

Welcome

This is the thirty fourth Newsletter in the current format. It covers the end of the 2021-22 season and includes the final division or league tables for our teams. News has been plenty, especially during the past month as the season ended.

In an unforgiveable descent to the tabloid, the highlights (in no particular order) are

- The Women's 1st XI finishing second in the Premier Division and rewarded with European hockey next season
- The Men's 1st XI ending the season in fourth place in the Premier Division
- The appearance of the Club's Under 16 Shipperley side in the national Tier 2 final at Cambridge University
- The Men's 1st XI fifth place in the EHL Men's Cup in Spain after a narrow defeat in yet another shoot-out against Mannheimer, followed by defeats of Grange and Three Rock Rovers
- The Club being offered a Talent Academy Licence by England Hockey
- League successes for the Men's 4th XI and, as runners up, Zak Hond XI
- Matt Guise-Brown's century of Premier Division and Euro League goals for the Club
- Sarah Robertson's appointment as captain of the Scottish national side
- First international caps for James Oates and Matt Ramshaw in England colours, each scoring on his debut
- Will Calnan returning to international action after injury
- Four H&W women selected for England in the FIH World League
- Sarah Kelleher's appointment as assistant coach for Ireland's women's team
- Kwan Browne's resignation as coach to the Men's 1st XI and his appointment, in a similar role, by Southgate
- Chris Cargo's stepping down as skipper of the Men's 1st XI
- After 12 consecutive years at the top level, Toby Roche's decision to relinquish 1st XI hockey
- Marc Gratton (latterly of the Superveterans and GMs) returns to Australia after almost 19 years with the Club

EuroHockey League 2022

With 12 teams taking part in the primary FINAL12 competition, eight clubs, including Hampstead, contested the EHL Cup.

In the main FINAL12 event, the champions from the top four ranked nations were granted a bye to the quarter-finals. They were HC Bloemendaal, Germany's Rot-Weiss Köln, Spain's Club de Campo de Madrid and Belgium's KHC Dragons.

The four preliminary fixtures featured Surbiton, Austrian champions SV Arminen, France's Saint Germain, Belarus's HC Minsk and Russia's Dinamo Ak Bars, as well as German runners-up HTC Uhlenhorst Mülheim, Netherlands' SV Kampong and Spain's second seeds, Atlètic Terrassa.

The EHL Men's Cup was played at Club Egara, the home of Terrassa, from 15-18 April 2022. It featured Scottish champions Grange HC and Ireland's Three Rock Rovers, from Dublin, along with

Belgian second seeds, Waterloo Ducks, H&W, Austria's Post SV and the third clubs from Germany, the Netherlands and Spain – Mannheimer HC, HC Rotterdam and Club Egara, respectively.

SV Post 1 Club Egara 8

HC Rotterdam 6 Three Rock Rovers 0

Mannheimer HC 3 Hampstead & Westminster 3

Grange HC 0 Waterloo Ducks 8

Three Rock Rovers 5 Post SV 2

Hampstead & Westminster 2 Grange 1

HC Rotterdam 2 Club Egara 2

Mannheimer 5 Waterloo Ducks 5

Grange 3 Post SV 0

Hampstead & Westminster 7 Three Rock Rovers 1

Waterloo Ducks 5 H C Rotterdam 1

Mannheimer 3 Club Egara 4 (winners)



Hampstead v Mannheimer HC

Hampstead's first match was a third Euro meeting with Mannheimer HC and began at 4.30pm local time, in oppressive 25° heat. Mannheimer's first goal came against the run of play after just four minutes. A mis-trap in the midfield was seized on by Hinrichs who half volleyed the ball into the top right of the net. After 12 minutes, Hampstead conceded their first and only corner of the game. A clever routine by Mannheimer, slipping the ball behind the back, was converted with a slip flip in the bottom right of the goal for a 2-0 lead going into the quarter break.

Mannheimer failed to build the ball productively around the back. Their 5-at-the-back formation could not penetrate Hampstead's press. Time and again Hampstead won the ball as Mannheimer sent long balls over the backline. However, Mannheimer were particularly dangerous on the counter-attack. Several sloppy turnovers by Hampstead were seized on by the young, fit and fast German midfielders, who turned the centre of the park into a sprinting track.

At large distances, with speed and plenty of space, the Germans enjoyed increasing success with their counter-attacks. With two minutes left of the first half, they found themselves on another counterattack, having won the ball in their 25. Mario Shachner buried a spectacular reverse stick shot in the top right of the goal, leaving the score 3-0 at the half time break.

After an inspiring team talk by Kwan Browne, Hampstead came out firing. The second half saw the tables turned, as Hampstead peppered the Mannheimer D, with several aggressive penetrations. Mannheimer found themselves parked in their defensive third, unable to win the ball. Their few 16s quickly became a turnover opportunity for Hampstead. After three minutes of the second half, Hampstead won a corner. The initial shot was defended well but Kei Kaeppler's second phase shot found Sam French on the near post, who tapped it in (*see below*). Hampstead were back in the game.



Photo Stephan Michel

For the rest of the quarter, Hampstead won several corners but were unable to convert any of them. Mannheimer defended well but with four minutes to go in the third quarter, Matt Guise-Brown drove the ball into the right bottom of the goal with a typical drag flick for 2-3.



Photo Stephan Michel

The fourth quarter was largely similar, with a one-sided nature to the game. Hampstead had significant amounts of possession and Mannheimer defended in their own third. Hampstead continuously probed for openings but without success, as the clock was winding down relentlessly. Hampstead won a penalty stroke but frustratingly failed to convert it.

With seven seconds to go, Rupert Shipperley found himself with the ball on the baseline of the Mannheimer circle (*see below*) and fired it across goal where Teague Marcano collected it on the penalty spot. He was able to slot the ball in the back of the net with now only three seconds to play. At full time and 3-3, the contest went into a shootout.



Photo Stephan Michel

After tying the first round of five shootouts, the order changed and it became sudden death. No matter how many goals Will Calnan converted, Mannheimer were there with a response. Alas, it was not to be. Hampstead lost 8-7 on shootouts.



Grange HC v Hampstead

Hampstead started the game on the front foot, forcing Grange into a very defensive style of play. However, Hampstead failed to convert any of the early chances into goals. Going into the first quarter break, the team were a little disappointed that the scoreboard was still 0-0.

The second quarter was similar to the first, with Hampstead dominating possession for large periods of play. Completely against the run of play, Grange fired off a large overhead flick that found their centre forward with plenty of space on the right shoulder of the circle. A delightful finish saw the ball fired over the shoulder of Hampstead's goalkeeper. Hampstead were left wondering how they had conceded a goal completely against the run of play, just four minutes into the second quarter.

The second half saw Hampstead turn up the heat again. 10 minutes of relentless assault eventually broke the Grange defence when Matt Guise-Brown converted a penalty corner into the bottom left corner of the goal. Hampstead, however, did not use the opportunity to rest. The assault continued for the next 15 minutes as the team desperately tried to find a second goal. The clock continued to count down and with the scoreboard a level 1-1, tensions were high.

Grange were desperately trying to hold on to send the game into shootouts and Hampstead equally desperately, were trying to score in open play to avoid the shootout competition. With only eight seconds left, Will Calnan picked the ball up in the Grange right midfield area and tracked aggressively into the right shoulder of the dee. He slipped the ball across, which found Matt Ramshaw on the far post (*seen below, about to collect the pass*) who slotted the ball into the backboard as quickly as he could. The ball went in as the final buzzer sounded and the game finished 2-1.



Photo Stephan Michel

All in all, Hampstead had 21 shots on goal, and converted only two. Grange converted their only shot.

Man of the Match was the Grange goalkeeper David Forrester for an outstanding performance. He spoke about how proud he was of his team: “Totally gutted about the last-minute goal, but also proud of the performance, this was the best performance that Grange has ever put in at EHL.” He went on to praise Hampstead “I would just like to add a ‘well-played’ to Hampstead, they kept going until the end, but we just couldn’t keep it out.”



Photo Stephan Michel

Hampstead v Three Rock Rovers

Hampstead picked up fifth place with a comfortable win over Three Rock Rovers, who had come into the game looking for revenge for their most recent Euro game (against Hampstead at the EHL KO16 last October in Antwerp) when they lost 4-2.

A backhand shot from Matthew Ramshaw beat Three Rock’s keeper Ben Whelan in the fifth minute. Some darting runs at the start of the second quarter from the Three Rock attackers challenged the Hampstead’s defence, but to no avail, as Kwan Browne took charge in his usual calm and collected way.

Hampstead extended their lead in the 25th and 26th minutes, the first a quick free at the top of the circle which saw Rupert Shipperley smash it home at close range. The third came from Sam French, when there seemed to be some miscommunication in the Three Rock defence, giving him a clear shot, as Hampstead stretched their lead. This left Three Rock with a proverbial mountain to climb in the second half.

The third quarter was a busy. Hampstead delivered a treble blow to Three Rock with scores from French (33rd minute), a short corner conversion from Matt Guise-Brown (44th) and Teague Marcano (45th). Three Rock's midfield did control the ball well this quarter. However, with small margins making the difference at this level, some of the passes missed their mark and gave Hampstead easy possession.

Rovers did claw one back, a pass in from Jody Hoskings with a touch from Peter Blakeney (42nd minute) to make it 6-1 on the scoresheet.

It felt like a long fourth quarter for both teams as the Spanish sun beat down. Hampstead had two men off for yellow cards very late in the game but an evidently tired Three Rock struggled to keep pace. Hampstead secured their seventh with a penalty stroke in the closing minutes put away by Matt Guise Brown.

Huw Stevens, the Assistant Coach of Hampstead summed up the weekend: "It's good to finish well, but it's been a frustrating few days but it's always good to do what we know we can do. It was a credit to the guys to manage finishing this game with nine players." He had a special word of thanks for the Junior players who supported the team over the weekend.

41 players from U14 - U16 had travelled to Barcelona to play twelve matches against Spanish clubs, Junior 1970 and Egara. The Hampstead juniors were the largest and loudest supporting crowd to cheer on the first team.



Photo Stephan Michel

ABN AMRO EHL Cup Final

Club Egara (in their vivid blue striped shirts) delighted their home fans to land the Cup at Pla del Bon Aire, with a thrilling 4-3 win over Mannheimer HC in the final.

It was a rollercoaster from the beginning, with Marc Recasens opening the scoring just four minutes in from a corner. Mannheimer countered with three corners in quick succession and, in a lesson for the hosts, giving Peillat three chances in three minutes is not to be recommended, as he slotted the third home to even the scoreline to 1-1.

Egara restored their lead in the eighth minute, again from a penalty corner set piece. A rebound from a save by Mannheimer's Lukas Stumpf was pounced upon by Xavier Aguilar, who slotted the ball home, with a roar from the home supporters. In the dying minutes of the quarter, darting runs from Egara's Marti Soler were promptly shut down by the Mannheimer defence.

Mannheimer came back after the short break stronger but, once again, the hosts' work rate to keep them from scoring opportunities was exceptional, with an *all hands on deck* approach, not giving the Germans an inch.

Into the second half, Club Egara forced a penalty corner and extended their lead to 1-3, a well-rehearsed routine meant that the ball was sent in with precision to the near post and Recasens added to his tally for the day.

As the game progressed there was an impressive work rate from both teams. Egara seemed to be the ones with just that extra energy to get first to any potential turnovers. Mannheimer still waited patiently for their opportunities. In the 42nd minute, it took a great save from Egara's 'keeper to keep the score 1-3. Moments later, the Germans pressed again and a quality strike from Teo Hinrichs narrowed the score to 2-3.

Mannheimer equalised early in the fourth quarter. The goalkeeper appeared to be unsighted as Raphael Hartkopf scored on the run, which was a momentary lack of concentration from the stalwart Egara defence. Mannheimer seemed to have found new energy as they now seemed to be controlling the ball better.

With 3½ minutes on the clock, their patience paid off as they earned a corner, where some brave running from Egara as the first runner went down the barrel of a Peillat strike. That was deemed to be dangerous and a free hit was awarded to the hosts.

Egara went on the attack again and a rare error from the German defence earned the Spaniards a corner and then a re-award. This time, they made no mistake and the strike from Recasens put the hosts in touching distance of the win, his sixth goal in three games.

With just 23 seconds on the clock, Mannheimer again earned a penalty corner, seen as the *last roll of the dice*. The on-target strike was bravely saved and Egara, mindful that the game was not quite done, focused only on not fouling and getting the ball safely away.



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National League

Women

In the Premier Division, in 2022:

Wimbledon 2 Hampstead 1	L Turner
Hampstead 3 Clifton Robinsons 3	Hyams L Turner Wilkinson
East Grinstead 3 Hampstead 0	
Beeston 2 Hampstead 4	Douglas (2) L Turner Robertson
Hampstead 2 Surbiton 4	Hyams H Turner
Clifton Robinsons 1 Hampstead 5	Clark Tew Hyams L Turner Balsdon
Hampstead 0 Wimbledon 1	
Surbiton 0 Hampstead 2	Balsdon Hyams
Hampstead 0 Beeston 2	
Hampstead 3 East Grinstead 1	Wilkinson Balsdon Hunt

The competition for the top two places in the Division grew in intensity with the new format this season of the top six ranking teams playing each other twice after Christmas, inheriting the points and goals recorded up the break at the new year.

For Hampstead, the team took a while to adjust to the new arrangements, losing narrowly to Wimbledon and then having to come from behind to snatch a point against Clifton Robinsons at PRG. East Grinstead showed why they had been tipped with a 3-0 win at Saint Hill. There was a turn around against Beeston before a 4-2 loss to leaders Surbiton at home. A 5-1 win against Clifton brought a semblance of order to proceedings, more accurately indicative of the form book for the whole season to date. However, this was followed by a second narrow loss to Wimbledon.

A first ever win by the team at Sugden Road against the leaders (their only loss in the league) upset the proverbial apple cart and put them in good heart for the following match against Beeston. This proved to be a painful match to watch, with Hampstead throwing everything into attack and not being rewarded. Beeston scored with their rare attacks and that threw the fight for the second place into turmoil.

Three teams were separated by three points at the start of the final round of games. Wimbledon could guarantee second with a win but they could only draw 1-1 at Surbiton, who had already been declared champions the week before. Surbiton opened the scoring on 39 minutes, converting a penalty stroke but Eliza Brett cancelled that out for Wimbledon with a well-taken effort ten minutes from time.

Events at PRG meant that would not be enough however. Hampstead took advantage of the dropped points with a 3-1 victory over East Grinstead. The teams were locked at 1-1 when the game was stopped for two hours due to a serious head injury to Olympian, Laura Unsworth. She was made stable by paramedics and then moved and taken to St Mary's, ending the day with a headache but gratefully nothing worse.

After the resumption of play, Grace Balsdon and Holly Hunt scored to drive Hampstead to victory. And to European hockey for the first time.

Surbiton	20	14	5	1	53	20	33	47
Hampstead & Westminster	20	13	1	6	46	31	15	40
Wimbledon	20	12	3	5	52	20	32	39

East Grinstead	20	12	0	8	50	33	17	36
Beeston	20	8	3	9	35	44	-9	27
Clifton Robinsons	20	4	5	11	30	57	-27	17

The team and the *Ham & High* provided more details.

Fans crowded the side-line at Paddington Recreation Ground to watch Hampstead’s final game of the Women’s Vitality Premier League against East Grinstead. This was one of two games that day which would dictate which two teams would qualify for the European league in 2023. Surbiton were crowned league winners last weekend, leaving just one spot in Europe awarded to the team that finishes second in the league. With three teams within one point of each other, the game permutations were complex and intertwined so ultimately all three teams started their game with the same mentality – they must win.

Within minutes of push-back Hampstead’s defence were called into action, Kat Baker and Emily Rowlands working together to prevent Sophie Bray from scoring an early goal. The quick counters and tight skills of Esme Burge and Hayley Turney wowed the crowd and helped Hampstead pile the pressure on EG’s defence. The game was *end-to-end* and Roxy Gianfrancesco was keeping Hampstead in the game with a number of fantastic saves. Eventually EG broke the deadlock and scored a rebound goal in the first quarter to put the away side 1-0 up. Hampstead were very quick to respond through Mel Wilkinson, who scored a classy, solo goal only moments later to tie it up going into the second quarter.

The second quarter started with the same quality, fast-paced hockey as the first but a neck injury to an opposition player caused the game to stop as an ambulance was called to ensure the safety of the player. The game was later allowed to continue but with a two-hour delay, the result of the other game was now known – Wimbledon had drawn with Surbiton – confirming that if Hampstead were to win they would secure second spot in the league and a place in Europe next year.

This lit Hampstead’s fire and they found another level in the second half, increasing the pressure on EG’s defence and creating numerous chances in front of goal. Hampstead secured a flurry of short corners and Grace Balsdon was able to execute with a perfectly placed drag flick into the side netting putting Hampstead in front for the first time.

The game remained tight going into the final quarter and Hampstead’s defence fought hard to prevent any EG players from getting a chance on goal - leaving Roxy with little to do throughout the half. Finally, with five minutes to go Holly Hunt secured Hampstead’s lead with some wonderful skills, dancing through the EG defence and slotting the ball passed the EG keeper.

This final goal guaranteed Hampstead a 3-1 win, the second place in the league and a spot in Europe next year! Congratulations to all the team and staff and thank you to supporters and all those who have helped throughout the 2021/22 season.

Team captain Melanie Wilkinson praised Hampstead & Westminster’s team resolve after securing European women’s club hockey next season. She told the *Ham & High*: “I’m not sure there are enough positive words in the dictionary to describe what it means. From only getting promoted to the Premier a few years ago, to end up in this position is simply incredible”.

“We all have such respect for each other and are so close off the pitch that it really translates to the results we can achieve on the pitch.”

The club had endured a tough full campaign this season, with plenty of injuries and Covid rattling the squad. Wilkinson added: “We’ve ultimately lost a few games that we potentially should’ve won, but not once have we stopped working and believing in each other and it’s this resilience that has allowed us to go on and qualify for Europe”.

“It’s super important to emphasise it was not just the team on the pitch that got us to this position. From our amazing coaches, the injured players who come to every game, the players that helped us get promoted, the wider squad, our physio, our performance analyst, the club and everyone else in between.”



And in the East Conference:

Hampstead 0 Chelmsford 2
 London Wayfarers 2 Hampstead 3
 Hampstead 1 Ipswich 2
 Barnes 1 Hampstead 0
 Hampstead 0 Southgate 4
 Horsham 0 Hampstead 3
 Hampstead 2 East London 1
 Hampstead 2 Bromley & Beckenham 2
 Canterbury 0 Hampstead 4

Johnson

Orrett Beglin Nyirenda
 De Breu Burns
 Nyirenda (2)
 Nyirenda (2) Lewis Griffith

Barnes	18	15	2	1	54	10	44	47
Southgate	18	13	3	2	57	17	40	42
London Wayfarers	18	11	4	3	41	20	21	37
Hampstead & Westminster 2	18	10	1	7	32	20	12	31
Horsham	18	7	2	9	19	26	-7	23

East London	18	7	1	10	32	35	-3	22
Ipswich	18	7	1	10	34	44	-10	22
Chelmsford	18	5	3	10	27	39	-12	18
Bromley & Beckenham	18	4	2	12	24	31	-7	14
Canterbury 2	18	1	1	16	9	87	-78	4

This was a highly successful second season for the 2nd XI in the National League. In the East Conference, each team played all opponents twice: there was no split between the top six and the rest as in the Premier Division. After the loss to Ipswich and narrow defeat by the eventual winners of the Conference, the remainder of the season was successful, leading to fourth place and an eight-point gap to fifth.

Men

In the Premier Division the 1st XI were in a relatively strong position as the top six began the second part of the season, facing others in the novel top-ranked six, on a home and away basis, to determine the top two places, without play-offs, as before, to establish European qualification (as with the women's competition)

Old Georgians 3	Hampstead 1	Guise-Brown
Hampstead 5	Holcombe 0	[concession]
Surbiton 3	Hampstead 2	Guise-Brown Shipperley
Hampstead 1	Wimbledon 4	French
East Grinstead 1	Hampstead 4	Guise-Brown (3) Kaeppler
Hampstead 1	Old Georgians 4	Guise-Brown
Holcombe 4	Hampstead 3	J Kelly Guise-Brown S Kelly
Wimbledon 5	Hampstead 1	Guise-Brown
Hampstead 6	East Grinstead 0	Oates Ramshaw Calnan Shipperley Guise-Brown (2)

As the results demonstrate, it was a tough going for the team. Apart from wins against East Grinstead, results were hard to come by. The team was affected by Covid, injury and international calls. The first game against Holcombe was conceded by the opponents, who were unable to field a goalkeeper of the requisite standard and did not want to risk playing someone of insufficient experience at this level. Perhaps the most disappointing result was that against Wimbledon at Raynes Park, followed closely by the 3-2 defeat by Surbiton after leading 2-0 at half time and apparently in control, only to concede the winner in the last seconds to a penalty corner. In complete contrast, mysteriously the team put the poor form behind them in the penultimate game, putting six past East Grinstead, scoring the first four in open play. The prospect of playing in Europe the following week must have had the desired effect. With both sides missing players, the loss to Surbiton left the team in fourth position in the division, as Old Georgians and Wimbledon qualified for Europe next season.

Old Georgians	19	17	1	1	87	17	70	52
Wimbledon	19	13	2	4	69	32	37	41
Surbiton	19	12	3	4	78	36	42	39
Hampstead & Westminster	19	10	2	7	52	42	10	32
Holcombe	19	9	2	8	54	56	-2	29
East Grinstead	19	3	2	14	28	73	-45	11

And in the East Conference, the 2nd XI fulfilled their promise and held on to National League status with some ease, after good results in the latter stages of the second half of the season.

Hampstead 0 Bromley & Beckenham 3
 West Herts 0 Hampstead 1
 Hampstead 4 Indian Gymkhana 3
 Old Loughtonians 4 Hampstead 1
 Hampstead 2 Spencer 0
 Wapping 2 Hampstead 2
 Hampstead 2 Richmond 2
 Hampstead 5 London Edwardians 2
 London Wayfarers 3 Hampstead 0

Old Loughtonians	18	12	5	1	56	30	26	41
Richmond	18	10	6	2	62	47	15	36
Spencer	18	10	2	6	55	43	12	32
London Wayfarers	18	8	6	4	50	39	11	30
Wapping	18	8	2	8	42	40	2	26
Hampstead & Westminster 2	18	6	4	8	31	42	-11	22
Indian Gymkhana	18	6	2	10	40	51	-11	20
Bromley & Beckenham	18	5	2	11	33	43	-10	17
London Edwardians	18	4	3	11	39	54	-15	15
West Herts	18	4	2	12	37	56	-19	14

Kwan Browne

As the season concluded, it became known that Kwan Browne had accepted an invitation to become the head coach of the men's first XI at Southgate, thereby ending his successful six years at the helm at the Club.

On behalf of the HWHC Board and Committee, Jonny Witt, the Club Chairman, paid this fulsome tribute.

After six phenomenal seasons of leading our Men's 1s team Kwan Browne will be stepping down as Head Coach. Although it is always sad to part ways with individuals who have given so much and been such a big part of the success of the club it is also a time to look back and celebrate those successes.

It is easy to forget that when Kwan arrived Hampstead and Westminster had just avoided relegation by the narrowest of margins and were perhaps the closest they had ever been to losing their status as one of the few 'ever-present' teams in the National Premier League. This had become a recurring theme with battling relegation and staying up the main aim for many seasons previously. Kwan informed us that he believed they could win the league and he set about making changes and bringing in new faces with that aim in mind. That first season he led the team to the playoffs for the first time in our history, the next season the same story making it to the final in the play-offs but securing European qualification in doing so. In the following season 2018/19 Kwan achieved what he

set out to do and HWHC were crowned champions of England for the first time in our history after beating Surbiton in the final of the play offs.

European hockey was the ultimate test for this team and the draw was never kind in those 3 seasons that Kwan led the team; the first game was against the Dutch side HGC (who had won the competition in 2011) but HWHC were victorious against them; the first time since 2013 that an English side had beaten Dutch opposition. Next up was Mannheimer who became our regular opponents each season that followed. The statistics showed that HWHC only lost once in Europe (shuffles / shoot outs resulting in HWHC being knocked out on each occasion). HWHC and Kwan's statistics in European competition read: Won 3, Drawn 2, Lost 1. Given the disparity between budgets of the big European clubs this is testament to how brilliant Kwan was in assembling and, more importantly, coaching a squad of players that were able to compete at this level.

Those are the measurable successes that Kwan brought to the club, what is immeasurable are his passion, enthusiasm, professionalism and atmosphere that he brought. In the past five to six seasons the whole club has moved from strength to strength in every area and we know this is not a coincidence.

We now look to the future and plans are underway regarding the recruitment of our new Men's 1s coach. The foundations built by Kwan means that the new coach will inherit a squad that contains 16 current international players, with 12 likely to be playing in the World Cup in January; most were developed into international players by Kwan.

On behalf of all the club: Kwan - a heartfelt thank you. You made history for us and we will always be grateful for your delivery of that first Champions of England trophy and those European excursions. We all have many fond memories of your time at Hampstead, whether those are hockey memories or Notting Hill Carnival related. Wishing you all the best for the future; any club would be lucky to have you.

Premier Division Restructuring

With just short of one month of the domestic campaign subsisting, England Hockey announced a change to relegation places and confirmed that there would be twelve Premier Division teams for the 2022-23 season.

Two clubs were set for relegation but the late change meant that only teams finishing 11th in the respective Premier Divisions would be relegated to Division One, leaving clubs finishing 10th reprieved to live another season at the top level.

With three games remaining in the men's Premier Division, University of Exeter and Durham University both sat bottom on seven points and it became a fight between the two to avoid the drop. On the final day the University of Exeter pulled clear of the University of Durham and maintained their Premier Division status. Swansea were then at the foot of the women's Premier Division and needed to claw back an eight-point deficit behind Loughborough Students and Holcombe, in which they were ultimately unsuccessful.

England Hockey's decision was made as it sought to align itself with the international calendar. It followed format changes to the FIH Pro League. It will be the first time since the old National League days that the top-flight has included 12 clubs.

The intention is understood to retain the mid-season split, which will now consist of top six and bottom six team. England Hockey is currently in consultation with clubs over how to make the mini

leagues after Christmas hold more interest. This could include end-of-season play-offs. A decision was expected before 1 June 2022 but has not yet been announced.

The problems faced by England Hockey over the years has seen a stand-off between club and country, where elite clubs have suffered player losses due to international clashes. The changes to the FIH Pro League aim to stem the issues faced by the domestic game and help Bisham-based players become more available to their clubs.

The Pro League calendar is critical to this. But there are still clashes with global competition for next season. The women's Premier Division is likely to start slightly later in September due to EuroHockey Championship qualifiers. Great Britain men and women also play Pro League events in Argentina during December, while the men's World Cup is set for January 2023 in India.

There is believed to be no plan to extend the top-flight into May, like other continental federations, while Great Britain is set to hold Pro League events in May/June 2023.

The latest ratification also means that one team finishing ninth in Division One North & South and one team finishing ninth in the four Conferences will also be reprieved from relegation.

England Hockey added in its missive to clubs: "Where a reprieve is granted across parallel Divisions this is determined by Points Per Match, ie at each level the ninth placed team with the most points will be reprieved, with goal difference, then goals scored, used if two or more teams are level."

For 2022-23, the new teams in the Premier Division, for both men and women, will be University Nottingham and Reading. The teams promoted to the men's Division One are Old Loughtonians, Barford Tigers, Belper and the University of Bristol. In the women's Division One, the promoted teams are Barnes, Sutton Coldfield, Leeds and Witney



England Hockey League

This was the first season following the new arrangements for the league hockey established by England Hockey. The Club's teams took part in the London Region and probably the easiest way to explain the team rankings and opponents, as well as and the success (or otherwise) of the teams is to record the final league placings.

Women

LONDON WOMEN'S DIVISION 1

London Wayfarers 2	22	19	2	1	114	18	96	59
Wimbledon 3	22	18	3	1	85	16	69	57
Barnes 2	22	13	6	3	70	24	46	45
West Hampstead 1	22	14	3	5	69	39	30	45
Richmond 1	22	13	3	6	47	32	15	41
Teddington 2	22	11	0	11	57	52	5	33
Hampstead & Westminster 3	22	10	2	10	38	32	6	32
Surbiton 4	22	9	0	13	41	63	-22	27

Eastcote 1	22	7	2	13	38	42	-4	23
Harrow 1	22	2	3	17	30	74	-44	9
PHC Chiswick 2	22	3	0	19	17	86	-69	9
West Herts 2	22	1	0	21	17	145	-128	3

LONDON WOMEN DIVISION TWO NORTH

London Academicals 1	22	21	0	1	104	11	93	63
London Wayfarers 3	22	19	0	3	113	17	96	57
Wapping 3	22	12	3	7	44	39	5	39
Wanderers 2	22	11	4	7	56	40	16	37
Southgate 3	22	10	3	9	58	49	9	33
East London 3	22	9	6	7	42	48	-6	33
West Hampstead 2	22	10	2	10	58	48	10	32
Richmond 2	22	9	3	10	53	55	-2	30
Hampstead & Westminster 4	22	6	3	13	51	67	-16	21
UCL RU 1	22	4	3	15	32	97	-65	15
East London 4	22	3	4	15	38	77	-39	13
PHC Chiswick 3	22	2	1	19	10	111	-101	7

LONDON WOMEN DIVISION THREE NORTH

Barnes 3	18	18	0	0	129	6	123	54
Eastcote 2	18	10	4	4	38	34	4	34
West Hampstead 3	18	10	3	5	30	36	-6	33
Richmond 3	18	7	4	7	43	49	-6	25
Teddington 4	18	6	5	7	35	53	-18	23
Old Merchant Taylors 1	18	6	4	8	31	41	-10	22
Hampstead & Westminster 5	18	6	3	9	39	46	-7	21
Winchmore Hill & Enfield 1	18	5	6	7	33	42	-9	21
Wapping 4	18	4	4	10	24	52	-28	16
East London 5	18	0	3	15	15	58	-43	3

LONDON WOMEN DIVISION FOUR NORTH WEST

Southgate 4	18	14	0	4	73	25	48	42
Eastcote 3	18	10	4	4	48	30	18	34
Hampstead & Westminster 6	18	10	3	5	47	38	9	33
Hendon & Mill Hill 1	18	10	2	6	40	28	12	32
West Hampstead 4	18	8	5	5	48	25	23	29
East London 6	17	7	2	8	45	51	-6	23
West Herts 3	17	6	4	7	30	30	0	22
Richmond 4	18	6	2	10	41	45	-4	20
Ealing 1	18	4	2	12	24	67	-43	14
PHC Chiswick 4	18	1	2	15	18	75	-57	5

LONDON WOMEN DIVISION FIVE NORTH WEST

Old Merchant Taylors 2	20	13	3	4	49	20	29	42
Southgate 5	20	13	2	5	62	37	25	41
Eastcote 4	20	10	5	5	46	26	20	35
West Hampstead 5	20	9	4	7	40	21	19	31
Old Uxonians 1	20	10	1	9	33	39	-6	31
Hampstead & Westminster 7	20	9	3	8	40	60	-20	30
Imperial College SM 1	20	9	2	9	58	79	-21	29
Winchmore Hill & Enfield 2	20	9	0	11	41	38	3	27
Hendon & Mill Hill 2	20	7	3	10	30	32	-2	24
West Herts 4	20	4	3	13	35	57	-22	15
Harrow 2	20	3	2	15	16	41	-25	11

Men

LONDON MEN'S DIVISION 1

Spencer 2	22	18	2	2	72	22	50	56
Barnes 1	22	16	3	3	86	41	45	51
Croydon & Old Whitgiftian 1	22	12	3	7	63	44	19	38
Bromley & Beckenham 2	22	12	2	8	56	51	5	38
London Wayfarers 2	22	10	6	6	54	39	15	36
Old Merchant Taylors 1	22	10	2	10	42	45	-3	32
Surbiton 3	22	8	5	9	48	47	1	29
Ashford (Middlesex) 1	22	8	5	9	42	43	-1	29
Richmond 2	22	9	2	11	58	64	-6	29
Crostyx 1	22	5	2	15	34	55	-21	17
Hampstead & Westminster 3	22	4	2	16	35	85	-50	14
Kings & Alleyns 1	22	3	0	19	42	96	-54	9

LONDON MEN DIVISION TWO NORTH

Wanderers 1	22	17	2	3	86	26	60	53
Hampstead & Westminster Zak Hond	22	17	1	4	80	35	45	52
Indian Gymkhana 2	22	15	2	5	94	37	57	47
Southgate 3	22	13	5	4	79	34	45	44
London Wayfarers 3	22	13	2	7	80	45	35	41
Richmond 3	22	13	0	9	64	46	18	39
West Hampstead 2	22	9	3	10	49	46	3	30
Wapping 4	22	7	5	10	34	55	-21	26
East London 2	22	7	3	12	43	47	-4	24
West Herts 2	22	4	4	14	48	83	-35	16
Harrow 1	22	2	1	19	22	131	-109	7
East London 3	22	1	0	21	15	109	-94	3

LONDON MEN DIVISION THREE NORTH

Hampstead & Westminster 4	18	11	6	1	57	29	28	39
Southgate 4	18	12	1	5	59	37	22	37
Barnes 2	18	10	3	5	53	34	19	33
PHC Chiswick 2	17	9	3	5	40	29	11	30
London Royals 1	17	5	8	4	35	37	-2	23
London Wayfarers 5	18	6	3	9	40	43	-3	21
Old Merchant Taylors 2	18	5	4	9	36	46	-10	19
Crostyx 2	18	5	3	10	38	52	-14	18
Wapping 5	18	3	6	9	24	49	-25	15
Wapping 6	18	4	1	13	30	56	-26	13



The Men's 4th XI celebrates

LONDON MEN DIVISION FOUR NORTH WEST

West Hampstead 3	18	14	1	3	74	33	41	43
West Hampstead 4	18	11	4	3	58	29	29	37
PHC Chiswick 3	18	11	3	4	66	35	31	36
Hampstead & Westminster Thirsts	18	11	2	5	58	33	25	35
Indian Gymkhana 3	18	9	4	5	66	47	19	31
Osterley 1	18	8	3	7	59	51	8	27
Winchmore Hill & Enfield 1	18	5	3	10	40	57	-17	18

East London 4	18	4	3	11	27	62	-35	15
Richmond Griffins	18	3	3	12	42	69	-27	12
Wapping 7	18	0	2	16	15	89	-74	2

LONDON MEN DIVISION FIVE NORTH WEST

West Hampstead 6	18	13	3	2	63	21	42	42
Southgate 5	18	14	0	4	63	24	39	42
West Hampstead 5	18	13	1	4	59	26	33	40
PHC Chiswick 4	18	9	3	6	48	33	15	30
Indian Gymkhana 4	18	8	2	8	56	57	-1	26
Hampstead & Westminster Colts	18	7	3	8	51	42	9	24
Hampstead & Westminster Spaniards	18	4	5	9	37	49	-12	17
West Herts 4	18	4	5	9	32	56	-24	17
Imperial Medicals 1	18	3	2	13	34	72	-38	11
PHC Chiswick 5	18	2	2	14	14	77	-63	8

LONDON MEN OVER 40 PREMIER

Old Cranleigh Stormers	16	11	1	4	41	22	19	34
Spencer Masters	16	10	3	3	51	31	20	33
Wimbledon Masters 1	16	9	2	5	41	28	13	29
Reading Rustlers	16	8	4	4	41	25	16	28
Hampstead & Westminster Masters	16	8	1	7	38	34	4	25
Epsom Embers	16	5	2	9	29	50	-21	17
Guildford Masters Men's O40	16	5	1	10	35	44	-9	16
Old Georgians Fire	16	4	2	10	33	47	-14	14
East Grinstead Masters Men's O40	16	4	0	12	17	45	-28	12

LONDON MEN OVER 50 PREMIER

Tulse Hill & Dulwich Musketeers	18	12	2	4	49	20	29	38
Reading Redsox	18	9	4	5	62	44	18	31
Indian Gymkhana Tigers	18	9	3	6	63	44	19	30
Southgate Titans	18	8	6	4	56	42	14	30
Spencer Supervets	18	8	4	6	38	27	11	28
Epsom Old School	18	8	4	6	40	32	8	28
Old Loughtonians Supervets	18	6	4	8	36	63	-27	22
Chelmsford Supervets O50	18	6	3	9	28	48	-20	21
Hampstead & Westminster Supervets	18	4	3	11	36	50	-14	15
St Albans Praetorians	18	2	3	13	15	53	-38	9

LONDON MEN OVER 60 PREMIER

Indian Gymkhana Grandmasters	20	18	0	2	116	24	92	54
Bromley & Beckenham O60	20	17	2	1	87	15	72	53
Reading Rustics	20	11	3	6	50	26	24	36

Spencer Grandmasters	20	11	3	6	52	53	-1	36
Southgate Magnums	20	10	1	9	46	42	4	31
Eastcote Past Masters	20	8	2	10	47	63	-16	26
Chelmsford Evergreens	20	7	3	10	30	55	-25	24
Hampstead & Westminster Grandmasters	20	5	4	11	36	62	-26	19
Surbiton Vintage	20	6	1	13	42	75	-33	19
Amersham & Chalfont Grandmasters O60	20	4	2	14	26	67	-41	14

Commentary

According to *The Hockey Paper*, the country wide restructure has been controversial for administrative and logistical reasons. Overall, it has meant more local fixtures for many clubs but not all. It has brought the lower teams from the larger clubs in line with the rest of the country.

Unsurprisingly in the first season, not all teams have been placed in the correct tier. Some sides have been winning in double figures: others have struggled to earn a point. One club's 4th XI went two months without a shot on goal, hardly beneficial for the young forwards that the club was trying to develop.

In the North West Women's Division 2 North, Lancaster University were riding high on 46 points and Preston close behind on 42 (with two games in hand). Both teams were nearing the century in the goals scored column. In stark contrast, at the other end of the table Lytham St. Anne's 2nd team had three points and a goal difference of -109. The 11th placed Ulverston had seven points and had scored only 11 goals. Examples like this can be taken from several leagues across the country. As *The Hockey Paper* saw it, "one-sided games and seasons were of absolutely no benefit to any sides in the league. Inevitably this was going to be an unwanted side effect of the changes. However, the key issue is how England Hockey addresses the problem".

One suggested solution is having two or three teams relegated and promoted each season. This would have several potential benefits. It would quickly *iron out* unsatisfactory hockey generated by teams of vastly contrasting ability competing against each other. If one team is promoted or relegated there is the potential for a side to spend several seasons in a league that is not suitable for their level.

"We are also entering the point in the season, in particular for ill-balanced divisions, where there is little to play for in the remaining games. Larger pools of promotion and relegation would maintain the interest of many more teams later into the year".

Another option is to hold *play-offs*. This has been used successfully in the past where different regions are merging "and creates for an exciting end to the season as several spots potentially yield success".

The Paper added that "hockey could perhaps learn from the English Football league and promote two sides, then have a play-off between third and fourth to see who claims the final promotion spot. The same thinking could also be applied to the bottom of the league, where two go down and ninth and 10th have a play-off game for safety. Not only would this create tension and involvement throughout the season but also create more balanced leagues in one or two seasons".

“In addition, this may encourage spectators to come and watch these decisive fixtures. Dividing the leagues in half at Christmas, then only playing teams in your half also creates more balanced matches, although it can make the second half of the season feel slightly repetitive”.

The understanding of Rule 4.5 (promotion and relegation) is that the question is for the England Hockey and not for the regions, as it refers to leagues having 10 teams and not the regions where most teams are.

There are several routes that the governing body could take to meet some of the issues caused by the restructure. As *The Hockley Paper* concluded, “will England Hockey have the confidence to take the necessary steps to balance the level in each division and create more anticipation in the final weeks of the season?”

Talent Academy



After a comprehensive application process, England Hockey has announced the 17 clubs that have been offered the opportunity to host a Talent Academy from September 2022. H&W is delighted to be one of the clubs selected. Each Talent Academy is intended for the highest potential 15-18 year old players; 25 boys and 25 girls in its catchment area.

The other 16 clubs to host Talent Academies are Beeston, Cambridge City, Durham University, East Grinstead, Guildford, Holcombe, Old Loughtonians, Oxford Hawks, Reading, Sevenoaks, Stourport, Surbiton, Team Bath Buccaneers, Timperley, University of Exeter and Wimbledon.

Information on the new Talent Academy setup is on the England Hockey website. Further detail is expected during the coming months as final plans are finalised by EH, following further consultation with the clubs involved. The process anticipates a formal Agreement to be signed with EH by each successful club.

Youth

Alexandra Smart reports on the U16 Boys Shipperley side's travels to the national final.

U16 Boys Shipperley travelled to Cambridge University on Sunday 3rd April for the England Hockey Tier 2 National Cup Final.

They faced Timperley HC and were level at 1-1 well into the second half when the opposition found the winning goal late in the game.

HWHC lost their 'keeper with a dislocated shoulder with 10 minutes to go but did not concede again, even gallantly defending a penalty corner with just outfield players.

Congratulations to Timperley, and to all of the players who were part of this momentous journey to the final. Thank you to the coaches, team manager and parents for their hard work and support, and we wish injured players, Max and Oscar, all the very best in their recovery.



Grand Masters

At the polar opposite end of the age scale, Chris Somes-Charlton bids farewell to Marc Gratton.

Our game against Spencer will be remembered as Marc Gratton's farewell league match, after almost 19 years at H & W. It was a delightful fixture with our friends at Spencer and fairly evenly matched, save for a wonderful lob by their ever deadly forward Shahid over keeper Andrew Harrington's head.

MoM: Marc Gratton

The team comprised: Marc Gratton, Marc Gratton, Marc Gratton, Marc Gratton, Marc Gratton, Marc Gratton, Marc Gratton, Marc Gratton, Marc Gratton, Marc Gratton, Marc Gratton, Marc Gratton.

See below some mentions of Marc from previous match despatches, including his first game for HWHC on 18th Oct 2003; aka *A Hockey Life in the Times of Marc Gratton*

H & W Vets v Cheam Clarets: won 4-2, 18th Oct 2003

“this week's new boy, Marc, who was pitched into the midfield, combining strength, ball skills and un-diplomatic obstruction to keep Cheam at bay”

H & W Vets v Southgate: won 4-1, 1st Nov 2003

“Marc Gratton struggled valiantly in the centre of the field to re-establish Hampstead's dominance”



H & W Vets v Cheam: lost 2-3, 17th Jan 2004

“Did I mention, too, that Marc Gration was late and so the boys began the match with nine?”

H & W Vets v. St Albans Praetorians: lost 1-5, 31st Jan 2004

“Marc made his mark at centre back, but it was not enough.”

H & W Vets v Gerrards Cross: won 7-1, 29th Jan 2005

“Gerrards Cross did indeed break through, with an unstoppable off-drive following a short corner. But it was not enough, as Hampstead ran in further goals from Wilko, Toshi Shirai, Nick Stevens and Marc Gration.”

H & W Vets v Sevenoaks Shadows: lost 2-3, 26th Feb 2005

“We assembled minus Nick Stevens and Marc Gration.”

H & W Vets v Old Georgians: won 4-3, 30 September 2006

“With Gavin Strang back in New Zealand and Toshi Shirai and Satoshi Ueno having returned to Tokyo, only Marc Gration represented the Southern Hemisphere”.

H & W Supervets v Reading: won 3-1, 20th Dec 2014

“Tension mounted, as Reading sought to equalise. Skipper Packe gave his rallying call: “once more unto the breach, dear friends”. Cyril Flajsner, Hampstead 1st XI’s captain 1980-81, busied himself repelling wave after wave of Reading attackers. Howie saved corner after short corner. Gration 2000 hared around, here and there.”

H & W Supervets v Indian Gymkhana: lost 2-3, 17th Oct 2015

“As for the game, we had an abysmally poor start, conceding a weak goal early on. But when the writer came off the bench and on to the pitch, history changed, albeit briefly. By the second half, we found ourselves 2-1 up, to our pleasant surprise, after a wonderful goal by Oz.

The excitement of it all got to this bunch of once virile hunks of masculinity and we crumbled. IG

levelled midway through the second half, before administering the *coup de grace*, most skilfully, in the final minutes of the game.

Man of the match was Marc Gratton.”

H & W GMs v Spencer: won 2-1, 23rd Sept 2017

“The whistle went, the game started, ageing men ran around, with decreasing speed as time ticked by and goals were scored (fortunately, more by us than by them). Beating Spencer is a rare treat and we all felt very pleased with ourselves.

Scorers: Gratton 2000, CS-C.”

FIH Pro League

Most recently, England’s men pulled off a late comeback in a 5-4 victory against France. Matt Ramshaw, currently of H&W and Sam Ward both hit two goals with David Goodfield also on the scoresheet. The women's side conceded an equaliser against China (ranked 14th in the world; to England’s fourth) with 2.9 seconds left on the clock and lost the shootout 4-3.

Matches returned to the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre after more than two years’ absence owing to the pandemic. England's men went 2-0 ahead after eight minutes but France levelled the scores before half-time, thanks to goals from Victor Charlet and Gaspard Baumgarten.

England then retook the lead only for Baumgarten to score his hat-trick, to put France in the lead for the first time. But Ramshaw scored for England and a minute from full-time Ward fired his side to victory to leave them fifth in the Pro League table.

In the women's game, Tessa Howard scored in the 39th minute, only for China to equalise in the last play as Bingfeng Gu scored from a penalty corner. This sent the game to a shootout, in which Hannah Martin and Grace Balsdon missed for England, while China converted all their efforts. China came away with two points, their first of the Pro League season (having lost their previous four matches) and England took one that left them in sixth place.

On the second day, England’s men beat France for the second time. The women's side lost to China. The men's team produced an impressive performance to win 4-1. Nick Bandurak scored twice on his home debut, with David Condon and Sam Ward also on the scoresheet. They went ahead when Bandurak put away a penalty corner for his first England goal on home soil. He made it 2-0 after dragging home a corner off the inside of the post before Matt Ramshaw missed a big chance. It was 3-0 when Condon scored, only for Timothee Clement to pull one back. England put together a fine move that saw Ramshaw pushed over inside the D and Sam Ward made no mistake with the penalty stroke.

The women's side went ahead through H&W’s Grace Balsdon beating the dive of Ping Liu in the China goal. China were level when goalkeeper Sabbie Heesh made a challenge that was deemed to be a deliberate foul when *one-on-one*. Bingfeng Gu slotted home the penalty stroke. The visitors took the lead when Xindan Zhang produced a moment of real quality to finish on the reverse high into the net. England continued to battle but China were always a threat on the counter and Yang Chen made it 3-1 after a corner.

Commonwealth Games

These are the fixtures for Birmingham later this summer:

WOMEN

29 July 2022

Morning

New Zealand v Kenya
South Africa v Scotland

Afternoon

India v Ghana
Canada v Wales

30 July 2022

Afternoon

Australia v Kenya
England v Ghana

Evening

India v Wales
New Zealand v Scotland

31 July 2022

Evening

Canada v England
South Africa v Australia

1 August 2022

Morning

Wales v Ghana
Scotland v Kenya

2 August 2022

Morning

New Zealand v Australia
Ghana v Canada

Afternoon

India v England
Kenya v South Africa

3 August 2022

Morning

Australia v Scotland
Canada v India

4 August 2022

Morning

South Africa v New Zealand
England v Wales

5 August 2022

Morning

9 v 10

7 v 8

Evening

Semi Final 1
Semi Final 2

7 August 2022

Morning

5 v 6

Bronze Medal match

Afternoon

Final

MEN

29 July 2022

Evening

England v Ghana

New Zealand v Scotland

30 July 2022

Morning

South Africa v Pakistan

Canada v Wales

31 July 2022

Morning

New Zealand v Pakistan

Australia v Scotland

Afternoon

England v Wales

India v Ghana

1 August 2022

Afternoon

Scotland v South Africa

England v India

Evening

Ghana v Canada

New Zealand v Australia

3 August 2022

Afternoon

Canada v India

Wales v Ghana

Evening

Pakistan v Scotland

South Africa v Australia

4 August 2022

Afternoon

India v Wales

Canada v England

Evening

South Africa v New Zealand

Australia v Pakistan

6 August 2022

Morning

9 v 10
7 v 6
Bronze Medal match

Evening
Semi Final 1
Semi Final 2

8 August 2022

Morning
5 v 6
Bronze Medal match
Midday/Afternoon
Final

Yesteryear

[120 years ago](#)

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held at the Hampstead Constitutional Club on Monday, 28 April 1902 at 8:30pm

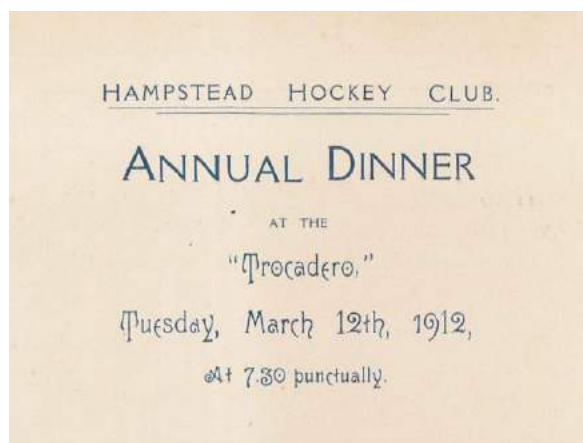
Match Card 1902-3

Proposed by Mr Toller, seconded by Mr. Leigh Ibbs and carried - that a match be arranged with Oxford University at Richmond on Thursday, December 11 as a 1st XI fixture.

Proposed by Mr Besch seconded by Mr Osmond and carried that the fixture with Ealing be retained.

The Hon. Secretary was requested to arrange a match with Cambridge University on January 24th at Richmond, if possible; if not, at Cambridge; also to arrange matches for the 2nd XI with Beckenham, Harrow, Brondesbury, Kingston Hill and Hampton Wick.

[110 years ago](#)



[20 years ago](#)

A letter from Club Chairman, Richard Chapman to past members:-

Please forgive the impersonal addressing of this letter but we are trying to reach as many past members as possible about a special day for the club in April.

On Sunday 14 April our men's first eleven are playing an important local derby in the National League Premier Division against Southgate. We have designated that day as a past members day and we are hoping that many former members from the men's and women's sections will be able to attend the game at 12:30 and support vociferously.

Following a suggestion by Gulsh Mandair, himself a 1st XI captain in the 1990s, we will be running between 2:00pm and 5:00pm a couple of friendly matches for those past members who are still able and keen to totter around. If we get the right mix of willing players, we will split you into one fast game and one slower game, largely depending on grey hairs (or the lack of them).

For everybody, including those who would rather not play and would prefer just to mingle with former team mates, a running barbecue will operate for most of the day at the Carlton Tavern. The main intention to reunite old friends and team mates for a very convivial day, while seeing the 1st XI give Southgate a good walloping.



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Next edition

All being well, the next Newsletter will cover the start of the 2022-23 season.

If you have any news or comment, please direct it to disvelwell@gmail.com