice, and to Mr. Brian Clark for his enthusiasm in attending the 1st XI wherever it played and for keeping its records.

It was agreed that service players should continue to enjoy playing and full club membership without subscription.

The Chairman reported that a new lease of the ground was in process of being granted by Miss Paulin to the Parent Club. The period of the lease would be for 35 years from 1947.

It was reported that negotiations had been commenced with a view to the erection of a verandah along the back of the pavilion so that spectators would be able to watch the 1st XI games in comparative comfort, and it was hoped that this scheme might be got through within the next few months.

It was announced that a Dinner and Dance would be held at the Connaught Rooms on Wednesday, 15th October, 1947. This would be primarily for football club members, and players would be given priority. The room booked will accommodate about 200, and notices will be issued in good time for members to apply for tickets. After discussion it was decided that dress should be optional.

It was reported that the new pitch had shown signs of subsidence at the Ford Grove end, and as it was considered to be in a dangerous condition for football, steps were being taken to have the trouble remedied in time for the opening of the season.

The Meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman.

CLUB JOTTINGS.

It is worthy of note that all ten forwards of the teams scored goals on Easter Monday—surely a record! So ended a very satisfactory week-end's football and the results were a tribute to the spirit prevailing in the club, several members foregoing other pleasures in order to be available for the needle matches of the season and we take this opportunity of thanking their wives and sweethearts for their sportsmanship. We hope the smiling faces of the victors amply repaid them.

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The 1st and 2nd teams were photographed on the 12th of April, 1947. Was this in anticipation of winning their respective leagues? Anyway, their optimism was not misplaced and we reproduce their smiling faces on pages 3 and 5 of this issue.

* * * *

Our boys have indeed had a triumphant season and both teams are to be heartily congratulated on their successes, much of which has been due to the excellent team spirit fostered by their skippers, those old campaigners Gus Gowers and Percy Attwood. Neither must one forget the part played by the teams of the lower sides, whose representatives were called upon to fill vacancies and have invariably given sterling displays and saved the team selectors many headaches. So next season Winchmore Hill will enter top-class Southern Amateur League football for the first time and we hope and believe they will do credit to it.

* * * *

We are extremely pleased to notice that our Cricketers have emulated the example set by the footballers in making a flying start by winning the majority of their early matches.

* * * *

The members of the Club would like to express their sympathy and condolences to the brothers S. H. and E. B. Kynaston in their recent bereavement.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

(DIVISION 2—SENIOR SECTION)

Final Tables. Season 1946-1947.

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals for	Goals agst.	Points
Winchmore Hill ...	18	15	2	1	83	23	32
Reigate Priory ...	18	12	3	3	67	37	27
Brentham ...	18	11	1	6	53	41	23
Alexandra Park ...	18	10	1	7	62	35	21
Old Parkonians ...	18	8	3	7	52	65	19
Kew Association ...	18	7	3	8	46	53	17
West Wickham ...	18	6	3	9	44	54	15
Old Latymerians ...	18	6	2	10	38	49	14
Alleyn O.B. ...	18	3	2	13	27	75	8
Ibis ...	18	1	2	15	14	54	4

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(DIVISION 2—RESERVE SECTION)

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals for	Goals agst.	Points
Winchmore Hill ...	16	12	2	2	62	16	26
Crouch End Vampires	16	11	1	4	43	36	23
Borough Poly ...	16	9	2	5	61	33	20
Reigate Priory ...	16	9	1	6	49	32	19
Merton ...	16	8	2	6	38	25	18
Midland Bank ...	16	5	3	8	31	47	13
Old Stationers ...	16	6	1	9	25	38	13
Ibis ...	16	4	—	12	20	71	8
Bank of England ...	16	2	—	14	18	49	4

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NEMEAN AMATEUR FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

(DIVISION 3.)

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals for	Goals agst.	Points
Ealing Association 3rd.	18	14	2	2	63	30	30
Alexandra Park 3rd.	18	14	1	3	61	27	29
Borough Poly. 3rd....	18	13	0	5	64	30	26
Winchmore Hill 3rd.	18	10	1	7	69	40	21
Crouch End Vps. 3rd.	18	8	2	8	61	44	18
Mayfield 3rd. ...	18	8	2	8	55	46	18
Norsemen 3rd. ...	18	7	3	8	46	50	17
Old Latymerians 3rd.	18	4	1	13	23	69	9
Lensbury 3rd ...	18	4	0	14	28	77	8
Trinity Old Boys 3rd	18	2	0	16	16	73	4