

Please find enclosed 1. An address list

2. Report on the Drainage position

3. Report on the Special Dinner in aid of the Drainage Fund

4. The main decisions of the Committee Meeting held last week.

Dave Teale (Secretary)

ADDRESS LIST

If there are any errors in the enclosed list please contact me as soon as possible. I am anxious to get postcodes to all addresses as this does mean you will receive the weekly bulletin earlier.

I am also keen that the club keeps in contact with old members and would be grateful to hear from members (especially those in the Vets) who know of someone who would like to receive the bulletins, perhaps monthly, or if they are willing to pay the £2-50 non-playing member subscription to receive the bulletin weekly.

I've already been given some names which are included on the enclosed list and look forward to both meeting these old members and others at perhaps a special function during the season (especially if they live at places like 'Le Grand Forestier' or 'The Royal Oak Cottage').

DRAINAGE/PITCHES (Report by Richard Chapman)

The Problem

No drains have ever been installed to remove water from the playing area. The compacted clay topsoil would not allow water to permeate to drains even if we had them. In short drainage is non-existent.

2. The Solution

The Hornsey Club Ground Committee commissioned a report from an independent fee charging organisation, the Sports Turf Research Council (Bingley's), the terms of reference being to provide a long term solution to the drainage problem. Bingley's were asked to report on the ideal method and on less expensive alternatives.

Method A (The Ideal)

Plough up the pitches, insert pipe drains, reconstitute top soil with several hundred tons of sand. Cost £10,000 per pitch. Result perfect

Method B

Insert pipe drains. Insert 2 inch wide slits (sand) at 2 foot intervals. Cost £6,000 per pitch. Result: Very good pitches when the sand has settled and the slits have been rolled out.

Method C

Insert pipe drains. Insert a less dense mesh of narrower slits. Cost £4,500 per pitch. Result: Good pitches but repeated sand slitting required in future.

3. The Choice

The Ground Committee favours Method B. Method A, apart from being costly, includes an element of cost for levelling pitches which already have good levels (i.e. they do not undulate). Also Method A puts the pitches out of action for one season.

Method B causes less disruption to the season although the playing surface will be poor until settling has occurred and been corrected.

Method C is a half-baked version of Method B to be adopted only if we cannot afford Method B.

The Ground Committee favours doing the job in two parts. Pitch 1 in October. Pitch 2 in April. This makes the overall cost slightly higher than if both pitches were done at the same time.

4. Background

The present pitches were relaid in 1971/2. For cost reasons pipe drains and sand were omitted from the work. This with hindsight was a mistake but H.H.C. were then tenants of the Hornsey Club and were to some extent hamstrung by Hornsey's ailing financial position. In lieu of the pipe drains the Groundsman was provided with a tractor on order to mole drain the pitches annually. The tractor (which we still have) was not suitable for mole draining and the good intentions lapsed. The pitches have not been mole drained since 1973.

(R.J.C. July 1979)

THE HOCKEY COMMITTEE HAVE GIVEN THE GO AHEAD FOR WORK (METHOD B) TO START IN OCTOBER ON THE PITCH NEAREST THE PAVILION. (Dave Teale)

DRAIN SUPPER (Report by Robin Francis)

The 'Drain Committee' would like to thank all who attended the Supper at Pizza On The Park on Friday 29th June. Allowing for a comically unfunny comic, we hope that those who came, saw, and enjoyed themselves. Approximately £400 profit was raised towards the Drainage Fund, thanks to the gifts and donations of many members, past and present, the lavish generosity of Peter Boizot, and several acts of inebriated auctioneering and cheque-signing largesse during the night. - It was pleasant to see so many senior faces again - including Mike Patton, 'Lust and Glory' - and, disregarding the fund raising aspect, we hope to run a Club Supper as an annual ongoing event.

Although this list is nowhere exhaustive, contributions of tombola gifts, cheques and organising effort from the following are acknowledged with warm thanks:

Morley Pecker, Jeremy Potter, Andy Benson, Mike Barrott, John Butcher, Nigel Barker, Ram and Susan Chitra, Izzy and Nick Coleman, Bill Donaldson, Mike Earp, Stan Elgar, Nigel Fletcher, Colin Greenhalgh, Richard Gwynne, Martin Garrett, Rick Holmes, Robin Henderson, Peter Hornsby, Andy Joss, Andy Leonard Jones, Brian Owles, Arthur Soares, Guy Stobart, David Taverner, Dave Wickert, Al Watson, Bob Watson, Chris Waite, Viji Vijendran, and others too numerous to mention.

Those members who were unable to attend the supper, are reminded that contributions may still be sent to Robin Francis, 35 Belsize Park Gdns, London NW3. Cheques should be made payable to Hampstead Hockey Drainage Fund.

At the moment, the Sponsored Marathon and the Drain Supper has realised approximately £2,000. Watch this space.....

SECRETARY'S COMMENTS (Dave Teale)

You will find enclosed the full minutes of the Committee Meeting held in July. I'm sending these to all members for two main reasons, firstly because the decisions reached affect all of you, and secondly because I want all members to be aware of how the club is run and to have more say themselves.

The worse clubs are those which are run by a few individuals and where players seem to be forever huddling in corners moaning about one thing after another. I wish to encourage those of you who want to contribute in any way to the club, but perhaps as yet have neither been given the scope or incentive to come forward with your ideas.

Under Brian Owles the club changed from an unhappy state to a united one, however I feel the club can still progress even further with success both on and off the field.

I shall be sending a further newsletter in early September and if you want me to include any news items (You're a dad...husband...bought an octopus for your mother-in law... please do not hesitate to contact me.

The next Committee Meeting is on the last Thursday of August and if you feel the should consider something that you have thought of please contact me as soon as possible. If you are willing to undertake organising your idea then you will be most welcome to attend the meeting (but please let me know as I can include it on the agenda).

Finally for those of you who have been reading the bulletin over the past three years will realise that my typing hasn't improved one bit.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE CLUB ON THURSDAY 26TH JULY 1979

PRESENT

Nick Coleman, Dave Téale, Robin Henderson, Robin Francis, Richard Chapman, Brian Guest, Arthur Soares, Ram Chitra, Richard Cresswell, Rod Tippen and Geoff Wilmot.
Apologies received from Tony Elliott, Peter Dale, Mike Sadler-Forster and Mike Earp.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

These were accepted without discussion.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

It was agreed that the Committee would meet at 7.45 on the last Thursday of each month. If the Secretary felt there were no urgent items on the agenda he would have the power to cancel any meeting.

It was agreed that Committee Meetings should finish no later than 9.15.

PITCHES

The following points were discussed and agreed:-

- (a) Permission was granted for drainage work to begin in October on the Pavilion Pitch.
- (b) The Secretary was instructed to book shale pitches each week at Highgate Wood, Creighton North and Inderwick Rd if possible. It was pointed out by the Secretary that Haringey Council were having an inter-department disagreement over whose responsibility Highgate Wood was.
- (c) We had been unable to get any other grass pitch.
- (d) We agreed not to use Picketts Lock in future.
- (e) On the fixture card we would put shale for all non-grass home matches. All opposition would come to the clubhouse and be escorted to their pitch. This would be the responsibility of the home captain.
- (f) If both grass pitches are unfit we use either Creighton North (now they have been resurfaced) or Inderwick Rd, for London League matches.
- (g) The Committee reaffirmed the commitment to run seven teams but would review the situation at the end of the season.

FIXTURE CARD

It was agreed that all reference to the Squash Section be removed. On the inner page where the officials etc for squash were mentioned, this now be devoted to Indoor Hockey.

INDOOR SUBSCRIPTIONS

Because of the high cost of entering competitions the following was agreed.

Outdoor members playing indoors regularly.....£5.00 (no reduction for students)
Indoor members only.....£10.00

There would be no match fees unless the secretaries need to charge a small fee to cover their expenses. Non-regular members playing indoors would be charged an evening fee of 50p.

CATERING

It was agreed to use the same ladies and to offer them £13.00 per match.

MATCH FEES

The following were agreed (excluding beer kitty)

AWAY match.....£1.00
HOME match.....£1.50
STUDENTS.....£1.00 (home and away)

BULLETINS/POSTAGE

The following was agreed:-

- (a) All players selected plus reserves, umpires to have bulletins sent First Class.
- (b) All non-playing members to receive bulletins Second Class.
- (c) All players who are unavailable and thus not selected NOT to receive a bulletin. That bulletin to be included in the envelope when next available.

UMPIRES

It was pointed out that there was a slight change this season. The 1stX1 would continue having SCHUA (Southern Counties) but the 2ndX1 would now have MCHUA (Middlesex County). All other teams including the 3rdX1 in their league would have to provide their own umpires as before,

REPRESENTATIVES

It was agreed that Nick Coleman would represent the club at Middlesex meetings and Arthur Suores at London League meetings.

3RD XL LEAGUE

We had agreed to join the 3rdXL League. It is being run on the same basis as 3rdXL matches have been taking place over the last few years. The minimum number of matches to qualify is twelve completed matches. There will be no play-offs, the team top at the end of the season winning the league.

It was agreed to discuss the possible forming of a Vets League for 1980/1 would be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

TRAINING

This will take place when the season starts at the Hornsey School for Girls on Mondays from 8.15 until 10.15.

EQUIPMENT

The Secretary was instructed to order hockey balls for the coming season.

TRIALS

These would take place on the 22nd and 29th of September at Highgate Wood. Arthur Suores with the captains would organise the trials for the 22nd. It is hoped that the 1stXL squad will have a friendly on that date in Lincolnshire. The first three teams have practice matches on the 29th against Welwyn.

LETTERS TO MEMBERS

It was agreed that a letter be sent to all players notifying them of decisions reached at this meeting.

PLAYERS MEETING

It was agreed that a future Committee Meeting (in October) be open to all members of the club.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

It was agreed that the Committee would meet next on Thursday 30th August.