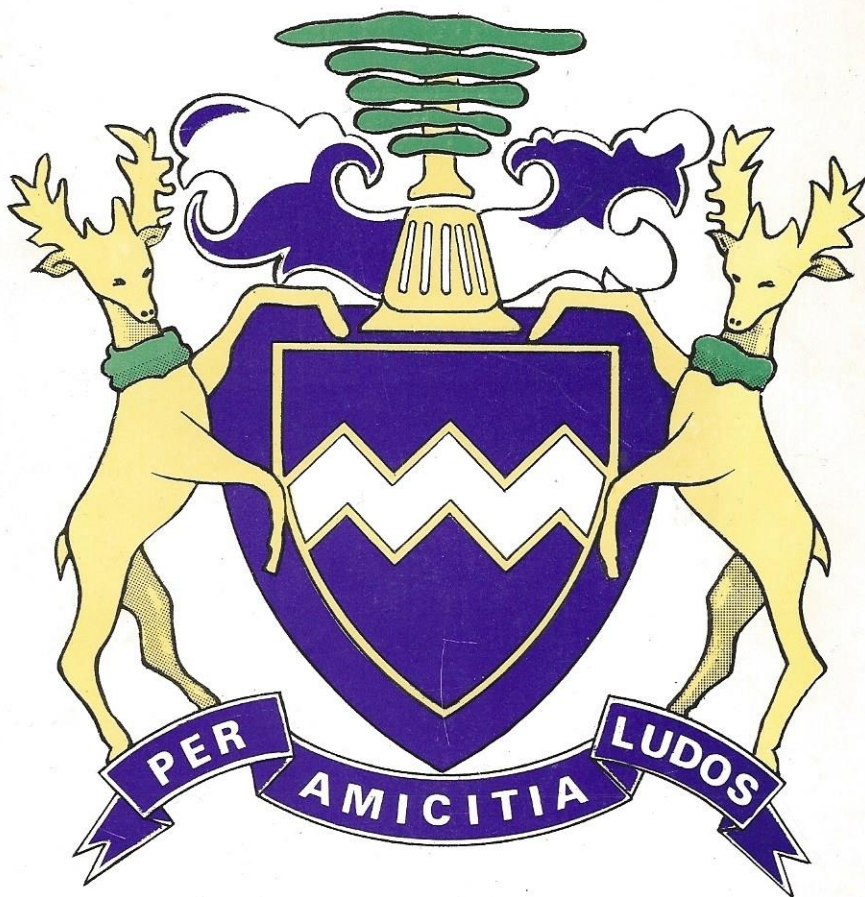


WINCHMORE HILL CRICKET CLUB



1880 - 1980



THE PAULIN GROUND
FORD'S GROVE
WINCHMORE HILL N.21

WINCHMORE HILL CRICKET CLUB

(with Lawn Tennis, Association Football, Women's Hockey, Table Tennis and Non-Playing Sections)

Affiliated to the Club Cricket Conference L.T.A. A.F.A. A.E.W.H.A. and the E.T.T.A.

The First Hundred Years 1880 – 1980

CRICKET

You do well to love it, for it is more free from anything sordid, anything dishonourable, than any game in the world. To play it keenly, honourably, generously, self-sacrificingly, is a moral lesson in itself, and the classroom is God's air and sunshine. Foster it, my brothers, so that it may attract all who can find the time to play it; protect it from anything that would sully it, so that it may grow in favour with all men.

Lord Harris (on the occasion of his eightieth birthday, 3rd February 1931)

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ONE HUNDRED NOT OUT!

FOREWORD BY THE PRESIDENT

It is with feelings of great pleasure and pride that I commend to you this centenary story of our great Club. From a humble beginning as a Villager's idea, it has, like the acorn, thrived and grown into a splendid oak with strong roots and ever spreading branches.

Much is owed by many to those dedicated members of the past who gave so much of their time and energy to enable the recounting of this success story.

In these days of actual journeys to the moon, of satellites, computers and forward planning, the past is apt to be overlooked and it was indeed fortunate that the Club was able to pursue the idea of putting the clock back over the last hundred years.

Records, minute books, etc. however, do not seem to have been a considered necessity until comparatively modern times. We are therefore much indebted to the Staff of the Enfield Reference Library for access to the early editions of the Enfield Gazette and Observer which coincided with our early years prior to World War I, and contained interesting reports of matches, meetings and events. We are also grateful for the help of the much younger Palmers Green and Southgate Gazette which, since 1913 and the considerable growth of the district, succeeded the Enfield Gazette as our local paper.

The hours of reading and research involved have been a tremendous task, and I am sure all Members will join me in thanking Tony and Jennifer for a truly absorbing and factual story.

To conclude, the great maxim of all for one and one for all has enabled us to reach the happy and successful state of affairs of today, and it is my fervent wish, as no doubt it is yours, that the Club should continue to flourish for many years to come.

D. W. WRAGG

CENTENARY CONGRATULATIONS

THE CLUB CRICKET CONFERENCE

The Conference is an association of clubs many of whom were established in the early days of club cricket. Winchmore Hill Cricket Club, in being twenty years before the turn of the century, joined the London Club Cricket Conference in 1916. Through the years it has produced many fine players, amongst whom A. Young (1929), N. C. Nicholson (1931), A. F. Rae (1948) and L. A. Rogers (1974) have been awarded Conference Caps. Lionel Rogers was Vice-Captain of the Conference Touring Party to Australia in 1975, where he performed with distinction in scoring a century against Newcastle University.

The Club's tradition is that of cricket played in friendly rivalry. It is in these conditions that Winchmore Hill Cricket Club has attained the ripe old age of 100 years, and the congratulations of not only myself, but those of the Council and members of the Conference go to the Club on the occasion of the celebration of its Centenary.

LESTER BARBER
Conference President

TENNIS

Through my association principally with the Tennis Section, it is an honour and a pleasure to be given the opportunity to contribute in this way towards the celebrations of the Cricket Club's Centenary.

It is now sixty-eight years since Tennis became a part of the life of the parent Club. In that time the game itself has changed little but, as with most field games today, it is much faster and played to a more technical pattern. Social Tennis has generally been the accepted game at Winchmore Hill but considerable encouragement has been given to the young. The facilities and coaching have been made readily available and many boys and girls of yesteryear have much for which to thank the generosity, foresight and encouragement given in this direction. Long may it continue.

May I offer to Winchmore Hill Cricket Club many congratulations on reaching this important landmark and hopes of continued prosperity for many years to come.

ALAN JONES
L.T.A. Coach 1977-78
Member N.P.T.C.A.

AMATEUR FOOTBALL ALLIANCE

I welcome the invitation I received to contribute the following brief foreword to the History being published on the occasion of the Centenary of the Winchmore Hill Cricket Club.

Success in playing cricket, soccer or any other sport is important, but it is the welcome and hospitality your visitors value and for which the "Hill" Football Club has long been renowned.

To reach such an outstanding landmark of 100 years, could only have been achieved by the devoted and dedicated work of your Officers and Committees throughout the many past years and all Members should be grateful for what has been done on their behalf. To them I would say, 'When the day arrives for you to put away your cricket bat or soccer boots, that is the opportunity to put something back into the Club and thus help to maintain its continued success'. As one, now approaching 85 years, I have found great satisfaction in lending a hand in helping the younger members. After all it is the friendships one makes and retains that is the ultimate reward to be gained in taking part in Amateur sport.

My heartiest congratulations on this important Anniversary and good wishes for the future.

B. D. NICOLSON

Cuaco F.C.

Vice-President Southern Amateur League

Life Vice-President Amateur Football Alliance

TABLE TENNIS

The North Middlesex Table Tennis League through the Table Tennis Section is proud to be associated with the Winchmore Hill Cricket Club on the occasion of the Club's Centenary.

The long association, though more particularly that of the last five years, coupled with the generous hospitality and facilities extended by the Club are much valued.

On behalf of the League therefore it is with much pleasure that I send their congratulations and sincere good wishes for the future.

LOU HOFFMAN

Chairman

North Middlesex Table Tennis League

MIDDLESEX WOMEN'S HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

I am pleased to have this opportunity on behalf of the Middlesex Women's Hockey Association to congratulate Winchmore Hill Cricket Club on reaching their Centenary.

The Hockey Section of the Club has provided the Association over the years with many fine players and administrators; it would be invidious to try to remember and compare them all, but two players must be outstanding in post-war memory.

Elaine Bartle gained International recognition for England in the 1957/58 Season and in 1959 was a member of the victorious England team at the I.F.W.H.A.'s Conference and Tournament held in Amsterdam.

Then in 1963 Sheila Gray-Williams scored for Wales at Wembley the goal which gave them their first ever victory over England, and for that achievement alone, she must surely find a niche in the Club's history.

But although our connection has been principally with the Hockey Section, the Club has played host to many County, Southern Counties and, on occasions, International matches. We are indeed fortunate and grateful to have in Middlesex a Club willing to share their excellent hockey ground and where we are invariably welcomed and treated with courtesy by all Members.

May the Winchmore Hill Cricket Club continue to prosper so that future generations will reflect with pride on its achievements.

JOYCE CLARKE

President Middlesex W.H.A.

Member of the Executive Committees of
S.C.W.H.A. and A.E.W.H.A.

The Life and Times of Winchmore Hill — 1850 to 1900

Our story begins 'Once upon a time' during the second half of last century, a time when much of the Cricket, Football, Tennis and Hockey as we know them to-day saw their beginnings in the 1870s and 1880s. They were the days of Queen Victoria some four generations ago. Gladstone and Disraeli vied with each other, Dickens was still writing, and the motor car and the aeroplane were still to come. To set the local scene of those far off times, let us recall the world of Winchmore Hill and its surrounding area.

It was a quiet, sleepy old country area covered with some woodland but mostly with open fields of corn and cattle. There were few houses, some large in attractive grounds, and others far apart or clustered round The Green at the junction of Broad Walk, Church Hill, Wades Hill, Middle Lane (Station Road) and Hoppers Road.

The earliest reference to Winchmore Hill is in a deed dated 1319 AD where the name is spelt Wynsemerhull. This, according to the authorities on English place-names (e.g. Oxford Dictionary of English Place Names and Gover Place Names of Middlesex) is probably derived from the Old English 'Wynsige' (a 'personal name') and 'maerhyll' (a 'boundary hill'), thus the full name meaning 'the hill at the boundary of Wynsige's land'. With the passage of time the spelling changed gradually, to its present form and is so spelt in John Norden's Map of Middlesex, 1593.

An appropriate reference to 'Our Village', describing in humorous style Winchmore Hill as it then was, written by the poet Tom Hood when he lived in the village in 1829/32, is taken from Meyers Observer and Local and General Advertiser of 14 November 1890 (The Enfield Gazette and Observer of to-day):-

'The village has still its Green of but not exceeding an acre and a half! It's common to all and fed off by nineteen cows, six ponies, three horses, five asses, two foals, seven pigs and a calf. Besides a pond in the middle, as is held by a sort of common law lease, and contains 20 ducks, 6 drakes, 3 ganders, 2 dead dogs, 4 drowned kittens and 12 geese'.

(The pond was filled in at the turn of the century.)

The Post Office Directory of 1859 gives the population of Winchmore Hill as 2,000. This figure was nearly doubled in the Census of 1901. In 1864 direct communication from Enfield to the West End was by a four-horse omnibus. It ran twice daily from the Kings Head, Enfield via Winchmore Hill, Palmers Green, Wood Green, Manor House, Newington Green, Balls Pond Gate, The Angel Islington, to Charing Cross and Westminster Abbey. It cost one shilling from Enfield and Winchmore Hill to Islington — three pence extra inside — and took rather less than 1½ hours.

The Great Northern Railway came to Winchmore Hill in 1869-70 and the first train came through on

April Fool's Day 1871. This remarkable achievement caused the little village to become a suburb of the great Metropolis of London.

In the village, the Post Office, on the edge of the Green opposite The Kings Head, where it is to-day, was also the grocery store. A telegraph wire to Southgate was laid in 1871. For some time the messages rarely exceeded three in number during the whole day and it is possible that the messengers spent much of their time delivering groceries.

Broad Walk was but a narrow track through the woods to Bourne Hill, The Pound for stray animals and The Woodman. Indeed the surrounding woodland from Grovelands to the railway and from Bourne Hill to The Green did not disappear for the advancement of housing until some fifty or so years ago, within living memory.

On Church Hill stands St. Paul's Church consecrated by the Bishop of London in June 1828. On the other side of Church Hill is the Chapel of the Quakers (who came in the seventeenth century) and their Society of Friends. The Friends Meeting House and the Quakers graveyard remain to-day.

There were fields where Ringwood Way and St. Paul's Church School are now, on which Tennis and Cricket were played from the early 1870s. Until the latter part of the century there were few houses in Middle Lane (Station Road). No doubt the reader will know of the Queens Head public house, where a hostelry has stood since the days of Dick Turpin in the early years of the eighteenth century.

On to Green Lanes. Well named with trees on either side which did not disappear until nearly the turn of the century. To the north towards Enfield is The Green Dragon. As this public house was virtually 'The Club House' until just before the Great War some of its long history is worth mentioning. Records show that an Inn of that name has been in Winchmore Hill since 1750, and maps of the late eighteenth century indicated its site to be on the Green Lanes facing up Dog Kennel Lane (Green Dragon Lane). The Inn was moved to its present site, at the lower end of Vicars Moor Lane with Green Lanes, just before 1800 and remained until 1892 when it was rebuilt and became a Courage's house. The new building was in striking contrast to the old one and the outward features have been little altered, even to this day. During its history, The Green Dragon has had a reputation for its Skittle Alley, Cockfighting, as well as being the local Post Centre and a stopping point for the Horse-bus because of its excellent stabling facilities.

We have now to record 'Ford's Grove'. The house, or rather mansion of the name, stood opposite Station Road and on the site at present occupied by Capitol House, Green Lanes. It looked across the New River and the spinney, over fields towards Edmonton and Enfield. Until 1889 it was the home of the Busk



'THE GREEN DRAGON' 1870

family. The last to live there was Thomas Teshmaker Busk who owned much of the above land which included the twenty or so acres across the river known to us as the Paulin Ground and the home of the Club. The spinney has changed little, though the pond has gone. The rest of the south east side of Firs Lane was cattle grazing land, but the north east in front of the present pavilion was Mr. Busk's private park surrounded by trees. Cattle did stray across and iron hurdles on wheels had to be placed strategically to keep them back — yes, in due course from the cricket table. As far as can be ascertained, the little footbridge seen on the spinney side of the Ford's Grove road bridge was the Busk's means of crossing the New River, which then had no fence as such, but just an iron post and rail to keep the cattle away.

Between Mr. Busk's property and what we know to-day as Firs Hall, was the Beaulieu Estate with its fine botanical collection. The great Cedar Tree to the right of the bend of the New River, and overlooking the Ground, is commemorated by its inclusion in the Club Badge. The residence stood approximately at the beginning of Elm Park Road.

In the times which we recall, Ford's Grove the road, was known as Mortiboy's Lane after the farmer who farmed the fields towards Highfield Road which extended to Firs Lane, and also what is now the football area of our Ground.

Open fields extended across Firs Farm towards Edmonton and the other way towards Enfield. Jews Corner Lane (now Ridge Road) wound through the Rowantree Estate.

It is probably not readily appreciated that soon after this story is read, the New River which winds along the north west boundary of the Ground, will have been there for four hundred years. It was an idea which came forward at the end of the reign of the first Elizabeth — to bring water for drinking purposes to the Metropolis from springs in Hertfordshire and Middlesex, at Amwell near Ware and Chadwell. It was commenced under letters patent granted by King James I in 1604, but was hindered by financial difficulties until 1611 when, with the King's financial support, it was finally completed in 1613.

In conclusion the reader will note that the twenty or so acres of the Paulin Ground has retained its outer boundaries to this day.

Why the 'Paulin' Ground?

The Club's original landlord, Thomas Teshmaker Busk, has already been mentioned. He was its first President until his death in 1894. Indeed, the family were the Club's landlords for its first forty years, allowing cricket to be played on their private park from 1881 onwards.

The lineage of the Busk family can be traced to their Scandinavian origin in the seventeenth century and earlier, but the family was well established in England around 1700. They were merchants and lawyers.

When Mr. Busk's grandfather, Edward Busk married in September 1800, Sarah Thomasine, only surviving daughter and heiress of Thomas Teshmaker, J.P. of 'Ford's Grove', Lord of the Manor of Edmonton, the Ground was part of the property in the inheritance. In fact, it was a Mr. Merry Teshmaker who purchased 'Ford's Grove' in about 1720.

Edward Busk was a Barrister-at-law and lived in the vicinity of Bedford Row but moved to 'Ford's Grove' when Mrs Teshmaker moved to another house in Winchmore Hill. His eldest son Edward Thomas who was born in 1805, married in 1851. There were five children of this marriage, of whom Thomas Teshmaker Busk, born in 1852 was the eldest son. In 1885 he married Mary Acworth of The Hook, Northaw, Herts. They were the last of the Busks to reside at 'Ford's Grove' for in 1889 they acquired 'Hermongers', Rudgwick in Sussex where they moved with their son Edward and daughter Mary, and were to have two more sons, Henry and Hans, before Mr. Busk died in 1894.

His passing at the early age of 42 years caused the Club to lose a true friend which had been shown by his continued earnest interest, especially by his kindness in granting the Club the use of his private park. The arrangements for the retention of this facility were contained in a lease issued through Trustees Agents acting for his Executors until his eldest son, Edward, became the Club's landlord on coming of age in 1907. The lease provided for the continued use of the Ground from Season to Season, subject to the wishes of the Trustees, particularly with respect to upkeep and proposed improvements, and for the furnishing of copies of the Annual Report and Statement of Account. The family was held in high esteem by all classes of the Winchmore Hill and Edmonton communities, where Mr. Busk, like his father a Barrister-at-law, was a member of the Edmonton Local Board of Guardians, and was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the County of Middlesex in 1883. Both father (1844) and son (1889) were Trustees of the Latymer School at Edmonton, subsequently attended by many Club members.

Edward, was a celebrated aeronautical engineer who, after attaining First Class Honours in Mechanical Sciences at Cambridge, became Assistant Engineer at the Royal Aircraft Factory, Farnborough. Here he devoted much of his time to the mathematics and

dynamics of stable flight. He was tragically killed on 5 November 1914 while flying his own stable aeroplane which burst into a sheet of flames and came down at Laffans Plain near Aldershot where he was buried in the Military Cemetery with full military honours. His genius, from which has resulted much of the stability of aeroplanes, together with his courage, was recognised by the posthumous award of the Gold Medal of the Aeronautical Society of Great Britain, and amongst the many letters of condolence received by his Mother was one from King George V.

The Club, conscious of the significance of all that had happened and of the fact that it owed its inception and continued existence to the kindness of his family, deplored his loss.

Regrettably his youngest brother Hans, was killed bombing the Turks at Gallipoli in 1916. They were survived by their Mother, brother Henry and sister Mary.

In 1915 an Agreement was made between Mrs Mary Busk, widow and landlord, and F. J. Huson, Esq., as Tenant of land occupied by Winchmore Hill Cricket Club. This was the private park area bounded by Firs Lane to the north, the New River on the west and part of the land bounded by Ford's Grove. The remainder to the east being used by Collegiate School. The tenancy was for a year at a time from 25 March 1915 at a rent of £5 per annum.

After the Busks had moved to Rudgwick, the fine old residence of 'Ford's Grove' was subsequently occupied by several people, more or less strangers to the district, until 1903. The mansion remained unoccupied becoming dilapidated and finally was demolished in 1920.

Before continuing the history of the Ground it is necessary to retrace our steps and recount the early and overlapping connection with the Paulin and Mann families. They were, of course, known as brewers, and cricketers, of the famous firm Mann Crossman and Paulin, but we are particularly concerned with Sir William Thomas Paulin, J.P. and his daughter Irene.

Like the Busks, the Paulin family came to this country in the late seventeenth century and settled in Berwick on Tweed. They had fled from Southern France in the religious persecution of the Huguenots. The first mention we find of the family in Berwick is the marriage of William Thomas's great great grandfather in 1697. Successive generations of the family have followed diverse trades and callings such as husbandman, shoemaker, corn chandler. His grandfather, was master of Berwick Academy in 1800. Of his three sons, one became associated with Alexander Crossman who was in the corn business. Another seeing service in the Berwick Shipping Company of which he became manager in 1820. The other son Thomas, introduced into the brewery business by a kinsman of the Crossman family, was William Thomas's father.

It is at this time in the early 1800s that the great family tradition of the subsequent brewery business of Mann Crossman and Paulin commenced. Thomas Paulin and Robert Crossman, who was a practical man with a sound knowledge of brewing and much flair and energy, a younger brother of Alexander, became actively concerned in the brewery business in Berwick. Both came south to the Isleworth Brewery. They met James Mann at Mile End where the eventual family brewing business began in 1808. Thomas Paulin remained at Isleworth, while Robert Crossman returned to manage the Border Brewery in Berwick and bought the Manor of Holy Island which his direct descendant, Colonel Humphrey Crossman still owns. When James Mann died in 1844 his eldest son (of the same name) sought out Robert Crossman, and together in 1846 they signed the first partnership deed of 'Mann, Crossman and Company'. Later that year Robert Crossman invited Thomas Paulin to join them and with James's younger brother Thomas, the partnership was extended, though Paulin was not named in the style until a little later in 1848. James Mann retired from active participation in the business leaving three very active partners in Thomas Mann, Robert Crossman and Thomas Paulin. The annals report that the Manns established the business, the Crossmans consolidated it and the Paulins preserved it.

To underline the happy relationship existing between the partners, the son of Thomas Paulin would marry the daughter of Thomas Mann so completing the cycle of intermarriage between the three families of Mann Crossman and Paulin, Alexander Crossman's son Matthew having married Thomas Paulin's sister. This branch of the Crossman family became members of the old established London firm of Solicitors Crossman Block, with which the Club has also been actively associated in recent years through H. A. Block who died in 1959 aged 93 and his late son Spencer Block. The firm has passed in 1965 its second century of continuous partnership business.

The year 1848 saw the birth of Thomas James Mann, eldest son of Thomas Mann, and of William Thomas Paulin eldest son of Thomas Paulin. Both were to follow their fathers in the business and add considerably to its lustre and proportions.

William Thomas entered the brewery at the age of 16 years and became concerned with the financial and legal sides of the business, having inherited much of his father's sound financial acumen. He later actively associated himself with the London Hospital, Whitechapel, so continuing a long association, by all three families, started in 1840.

Following the death of Thomas Mann in 1886, the last of the first three partners in the brewery firm (Thomas Paulin having died in 1873 and Robert

Crossman in 1883) William Thomas became a senior partner in the brewery business with Thomas James Mann and his brother Edward.

The close association of the Mann and Paulin families was evident by their moves to Winchmore Hill. First Thomas Mann and his family came to the village in 1858. They lived at Laurel Lodge situated in Church Hill and later at 'Roseneath' which he purchased in 1867, with its eleven acres of land on the south west side of the Vicars Moor Lane railway bridge. The land stretched across to Station Road and to the south including St. Paul's School and Ringwood Way of today. It was also in 1858 that Thomas Mann purchased Thelveton Hall, and its many acres of farms near Diss in Norfolk, the traditional home of the Mann family.

It is thought appropriate here to record the Mann family connection with the Club. In 1905, Edward Mann, already mentioned, was created a baronet and continued to live at 'Roseneath' for a time until finally moving to Norfolk just before the Great War. He had been a Vice-President of the Club for many years until resigning in 1913. (In 1914 Mr. W. T. Paulin presented 'Roseneath' to the War Office fully equipped as a voluntary hospital for wounded soldiers during the Great War Years. By October 1915 the number of beds had been increased from 40 to 50 and over 1,600 soldiers passed through the hospital. During these years the Club, like others in the district ran concerts, the proceeds of which were donated to the running of the hospital.)

Sir Edward Mann's third son, Francis Thomas Mann (1888-1964) is well known to cricketers. He Captained Middlesex in the 20s, succeeding the great Sir Pelham 'Plum' Warner, and England. 'Mighty Mann' of Middlesex was one of the biggest hitters in English cricket. He once, playing for Middlesex against Notts., scored 53 runs off 20 balls hitting four sixes and six fours. At Lords, he hit the great Yorkshire bowler Wilfred Rhodes three times to the top of the pavilion. It is pleasing to record that in 1921 he brought to Ford's Grove the first M.C.C. side to play the Club. In turn, his son Francis George (b. 1917) also Captained Middlesex and England. He was President of the Club from 1961 to 1970 and closely associated himself with the President's game. In 1978 he was appointed Chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board.

To return now to the Paulin family — Thomas Paulin, William Thomas's father purchased 'Beaulieu' and lived there from 1865 to 1873. (The house then came into the possession of the Phillips family, but, having stood empty for some years, it was made habitable and used for housing Belgian refugees during the Great War years.)

In 1877, William Thomas married Thomas Mann's daughter Fanny at Christ Church, Southgate having acquired the 'Broadfields' estate of 14 acres between Wades Hill, Church Hill and Hounsden Road. Here they entered farming and kept Jersey cows. Some of the outbuildings are in use today by the garage in Paulin Drive, Wades Hill. (Broadfields Avenue has been built through the centre of the estate.) They had two daughters, Fanny Ina Ramsey (January 1879) and Mary Julia Irene (June 1882).

Mr. Paulin became a local Justice of the Peace in 1893 and, with his wife, in addition to their London Hospital association, became deeply involved in varying degrees of generosity and benefaction in the village and particularly with St. Paul's Church.

In 1895, being a keen follower of cricket, Mr. Paulin, already a Vice-President, became President of the Club on the death of Mr. T. T. Busk the year before. He held this office until his death in 1931.

Mrs Paulin died in February 1901 at the comparatively early age of 49 years. She was known as the 'Lady Bountiful' of Winchmore Hill, responsible for much good work among the villagers and parishioners of the time. Her obituary included 'the poor had no kinder friend than she and many have lost a generous and sympathetic benefactor'. To her memory in 1903 her husband erected St. Paul's Institute in Station Road which served as a centre for functions of every sort for some fifty or more years. It was only demolished quite recently. The foundation stone was saved, and is at present at the west door of St. Paul's Church suitably inscribed with the names of her husband and two daughters.

In July 1902, at St. Paul's Church, Miss Ina Paulin and the Vicar, The Rev. A. J. B. Dewdney, M.A. were married by the then Bishop of London. Alongside the Church, her father erected the Vicarage House which has been used by incumbents ever since. The Vicar's stay at St. Paul's was notably a busy one, but very short, for in December 1907 he contracted tuberculosis and was forced to resign the living. His health improved but, on the advice of his doctors, the couple with their very young daughter (born in 1904), migrated to Canada and spent many years administering the affairs of the church in that vast country.

Mr. Paulin's younger daughter, Irene, who remained unmarried, assisted her father at 'Broadfields' and in many of his local interests.

Immediately after the Great War, much of the privately owned lands of Winchmore Hill came up for sale for building purposes. Amongst this land was that of the Busk family. Their 'Ford's Grove' Estate comprising in all some 75 acres with frontages to Green Lanes and including what is today, Ridge Road, Halstead Road, Firs Park Avenue and areas of Highfield.

Part of this land, listed for public auction was being used by the Club and the Collegiate School. There were nine Lots listed but Lot 2 was to the Club of most interest. It was described as:-

'Freehold building land or eminently suitable for recreation or sports ground containing 20½ acres with frontages of about 2,350 feet in Ford's Grove and Firs Lane'.

The loss of facilities enjoyed by many, particularly over the past forty years would have been nothing short of a disaster. However, after consultations between Club Officers and the President, he agreed to bid for the land. The auction was held by Tuckett, Webster & Co. at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.2 on Monday 10 May 1920 at 2.30 p.m. History is glad to record that Mr. W. T. Paulin was successful. The sum paid was £8,000 including expenses and the 2½% rent Mr. Paulin set the Club, to be shared amongst the occupiers, was to stand for the next 40 years. Mr. Paulin vested the freehold with his daughter Irene.

In the New Year's Honours list of 1929 it was announced that the Club President has been Knighted for services to the London Hospital where he had been a Life Governor for over half a century, an active member of the committee since 1893 and hon. treasurer since 1913.

Two years later it was with the deepest regret and sense of loss that the passing of Sir William in February 1931 was announced. The spirit of the following quotation was outstanding in the life of this well known philanthropist not only locally but in a wide sphere in East London and elsewhere:-

'I shall pass through this world but once; any good thing, therefore, I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now, let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again'.

Many will have cause to remember his kindness and unflinching generosity and to bless him for the kindly christian spirit in which he offered help and succour. His helping hand stretched far and wide and it is true to say that he endeavoured to 'do good by stealth and blushed to find it fame' for many of his larger benefactions were made anonymously; indeed the full extent to which his generosity spread will never be known.

Under an Indenture dated 2 May 1921 Miss Paulin leased from 29 September 1920 the land bordering on Firs Lane and the New River extending to include the New River football pitch and cricket table, a total of ten acres approximately, to the Club for a period of five years at an annual rent of £120. At the same time, Miss Paulin leased the lower Ford's Grove/Firs Lane area of approximately 4½ acres together with the right hand part of the Spinney area by the New River to the Collegiate School. Alongside this the Choir of St. Paul's Church had an open area of about an acre.

How the Club began 1880

South of the Spinney along Ford's Grove, the Choir of Holy Trinity Church also had about an acre. The remainder of the Spinney from Ford's Grove Bridge along Ford's Grove was leased to the Congregational Church Club.

In 1929, Miss Paulin granted a new five year lease of the Ground, this time embracing the whole of the 20½ acres to the Cricket Club as from Lady Day, 25 March 1929 at a yearly rent of £200. The School and the three Church tenancies were continued and a proviso was included that no play of cricket, football, tennis or other sports would be permitted on Sundays or Christmas Day. During 1929 and 1930, both St. Paul's and Holy Trinity Church Choirs gave up possession of their parts of the Ground.

In succession to her father, Miss Irene accepted the Presidency of the Club and in 1932 agreed to the provision of three hard tennis courts on the Ground. The following year she permitted Sunday play from 2.00 p.m. for the first time in the history of the Club and in 1934 renewed the lease of the Ground to the Club for 14 years and to its being scheduled as a permanent open space.

During the 1939-45 period, Miss Paulin agreed, with her usual kindness and interest towards the Club, to a reduction of 50% of the rent of the Ground.

In 1947 negotiations took place concerning a new lease having regard to the suggested construction of a house on the Ground for a Head Groundsman. At Miss Paulin's own suggestion, a new lease for a period of 35 years from March 1947 at the same rent paid prior to the 1939/45 War, to include a Clause granting the Club permission to build a suitable house, was gratefully accepted. The project was, unfortunately, delayed by post-war difficulties of licencing of materials and planning approval, but when the go ahead was given in 1953, to facilitate financial arrangements concerning the house, Miss Paulin granted a further six years lease to extend the 1947 lease to 1988.

It was with deep regret that the Club heard of the passing of Miss Paulin on 30 June 1960. Her interest and generosity towards the Club throughout a long association was shown in the terms of her Will which granted the Club a 99 year lease from the 25 December after her death, at a yearly rent of one shilling. Provision was made for the land to remain a recreation ground in perpetuity.

In recognition of their close family connection and much good will towards the Club, Miss Paulin in 1948 was graciously pleased to accept the recommendation that in future the Ground should be known as 'The Paulin Ground'.

For some years towards the end of the last century, Winchmore Hill boasted two Cricket Clubs. One was our Club, known as the Winchmore Hill Village Cricket Club and the other as the Winchmore Hill Cricket and Lawn Tennis Club.

The latter Club had played since 1871 on the paddock of 'Roseneath', Vicars Moor Lane, it was a fairly expensive Club to belong to and of limited membership. The minutes of 1 April 1879 record that the President of this 'Gentlemen's Club' was T. Mann Esq; of Church Hill, the Secretary was T. T. Busk Esq; and there were the two sons of Thomas Mann, Thomas James and Edward on the Committee. W. T. Paulin Esq: was a member and for many years held the office of Treasurer. It is further recorded in a minute of a Committee Meeting on 24 April 1879 'that the Winchmore Hill Cricket and Lawn Tennis Club would use the rules dated 1879 adopted by the Marylebone Cricket Club and the All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club'. Lawn Tennis flourished very much and was played until about 1930, the Club being known locally, particularly in its later years of existence, as the 'Roseneath Tennis Club'. Cricket seems to have died out about the turn of the century, but it is interesting to record that the 'Field' magazine of 1874 shows them playing Southgate Juniors and several games were reported in the years until 1880. It is noticeable that the players were all prefixed with the title 'Mr.' and in a number of cases there were 12-a-side.

In the Autumn of 1880, John Moore, who occupied the position of Head Gardener to the Busk family at 'Ford's Grove', approached his master with other villagers for permission to play cricket on his private park on the Firs Lane side of the present ground. A meeting was arranged and the Winchmore Hill Village Cricket Club was formally founded, on Mr. Busk agreeing to the proposition and giving free use of this area where the Club has played ever since.

At the General Meeting of the Club held in October 1912, with the agreement of the then President, W. T. Paulin Esq; J.P., the proposal that the word 'Village' should be excluded from the title was confirmed, and the Club then assumed its present name of the Winchmore Hill Cricket Club.

Cricket – 1881 to 1914

In the absence of Club records, we are indebted to the Meyers Observer and Local and General Advertiser (Enfield Gazette and Observer) for details of the Club's matches and such other information they were asked to publish for most of the pre Great War years. The paper requested Clubs wishing to report their results to use the 'Enfield Scoring Sheets' available at ninepence a dozen or 1/6 per quire – the paper was published weekly, consisted of eight large pages and cost one old penny!

It will be appreciated that Cricket was only permitted on Saturdays although occasionally they played during the week.

The first reported match of the Winchmore Hill Village Cricket Club was against North End Finchley, played at the Ground to be known as Ford's Grove, on 21 May 1881. The Village team is listed as:- J. Tott, J. Waters, J. Moore, H. Bonner, T. Pratt, D. Bonner, G. Hendon, G. Chalkley, J. Brindley, L. Favier and J. Brandon. The game was convincingly won by the Villagers who scored 125 (J. Tott 31, J. Moore 23) to Finchley's 11 and 31 with J. Waters taking seven wickets and J. Moore three in the first innings and each taking four in the Finchley second innings.

The next game was against Lansdowne C.C. at Ford's Grove on 18 June. W. Parkinson, C. Sears, A. Reed and R. Mumford taking the places of J. Waters, T. Pratt, D. Bonner and J. Brindley. The village team scored 148 (Tott 93) and Lansdowne 16 and 41 for four. J. Moore was again among the wickets ably assisted by H. Bonner.

On 25 June the Club played St. Andrews C.C. at Old Park, (now Bush Hill Park Golf Club). Each side had two innings. The Villagers scoring 37 and 50 while St. Andrews scored 50 and 30 for three.

The return match with St. Andrews at Ford's Grove was played on 13 August. The home side scored 56 and 60 for seven (Tott 14 and 24, Waters 17 and 10). St. Andrews are only reported as having one innings totalling 32, Moore and Waters taking the wickets between them.

The closing match of the first Season was played on 10 September between sides chosen by Mr. Waters and Mr. Moore. Mr. Moore's XI beating Mr. Waters' XI by two runs – Mr. Waters scoring 20 of his side's 43. T. T. Busk was a member of Mr. Waters team.



W.H.V.C.C. 1881

In 1882, there were fifteen matches. Two games were played against each of the following Cricket Clubs:- All Saints Choir, Enfield Tabernacle, Lansdowne, Mintern, St. Andrews, and Stoneleigh and one each against Southgate Sunday School, Argyle and Mutual Cricket Clubs. All were played at Ford's Grove except the last one against Stoneleigh when the Villagers made the journey to Crouch End. Most games were low scoring and five were lost. Fixtures were also arranged for a second eleven. Twice the Villagers topped the hundred - D. and H. Bonner and T. Pratt were amongst the runs, while J. Moore was the principal wicket taker assisted by the two Bonners.

Two games in May and September, otherwise one a month were played in 1883. Chandos C.C. and St. Johns C.C. were two new opponents. In the game against Mintern on 1 September the Villagers made 79 (Waters 19) and their opponents only 15 - four of whom failed to score.

The Club's fourth Season, 1884, was clearly its best so far. Of the 13 matches reported totals of over 100 were reached on five occasions and twice they were in the nineties. It was a notable Season for J. Tott and C. Sears both with bat and ball. Our long association with Southgate Adelaide, whom we still play today, began with a game on 10 May at Ford's Grove - the Villagers scored 79 for six (J. Moore 25, C. Sears 21) to the Adelaide's 76. Favier and Moore taking the wickets. Another new fixture was against St. George's, Bloomsbury C.C. The home, and away game at Crouch End, resulted in easy victories for the Villagers. T. T. Busk played in the home fixture scoring nine runs and J. Tott scored 46 out of 94 in the second, sharing the wickets with C. Sears. Other new fixtures included Albert C.C. and St. Ann's C.C. whom the Club played away at Highgate. A total of 182 was made against St. Johns C.C. Against the Oak C.C. 159 was scored in which J. Tott made 44 and in the second game took eight wickets in the opposition's total of 28. Having referred to the achievements of J. Tott, it was with not a little regret that members heard it was to be his last Season with the Club as in April 1885 he was appointed 'Bowler and Groundman' to Enfield C.C. for whom he played for a number of years.

Season 1885 saw the Club successful in twice as many games as those lost, in the 14 reported. It was again noted that T. T. Busk played occasionally. J. Moore was invited to play for selected XIs in the Enfield and Claysmore Cricket week which was held in the grounds of Major Bosanquet's residence (Claysmore) near the 'Fallow Buck' Clay Hill.

In 1886 it is again significant that of the 12 to 15 fixtures for the Season, only about two were played away from Ford's Grove. With no public transport except for the Great Northern and Great Eastern

Railways to Enfield Chase and Enfield Town respectively, it is hardly surprising, and one wonders how long the journey took them by Horse-Brake to Walthamstow in late August to play Priory C.C. Their journey in this case was not unrewarded, for they won by 17 runs scoring 53 (Favier 24 not out) to Priory's 36. During this Season the two Bonners were well amongst the runs and taking wickets, ably supported by H. Woodcock and L. Favier.

In addition to being the year of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, 1887 was a notable Season for the Village Club. As to the Jubilee Celebrations, the grounds of T. T. Busk were kindly placed at the disposal of the Local Jubilee Committee for a display of fireworks on 17 June. Fifteen fixtures included 'firsts' against Edmonton (14 May), Cockfosters (11 June), and South Hampstead (2 July) all included in present fixture lists. The games against Edmonton and Cockfosters resulted in narrow defeats for the Village Club. In the first of two games against South Hampstead, the Villagers could only muster 12 for seven in reply to the opposition's 208. However, in the second, South Hampstead made 55 for seven (Jones and Moore sharing the wickets) in reply to the Villagers' 122 (Spratley 47, Jones 36). This is the first Season of the great Sam Spratley who was to be a distinguished member of the Club for 56 years in many capacities. Finally, the Village Club was entertained by the Winchmore Hill Cricket and Lawn Tennis Club in the grounds of 'Roseneath'. It was a twelve-a-side game of two innings each and resulted in a tie, the Villagers scoring 36 and 79 and the home side 77 and 38 for two.

Two members of the Village Club, H. Bonner and J. Waters played for the Winchmore Hill Cricket and Lawn Tennis Club against Claysmore C.C. in the Enfield and Claysmore Cricket week.

It is reported in the Meyers Observer of 10 February 1888 that at the Winchmore Hill Village Cricket Club's seventh Annual General Meeting held on 2 February, at which C. Mowbray presided in the unavoidable absence of the President, the following officers were re-elected:- W. G. Parkinson, Secretary, C. Mowbray, Treasurer, J. Moore, Captain and C. Herring, Vice-Captain, S. M. Spratley was elected to the Committee.

Season 1888 finds 15 matches reported. Trinity, Edmonton and Waterlow and Sons were beaten during May and June but in late June the Villagers lost to Cockfosters by 34 to 51. The latter Club were also successful in late July. In August there is a report of a 2nd XI game against All Saints C.C. resulting in a win for the visitors by 25 runs. High scores were recorded by the Villagers against St. Judes and Trinity in late August. In these two games D. Bonner and Moore took the wickets while Woodcock, Beadle, H. Bonner and Adams made good contributions towards the run total.



The only Club game reported in 1889 was against Cockfosters when the Villagers made 90 (H. Woodcock 19) and the visitors were all out for 52. J. Moore taking five wickets.

However, the Meyers Observer of 8 November 1889, gave a full report of the ninth Annual Dinner of the Club held, at the Green Dragon on 31 October, and the following has been extracted:-

'... An excellent meal was provided by the Host and thoroughly enjoyed by some 40 members and guests. Mr. B. Smurthwaite presided until the arrival of Mr. T. T. Busk J.P., the President of the Club, who occupied the chair during the latter part of the evening. After the tables had been cleared Mr. S. M. Spratley (in the absence of Mr. D. Bonner, the Secretary, through illness) read the minutes of the last annual meeting and then the report of the committee which stated that the past season had been a fairly successful one the results being - played 18 won 5 drew 6 (4 of these last mentioned being certain victories) lost 7... This season the committee remarked the team had played stronger clubs than had theretofore been their custom. They hoped next season that their play would have a better result... There were 29 Hon members of the club, 9 subscribers and 33 active members. On behalf of the latter the committee thanked their many friends for their kind and valuable support (cheers). The audited balance sheet showed a balance in hand of £3 0s. 11d....

... A vote of thanks to the Secretary for his arduous labours, was proposed by Mr. Smurthwaite and carried by acclamation. Various suggestions for the alteration of the constitution of the Club and the improvement of its averages - particularly its batting averages - were made and considered but no resolution on either subject was passed.

On the motion of Mr. Spratley, the President was thanked heartily for the kind and generous support which he had given the Club and in replying Mr. Busk said that "though he was leaving the neighbourhood shortly the Club would be able to have the use of his ground gratuitously as heretofore".

After this business had been transacted the remainder of the evening was passed pleasantly and harmoniously. Mr. W. Atwood presiding at the piano-forte with his accustomed skill, and various gentlemen contributing excellent songs'.

The Season 1890 records on 31 May a very close game with Cockfosters at Ford's Grove which the Villagers won by five runs. The home team scored 90 (J. Holmes 36, S. Spratley 27) Cockfosters 85, Moore, D. Bonner and Woodcock taking the wickets. Stoke Newington were the visitors on 7 June and scored 111 while the Villagers scored 22 for seven. Other games were against New River XI, Tottenham 2nd XI, Leyton Dalston Havelock, Junior Middlesex, Edmonton, India Rubber Mills, Brownswood Park and Belmont.

A snippet from the paper recalls a curious circumstance in a cricket match between Enfield and Walthamstow – the ball having been driven by the batsman into the pocket of the umpire. The Enfield Secretary wrote to 'Sporting Life' as to the point involved and received the following reply:-

'According to decisions in previous matches, I believe the batsman would have been out; according to the letter of the law the ball had not touched the ground when taken from the umpires pocket'. Interesting eh?

In 1891 ten matches were reported against regular visitors. There is a report of the Villagers 2nd XI beating St. Jude's 2nd XI by 69 runs. Another game was against Dalston Havelock when the Villagers scored 201 for six (Favier 51 not out, H. Bonner 41, H. Woodcock 30 and Spratley 23) while Dalston scored 18 and 42. S. Spratley had a fine Season with the bat scoring over 50 on several occasions.

A report on 4 September 1891 refers to an annual event in the village with which some of the members of the WHVCC were always associated:-

'On Saturday last in accordance with a custom of some years standing, the season was closed with a match between WHC & LTC and the villagers. The weather was exceptionally fine and the game was witnessed by a large number of persons of all classes in the village. Mr. W. T. Paulin of "Broadfields" captained the Club team and Mr. James Waters the villagers. The palm of victory rested with the villagers. In the evening the members of the Club dined together in the fine pavilion on their cricket ground, whilst some 30 or 40 of the villagers dined together at the Queens Head where an excellent spread was provided by Host J. Barnes. Mr. James Waters presided and after the usual loyal toasts had been duly honoured he proposed the health of Mr. and Mrs Paulin and Mr. and Mrs Edward Mann to whose kindness the festivities connected with these occasions are chiefly due. These and other toasts were received in a manner which left no room for doubt as to the feelings of those present. Mr. Archer proposed the health of Mr. Waters and suitably referred to that gentleman's long connection with local cricket. The party broke up shortly before 11.00 p.m.'

The results reported for Season 1892 in the Enfield Observer, showed that 24 matches were played, nine won, seven lost, seven drawn and there was one tie. It seems that even in those far off days difficulty was found sometimes in fielding full sides. In a match in May against St. Barnabus the Villagers started three short but however found two substitutes on the ground. It is interesting to note that absentees were shown as 'absent' against their names in reports of games. In the tied game, S. M. Spratley, Captain of the team again showed good form going in first and carrying his bat for a finely played 49 not out of a total score of 83. In the Dalston Havelock innings of 83, Moore, Cressee and Press shared the wickets. Other notable games included those against Edmonton

2nd XI (a win and a draw) North Enfield another win and a draw, (this appears to be first reported meeting of the two clubs whose fixtures are maintained to the present day), and Southgate Adelaide, a draw and a win. The batting stalwarts were Spratley and Favier, well supported by Moore, the main wicket takers were Moore and D. Bonner. The Annual General Meeting was held in November at which:-

'The twelfth Annual Report and Balance Sheet was read by the Hon Secretary Mr. E. F. Lowen, showing that the past season was one which compared favourably with previous years. The Hon Treasurer Mr. H. C. Albino reported a balance in hand of £2 19s. 4d. The Club consisted of 21 honorary members, 3 subscribers and 29 playing members. Toasts were drunk to the President T. T. Busk Esq J.P. and the Vice Presidents Messrs W. T. Paulin, G. T. Hoskins, E. Mann, B. W. Smurthwaite and the proceedings were then enlivened by a succession of songs rendered in good style'.

The Annual General Meeting for 1893 held in November reported 26 matches played, half were won, nine lost and four were drawn. The Annual game against the Gentlemen's Club resulted in a win for the Villagers by 87 runs. The Season was considered one of continued success and a gratifying balance remained in the hands of the Treasurer. Mr. Moore thanked the President, Vice-Presidents and Subscribers for their support. In reply, Mr. Hoskins (Vice-President) who presided, assured the Club that they were pleased to encourage the Village Club which had showed that its members one and all were animated with the spirit of sport. Mr. Skelton, also a Vice-President, who occupied the vice-chair proposed 'the other officials of the Club'. A Club, he said, which had been able to achieve such success must of necessity have an efficient body of officers and he asked those present to drink their health with enthusiasm.

The report for the Season ending 1894 reads as follows:-

'The Committee in presenting their Fourteenth Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, regret the great loss they have sustained during the year by the death of their President, T. T. Busk, Esq'.

The Season was a fairly successful one, 25 matches being played, eight being won, nine lost and eight drawn. A notable 'first' was the fixture in late May with Enfield 2nd XI which, though lost heavily, saw Moore taking eight wickets. The Club had 22 Honorary members, two Subscribers and 27 active members.

Season 1895 saw 24 matches played, 12 won, seven lost and five drawn. The first match of the Season played on Saturday 4 May was against Enfield 2nd XI at Bush Hill Park. The home team winning the toss, elected to bat but were dismissed for the small total of 33.

The Visitors then went in to bat, but like their opponents did not succeed in compiling a big score and were all out for 52 leaving them winners by 19 runs. The bowling of J. Moore for the Villagers was very effective and the fielding generally highly commendable. J. Moore took five wickets for 14 and L. Favier made 17 runs and W. Parkinson, the Captain, 16. The return match played in June ended in a draw decidedly in the favour of Enfield. The match against Brownswood Park ended in a victory for the Villagers by eight wickets and two runs. The Visitors batted first and were dismissed for 51 runs. On the home team going in only 45 minutes remained for play, but so well did they bat their victory was obtained just on the call of time. WHVCC 53 for 2 – Spratley 20, L. Favier 14 n.o., Brownswood Park 51 – Goodhew five wickets for six runs.

The Season of 1896 appears to have been a very dry one; it was reported in May that 'rain was needed' and in August that the 'drought continues'. Six of the first seven matches were lost 'owing to adverse circumstances' — what they were we are not told specifically, except to say that membership increased to such an extent that of 25 matches played 15 were won and the Committee were obliged to run a second team which played 10 matches, winning half of them. A notable high scoring match was against by now our old rivals, Southgate Adelaide. The Village Club who won the toss ran up a total of 158 of which Favier who went in first and was last out, made 52 without giving a chance. The Adelaide, after starting badly passed the Villagers score with only four wickets down and their innings was eventually closed for 206.

On a Saturday in June a presentation was made to Mr. S. M. Spratley by the Club on the occasion of his marriage. Mr. H. Skelton (Vice-President) in handing over a handsome black marble timepiece said it was his pleasing duty to hand to him this visible token of the good wishes of his brother cricketers who were unanimous in wishing him years of happiness and prosperity. Mr. Spratley made a feeling reply, in the course of his remarks he hoped the kindly feeling and good fellowship which had characterised the Club during the nine years he had been a member would long continue, and he would cherish this token of their goodwill.

Upwards of 50 members and friends attended the Annual Dinner and Meeting in November at the Green Dragon:-

'... In proposing the toast of the "Club", Mr. Spratley said they all recognised the fact that even in cricket it was imperative to obtain a certain amount of Subscription in order to go on successfully. The area from which this Club could obtain members was limited and consequently it became a matter of considerable importance to obtain as many honorary members as possible and happily they were in a fortunate position in this respect.

The funds of the Club had always been administered with a view to economy and he was sure if the honorary members scrutinised the accounts they would appreciate this fact. They were glad to be honoured with the presence of several honorary members and he had great pleasure in asking all present to cordially drink to the toast ...'.

The diamond Jubilee year of 1897 saw the introduction of a regular 2nd XI. The First team played 22 matches and the Second 17, each side being fairly successful. The opposition was much the same as in previous Seasons but there were some new opponents in Hornsey Rise, Barnato Social and Sports Club and Wood Green. The Villagers won against the first two mentioned Clubs but lost heavily to Wood Green. Both matches against Southgate Adelaide were close and exciting with the Village side winning both by 14 and 3 runs. There were 24 Honorary Members, two Subscribers and 34 Active Members.

The Eighteenth Annual Report for the Season 1898 indicated a very successful one with the first team playing 25 matches and winning 13 and the second team playing 16 and winning six. A third team was field on six occasions, winning five of them.

The Report ends 'Three Prize Bats have been kindly presented to the Club by Messrs H. Skelton, W. H. Heath and E. Terry for the best batting averages; and have been won by Mr. L. Favier, 1st Team; Mr. A. London, 2nd Team; and Mr. P. Mummery, 3rd Team'.

It is interesting to report that the earliest fixture card of the WHVCC in the Club's possession with fixtures for the 1st and 2nd elevens is for this Season. It shows games against Winchmore Hill (The Gentlemen's Club at Roseneath), Southgate Adelaide, Edmonton, Hampstead Montrose, Brownswood Park and other Church Clubs. The Club Colour being 'Maroon'.

The three years at the turn of the century, 1899, 1900 and 1901 cover the period of the Boar War and the passing of Queen Victoria. The Village Cricket Club successfully continued to turn out two teams in each of these three years averaging a total of 40 matches each Season. Of these, half were won and a quarter drawn. Although some cricket was reported during these years, none are of special interest. An innovation by the Club in 1899, however, was the purchase of Caps and in 1900 saw the purchase of Blazers as well. From the published accounts, it is noted that the Groundsman's Salary was £7, Printing of Balance Sheets and Match Cards cost £2 3s., while Umpires and Scorers fees were between £3 and £4.

At the AGM for Season 1901 the following were elected officers for the ensuing year:-

President: Mr. W. T. Paulin, J.P.

Vice-Presidents: Rev. A. J. B. Dewdney, Rev. A. Jarvis Dr. Vivian, Messrs F. Barrett, J. E. Beadle, W. Cattermole, J. H. Faulds, G. T. Hoskins, E. Mann, J.P., E. H. Sewell, E. P. Sugden, E. A. White, H. Woolmer and H. Willis.

Capt. 'A' team: Mr. S. M. Spratley

Vice-Capt.: Mr. J. Moore

Capt. 'B' team: Mr. A. London

Vice-Capt.: Mr. H. S. Carter

Hon. Sec and Treasurer: Mr. E. F. Lowen

Match Hon. Sec.: Mr. A. T. London

Committee: Messrs P. Beadle, H. C. Hall, C. Yardley, H. J. Duck, H. W. Duck, C. M. Fallows, J. Walker and F. E. Waters.

Season 1902 began on 9 May with a home game against Hoddesdon, played, despite cold and wet. It proved a very pleasant game although owing to lack of time the match had to be left drawn - Hoddesdon 77 for six, WHVCC 52 for five. Easy wins were recorded against Old Holloway Collegians and Brownwood Park (Spratley 53 n.o.) and against Southgate Adelaide when Spratley made 50 and H. J. Duck took six for 15. The game against Hatfield was drawn, the visitors scoring 120 for eight and WHVCC 84 for five.

On 25 July the Club was away at Hornsey playing Holborn (N. Middlesex) and scored 237. Beadle 69 n.o., Yardley 49, Lowen 35, Huson 26 all batted in excellent form - Beadle's display being exceptionally fine. Lowen did good service by taking five wickets for 13 runs in the home side's innings of 62. In August the game against Edmonton was drawn - WHVCC 93 for six against Edmonton's 140 for eight (H. W. Duck 4 for 22). The game against Finchley was also drawn with WHVCC 101 and the visitors 66 for seven (Lowen 4 for 25) as was that against Enfield who were 39 for six against WHVCC 121 for four (Favier 48).

At the AGM in February 1903, in receiving the Report for 1902 it was noted that the two prizes presented for bowling, one by Mr. H. C. Hall and the other by Messrs London & Yardley, were won by H. W. Duck, A Team (53 wickets for 280 runs) and F. Devey, B Team (77 wickets for 341 runs). With the large number of active members, the Hon. Secretary had made fixtures for three teams on Saturdays in 1903.

In the event the Season was not a very successful one. The Club played 51 matches, winning only 19, losing 24 while eight were drawn. In spite of this

'The Understudy' writing in the local paper in early August was pleased to note:-

'the continued march of progress made by WHVCC representatives who, during the past few weeks had been helping themselves very liberally to runs, wickets and victories at the expense of their opponents...'

Highlights of Season 1904 included a very good win against Enfield II who scored 164 against the Villagers score of 237 for four (H. Waters 75 n.o., Spratley 54, H. W. Duck 49) Lowen took seven wickets. The first recorded game against Alexandra Park was lost by one run. (A. P. 72, W. H. 71). In July, having dismissed Southgate Adelaide for 137 they had hard luck in not winning, when, after playing against time only four runs were required when stumps were drawn at 134 for six (H. Waters 51) Lowen had taken six for 48. Generally speaking, H. Waters, S. Spratley and H. W. Duck had a good Season with the bat, while the bowling honours went to E. F. Lowen and of course J. Moore.

It was announced in the local paper that:-

'WHVCC, one of the oldest established Clubs in the district, is celebrating the 24th year of its existence by a Dinner and Concert at the Green Dragon on Tuesday, 6 December 1904 at 7.30 p.m.'

The fixture list for 1905 included 19 matches for the 'A' team and 15 for the 'B' team. The first game in May against Enfield II was won by six runs. The next reported match was against St. Luke's (North Enfield) away, again won, this time by 19 runs. 'The Understudy's' comment on this game was:-

'... It was J. Moore's slow leg breaks that wrought havoc in the ranks of the home batsmen. For a regular Club player who admits to nearly 60 years, the veteran is something of a wonder. On Saturday he worked the "Spider and the Fly" business with great success as his 6 for 26 shows. Moore's bowling is essentially of that kind which invites the batsman to help himself get out...'

In the return game against St. Luke's in August, the Villagers lost by two runs. Again Moore was amongst the wickets by claiming five. Following a very easy win over Camden Athletic, the Club won a close fought game against North London Ramblers - 96 to 83. H. W. Duck batted well for 40 and also took three wickets for 14, H. J. Duck took five for 26. The 'B' team playing against Wood Green II in July piled up very quickly a score of 236 for four (Ellsmoor 80 n.o., Huson 42, Smith 40), Wood Green scored only 33 (F. Nichols 5 for 8). The score was a record for the Club's 'B' team. Both games against London County Asylum (Colney Hatch) were drawn. These games appeared to be much enjoyed by the Villagers for in forwarding the scores to the local paper the Team

Secretary wrote:-

'I am sorry I cannot report a win, but the Asylum put together too many for us to obtain in the time left, although each player went in with the intention of "do" or be "did". Most of us alas! were the latter.'

He adds:-

'We always enjoy our visit to New Southgate as there is a splendid wicket and we are sure of a pleasant game. What more can a cricketer require?'

Of the eight matches reported during May and June 1906, old rivals St. Luke's won again even though Moore took three for six, in their score of 112 – the Villagers totalled 66. In the game against Hatfield the Villagers mustered 210 for seven (H. W. Duck 63) while Hatfield were bowled out for 99 (Ellsmoor obtaining the last four wickets for 10 runs). Against Southgate Adelaide the Villagers had a fine win for having scored 128 (F. Nichols 33, Spratley 23 n.o., F. E. Waters 20) the Adelaide were well on the way to victory until Moore came on to bowl and altered the state of the game appreciably by taking three quick wickets for 14 runs so their innings closed at 106.

In July, the following is the comment on the game against St. Barts Hospital:-

'WHVCC have been doing some big things in the scoring line lately, but the performance, when they put a fairly strong Barts side out for 55 and then rattled up 268 for 9, is easily their best bit of work this season. That capable pair of cricketers – the brothers Duck – played a very prominent part in the game, HW taking 9 wickets and scoring 62 while brother HJ took the tenth wicket and made 85 runs. Seeing the good condition of Barts wicket, HW's success with the ball was rather remarkable, the fast bowler hitting the sticks eight times'.

The remainder of the Season produced mixed results but on six occasions the Villagers scored well over 100 runs fairly equally shared, but the main wicket takers were the Duck brothers and Moore.

Very little seems to have been reported on the cricket and no annual report is available for the Season 1907. Games against the usual opposition provided variable results. That against Northampton Institute at Ford's Grove could well have been the forerunner of the Club's long association with Northampton Poly – subsequently Northampton Exiles – late of Oakthorpe Road, Palmers Green. A particularly exciting game played late in July was against Hanley at Ford's Grove. The Villagers won a few minutes from time by five runs, which Hanley had to make with three wickets in hand but the wickets were taken without any addition to their score. In the Villagers' total of 113, L. Favier 46, F. Nichols 27 added 71 runs for the third wicket. Throughout the Season the Duck brothers were again prolific with bat and ball helped considerably by Favier and Nichols.

From 'Athletic Notes' in May 1908, the following appears:-

'Mr. H. W. Duck (WHVCC) writes enthusiastically of his Club's prospects for the season. I am sorry to hear that some of the teams stalwarts have, for various reasons, been lost to the Club, but the Hon. Secretary is confident that the introduction of several new players, together with promotion of one or two second team men will preserve, or perhaps, increase the playing effectiveness of the side. Winchmore Hill opened their campaign with a win last week, the chief honours going to two of last season's second eleven players – Carter and Stephens...'

Later in the Season, in the report of the game against St. Luke's (North Enfield), the writer of 'Athletic Notes' commented:-

'Winchmore Hill pitch is certainly not of the billiard table type as the Villagers made 51 for the loss of 1 wicket (L. Turner 32 not out, Huson 13 not out). Ground vagaries cannot be held altogether responsible for St. Luke's "record" score – 15, seven of which were extras. Put it down chiefly to the merits of the Winchmore Hill bowling aided by that little bit of luck that makes indifferent bowling good and better bowling better. Last and Duck clean bowled nine players. I am sorry I cannot give the bowlers analysis, but the truth is that my friend Mr. Duck gets singularly reticent when he is immediately concerned and as things like this have happened before, and will probably happen again – not of course against St. Luke's – I humbly suggest that the WHVCC elect a new corresponding secretary – one whose modesty and playing powers are not quite so apparent.'

Generally for the Season the games were close and exciting with good wins and bad losses which fully illustrates the ups and downs of cricket and the glorious uncertainty of the issue in a contest with bat and ball. The last match of the Season, played at Crouch End against Hanley, who provided both umpires was intriguing. The Villagers made 134 for eight and when at 66 for nine an appeal by the Hanley batsmen against the light was upheld, the game was drawn at the fall of this wicket!

So far the first 28 Seasons of the Club's cricket progress have been completed. Two and sometimes three teams have been fielded with results varying but generally improving all the time.

The conscientious and diligent work of successive officers and their committees had been duly recognised at Annual General Meetings, coupled with material financial support from the President and Vice-Presidents. This had had the effect of setting the Club on a steady course, enhanced support and membership has clearly assured a bright future. It is therefore fitting that the years from 1909 to the outbreak of the Great War at the end of the 1914 Season are deserving of special attention.

In this connection, therefore, it seems appropriate to place on record the great administrative contribution of Mr. Fred. J. Huson which commenced at this time. Mr. Huson joined the Club just before the turn of the century and appears in the averages for the Season 1898. He became Captain of the 'C' Team for the 1903 Season but in addition to membership of the Committee was the Hon. Financial Secretary and Treasurer for 1909. From this office, at the General meeting held at the Green Dragon Hotel on Friday, 4 March 1910, he was unanimously elected Hon. Secretary on the retirement of the previous holder through illhealth. Little could he, or anyone else for that matter, have realised that his term of office was to extend for the next 30 years. The following extract from the report for the year ending 30 September 1940 is significant and most appropriate:-

'In common with most Clubs, the War has caused many changes in the personnel among officials and members, not the least being the evacuation of Mr. Fred. Huson, for so many years the exceedingly hard-working and efficient Honorary Secretary. The Club was a life hobby, for during his many years of office he saw it grow from a "Village Club" to its present importance. For his generous and ever cheerful service the Club owes him a deep debt of gratitude.'

It is now with the help of handwritten minutes recorded in a little pocket note book he started at that meeting in 1910, (and regrettably only covers the next two and a half years), that aspects of the efficient administration, so typical of him can be given.

The balance sheet for 1909 which he presented showed a total expenditure of £36 18s. 5d. including the salary of the Groundsman £11 and the cost of new playing materials £7 4s. 7½d. Of the receipts, a third came from the President and Vice-Presidents, half from Members subscriptions and the remainder from profits from refreshments. It is significant to mention that it was common practice of those times that when financial statements were announced and a deficiency had to be reported, the entry found was 'Balance due to the Treasurer'. This meant literally what it says for all seasonal outgoings were religiously met before final accounts were published. Needless to say the Treasurer was in the clear for 1909! The business on the Agenda followed much the same lines of that of today's Cricket Section. The continuation of the use of 'The Club House' — the Green Dragon Hotel — where meetings of all sorts were held at an annual charge of 10s. 6d. was agreed unanimously.

At a General Meeting held in November 1910, the Secretary stated that no copies of the Club Rules were in his possession for distribution and it was therefore desirable that they either be confirmed or revised before a new print was undertaken for next Season. Mr. Huson then read a slightly revised and in parts re-drafted set of Rules issued in the 1890s:-

1. That this Club be called the "Winchmore Hill Village Cricket Club".
2. That the affairs of the Club be conducted by the President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, Captains, Vice-Captains and a Committee of eight Members. These Officers to be elected at the Annual General Meeting, held in the Month of February, when a Report and Balance Sheet shall be presented by the Secretary.
3. That the Secretary keep an inventory of all the property of the Club. Keep all Minutes, and conduct the necessary correspondence of the Club, and furnish each Member with a copy of the Rules, and that the Treasurer keep an accurate account of all moneys paid or received on behalf of the Club and present a duly audited Balance Sheet at the End of the Season.
4. That the Officers and Committee conduct the general business of the Club, decide all questions not provided for in these Rules, choose teams etc.
5. That Applicants for admission to the Club Pay an entrance fee of One Shilling before Nomination, and that they be proposed at one Committee Meeting and elected at the next, providing the majority vote in their favour.
6. That the Subscriptions of Honorary Members be not less than Ten Shillings, and of Playing Members, Five Shillings annually, the latter to be paid before June 1st.
7. That any Member, whose Subscription is due, failing to pay within one week after receiving a written Notice from Secretary, shall not be allowed to play in any Match, or practice, until same be paid.
8. That a Committee Meeting be held once a fortnight during season. Five to form a quorum.
9. That the Secretary call a Special General Meeting within fourteen days after receiving a requisition to do so, signed by one third of the Members of the Club, Notice of the Meeting to be given to all other Members.
10. That the Laws of Cricket as revised by the Marylebone Cricket Club be adopted.

There were no contentious alterations but it is interesting to set out those that were thought necessary. Clearly with the continued growth of the Club it was necessary to recognise the volume of work now falling on the Treasurer and that office was altered to 'Financial Secretary and Treasurer' to relieve the Secretary of all matters and correspondence of financial content. It was suggested that a General

Meeting should be held in November for the purpose of receiving a report, the averages and a duly audited balance sheet for the past Season. This would be in the hands of Members for the Annual General Meeting in February, but would leave that meeting free to deal with all elections and any other business. With regard to subscriptions it was agreed that Active Members should pay ten shillings and Honorary Members five shillings in future and exceptions would only be made with the consent of the Committee. The first Rule about Club Colours is inserted. These have already been mentioned in the report for 1898 as 'Maroon'. However, the new Rule would read 'That the Club Colours be Dark Green and Maroon with White Stripes'. These revisions were all agreed and re-printing of the Rules was authorised by the Annual General Meeting held in February 1911. (It is understood from members of post Great War years that the Club Colours were today's purple, black and white. The reasons for and the exact date of the change are unknown.)

At a meeting of the Committee held on 7 April 1911, another step worthy of note was taken. It was reported that the first Bank account on behalf of the Club had been opened with the Winchmore Hill Branch of the London and Provincial Bank Limited.

A further aspect of administration was the firm arrangements made to seek to have published all reports of Club meetings, fixtures and results. In addition to the Meyers Observer, reports were to be sent to the Sentinel, the Middlesex Gazette and The Recorder. (The Meyers Observer was renamed the Enfield Gazette and Observer in 1913 when the Palmers Green and Southgate Gazette was first published and subsequently contained Club reports.)

Attention was next directed in 1910 and 1911 to the great need to effect improvements to the ground and playing facilities coupled with consideration of the erection of a new pavilion. The major problem however, was lack of funds, just as it is today to an even greater degree.

The farmer, Mr. Mortiboy, who had a lease to run cattle over the ground, agreed to cutting outfield areas outside the hurdles round the table and the cricketer John Moore was very adept with a scythe! Turf for the repair of the table was also made available, but repairs and improvements to the fencing had to be delayed.

Attention was therefore directed to the raising of funds for ground improvements and to this end Whist Drives and Concerts proved to be great financial successes. Much publicity was given to the need to increase membership and a cordial invitation was extended to residents to visit the ground and more closely identify themselves with the Club. This proved very successful as the following table will show:-

	Vice- Presidents	Honorary Members	Active Members
1900	12	24	36
1910	20	24	33
1912	30	20	55
1914	36	25	117

Amongst the 1912/14 membership appeared one Baronet, one K.C., three J.Ps., four Drs. and three Clergy. In the Report for 1913 the efforts of the past three years were shown to have enabled the Club to bring about the changes in its ground so long desired. Obstructing trees were removed; the old pavilion, in use for the past 30 years, was rebuilt in a more fitting position and a new one erected by its side, together with a water supply laid on from the main. Since its inception the Club had employed a Groundman whose salary (per Season) in 1894 was £7, in 1909 it had risen to £11. In 1914 the Ground Staff wages were nearly £54 which included a Ground Boy and 'Other Assistants'.

In 1912, with the proposed improvements to the ground it was found possible to form a Lawn Tennis Section and four Tennis Courts were established, two being situated on the site of the present practice Wickets. Included in the Active Members figures for 1912 were 18 Tennis Members, four also being cricketers. By 1914, membership had increased to 85, 23 of whom were also cricketers. Some matches were arranged for 1913 and by the following Season 13 matches were played during the Summer months. The first recorded Club Tournament was in 1914, the ladies singles was won by a Miss Carter and the gentlemen's singles by Mr. J. W. Simmons.

Reverting to Cricket. The period 1909 to 1914 included a 1st and 2nd XI instead of 'A' and 'B' XIs and in 1913 three elevens were regularly fielded each Saturday, no play being yet allowed on Sundays. The following is a statistical and general report for this period.

1909 P. 47 W. 28 D. 7 L. 12

'H. W. Duck heads the batting averages and comes very near the top of the bowling list. It is worthy of note that J. Moore, who has played for the Club since its formation succeeded in taking 96 wickets during the season - a remarkable feat.'

1910 P. 43 W. 20 D. 4 L. 18 Tie 1

'C. J. Baker heads the batting averages followed by H. W. Duck who, reversing last year's order with W. Last, heads the bowling list.

J. Moore still continues in active membership and has again secured the highest aggregate of wickets for the season with a total of 89. Included in this, is seven wickets for one run on August Bank Holiday against the Clissold C.C.'

The 1st XI - Season 1913



J. W. Simmons R. H. McLeod F. Rogers H. J. Duck C. J. Baker
 J. Huson S. Johnson
 (Umpire)
 F. Clarke H. W. Duck S. M. Spratley (Capt.) F. J. Huson L. Favier
 H. Duck
 (Scorer)

1911 P. 57 W. 28 D. 9 L. 20

'W. Last heads the batting list and G. A. Stevens that for the bowling. The highest aggregate of wickets again goes to "our veteran" J. Moore with a total of 101. The bowling strength was much weakened through H. W. Duck being incapacitated by an unfortunate accident to his leg while playing football last April. His name will be missed from its usual place at the head of the list. Satisfaction is felt at the return of S. M. Spratley (for many years Captain of the Club, and always an ardent supporter) to active participation in the game.'

1912 P. 56 W. 33 D. 6 L. 17

'The batting has two outstanding features; one, the success of L. Favier, one of the oldest members of the Club, who, with a record aggregate of 729, which includes two centuries, heads the list; the other, that of F. G. Lavers, a new member, who, joining somewhat late in the season, just fails to qualify for a place in the averages. His record of 182 runs for four completed innings. Another new member, H. P. Nicholl, heads the bowling list followed by F. E. Clarke. Our veteran, J. Moore, this year shares the honour of the largest aggregate of wickets with his son T. Moore, both securing a total of 74.'

At the General meeting of the Club held in October 1912 it was reported that some revisions to the Rules had become necessary following the formation of the Lawn Tennis Section. These included provision for the election of two Tennis members to the Cricket Committee, consequential subscription amendments and rules for the new Section.

1913 P. 62 W. 31 D. 2 L. 29

a further 11 were abandoned chiefly through rain

'The batting list is headed by F. G. Lavers, with an aggregate of 501 (which includes two centuries) for 13 completed innings, and that for bowling, by A. W. Fraser with 49 wickets. These two gentlemen qualify for the prizes kindly offered by Mr. O. Maskell, one of the Club's Vice Presidents.'

It is pleasing to record that at the Annual General Meeting held earlier in the year 1913, John Moore, one of the founders of the Club, was elected its first Life Member. Mr. Moore's association with the Club is now a matter of history. He Captained it in its earliest days, giving valuable service as Vice-Captain in later years and was still a Committee Member for the Season 1914. His prowess as a bowler in particular is well known and he was still playing at the age of 65 at the outbreak of the Great War. Mr. Moore passed away in December 1921 after a prolonged illness at the age of 72.

In 1914, the hopes and aspirations engendered by so many over so many years and the great advances of the past five years in particular, which had set a firm pattern for the future, were to be brought to an untimely halt by the outbreak of the Great War on 4 August. Twenty-six matches had to be abandoned, mainly due to some 20 odd members having responded to the call for men 'and yet more men'.

In spite of these adverse circumstances, the record for the Season read:- P. 57, W. 22, D. 11, L. 22, Tied 2. F. G. Lavers again headed the batting averages with an aggregate of 246 for eight completed innings and F. D. Devey those for bowling with 35 wickets. The latter qualified for one of the prizes again kindly offered by Mr. O. Maskell, but F. G. Lavers not having played in the necessary 12 innings, the other prize went to J. Chamberlain, with an aggregate of 393 for 13 completed innings.

The prospects for the 1915 Season were of course uncertain. Many well known members would be fulfilling more serious duties. They would be missed and their speedy return hoped for.

The Great War Seasons – 1915 to 1918

Such references to Cricket that are available indicate that it was suspended by Clubs in the district for 1915 and 1916. With the massive call for men to the Services a general view seems to have been that no one of military age should be allowed to play except discharged soldiers. However, some cricket of a subdued kind was played in 1917 and 1918 for there are reports of games played by the Club but only with Alexandra Park C.C. A nucleus of members were therefore able to prepare during the latter part of the Winter of 1918/19 for Season 1919.

The Club's Concerts run before the war to assist finance its own development, were turned towards a series begun in February 1915 held in St. Paul's Institute, Station Road, to raise funds for the Roseneath Voluntary Hospital. Associated in the same object, it is important to mention the 'Grange' Ladies Hockey Club, the forerunners of the Women's Hockey Section of today whose history will be included in a succeeding Chapter. As the 'Grange Concert Party' they entertained throughout the war years with much success contributing not only to Roseneath but also to Grovelands Military Hospital.

The Ground, Pavilion and much Enterprise — 1919 to 1939

From the early 20s, the continuing story of the Club has been compiled from Annual Reports and Statements of Account of the Cricket Club kindly loaned by members.

The four years 1919 to 1922 contain important landmarks in the Club's development. In addition to the establishment of the two Winter Sections of Football and Ladies Hockey, thereby completing the constitution of the four main outdoor playing Sections as they are today, much attention was given to the ground and to the improvement of facilities.

Cricket began again in earnest in the Summer of 1919 with two elevens, rising to a regular four teams the following year plus a mid-week side. Tennis flourished with a membership of over 200. The Football Section was formed in the Spring of 1920 and the Grange Ladies Hockey Club became a Section of the parent Club. Both new Sections were self-managing. Cricket and Tennis membership was 338 and rose to 450 in 1921 when membership was closed.

In the knowledge that the tenancy of the Ground was secure, the Annual General Meeting of November 1920 felt able to consider ways of planning the Ground for the future. The surface of the field needed improvement whilst the Tennis Courts required attention, all of which it was appreciated would take some time to complete and income would need to be increased. It was decided to raise the subscription by five shillings to all Sections and avoid foreseeable financial difficulties.

In order to provide better dressing accommodation for an ever increasing membership, it was during the Winter of 1921/22 that a new pavilion was erected. This was opened on 21 April 1922 by the President accompanied by his daughter. The building itself came from the wartime Army Camp at Wimbledon and apart from the new extension of 1974 is still in use today. The overall cost of the building, its transportation, erection and fitting out was £1,750. The Club provided £600 towards this figure, the remainder coming from loans by the President and members. The Club debt of £1.150 was reduced to £293 by 1932 and finally cleared in 1937.

The surface of the ground received much attention from five Groundsmen in the Winter of 1922/23. All playing surfaces for Cricket and Tennis were in excellent condition and appearance for the opening of the 1923 Season. It may not be realised but the major equipment was still only horsedrawn. The accounts for the year ending 1922 show Horsekeep included in the repairs to the mowers and other ground expenses. By the following Summer, added new playing facilities were four new lawn tennis courts with water supply to them, and five others making seventeen in all. Necessary materials for the playing of Bowls in a limited form were provided; also the equipping of a putting green and additional chairs for the Pavilion.

The detailed story of the playing sections is dealt with elsewhere, but as with all similar organisations, competent and painstaking administration behind the scenes is a fundamental part of its continued success.

In this respect, the Club was fortunate in retaining the services of Mr. Fred. Huson, its pre-war Secretary, who held the offices of Chairman and Secretary of the parent Club until 1926 when he was relieved of the former office. He, and Mr. S. M. Spratley as Hon. Treasurer, gave magnificent service until the outbreak of the Second World War. In recognition of their massive contribution to the Club's well-being both on and off the field both were elected Life Members. Mr. Huson in 1931 and Mr. Spratley in 1933.

In the years 1923 and 1924, a complete revision of the Club Rules saw the introduction of the Fundamental and General Rules and the provision for Sub-Committees to more equally spread the load of the greatly increased volume of work. Some amendments were necessary in subsequent years to facilitate easier administration.

It is interesting to record that Cricket and Tennis subscriptions were £2 5s. in 1927 and by 1933 the Cricket was £2 17s. 6d. and Tennis £2 12s. 6d. with suitable reductions for Junior Members.

From 1925 to 1929 continued attention was given to the equipment. Cricket Sight Screens were provided in 1925. A motor mower was acquired in 1927 for £79 6s. 7d. and a horse was sold for £12. When, in 1929, the whole 20½ acres came under the jurisdiction of the parent Club which, though most acceptable, meant considerable added effort in preparation by the removal of tree roots, general levelling and drainage of those portions of the Ground which had hitherto lain idle.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Club was celebrated in October 1929 at a special dinner and dance at the Holborn Restaurant attended by 200 members and friends.

The early 30s were significant for the advent of three major contributions to the progress of the Club.

The first was the opening of the licensed bar for the 1932 Season, which from May to September produced profits of £47 17s. 2d. and were doubled when it was opened for the full year 1932/33. Appreciative thanks were expressed to Mr. S. M. Spratley and certain outside friends for the very moderate cost of the bar equipment.

Then in August 1932, Sunday play from 2.00 p.m. was permitted for the Lawn Tennis Section and for Cricket from May 1933 for the first time in the history of the Club. However, play was not permitted before 2.00 p.m. on Saturdays until 1958 and on Sundays until 1961.

Finally, three Hard Courts were opened for play in June 1933 at a net cost of £190.

Ground and equipment improvements continued. A third home table and adequate practice pitches were made available in 1932. A further pair of Sight Screens were provided in 1933 and the interior of the Pavilion was redecorated throughout. In addition to the purchase of a horse (£15) and the rebuilding of Stables and Sheds, 1934 saw the levelling of the cricket outfield extending from the front of the Pavilion to the wicket greatly improving the appearance of the ground and benefiting both the Cricket and Ladies Hockey Sections.

In 1935, a portion of the Pavilion was fitted and furnished as a Lounge with a double roof and a double floor suitably covered, well-lit and warmed by radiators. There was a hatch to the bar which was situated along the south wall towards the dressing rooms. This added facility enabled the Club to hold its General Meetings in its own Pavilion instead of at St. Paul's Institute, and Highfield Road School.

Features of ground and pavilion improvements in 1936 included chain link fencing to six grass tennis courts, and drainage of the ground on the south side of the pavilion in conjunction with the Football Section. A part of the pavilion and the outside front Veranda were redecorated. A new Horse Mower was purchased. A Veranda on the south side of the pavilion was being urged in the interests of those comprising the lower elevens who used the back wickets. Unfortunately it was to be more than 20 years before this finally materialised.

The Management Committee in 1937 were exercised by the urgent need for supervision of the Licenced Bar and the desirability for a woman's regular help in the Refreshment Section. They were fortunate in obtaining the combined services of Mr. and Mrs E. H. Carter for these duties. In addition, Mr. Carter took over the position of Head Groundsman with Mr. Cooper, (who had been with the Club since being appointed in 1911) as his Deputy. These arrangements were fully justified by the extra revenue which largely met the additional cost, ensured added comfort and enjoyment for members and a higher state of ground efficiency.

The Annual General Meeting for the year ending September 1938, held in March 1939, was to be the last held before the outbreak of the Second World War in September of that year. Owing to war restrictions it was not possible to report Seasons 1939 or 1940 until April 1941. Membership excluding the Winter Sections in 1938 was 341 though by 1939 it had dropped to 292 owing to Service and other calls. The Report for 1938 showed the Hard Court loan had been finally paid off and the Club in a healthy financial position.

A special reference to the social side of the Club which had been fostered over the years should be recorded. The Club Dance held each November attracted upwards of 200.

Afternoon Whist Drives in the Pavilion were well supported. Though fluctuating in interest and attendance over the years, successful Saturday evening Dances were held in the Pavilion throughout the Summer Seasons. In May and July 1938 special mention is made of Concerts given by the Concert Artistes Cricket Club in the Pavilion. Special Efforts supplemented the income from social activities and at the end of this Season the purchase of a motor roller and a new motor mower were made possible.

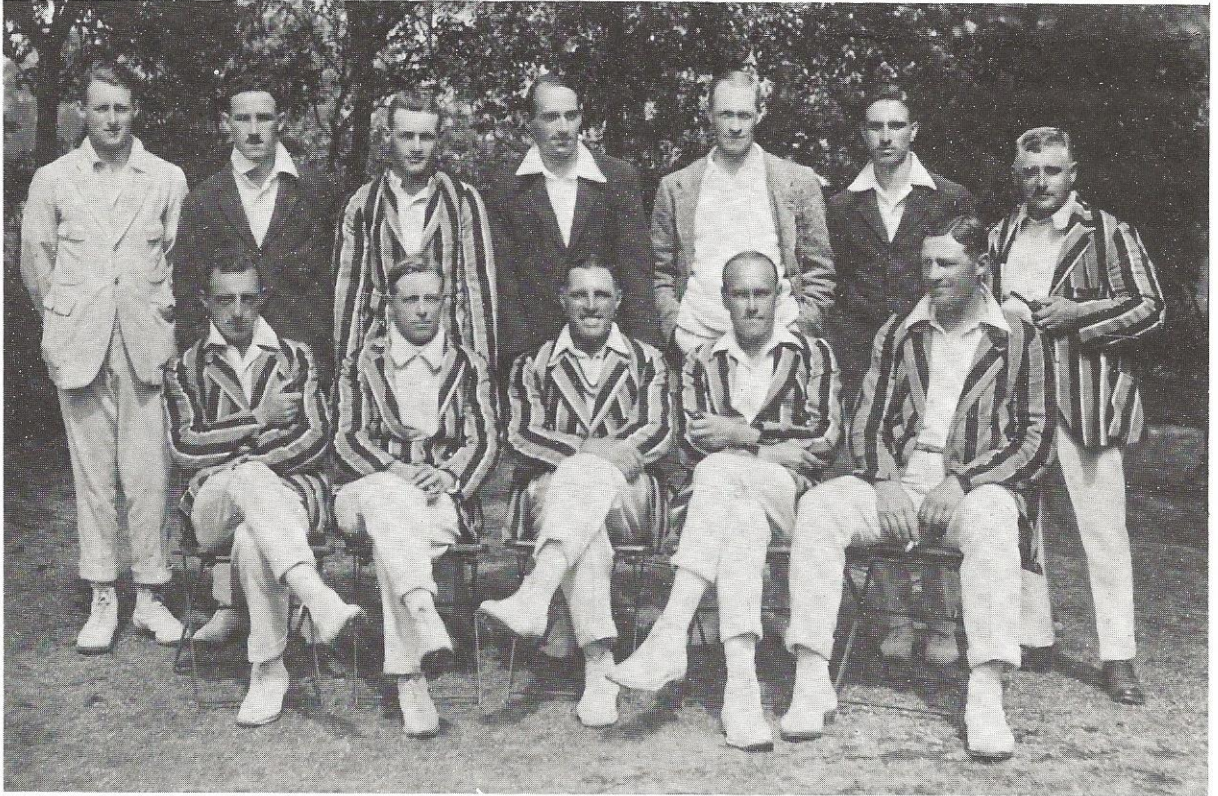
A final word concluding this general picture of the period of 20 years between the Wars, should be directed towards the self-managing Winter Sections of Football and Women's Hockey. Throughout the years friendly and cordial relations were maintained with the parent Club and contacts were close and constant to their mutual advantage, while each fully retained its separate and distinct identity.

Cricket – 1919 to 1939

The resumption of Cricket at Ford's Grove in 1919 saw two teams fielded for a full fixture list. The first game on 3 May was against old friends and rivals, Enfield for both elevens. The First Team was – Spratley, Knight (A. G.), Lavers, Bowles, Baker, Edmunds, McCarthy, Rogers, Follett, North and Steward, most of whom were to appear later in other capacities for the Club over many years. Other games of note that Season were against Edmonton, Alexandra Park, Northampton Poly and Great Northern Railway.

By the following Summer of 1920, membership had so increased as to enable four teams to be fielded each Saturday and a mid-week side. Indeed in 1921 some 130 matches were played and a very large majority won. This success continued for 1922 and 1923 Seasons with the Club becoming well known over an ever increasing area. Through the good offices of the President, the first of matches against an M.C.C. XI was played and won by the Club on 6 August 1921. This feature continued until the 1931 Season with the Club also successful in 1926 and 1931 and only being beaten once in 1930. The other games were high scoring draws some affected by rain. Mr. F. T. Mann, the Middlesex County Captain and then his eldest brother Mr. E. J. Mann took regular active parts. It was unfortunate that this fixture could not be maintained but in 1932 and 1933 the Club Cricket Conference provided an eleven.

The 1st XI v M.C.C. — Season 1921



A. Young L. G. Brown E. S. Birch H. G. Lavers A. W. Duck A. G. Knight H. Tidy
 (Scorer)
 W. H. Heald J. Chamberlain F. H. Bowles (Capt.) J. W. Simmons D. Adams

During the 20s, membership increased to the extent that five sides were fielded by 1924, six by 1928 and for part of the 1930 Season seven XIs.

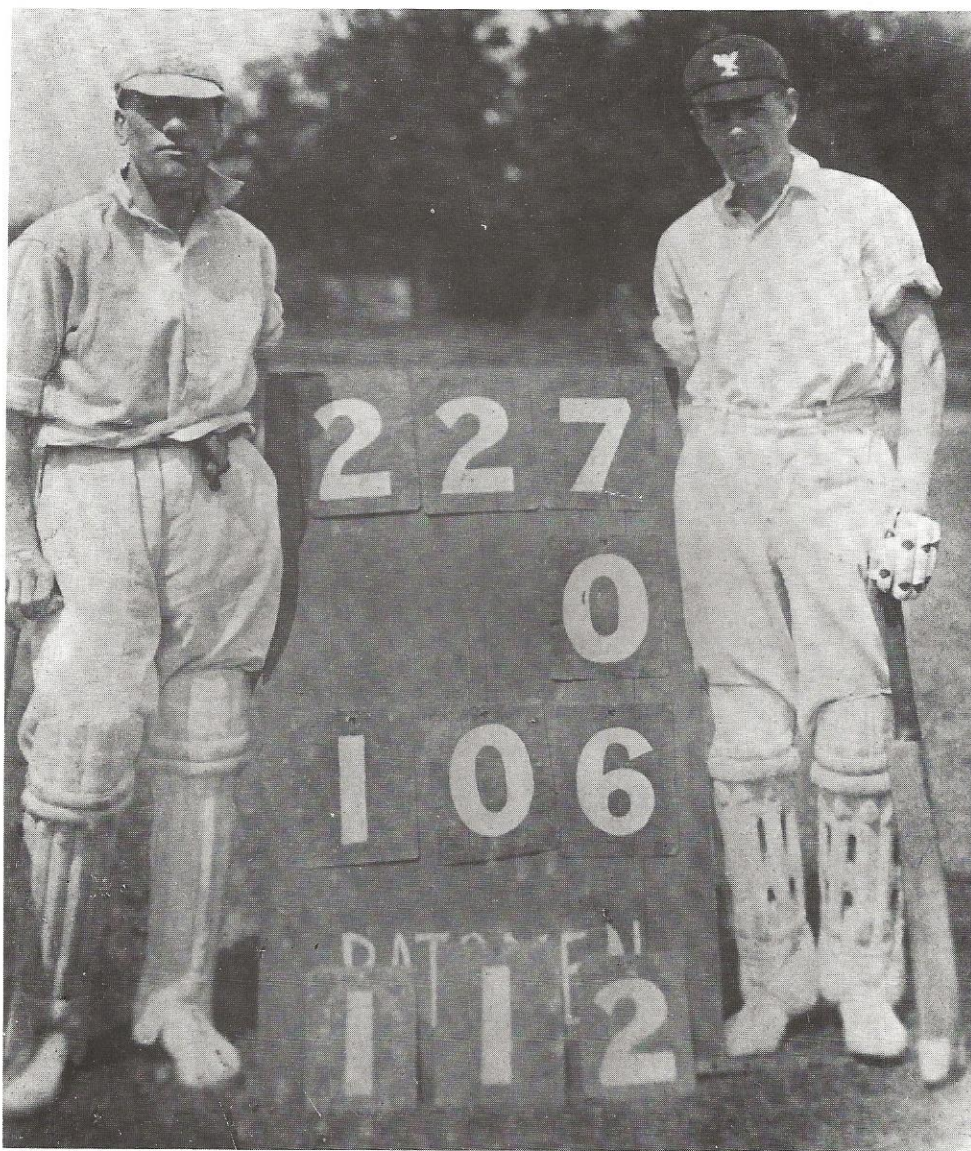
Fortunately, the weather of 1924, which caused the cancellation of 39 of the 132 matches arranged, considerably improved in 1925, when 122 of the 142 matches arranged were played. The 1st XI played 24, winning 14, losing only three and drawing six. F. G. Lavers, E. H. Johnson and L. Punchard each had averages of over 40 runs while G. E. Jowett and L. Punchard, both young members, took over 50 wickets each. The M.C.C., Captained by Mr. E. J. Mann, seeking their first victory against the Club, fielded a strong side and provided one of the fullest and most enjoyable day's cricket seen on the Ground. Batting first, they totalled just over 300 runs for eight wickets, H. A. Milton scoring a century, to which the Club replied with 245 runs for five wickets, A. G. Knight delighting with a well hit century and E. H. Johnson contributing 72 not out.

1926 saw the continuance of the influx of promising young members, a feature which had commenced the previous Season, and by 1927 these Juniors became full members enabling the Club to be even more active. The 1st XI held its own with the leading sides in London Club cricket. Centuries were scored against the following Clubs:- North London, University College, Hertford, South Hampstead, Old Bancroftians, Northampton Polytechnic and Upper Clapton. J. G. Knight headed the batting averages followed by N. C. Nicholson, F. G. Lavers and G. Deacock. D. V. Chittenden headed the bowling averages and with L. Punchard bearing the brunt of the 1st XI attack.

For a very memorable 1928 Season, 170 matches were arranged; 142 played, 57 won, 31 lost, 54 drawn and 28 abandoned. Outstanding was the batting of N. C. Nicholson who scored four centuries—165 n.o. v Brondesbury, 132 n.o. v St. Albans, 108 v Enfield and 106 n.o. v North London. His great opening partnership with J. G. Knight (112 n.o.) against

North London of 218 runs without being separated in one and a half hours left for play, following the declaration of the Visitors, won the game for the Hill and is a Club record still to be beaten. Ten other centuries were also scored. A. Young, Captain of the Club, the regular 1st XI wicket-keeper since the war, was invited by the Club Cricket Conference to keep wicket for them in representative games.

**THE CLUB'S OPENERS v NORTH LONDON C.C.
23.6.1928**



J. G. Knight

N. C. Nicholson

The Seasons 1929 and 1930 continued much in the same vein as in previous years. N. C. Nicholson and J. G. Knight heading the batting averages for both Seasons. They each scored centuries (151 and 117 respectively) in a score of 267 for 1, in one and three quarter hours, against Westcliff in 1929. L. Punched headed the bowling averages in 1929 but was sadly missed in 1930 through injury when P. G. Blackwell was the chief wicket taker.

1931 brought a very wet Season which played havoc with the fixtures, 51 being abandoned. The adoption of the larger wicket by the three senior sides may in part have explained the decline in the batting generally. Amongst the younger members, extremely good form was shown with the bat by L. F. Flower, 256 runs for 13 innings and with the ball by A. W. R. Marcus with 55 wickets at a cost of 9.3. E. C. Boden continued his consistency behind the stumps and with the bat. The Club's win against the M.C.C. was due in no small measure to some good bowling by J. Hurst and a spectacular catch by N. C. Nicholson.

Under the Captaincy of N. C. Nicholson the 1st XI, in 1932, suffered only one defeat, that with a very depleted side on August Bank Holiday. The disadvantages of the larger wicket seemed to have been overcome and the batting reached a much higher standard. Centuries were scored against Loughton, Highgate, Westcliff and Hertford. The lower XIs also enjoyed a very successful Season. Evening matches, chiefly against neighbouring Schools, were played by the Junior members.

For the first time in the history of the Club, matches were played on Sunday afternoons in 1933, which proved most enjoyable to the members participating and to a large number of friends. Of the 182 arranged matches, 155 were played 57 won, 39 lost, 58 drawn and one tied while 27 were abandoned. It is worth recording that many, who in former days held prominent places in the leading sides, still served the Club loyally in the lower XIs. Of particular mention are F. H. Bowles, Captain of the 2nd XI and H. Tidy, Chairman of the Club and Captain of the 3rd XI.

The Seasons 1934 and 35 undoubtedly proved enjoyable, largely due to the good weather, and the releveling of the ground in front of the Pavilion. N. C. Nicholson again aggregated well over 1,000 runs for each Season, supported by J. Hurst. In other XIs centuries were recorded for R. Haycraft, F. B. Hunter and R. H. J. Ingle. Successful bowlers for the 1st XI were P. G. Blackwell and F. S. Varley and for the lower XIs E. S. Birch, L. F. Flower, A. W. R. Marcus and G. Watson.

The highlight of 1936 was the honour given to the Club Captain, N. C. Nicholson, to Captain the C.C.C. 'London Counties' side against that of the 'Southern Counties'.

Curtailed membership of 1937 made the Season a most difficult one to administer. Saturday games for the lower XIs and mid-week matches were at times impossible to fulfil. In spite of this the 1st XI under its new Captain P. G. Blackwell lost only eight of the 23 games played, the 2nd and 2nd 'A' elevens each played 20 games and lost only three and four respectively, the 3rd XI played 19 games lost three, while the 3rd 'A' XI played nine games and lost three. Six centuries were scored during the Season, one of which was by N. Welsford a promising bat and an outstanding wicket-keeper.

What was to be the penultimate Season before the War, saw a check in the fall of membership, the results were disappointing and by no means up to the high standard of the Club. The stalwarts of the past few years, however, made their centuries and took their wickets.

Unfortunately, no report is available for the Season 1939.

It has been impossible to record the achievements of the many players who contributed so much to the continued success and standing of the Club, both on and off the field, and those, if not mentioned, are not forgotten.

This Chapter would be incomplete without a reference to Mr. Walter Sell. Much was done to encourage the younger members from the late 20s onwards, by the formation of a 'Colts' Section for which he was a most able Coach. The Friday evening 'Colts' matches gave opportunity for those participating to display their capabilities and gain experience.

The fruits of his energy and encouragement added to the maintenance of the high standards of cricket then, and succeeding generations have benefited by the organisation and forward thinking of this great Club spirited cricketer. He continued to give unbroken service in this direction until 1951.

Finally, throughout these years a 'Home' Cricket Week was organised early in the Season and regular tours of Sussex, and from 1927 onwards, of Hampshire and Dorset, were maintained and thoroughly enjoyed by those taking part and many friends made.

The 1st XI – Season 1938



R. Judson N. O. Welsford D. M. Robertson J. Leese F. S. Varley H. H. Dupont E. C. Boden R. Haycraft
(Scorer) (Umpire)
L. Hancock H. Sharpen E. S. Birch P. G. Blackwell (Capt.) N. C. Nicholson J. Hurst

Tennis – 1919 to 1939

It has already been recorded that a Tennis Section of the Cricket Club was formed for the 1912 Season and functioned until the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914. There are no reports or records of Tennis during the war Seasons 1915-1918, but as there was a fixture list for the 1919 Summer Season, it can be assumed that some tennis must have been played.

During the 20 years between the wars, the Section was very active without achieving any playing honours.

Every year they entered teams in the Ladies and Gents Middlesex (Division III) L.T.A. Cups Knockout competition without surviving further than the early rounds. As the Courts were all grass it was often necessary to give up home advantage in the draw, to Clubs with Hard Courts.

Fixtures against neighbouring Clubs, Ladies, Gents and Mixed Teams, were arranged with varying results. These are referred to in the local press of the early 20s against the Great Northern Railway A.A., Enfield, Hazelwood of Palmers Green (until they purchased 4½ acres of the Red Ridge Estate off Ridge Avenue in 1924 where they play today) and Woodberry (probably near Woodberry Avenue).

The Club Championships were competed for each Season in respect of Ladies and Gents. Handicap tournaments were arranged for the Doubles Events, always with a high entry.

Membership fluctuated very much during these years. Some small encouragement was given for Season 1925 when the provision of tennis balls by the Club was instituted.

In the 20s membership reached over 200, but owing to the lack of Hard Courts and no Sunday play being allowed, it dropped considerably by the early 30s. The situation was remedied to some extent when Sunday play was permitted in 1932 and the three Hard Courts were opened in June 1933. As a result Winter Tennis became part of the facilities available to members. During the Winter of 1933/34, the grass courts were relaid, made horizontal and aligned with the Hard Courts. A slight increase in membership was maintained for a couple of years but it did not last, for in the remaining years to 1939 it was rarely above 100.

Generally speaking it is clear however, that much enjoyment was derived by all members and the Section always made a valuable financial contribution as well as taking an active part in all Tennis and parent Club affairs.

Football – 1920 to 1939

Traditionally, we celebrate the founding of the Football Club in 1920, a self-managing Section of the Cricket Club. However, a Winchmore Hill Village Football Club was in fact formed in September 1898 under the Presidency of Mr. W. T. Paulin and had its ground in Middle Lane (Station Road). Although entirely a separate organisation, members of the WHVCC played for them. To mention some – the Duck brothers, H. J. was the goalkeeper, Lowden and London. They seem to have had their financial difficulties and even lost their ground in 1903 'in consequence of building operations', but were able with the help of the President and Vice-Presidents, to overcome their difficulties and secure a new pitch in Green Lanes near Green Dragon Lane. Here, they erected a fine pavilion for the 1903/04 Season. They played continuously until the 1913/14 Season, when they were in the Second Division of the North London League. It is assumed, in the absence of records that, in common with other Clubs, they ceased to exist at the outbreak of the Great War in 1914.

Towards the end of Season 1919/20 pre-war cricket members, F. G. (Bill) Lavers and J. (Jim) Follett, returned to the Club and were able to interest enough prospective members to field a scratch side and in fact played seven games (the first of which was against Latymer Old Boys) on a wandering basis. It was with this background that a football general meeting was held on 16 May 1920 at St. Paul's Institute, when it was decided upon the constitution of the Winchmore Hill Football Club and to accept the Cricket Club's generous offer of a pitch at a rental of £15. This was situated at the top of the Ground to the rear of the Pavilion and was in fact the 1st XI pitch for the next 25 years.

In Season 1920/21 two elevens were run and the Club had 33 playing and 18 non-playing members. Friendly games, mainly in North London were arranged with the following results:-

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals	
					For	Agnst
1st XI	24	17	2	5	87	20
2nd XI	19	11	1	7	65	42

This excellent performance and a balance now of £13 after all expenses had been paid were due in particular to the efforts of Bill Lavers (Chairman and 1st XI Captain), Jim Follett (Treasurer), George Burgoyne (Secretary) and Peter Calkin (Committee).

For the following Season 1921/22, having become a self-managing Section of the Cricket Club, they applied for League status. An offer to participate in the Northern Suburban League was rejected but both teams entered the Middlesex County Amateur League and the 1st XI the County Amateur Charity Cup. The 2nd XI had a moderate Season but the 1st XI won both the League and the Cup. At the commencement

of the Season the Club colours were fixed as white shirts, blue knickers and Club stockings. Changing arrangements were spartan. The Cricket Club's second small pavilion was used by the Football Club whilst visiting teams were housed in round corrugated iron sheds. The rent for this Season was £25, raised to £30 the following Season at the time of the opening of the new pavilion.

The 1st XI – Season 1921/22
Winners Middlesex County Amateur League (Senior Section) and Middlesex Charity Cup



L. G. Brown W. H. Heald D. Adams P. Calkin C. Phizackerley H. H. Gower
J. Follett F. L. Richards F. G. Lavers (Capt.) H. Follett M. I. Chinn

Season 1922/23 saw the 1st XI entered in 'B' Division of the Southern Olympian League and the A.F.A. Senior Cup, whilst the 2nd XI remained in the County Amateur League and entered the A.F.A. Junior Cup. The loss of three or four of their best players, the stronger opposition and end-of-season slackness produced a poor result. The Club was faced with ten months' notice to quit from the Parent Club, but fortunately this was soon withdrawn, for in the next Season the 1st XI won 'B' Division of the Southern Olympian League and the 2nd XI also improved.

After a bad start, the 1st XI secured 19 points in 16 games in the Premier Division, S.O.L. in Season 1924/25.

After a moderate Season in 1925/26 the Club revived under the Captaincy of Bill Gower, who was fortunate in the arrival of excellent players such as Laurie Punchard, Ted Boden and Frank Smith. In 26/27 the 1st XI finished third in the S.O.L. which included Lensbury, Catford Wanderers, London Welsh, Chingford and Watford Amateurs, and they won the Middlesex A.F.A. Senior Cup.

The 1st XI won the League in 1927/28 and were second in 1928/29 during which year they were also runners-up in the Middlesex Senior Cup losing to Broomfield 2 - 4.

This run of success under Gower and Smith led to the election of the 1st and 2nd XI's to Division III Senior and Junior of the Southern Amateur League and to the formation of a 3rd XI which played on the second pitch (today's 1st XI pitch) that now became necessary.

In 1929/30, their first Season in the new competition, the 1st XI were runners-up and were promoted to Division II, while the 2nd XI were also promoted when they won Division III Junior Section in 1930/31. With expanding membership, the 3rd XI entered Division III of the Nemean League in 1930, and a 4th XI was formed, entering Division V of the same League. The Club continued without further success in the same competitions for the next few Seasons. The 1st XI competed in the A.F.A. Senior and Middlesex Senior Cups and the 2nd XI for the Junior Cups. During these Seasons much was done to improve the amenities of the Club. The bar being installed in the Pavilion brought to the Cricket Club profits which had previously gone to the 'Green Dragon' and 'King's Head'. Baths were given by Stan Pryke and others.

The condition of the playing pitches was of constant concern. In 1930 the 1st XI pitch was made more level though the main hummock could not be removed and a drainage scheme was carried out in co-operation with the Parent Club. In 1932 a corrugated iron stand was erected backing on to the New River.

Season 1936/37 saw the Club running five teams. Whereas the first four sides were in Leagues, the fifth eleven relied on friendlies. The Club entered the first three sides in their respective A.F.A. Senior, Junior and Minor Cups while the 1st and 2nd XI's also entered the Middlesex Senior and Junior Cups. A special feature was made towards Training for this Season. On the basis that:-

'a side that trains is fit not fat,
it lasts the pace much longer,
lean and keen, it's quickly seen,
it goes from strong to stronger.'

Various items of equipment were available such as skipping ropes and a medicine ball, whilst two white balls were available for kicking and heading with the aid of car headlights. Thus it was hoped that players would walk through a 90 minute game regretting the final whistle!

The results of matches in the 1937/38 Season were disappointing although the keenness of a few at training, and the size and youth of the playing membership indicated that the Club was still very much alive. Rounding off this Season, however, a successful and enjoyable first Easter Tour was arranged. Some 18 members taking part, playing three matches, against Christchurch, R.A.F. Calshot and Wimborne.

The last full Season before the war, 1938/39, saw a noticeable improvement in play following the appointment of Mr. Len Thompson as coach. In their respective Divisions of the S.A.L. the 1st XI and 2nd XI results were much improved. The 3rd and 4th XI's continued in their Divisions of the Nemean League. A second successful Easter Tour was again played in the Bournemouth area.

PRESID
Winchmore Hill
1880 -



T. T. Busk, Esq., J.P.
1880-1894



Sir William T. Paulin, J.P.
1895-1931



Miss M. J. Irene Paulin
1932-1960



F. G. Mann, Esq., D.S.O., M.C.
1961-1970

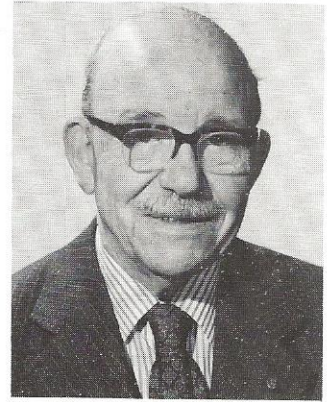
DENTS

Cricket Club

1980



R. W. C. Gowers, Esq., J.P.
1971-72



G. A. Roberts, Esq.
1973-74



T. G. Lynes, Esq.
1975-76



C. F. Garbett, Esq.
1977-78



D. W. Wragg, Esq.
1979-80

The 1st XI – Season 1937/38



B. Carter P. Attwood F. Kenyon V. Wheatley G. Brooke A. G. Cooper
 Serg. Ambridge W. Varley C. Carr R. W. C. Gowers (Capt.) V. Howson R. L. B. Guettier

CLUB JOTTINGS

Finally, it is necessary to refer to the 'Winchmore Hill Football Chat', a bulletin of 'Results, Reports, League Positions, Social and not too Personal News'. First published in October 1936 by George Deacock, with two and sometimes three issues a Season, it continued for 20 years taking in Cricket, Tennis and Forces News as well throughout the 1939-45 war years. In 1937 a history of the first 16 years of the Football Club appeared and, with subsequent editions, it has been possible to place this history on record. No doubt today's members will be interested in the following extract from the 'Chat' of February 1938:-

1. Sausage and mash was inaugurated at 6 p.m. on January 15th. For three weeks we have sold out the small number of 15 portions which is all that we can cook with the present limited utensils. With members' continued support we hope to convince the Cricket Club of the need for a Canteen Cooker.

2. The new bath geysers are working most satisfactorily. They enable the baths to be filled in half the time the old geysers took and they deliver water at a higher temperature. Hence the happy spectacle of members waggling well-boiled toes too hastily thrust into the cauldron.

Women's Hockey – 1919 to 1939

The first introduction to Ladies Hockey at Ford's Grove has already been recorded. This was under the name of 'The Grange Ladies Hockey Club' which drew a good many of its members from Bowes Park and Palmers Green. From a report in the 'Sentinel' of April 1915 it is said they had just completed their

sixth Season which indicates a start of that Club in Season 1909/10. They first played at Durnsford Road, Bowes Park before coming to Winchmore Hill just before the Great War. During the war period they hung up their sticks and concentrated their efforts on concerts for Charity.

GRANGE LADIES HOCKEY CLUB – SEASON 1913/14



In the Autumn of 1919 they rented a pitch on the Ground at Ford's Grove from the Cricket Club. In 1921/22 the rent was £25 which was raised the following year to £30 at the time of the opening of the new Pavilion, and by 1934/35 it had doubled to £60.

In times when ladies who played hockey were 'different' and were obliged to play in long skirts, it says a lot for the energy and enterprise of Mrs L. Faithful, in particular, and of Mrs G. Wood, (Hon. Secretary, 1919 until the end of the 1932/33 Season) that this successful start was made. Mrs Wood was also Ladies Captain of the Tennis Section of the Cricket Club in the early twenties. It should be noted that the respective husbands of these two ladies were involved as umpires! Mr. Wood continued as an umpire until the end of the 1936/37 Season. He raised an interesting and amusing point in June 1921 with Southern Counties W.H.A. 'as to whether or not steps ought to be taken to make the wearing of high heeled boots for Hockey illegal?!'

The Grange Ladies Hockey Club was affiliated to the Middlesex Women's Hockey Association in 1919, and admitted to membership of the Southern Counties Women's Hockey Association under that name, on 18 October 1920.

Fixtures for two teams were arranged for the Season 1920/21 with the home ground at Ford's Grove. Reports in the local press show that they had become closely associated with the Cricket Club as they were shown as 'Winchmore Hill incorporating The Grange L.H.C.'. In the records of the S.C.W.H.A. it appears that they became The Winchmore Hill Ladies Hockey Club in the Autumn of 1921 when seconding in that name the membership of Harrow L.H.C. to that Association. From the Season 1935/36 it was decided that the name should be changed by the substitution of 'Women's' for 'Ladies'. They were a self-managing Section of the Cricket Club from October 1921 until September 1939.

Their early success and standing was acknowledged from the start, for in the 1922/23 Season they provided ground facilities, through the Cricket Club, for the use of the Middlesex W.H.A. From Season 1925/26 onwards, a third eleven was added and they continued to advance and strengthen their position, maintaining a vigorous existence amongst the leading Ladies Hockey Clubs.

The changes in uniform are significant. From ankle length skirts of pre Great War days, they were raised to calf length in the early 20s, until in 1931, they adopted tunics and were considering changing to shorts

at the outbreak of the Second World War. From the commencement, the tie, for which the Club is well known today, has been part of the uniform except for the eight years when the tunic was worn.

**W.H.L.H.C. — Season 1931
Winners of the Middlesex Tournament**



M. Pearce — Statham G. Stone G. Wood N. White E. McLean A. Hawksworth G. Wood
(Umpire)
P. Love — West M. Whatley (Capt.) W. Lammond M. Haywood

In 1931, they won the Middlesex Tournament and in the 1932/33 Season the Club received representative honours for Middlesex and by the mid-thirties also had representatives for Suffolk, the East Territory as well as for the Civil Service. In 1934/35 they gained the highest points in the Middlesex Tournament and four members toured Germany with an Invitation team, playing matches at Mannheim, Dusseldorf and Wiesbaden. Their hospitality was returned two years later when the Club attended the International Section of the Ramsgate Easter Hockey Festival. At Easter 1936 an enjoyable Tour was arranged in the Matlock area of Derbyshire.

A Junior Section, playing on Saturday mornings, was commenced for Season 1937/38, with coaching for schoolgirls. On numerous occasions Juniors were chosen to fill in for senior teams.

To record all the opponents over these years would be too long, but in naming a few, it will be seen that some still appear in current fixture lists. In the 20s

these included Cheshunt, Latymer Road Old Girls, Barclays Bank, Harrow, Ibis, Cox's Bank, and not forgetting Dryad, who proposed the Club to membership of the South, and seconder Northampton Poly. In the 30s, Chiswick, Atlanta, Wimbledon, Kings College, London were but a few who were added.

There were many members who obviously worked hard and gave much of their spare time during this period and their efforts were clearly rewarded by the success of the Club over a wide area. Mention has already been made of Mrs Faithful and Mrs Wood, but three others were particularly involved. Miss M. Whatley, Captain 1925 to 1932, Mrs G. Bennett (née Stone) who held several officerships from 1926 to 1936 and Miss M. Swinburne who joined in 1934 and was Captain from 1936 to 1939.

Unfortunately with the outbreak of war in September 1939, members were dispersed, some going into the Services, others on war work or evacuated with their firms, etc. and the Club was unable to continue.

The War Years – 1939 to 1945

In common with most Clubs, the war caused many changes in the personnel among officials and members, not the least being the evacuation of Mr. Fred. Huson (Hon. Secretary). This office was taken over by Mr. O. C. Dupont during 1940. He had a fatherly interest in Cricket and Tennis, and continued until the Annual General Meeting of March 1947. The Chairmanship of the Club was undertaken by Mr. James North who retained this office until the Annual General Meeting of March 1946. To both these gentlemen the Club owes a deep debt of gratitude for their indefatigable efforts throughout the War and almost continuous presence on the Ground. Mention should also be made of the very able general administrative assistance given by Mr. J. Jupp, Mr. E. O. Walsford, Mr. F. G. Bowles and the financial adviser and auditor throughout the war years, Mr. H. R. Taylor.

A special word of thanks is due to Mr. George Deacock, who, a pre-war Life Member with close associations both in playing and administration of the Cricket and Football Sections since 1922, continued to provide the Club with Printing and Stationery.

Within a year of the outbreak of hostilities, no less than 70 members from all Sections were serving in H.M. Forces. By 1942 it was 122 with 38 serving overseas and by 1944 the total had reached 190 which did not include those evacuated for official or business reasons. It is fitting to mention those who made the supreme sacrifice, whether on the battlefield or through any other cause is immaterial, because it was all in the one great cause.

Throughout the war, many Service and evacuated Members visited the Club and were not only welcomed with great pleasure, but were offered games in matches during their leave. The Ground and Pavilion became a meeting place for serving members to use as opportunity arose.

As to the Ground itself, improvements to it and the equipment were impossible to effect. In the Autumn of 1940, the Ground like many others in North London did not escape damage, for no less than four large craters stopped all play for a period. Not one of these was on either of the cricket tables or tennis courts fortunately, but the debris caused considerable trouble in addition to the filling up of the craters. Some damage was sustained to the Scorebox, Pavilion and fencing. The Groundsman, Mr. H. Cooper, became ill during the Winter of 1944/45 and was unable to continue, but not before, with little assistance, he had done yeoman service under the direction of Mr. F. H. Bowles. The best possible use was made of the existing equipment and the results achieved were most creditable. Temporary repairs to fencing were effected to prevent the Ground becoming a public park. In the end the work was eased by the acquisition in 1945 of a three-gang mower with a box tractor.

Compliments were paid by more than one visiting team, not only on the standard of the pitches, but also the outfield, and this in spite of petrol difficulties.

It was found possible to field two and sometimes three cricket XIs on Saturdays and one XI on Sundays for the duration. The Colts Section under the expert tuition of Mr. Walter Sell, continued unabated and went from strength to strength both numerically and in ability, matches being played on most Friday evenings.

Cricket membership fluctuated from 83 in 1938 down to 39 in 1940 rising to 51 by 1944. Transport difficulties restricted the fixture list to those Clubs within a radius of less than ten miles from Winchmore Hill. However, in 1941 seventy-five matches were played which increased to 98 in Season 1944. Although the standard of cricket may not have been high, it can be safely asserted that these Seasons were both enjoyable and successful. The games were played in the true spirit of cricket and provided healthy exercise and relaxation for both players and spectators alike. More important, under war-time conditions was that cricket at the Club still thrived and augered well for the post-war Seasons, despite the large numbers serving their country and the many calls of others. 1941 saw the start of the many Charity games organised by the Cricket Club during the five Seasons to 1945. The organisations to benefit were The Air Raid Distress Fund, The Red Cross, Colonial Comforts Fund and The Southgate Prisoners of War Fund, from a total of over £1,200. The Opposition for these games was provided by Mr. L. W. Newman's XI, British Empire XI, London Counties XI, and West Indies XI. Amongst the notable cricketers who appeared were H. P. Crabtree (Southgate and Essex), W. Edrich (Middlesex and England), L. N. Constantine and C. B. Clarke of West Indies.

Tennis membership halved between 1939 and 1943 and it was feared that the considerably depleted numbers would prejudice the successful running of the Section. In spite of this, however, the existing members, supplemented by a good proportion of new members who accepted the invitation to join for the duration owing to their Club's ceasing to function temporarily, enabled the Section to continue. Club Tournaments and matches were played without interruption throughout the war Seasons. One of the major difficulties of course was the great scarcity of tennis balls, but with care and reconditioning a supply was maintained.

Of the Winter self-managing Sections, the Women's Hockey Section found it impossible to continue at the outbreak of war. From 1941 the Ladies of the Thirteen and Nortels Hockey Clubs shared the tenancy of a pitch to their mutual satisfaction and benefit of the parent Club's finances. The Football Section succeeded in keeping their flag flying and there were

many members who were 'Flannelled Fools' and 'Muddied Oafs'.

At a meeting in September 1939 to consider how best to combat the emergency into which they had been thrown, it was resolved 'to endeavour to carry on as far as is humanly possible'. A quote from 'The Chat' of December 1939 reporting the meeting is significant. It was decided:-

'Firstly: to provide a game of Football for our lads who are serving King and Country, whenever they found themselves on leave.

Secondly: to attempt to fulfil our obligation to the Parent Club.

Thirdly: to provide an opportunity for our many friends to witness a game, and share in the amenities of the Club House. and

Lastly to keep, if possible, in existence the structure on which to build a more flourishing Club when the present emergency is over, and happier times once more prevail.'

The implementation of the first resolution was made possible by the co-operation of old friends, Southgate Wanderers, whose ground in Ladysmith Road, Enfield, had been commandeered and whose members joined in a body. As a result the Club was able to run two sides fairly comfortably for the duration. In Season 1941/42 some 57 matches were played and results were such that they would wish for nothing better in normal times. By the next Season only the young and old were available, but in fact 61 games were played.

Season 1944/45 however, saw an increase in membership and the running of a third eleven. For the second Season running, the 1st XI won the Wood Green and Southgate Hospital Cup.

In common with the Cricket Club, the footballers arranged Charity matches. These included successive games with Broomfield in aid of the crew of H.M.S. Ferndale and the Southgate P.O.W. Relatives Association. Barclays Bank, Royal Netherlands Navy and a British Empire XI provided the opposition in aid of the above Association and the British Red Cross.

With the coming of VE Day the 'Chat' appropriately reported in May 1945 that the first three of their tasks set in 1939 had been accomplished. Six Seasons of war-time football had been played at Ford's Grove. There remained their final task to guide the Club through the transitional period and take their place among the leaders in A.F.A. Football. The resumption of the Southern Amateur League next Season was anticipated, and it was hoped that many old players would rejoin and a steady stream of newcomers would continue.

In the Summer of 1940, it was decided by Members and friends to start a 'Club Comforts Fund' for those serving with H.M. Forces with the object of keeping them in touch with the Club and its activities. A special Committee was set up consisting of the Chairman of the parent Club, Mr. North, Mrs Welsford, Mrs Hancock and Mr. Jupp to undertake its administration. Funds were obtained through various channels, collecting boxes in the Pavilion, penny a week from Members, fortnightly whist drives, proceeds from horticultural and flower shows and donations. This enabled periodic parcels of cigarettes, woollen socks and gloves knitted by Members, toilet requisites and greetings cards to be sent to all Members throughout the war years. A 'Bulletin' and the 'Chat' was also circulated. One particular item was a directory with addresses of all Members overseas. This gave rise to many opportunities for Members to get into touch with one another in distant parts, and often interesting meetings took place. At the end of five years it was gratifying to record the beginning of demobilisation though conscription continued, but the Fund functioned for some two years after the end of hostilities. Grateful thanks were recorded by returning Members, not only for the 'goody' parcels but for the news from home. Much appreciation was expressed to the Committee for its work and in particular to Mrs O. Hancock, the Hon. Secretary, for her untiring efforts in obtaining and circulating information and much desired creature comforts.

Finally, the Social side of the Club was continued with unabated enthusiasm in spite of blackout difficulties. It was a very rare occurrence that on a Saturday evening there was 'nothing doing'. Dances with a small band were held, Concerts and Groundsman's Day with side shows helped towards success in this direction. The bulk of this work throughout the war years was undertaken by the ladies of the Tennis Section who provided refreshments, coping admirably with food rationing.

To conclude this report on the war-time activities of the Club it must be said that it is impossible to mention everyone, but to all officers and Members of all Sections who gave their time and help in these difficult days, the Club is indeed grateful.

Rejuvenation and Consolidation

1945 to the present day

With the advent of the first peace-time Season, 1945 found the Club poised and anxious to return to normality as soon as possible. The difficulties of those who had nobly kept things going during the War years were amply appreciated. Membership had been a cause for concern but was on the increase and the return of many members was welcomed. The total income for the Club of just over £1,000 showed a profit against expenditure. However, it was clear that greatly increased costs were going to have to be met.

The first essential to the success of the Club was recognised as the improvement and maintenance of the playing surfaces. The Pavilion interior and exterior required restoration and repairs were needed to the roof. This all entailed more labour at a higher rate of wages, and materials, though in short supply and available, at steadily rising prices. With this background it is pleasing to record that the efforts of the groundstaff during successive Seasons achieved excellent results, especially when it is remembered that in 1947 the weather was as good as any within the memory of the oldest member of the Club and 75 wickets were used on the front table!

In 1948 a Ground Development Committee produced a five year plan and recommendations for the development of the Club. It included the construction of a bowling green and the formation of a Bowls Section, the provision of additional tennis courts, a further football pitch, re-siting of the car park, the preparation of permanent practice wickets and structural alterations to the Pavilion. Though funds have never been available to implement the bowling green proposal, a third football pitch was made available for the 1948/49 Season at the lower part of Ford's Grove side of the ground. In 1949 a new hard tennis court (No. 7) was laid, the old car park at the rear of the pavilion was turfed over to make it possible for the main football pitch to be brought nearer the pavilion, and a much improved car park was constructed at the Ford's Grove/Firs Lane corner of the ground. A second hockey pitch was made available on the other side of the front table. Six new shower baths were installed and the men's tennis dressing accommodation enlarged. New practice wickets were taken into use on the terraces between the Pavilion and the New River.

The need for a new constitution had been apparent for some time. With the growth of the Club, the re-formation of the Women's Hockey Section, and the suggestion that the Football Club should cease to be a Self-Managing Section, the opportunity was taken to compile a completely new constitution, comprising Fundamental and General Rules and Rules for each Section. At the Annual General Meeting of the parent Club held on 29 January 1950, the new Rules were

approved and the Football Section became a Section of the parent Club with effect from 1 October 1950, thus enjoying equal status with the Cricket and other Sections.

During the immediate post-war years a Sub-Committee consisting of representatives of Cricket, Tennis and Football, had been considering the form of a suitable and permanent War Memorial to the memory of Club Members who lost their lives in the two World Wars. On the 14 October 1951, a Service of Remembrance, held in the Club Pavilion, was conducted by the Rev. B. E. T. Jansz, M.A., a member of the Southgate Cricket Club, at which a Roll of Honour was unveiled by Mr. J. North, Chairman of the Club from 1939 to 1946, who delivered a short address. The Service was attended by a large congregation of members, friends and relatives. The Roll of Honour hangs in the Pavilion Lounge. Subsequently, after members had constructed the Veranda on the Ford's Grove side of the Pavilion, it was decided that this should be regarded as the permanent Memorial, and a plaque was placed upon it to that effect.

In the Autumn of 1952, subject to certain conditions, a licence for the building of a Groundsman's Cottage was received. This was the culmination of a proposal made some five years before when it was decided that this essential accommodation for the Head Groundsman should be provided. (In 1951 the Club had decided to purchase a house situated near the ground for the temporary occupation of the Head Groundsman and his family.) The building took place during 1953 and the cottage was occupied by the Head Groundsman in November of that year. Some £500 was collected towards the cost, including an anonymous gift of £200, the donor requesting that the cottage be called 'Escott'.

During 1953 two very suitable huts were donated to the Club. One was erected and adapted as the present Tea Hut and the other became most acceptable as a meeting place and Club House for the Tennis Section.

The report for 1954 indicated many general improvements to the ground. The main items including the replacing of a large section of the boundary fence on the north and east sides, the provision of more seating along Firs Lane, the re-surfacing of the car park and the redecoration of most of the interior of the pavilion. The playing surfaces on the whole showed great improvement in spite of adverse weather conditions.

A review of the Club's affairs over the ten post-war years showed that, while costs had more than trebled, a total membership of over 600 was being maintained and much had been achieved to further the facilities and interests of all members. It follows therefore, that

with rejuvenation behind it, the Club in all Sections had attained its rightful high place amongst its friends and rivals on and off the field. With a strong membership and new faces appearing, the next ten years had much to show in furthering and indeed improving on the efforts of the past. It goes without saying, but still must be said, that financial considerations have always had to be carefully watched. The Club has been fortunate in the past to have had those with care and foresight in this direction. So it was in these years that another generation of Club members, appreciating the situation, realised that if they were going to succeed they had to follow the maxim of the Bible which said 'God helps those that help themselves'.

The late 50s were marked by expanding the fund-raising Special Efforts of Cricket and Football matches, Pontoon, Christmas and Grand National Draws, with Fetes, Jumble Sales and a Concert Party to further the development of the Club and its virtual freedom from debt.

In 1957 a sub-committee of all Sections produced a Badge in the Club colours of silver, mauve and black. At the suggestion of Don Wragg, it incorporates Deer which links the Club with the Arms of its own Borough of Southgate (now incorporated in the London Borough of Enfield), as well as the great Cedar Tree overlooking the front of the Ground, and symbol of the New River suggestive of 'The Paulin Ground'. The latin motto 'Amicitia Per Ludos' which may be translated as 'Friendship through Sport' was added by Gus Gowers.

The outstanding event of the early months of 1958 was the fulfilment of what was known as the Pavilion Reconstruction Scheme. To some it is fair to say it seemed outrageous, others shook their heads, to some it was utopian and would take years and cost the earth. Nobody reckoned with the spirit and enterprise waiting in the wings ready and willing to proceed. So it was that much good will, financial and material, was accorded the Management's decision to go ahead. In those months the Lounge and Bar of pre-war days disappeared. In its place an attractive bar lounge, an additional dressing room and a comfortable Committee room were constructed by enthusiastic members. The old wooden floors of the main hall and bar lounge were repaired and covered with Magnesite. It speaks for itself to recall that the floor base of the hall and Players Bar of today is still doing good service. The Club is indeed grateful for the voluntary effort put into this project by all concerned which was a great team effort of the highest order led by Tom Lynes.

On the ground itself extensive drainage work was carried out and a large area in the south west corner was levelled. To improve the appearance of the ground, ornamental trees, donated by members, were planted along the Ford's Grove and Firs Lane boundary

fences. The Club was not without its setbacks however. A fire in the machine sheds in September 1959 destroyed all the machinery but the ancient tractor and the then recently purchased gang mowers which had fortunately not been put away. Fortune smiled favourably, however, and a satisfactory settlement of the Insurance claim enabled the Club to replace the lost machinery and the sheds with a range of three pre-cast concrete garages. The two-ton petrol roller acquired at the time, though showing signs of its age, still works and the reconditioned Ferguson Tractor to replace the ancient tractor was in evidence until quite recently. It is worthy to note, that certain Members desirous of meeting an outfield roller need, harnessed three short lengths of 21-inch diameter iron pipe filled with concrete to an iron frame, which became a very effective tractor drawn outfield roller of approximately 23 cwt.

1960 saw the completion of the levelling of the Spinney area for additional playing space and a new fence along Ford's Grove to the car park, together with the planting of some 300 quick-thorn bushes. The outer wall of the pavilion received a much needed repair, and in 1961 was encased with metal lathing and plaster compound. This enabled a Veranda to be erected by Members along the Ford's Grove side of the Pavilion following their relaying of the Pavilion's main drainage system.

The years 1962/63 will long be remembered for their adverse weather conditions. The late frosts and a damp Summer of 1962 built up to a cold and snow laden Winter of early 1963, when from Boxing Day till early April Winter sports were sadly curtailed. In fact the Club was closed altogether until Saturday 9 February. It was however, possible to proceed with the new scoreboard project for the front table. The old wooden box was moved and renovated for the use of those playing on the top rear table. The new brick box was built before the snows came down. However, it was possible to install the mechanised equipment in time for the beginning of the 1963 Cricket Season. At the time it was one of the first of its kind and it is pleasing to record it still gives good service.

Over the years much time and renovation work was done to the Grass Courts. The chain link fencing was replaced and members were actively engaged in dressing and repairing the Hard Courts. In 1965, they were relaid and surfaced. The work was financed by loans from the L.T.A. and N.P.F.A. amounting to £1,000, and by voluntary subscriptions from members. The total cost of the undertaking was to be written off over five years.

So we come to the end of an era which had seen many improvements to the Pavilion. The considerable efforts of the membership over the previous ten years have been recorded, but what of the final 15? The ever-present need to maintain and keep up-to-date with sporting and social facilities continued. The cost of running the Club, had by 1965, in 20 years, risen by five times the 1945 figure with much more to follow.

With the loss of rent from the Collegiate School, which closed in 1964, attention was turned to other lettings, extending special efforts and social activities, not to mention the opening of the Bar on Sundays in Summer and Winter at midday and evening. The Brewers, at this time, being very helpful in providing new tables and chairs for members' comfort. By 1970 the Bar takings had exceeded the £7,000 mark giving a net profit of just under £2,000 for the year. Special efforts enabled a surplus of income over expenditure to be shown, and the Club finances in a generally healthy state with an Accumulated Fund of over £1,000. During this time both ground and pavilion received attention as required and further drainage and extension to water supplies were carried out.

The 70s began with general expenditure under control, a pleasing surplus, made possible by increased income from subscriptions and the licensed bar, and a Pavilion Redevelopment Fund of over £2,000. During the Winter of 1970/71 much redecoration of the interior facilities of the Pavilion was carried out after considerable work of renovation on the Cricket tables, courts and outfield. However, in August 1971 a major crisis developed when the Club lost its Groundstaff. Again willing hands made light work of ensuring that wickets and courts were fully prepared for weekend play. The turn round from Summer to Winter was effected and the band of volunteers from all Sections finally stood down at the end of October when new groundstaff took over. A great effort showing a fine spirit of 'all for one and one for all'.

For some time it had been felt that the Club's changing accommodation needed enlarging and modernising. During the years 1972 and 1973 a Pavilion Redevelopment Scheme was drawn up and financial considerations were to the fore. It was to the great credit of all concerned that grants and loans were negotiated successfully and the decision to go ahead could be taken. Contractors commenced on 2 January 1974 and work was completed by the Autumn ready for the Winter Season. The project consisted of a complete reconstruction of the Pavilion from the Bar to the South end. This incorporated an additional Bar Lounge, new changing accommodation for both the ladies and men, with the male visitors changing in second storey rooms above new showers and toilets.

At the same time the heating system was much improved. The benefits derived from this enterprise have provided a degree of comfort and facility to which the Members of a large sports organisation are entitled. It is, however, necessary to bear in mind that the heavy loan debt incurred has to be repaid, and will place a continuing burden on Club resources for some years ahead.

The final years of this period since the War have included the drought of 1976 followed by the loss of part of the Pavilion roof in the following Winter and the severe weather conditions of the early months of 1979. Much time and money has been spent on drainage and the further improvement of all playing areas for much of which the Club is indebted to its excellent Head Groundsman. The main hall of the Pavilion received a new ceiling and much improved lighting.

The Table Tennis Section was revived and rapidly became an accepted and established part of the Club.

Much store is placed on the entertainment of all the Club's opponents, whatever the game, and the social side of the Club itself has greatly increased over these years. The Social Committee and various other committees concerned, are very active indeed and provide considerable income. Annual functions such as Ladies Night, The Summer Ball and The Turkey Supper are now highlights and a variety of dances throughout the year are well supported.

The spirit throughout the Club in providing working parties, and supporting the many special efforts has proved of invaluable assistance in maintaining the standards expected of a Club of the calibre of Winchmore Hill.

Cricket – 1945 to the present day

We have come a long way since the days of the Village Club as it was known, the days of national heroes of the game in W. G. Grace and J. B. Hobbs, through two World Wars to comparative modern times. The strength of any club is usually measured by the results of its first eleven but as in all realms of sport this cannot be maintained without reserves. We must, therefore, remember that during these later years five teams have been fielded on Saturdays and three, sometimes four on Sundays. Great attention has been turned to the development of the youngsters as Colts to provide the future players.

The reports for the Seasons 1945 to 1947 reflected a keenness to return to normal. Many pre-war members, though that much older, were well able to hold their places and new members were being welcomed. It is never easy to record names for there are eleven in the team and success is determined by the combined efforts of Batsmen and Bowlers, not to forget the fielding. However, valuable contributions were made with the bat by T. E. J. Edwards, R. H. A. Vickery, A. G. Cooper and with the ball by P. G. Blackwell and L. F. Flower. E. S. Birch Captained the 1st XI in Season 1947 when, by contrast with the previous year, the weather was as good as any within memory, and a most successful Season was enjoyed by five Saturday and three Sunday XIs.

During these post-war Seasons, Sunday games particularly, provided some very interesting and upon occasions exciting cricket. Those against the British Empire XI and the West Indies are well worthy of note when the Club put up a fine effort and the Charities for which these games were arranged benefited in no small measure.

The highlights of 1947 were the visits of G. O. Allen's XI in June, A. E. G. Baring's XI on Groundsmans' Benefit Day, and a West Indian XI on August Bank Holiday, when the largest crowd ever seen on the ground saw a fine display of batting by the visitors and excellent bowling by Dr. C. B. Clarke of Northants.

All bowling performances in this Season were overshadowed by J. Marshall's record of 127 wickets in 1st XI games for an average of 13.07 runs.

The Club was fortunate in having as members two outstanding West Indian cricketers in A. F. Rae and H. Fraser. The former, in addition to making many runs in Club Cricket and for the C.C.C., was selected for the West Indies Test XI, and as opening bat in 1950, his centuries in the Lords and Oval Tests undoubtedly laid the foundation of the West Indies victories in both games.

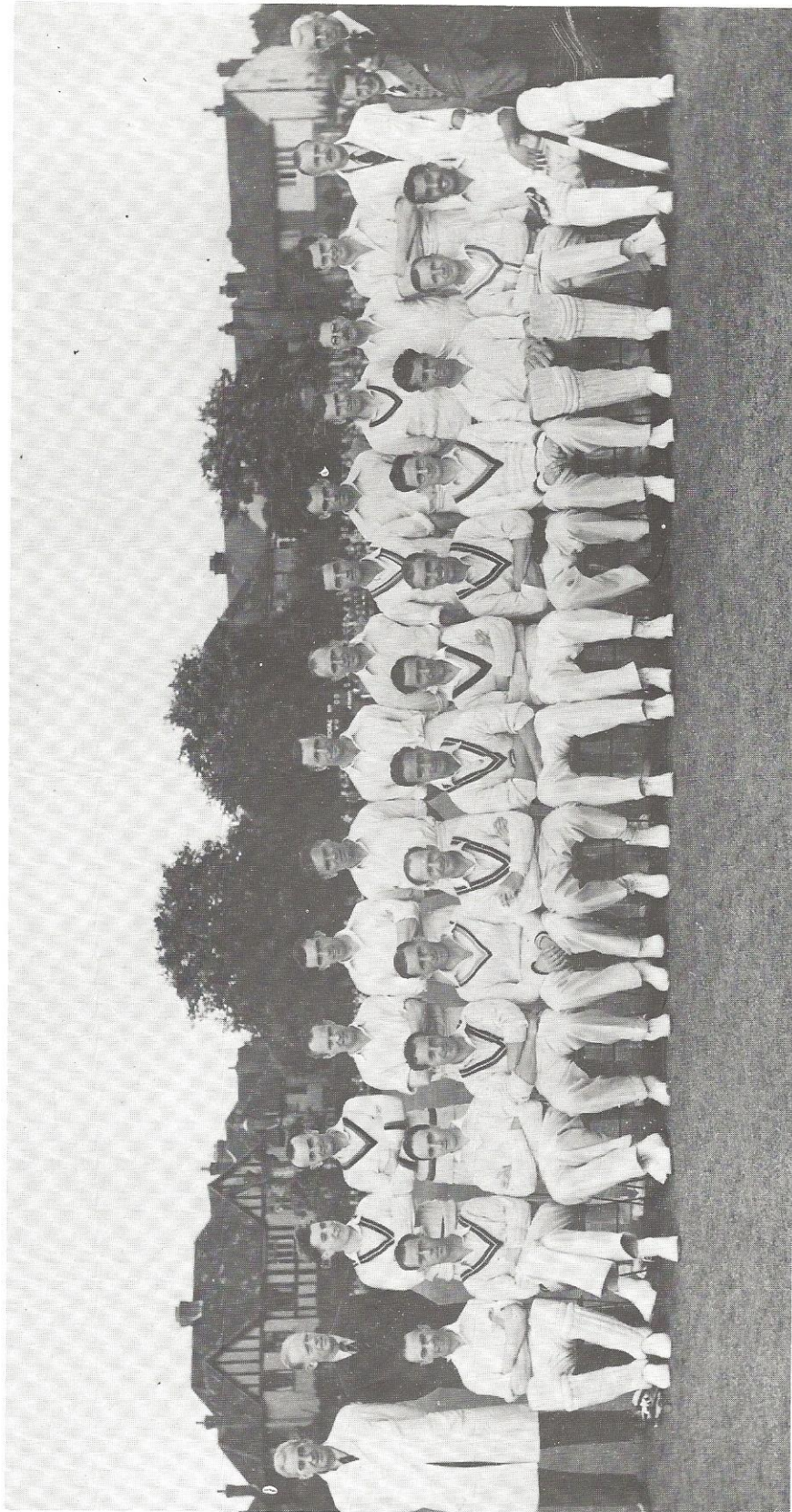
The Colts had a very successful Season and showed a substantial balance of wins over losses. On several occasions they assisted Club XIs and one, Howard Felton, was on occasion invited to play for the 1st XI.

Before continuing it is perhaps as well to have a word about fixtures. In view of the number of members of good 2nd XI standard it was decided in 1947 to change the nomenclature to 'A' XI and 2nd XI respectively with the former retaining the strongest of the original 2nd XI opponents and completing their list as far as possible with 1st XI opposition. This resulted in a strengthening of fixture lists for both sides. Long standing fixtures, for example with Clubs like Edmonton, Wanstead, Alexandra Park, Finchley, Hornsey and North Middlesex, came under these new arrangements which worked well for all concerned. It meant that the 'A' XI played many more matches away from home, and it was possible to be at Westcliff on Saturday and Basingstoke on Sunday, but with the motor car also now taking a part, no-one minded when meeting old friends and some new ones, with much good cricket.

A most encouraging feature of the Seasons 1947 to 1950 was the introduction into the 1st XI of young members who had deservedly gained promotion from the lower elevens. With the assistance of some new members in the higher sides a general all-round strengthening was reflected in the results of the 3rd and Extra 3rd XIs. The batting of H. J. Felton, M. G. W. Pryke and T. Williams and the bowling of J. Fox, J. Peacock and P. Pizey justified the confidence reposed in them and held out much promise for the future. There was a preponderance of drawn games but as many were won as lost and results overall were encouraging with at least six centuries from members each Season.

These Seasons saw Benefit Fund fixtures with the Middlesex County XI (twice) and the Hants C.C.C., in addition to the annual match with the West Indies. Against the County in 1948 for L. H. Gray's Benefit Fund the Club put up a splendid performance, eight of the visitors were dismissed for 208, the Club replying with 138. The West Indies match (for L. N. Constantine's Testimonial Fund) was a different story. The beneficiary scored runs very quickly and then bowled unchanged to take seven wickets. The match with the County XI in 1949 for Denis Compton's Benefit Fund attracted a very large crowd indeed. The Club was honoured to welcome the full County side Captained by R. W. V. Robins which included Denis and Leslie Compton, Jack Robertson, Bill Edrich and Jim Sims. For this game our own Mr. W. Bedford was an Umpire, Mrs Bedford a scorer and their son, Ian, twelfth man for the County. The Bank Holiday Sunday 31 July game against West Indies is well worth recording. At 2.00 p.m. the ground was practically under water, but the game started at 3.00 p.m. and at 5.15 p.m. Dr. C. B. Clarke, the West Indies Captain, declared with the score at 342 for five wickets!

WINCHMORE HILL CRICKET CLUB v MIDDLESEX — 5th June, 1949
 (Denis Compton's Benefit)



W. Bedford	P. I. Bedford	A. Thompson	S. M. Brown	R. Routledge	H. Sharp	T. A. J. Bennett	S. Hancock	J. North
H. S. Knight	L. Moore	L. A. Lambert	J. D. Robertson	J. A. Young	D. E. Tonge	D. W. Ashby	E. O. Welsford	
T. E. J. Edwards	J. Marshall	S. J. Garbett	D. C. S. Compton	J. M. Sims	L. Compton	A. F. Rae		
L. H. Gray	W. J. Edrich	R. W. V. Robins (Capt.)	R. H. A. Vickery (Capt.)	P. G. Blackwell	J. Hurst			

WINCHMORE HILL CRICKET CLUB v WEST INDIES — 31st July, 1949



(Umpire) L. F. Flower P. Bynoe L. Moore H. A. Fraser J. North S. J. Garbett A. F. Rae D. E. Tonge E. B. Eytte J. Hurst S. Hancock
 J. K. Holt L. N. Constantine C. B. Clarke (Capt.) J. H. Cameron E. P. Weekes K. Ablack (Umpire)
 L. A. Lambert P. G. Blackwell R. H. A. Vickery (Capt.) J. Marshall L. Stanton T. E. J. Edwards
 L. Japal R. Morgan B. Bishop



Learie Constantine
1949

The innings of Everton Weeks, the first he played in London, was delightful and the robust hitting of the evergreen Learie Constantine was much enjoyed. When the Club batted there was inevitably an anti-climax, but there were creditable performances in the score of 152. L. Moore batted extremely well for 47 ably supported by R. Vickery, and R. Morgan stayed for a good innings of 28 including a lovely six to long-leg off Bynoe.

The Hants County XI visited Winchmore Hill for the first time in 1950 in aid of their professionals' Benefit Fund. The Club's reply of 156 for six wickets to the County's total of 216 for four wickets including a century by McCorkell, made a very creditable draw. A large crowd again supported the annual fixture with the West Indies XI whose score of 216 for seven wickets, including an entertaining innings of 67 by their Captain C. B. Clarke, proved too much for the Club side which could only muster 67 runs.

And so we move into the **Fifties** and 70 years on! This latter was fittingly celebrated on Saturday 15 April 1950 at the Cafe Royal when a dinner and dance was attended by some 250 members and friends, presided over by the Club Chairman, Mr. H. S. Knight.

Guests included Mr. Bruce Harris, Sports Editor of the 'Evening Standard', Mr. F. C. Hawker, Captain of Southgate C.C.; Mr. C. E. H. Topping, Captain of Edmonton C.C., and representatives of Chingford, Alexandra Park, Brondesbury, North Middlesex, Finchley, Enfield, Westcliff and Hornsey Cricket Clubs. Messages of good-will were received from Miss Paulin, President of the Club, Mr. Frank Mann and Mr. George Mann, Vice-Presidents, Sir Pelham Warner, Mr. R. C. Robertson-Glasgow, Mr. John Arlott, and Mr. R. H. McLoed, a Life Member and former Chairman of the Club. Prominent playing members of former days present included Mr. F. H. Bowles, Mr. F. G. Lavers and Mr. A. G. R. Knight.

The weather seems to have taken its toll of fixtures in the early 50s. In 1951 it was cold and wet and of 219 matches arranged 21 were cancelled and 24 abandoned while in 1954, of 235 arranged 47 were abandoned and many others curtailed.

From 1953 onwards the 1st XI undoubtedly benefited from the talent that had been evident in the lower sides and the Colts, but not a little of the success was due to the high standard of fielding.

The 1st XI – Season 1955



S. J. F. Barry D. Lynes J. Marshall J. A. Clarke M. W. G. Pryke N. A. Robinson D. L. Newman J. N. Haynes (Umpire)

T. L. Williams H. J. Felton L. F. Flower (Capt.) L. A. Lambert D. A. Metson
B. Duff (Scorer)

During six consecutive Seasons as Captain from 1953 to 1958, L. F. Flower continued to exploit both the agility and ability of his youthful 1st XI. Noteworthy performances included a 1,000 runs in each of three consecutive Seasons by H. J. Felton, while D. A. Metson, L. A. Lambert and M. W. G. Pryke were all amongst the runs. For several Seasons D. L. Newman, injected some of his energy and insatiable zest for the game into the team and had many attractive innings to his credit. He was Captain of the 1st XI at his untimely death in 1959. In a County 2nd XI match on the Paulin Ground in 1956 he, as Captain, and H. J. Felton shared the distinction of being the only two amateurs in the Middlesex side which beat Essex. The bowling of J. Marshall and S. Garbett showed much consistency, to be followed for several Seasons by J. D. Fox taking over 100 wickets or thereabouts. J. C. Tait in 1956, his first full Season as a 1st XI player, took 59 wickets and was also useful with the bat. P. Pizey, however, became the Club's foremost all-rounder scoring 825 runs and taking over 100 wickets in Season 1959.

Many scoring games and notable performances were played against local rivals Southgate, Enfield, Alexandra Park, Northampton Polytechnic, Finchley and Edmonton and further afield against Brondesbury, Wanstead, Westcliff, Hertford, Ealing, Guildford and St. Albans.

The all-round high standard of performance which is expected of the lower sides was much in evidence. Youngsters made good use of opportunities when included in higher elevens, with impressive fielding and batting performances. Much credit is due to the Captain of each XI for their inspiration and encouragement. These included T. A. J. Bennett, A. W. Lambert, A. Bacon, J. Potter, V. F. Carpenter and P. Friend. They were well supported by T. Williams, P. Reynolds, R. Morgan, W. Kebbell, W. Milne, R. Gowers and A. Glede with excellent wicket-keeping by T. Watson and A. Osen. These are of course only some of the many members of these sides.

Post-war Club Tours were started in 1948 in Sussex moving westwards to Hants and Dorset in 1950 until 1954 which was the last until 1962.

The first Cricket Dinner for many years was held at Selborne Hall in 1951 and except for 1953 continued throughout these years at the 'Cambridge', 'Nightingale' and the 'Green Dragon'.

Special events in the fixture lists included matches with the Middlesex County XI for Jack Robertson's Benefit in 1951 which included a hurricane 60 in 22 minutes by Denis Compton. This match was followed by one with the West Indies Wanderers led by Alan Rae, making his last appearance at Winchmore Hill, in August of that year. Victories were recorded against an M.C.C. XI in 1953 and 1957. A full Middlesex XI

visited the Ground on Sunday 16 June 1957 the entire proceeds being donated by the County to the Club. A large crowd enjoyed cricket played in true Festival style. Again the following Season Middlesex County XI visited the ground as did a Professional Footballers XI, both games providing enjoyable cricket for many local enthusiasts.

Lastly in 1959, probably never before has the Club met such formidable opponents in the same Season: M.C.C., Middlesex County XI, which included F. Trueman of Yorkshire and England, for Jack Robertson's Testimonial match, Middlesex Club and Ground, Cross Arrows, Beddington, Ealing and the Professional Footballers.

This record of the fifties would be incomplete without the inclusion of a word on the continued value of the Colts to the Club which has been amply demonstrated by the number of their appearances in the various XIs. Much credit is due to the devoted service of Mr. W. Bedford ably assisted by Mr. R. Cooper, father of one of the Colts, until 1957 when T. Webb and J. Potter succeeded them, with the same spirit and enthusiasm.

An encouraging feature of the **Sixties** was the consistent success of the younger members of the fifties who were now to take over. H. J. Felton in his first year as Captain of the 1st XI in 1960 scored over 1,000 runs followed by his brother B. J. with 770 runs and J. Tait who scored 700 runs. J. Marshall and P. Pizey were still taking wickets and shared the bowling with J. Tait and J. Taylor. B. Davies, Captain of the Colts in 1960, entered the 1st XI bowling ranks in 1962. The following year with the retirement of J. Marshall, for many years the Club's leading slow bowler, J. Adamson, who showed great promise with his leg spin, took over and joined P. Pizey in the spin attack. B. Davies, J. Metcalfe and B. Avent providing the main speed effort.

The middle of the term was somewhat concerning with a falling off of membership and a reduction of a side for Saturdays to four, but Sundays was maintained at five. However, it is pleasing to record that all fixtures were honoured during the later years with not a little help from the Colts. The 1st XI, now Captained by D. Metson, had a preponderance of drawn games but also managed to win more than they lost. Much of the batting fell on the shoulders of H. Felton, J. Tait and a new member, L. Rogers, and it is recorded that in the 1968 Season the side often had to rely on J. Adamson to pull them out of a difficult situation. The main bowling was again in the capable hands of P. Pizey, B. Avent and J. Metcalfe while B. Davies also had some excellent success with the bat in 1969 scoring nearly 800 runs, including a maiden century, and taking 54 wickets. This Season also saw the emergence of D. Parish as a very capable wicket-keeper.

To record the many enjoyable games over this decade would fill another book. The two games against Southgate in 1960 resulted in draws but in each case only a few runs separated the totals. Two games were played against Ashford (Middlesex) which was the only new fixture and proved to be a good addition to the list. In 1962, J. Metcalfe having the best individual performance of the Season with eight for 28 against the strong Chingford XI. In 1963 J. Adamson with his leg spin had a best performance of six for ten against West Herts. M. Fuzedale continued to make progress behind the stumps and his six off the last ball (a terrific hook over the scoreboard) against Hertford, gave the Club its most exciting victory for many a year. Matches played in 1965 at Ashford and Beaconsfield resulted in exciting finishes but unfortunately in each case the Club was unable to claim victory. Against Wanstead, B. Avent took six for 32. In 1966 R. Ward scored the Club's only century in excellent fashion against Luton taking just over two hours. In 1968 Shepherds Bush were demolished twice by seam bowlers J. Metcalfe and B. Davies who, later in the Season dismissed Beaconsfield for 26.

For the lower XIs, there were many outstanding individual performances under the various Captaincies of J. Potter, C. Garbett, G. Wilson, N. Long, G. Taylor, I. Watson and D. and C. Lynes. Highlights in 1962 included a brilliant 84 in under the hour for the 'A' XI by R. Ward, the previous year's Colts Captain to provide a grandstand finish against Alexandra Park. R. Slatter for the 'A' XI scored over 1,000 runs including an innings of 134. There was an unbroken partnership for the 'B' XI of 200 by R. Key and F. Scharenguivel and a stand of 173 for the 3rd XI - A. Gibbs 116 and R. Bennett 75 n.o. In 1963, V. F. Carpenter scored 109 n.o. against Shepherds Bush and J. Taylor an aggressive 98 against Alexandra Park. Centuries were scored for the 2nd XI by C. Garbett and W. Kebbell and the Whitsun became known as 'Kebbell's Weekend' - 40 on the Saturday, 83 on Sunday and 115 on the Monday! In 1965, I. Henderson narrowly missed his coveted 'ton' of wickets with ten for the 1st XI, 83 for the 'A' XI and two for the 2nd XI. J. Noah for the 'A' XI against a strong Incidentals XI bowled unchanged for 13 overs and took all ten wickets for 13 runs. In 1967, the 2nd XI were asked to score 266 runs in 195 minutes against Alexandra Park away, and won on the last but one ball of the match. A. Bacon scored his maiden century and carried his bat.

The Cricket Tour in June to Devon was revived in 1962 and continued with much success. Special games included matches against the Presidents XI and M.C.C. on alternate years.

The Colts Section continued with strength and vigour, benefiting greatly from net practice and coaching, variously under the eyes of T. J. Webb, J. Potter and I. Henderson.

Modern Times 1970-1980. A much hackneyed term but arguably appropriate to the run up in the final decade of the Centenary story. It is a fact that the Club has followed Lord Harris's thoughts and fostered the game of cricket for many who have found time to play it.

The principles of batsman against bowler and fielders will surely remain for ever wherever the game is played, but inevitably it seems that changes in outlook and perspective must be accepted. Competition there always has been, and much rivalry generated and satisfied one way or the other on the field, and then savoured over a beer in the cool of the evening. Club strengths generally for various reasons, can vary from Season to Season, even from week to week sometimes, and therefore the idea of League cricket among weekend cricketers took some time to gain support. However, the unofficial Middlesex League commenced in 1970 and the Club finished just above halfway in the table. The official League programme began in Season 1972 with the 1st XI and 'A' XI taking part and 1977 marked the entry of the Club's 2nd XI into league cricket.

Captaincy of the 1st XI during these ten years was held by J. Tait 1970/72, D. Mackrill 1973, L. Rogers 1974/76, J. Cook 1977 and J. Adamson 1978/-.

The Seasons 1970 and 1971 provided some memorable high scoring matches with Westcliff, Southgate and Alexandra Park. L. Rogers had outstanding Seasons and was well supported by D. Seeman, D. Mackrill and J. Tait while J. Adamson, R. Ward, Dilip Modi, the evergreen P. Pizey and that consistent all-rounder B. Davies provided a very creditable attack. The Club reached the Final of the Wills Cup in 1971, but were unsuccessful against an even stronger Ealing side.

Following on these two successful Seasons high hopes for 1972 were disappointed by the unavailability of L. Rogers until August, and the departure from the Club of R. Ward and Dilip Modi. The Club was knocked out of the Wills Cup at the first hurdle by Wembley and finished fourteenth in the League.

Seasons 1973 to 75 brought encouraging results, some memorable matches but only moderate overall success. The semi-final of the Wills Cup was reached in 1973 and the final in 1974, when after a fine win over Enfield in the semi's, the Club was outplayed by an excellent South Hampstead side which deservedly achieved the Cup and League double. The following year the 1st XI was defeated in the first round. In the league placings, the Club were ninth, fifth and thirteenth respectively out of 16 Clubs, well below

Finchley and Southgate, two of a number of fine sides in what is certainly now a very strong competition.

Much highly enjoyable cricket was also played outside the competition and a win off the last ball of the 1974 match against a strong President's XI generated great excitement.

Personal performances of merit with the bat came from J. Tait, L. Rogers and all-rounder B. Davies. It was pleasing to see the emergence of young players in H. Prosser, G. Couzens, T. Braithwaite and C. Martin

with both bat and ball. Wicket-keeping was shared amongst the safe hands of T. Watson, D. Littlewood and D. Parish.

Recent Seasons from 1976 onwards saw only a modest record of achievement, often adequately described as a promising beginning, a barren middle and a belated recovery. This was reflected in the middle of the table or just below position in the Middlesex League and no success in the Wills Cup competition.

The 1st XI – Season 1977



H. Lambert L. A. Rogers T. Chanmugan J. Tait A. Sandhu A. Harewood S. Lewis
(Umpire)
T. Braithwaite A. Lee J. Cook (Capt.) J. Adamson D. Parish
C. Metson
(Scorer)

On the other side of the picture availabilities of players for both Saturdays and Sundays seems to be a thing of the past. Good performances outside the competition games were indicative of the difference in strength between league and non-league sides caused by team changes. In spite of a modest Club playing record, however, several players were accorded representative honours. B. Davies, L. Rogers, J. Tait and A. Lee were selected for the Middlesex League side while L. Rogers, G. Couzens, D. Parish and J. Cook also played for the A.M.C.C.

During this post-war commentary care has been taken to refer to strength in depth being the hallmark of success by recording the valuable part played by the lower XIs and their Captains. Apart perhaps from the 'A' XI, it is a fact that the skipper has to combine being a Captain of a team playing the game, with those of a general factotum not always fully appreciated. This is where the real core of the good Club Member who also enjoys his cricket is to be found.

Winchmore Hill Cricket Club Golfing Society 1951 to 1979

Many of those mentioned in the past are still giving sterling service to the Club in other ways. To these must be added those who Captained the lower XIs in the seventies — B. J. Felton, D. Metson, J. Berner, C. Wilkins, D. Mackrill, A. Boxer, H. Jackson and not forgetting the old stalwarts V. Carpenter, I. Watson and R. Morgan. All have had much co-operation and support from those who have played in their sides whether it be from the oldest or the newest cricket member.

The introduction of League Cricket has permeated through to the Colts, who in 1973 played in league cricket (under 16 years) on a limited over basis and a second side (under 14 years) entered in 1974. Both sides have done extremely well winning their Leagues and gaining representative honours with Middlesex County Colts. Several each Season play for the Senior Club XIs and their performance and behaviour is a credit to themselves and to Messrs Avent, Nixon, Radcliffe and other senior members who helped in the organisation of this very important part of the cricket club.

In this last decade the Club Tour to Devon has maintained its attraction. Socially, always a resounding success, the results of the cricket matches, sometimes disappointing and, whatever the weather, always enjoyable with a fair proportion of success. The organisers continue to excell themselves and long may this state of affairs continue.

VETERANS XI

At the Parent Club A.G.M. held on 27 January 1957 it was announced that 'efforts are being made to inaugurate a Veterans XI'. The Cricket Committee had put the idea to Don Wragg to encourage older members of the Club who had reached or were nearing the end of their normal cricket life to continue to play the game of cricket, retain the good fellowship so far enjoyed and meet old friends and rivals. It was thought that about six or eight games could be played each Season. The task was readily accepted and though only two or three games could be arranged in 1957, the side regularly appeared in the club fixture lists from the Season 1958. In fact, in 1978 the Veterans celebrated 21 continuously successful Seasons and is still going strong with Gus Gowers and John Potter at the helm.

During the Spring and Summer evenings of 1950, a number of members keen on the game were seen knocking a golf ball round the Ground, and the idea of laying out a nine hole pitch and putt Course was considered. However, there were difficulties — not the least being that the traditional cover drive with a seven iron could spell danger for motorists and nearby residents — so it was decided to invite those interested to assemble at Whitewebbs Golf Course in North Enfield for regular evening games.

The following year, 1951, the Society officially came into being. Its objects to provide adequate but perhaps more relaxed exercise for those not necessarily wishing to continue playing cricket, and to retain the good fellowship so far enjoyed without losing their affinity to, and first love, the Cricket Club. Their constitution as a self-managing body is somewhat different in that they have a President instead of a Chairman. It is pleasing to record that the first to hold this office was Jimmy North, as he was affectionately known to all, a great servant of the Cricket Club particularly in war-time days.

Early in 1957, an even more local venue became available, and the long and friendly association with the Bush Hill Park Golf Club began, to the mutual benefit of both.

Much enjoyment is to be found among the 50 or so members whose Season consists of Friday evening competitions and an afternoon meeting in the Autumn; an all day Summer meeting with guests at the Golf Club and not forgetting the annual match with the Bush Hill Club, winding up with the very popular Dinner Dance at Pearsons late in the year. Of the various trophies generously donated, the most coveted is the 'Jimmy North' Cup.

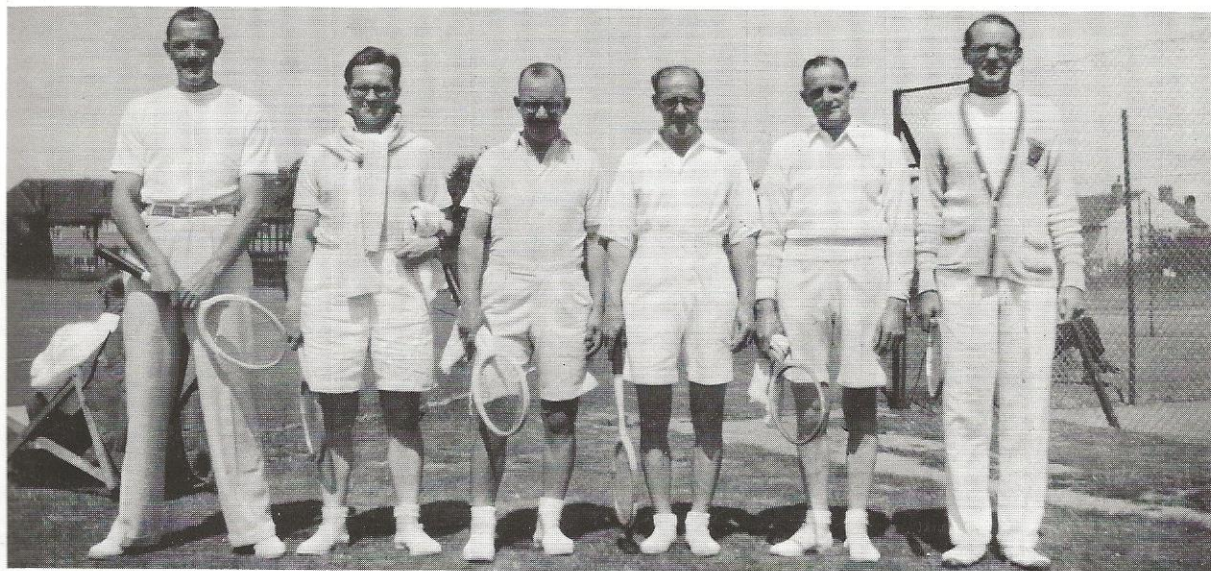
Over the years, the Society has been of much financial benefit to the parent Club and indeed, has indicated that it would wish to be responsible for making a major contribution towards the costs of the production of this history of the Cricket Club.

Tennis – 1945 to 1979

The post-war years saw an increased membership with a flourishing junior section, for whom matches and a Club Championship were introduced. Facilities were extended with the laying of a fourth hard court in 1948/49 and the erection of a Tennis Pavilion in 1954 which gave the Section a common rendezvous away from the main Pavilion.

The results of the senior match programme against

MEN'S 1st TEAM - Season 1953



E. Harrison G. Edmonds G. A. Roberts F. Croker A. Flack E. C. Metcalf

The Ladies were losing finalists to Arrow L.T.C. in 1951 and again to Ashford in 1957. They lost an exciting semi-final to Heathfield Park in 1959 but did not advance beyond the first few rounds for many Seasons until they won the Cup (Division 4) in 1976 beating Hornsey in the final. The only success of the Club's Mixed Doubles team in the Winter competition of the Middlesex Cup was in 1968 when they beat Highgate in the final. They reached the semi-final in 1962 and 1971 losing to Bonhomie and South Hampstead L.T.C.'s respectively.

The Club Championships, held on Sundays from 1956 instead of Saturdays, have always been well supported, keenly contested, and afforded opportunities for the reigning Champions to confirm, or not, their supremacy. Many interesting matches ensued particularly in the Mens competition where the Champions have changed frequently.

1967 saw the Club's entry of two Mens teams and one Ladies into the Middlesex League, competing mainly against other Tennis Clubs previously met on a friendly match basis. The Mens team reached Division 1 by 1969 but their fortunes fluctuated in succeeding years, as did those of the second team. A third team was entered in 1978 gaining promotion in the two Seasons of membership of the league. The

other Clubs indicated that the Section could hold its own against the best provided by local opposition. Mens and Ladies teams were entered for the Middlesex Cup Division 3 and occasionally Division 2. The Men reached the final in 1949 losing to Highgate, again in 1953 when they were beaten by the Polish Club, Polonia, whose team included three ex Davis Cup players, and also in 1960 when they lost to Kenton.

Ladies team had little success until 1974 when for three Seasons they were unbeaten in Divisions 3, 2 and 1 but were relegated at the end of the 1979 Season. A Ladies second team entered the league in 1976 gaining promotion two Seasons running.

Towards the end of the 50s junior membership increased to the extent that it was decided to engage a professional coach. In consequence the standard of play greatly improved. In 1967 a Boys team was entered in the U21 Cup which they won handsomely, but unfortunately lost to Vicars Moor L.T.C. in the final the following year. Matches were again arranged for Boys and Girls with much success. Their Championships continued until recent years producing many an intriguing final.

Over the years, though achievement has been limited in the wider field, a great deal of pleasure has been afforded to an ever changing membership. The Tennis Section takes an active part in parent Club affairs and organises a highly successful annual Barbecue. The Section has been fortunate in having a succession of loyal and hard working officers and committees to whom much is owed by many and whose efforts in the past are the example for the future. It is to be hoped with the introduction of floodlights and the all-round recent improvement of the Courts, membership will increase and interest and enjoyment sustained.

LADIES 1st TEAM
Champions Middlesex League Div. 3 1974, Div. 2 1975
Runners-up Div. 1 1976



S. Phillips J. Kirkland B. Hulbert B. Reid
 A. Wardlaw J. Hall (Capt.) M. McCracken
MEN's 1st TEAM - Season 1978



A. Henderson C. Wilson J. Davis
 J. Warner R. Smith K. Ferguson

Football – 1945/46 to 1979

A factor which retained the atmosphere of war-time football, was the protracted period of Demobilisation after the world technically became at peace in August 1945. Several old members returned, but by and large many members were still absent, and the great re-union anticipated seemed still far off. An effort was made to return to peace time conditions in re-starting the Southern Amateur League for the 1945/46 Season. Unfortunately only 14 Clubs were able to take part making the Competition only a shadow of its former self, with two Sections of eight and six Clubs respectively. The football was not quite up to standard but good enough to give the Hill a fair showing with three full sides every week.

There never was such a Season as 1946/47. Despite deplorable weather with continuous rain in the months of November and December to be followed by snow and ice, the Season was, in achievement, the Club's best on record. Before the activities of the weather began the 1st XI pitch was moved from the original top pitch to the position it roughly occupies today across the centre of the ground. The top pitch to remain in use for the lower sides. The Hill's 1st and Reserve sides resumed their pre-war membership of Division II of their respective Leagues in the S.A.L., while the 3rd XI competed in Division III of the Nemean League. A 4th XI played a programme of friendly matches. Having set the scene therefore, it is pleasing to record that both 1st and 2nd XIs won their leagues, securing promotion to Division I S.A.L. Senior and Reserve Sections for the first time in 27 years' membership of the S.A.L. The 3rd XI finished fourth out of ten clubs in their Division of the Nemean League and the 4th XI achieved moderate success in a programme of 17 friendly matches. Out of a possible 36 points the 1st XI obtained 32 and the 2nd XI 26 out of 32. The overall results for the Season speak for themselves as follows:-

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals	
					F.	A.
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

The last Season has been dealt with in detail because it started a very considerable run of success for the Club from Season 1947/48 up to and including 1955/56.

At the end of the 1947/48 Season, the 1st XI created a record by winning the League Championship at the first attempt. They again won in 1948/49, were second in 1949/50 and then won again in 1950/51 for the third time in four Seasons, which was followed by further title wins in 1951/52, 1954/55 and 1955/56. Six times champions in nine Seasons!

With this success came representative recognition by selection of J. Pearl, A. Bailey, L. Lambert and C. Burrett for the A.F.A. with many more for the Southern Amateur League.

During these years, the Captaincy passed from Gus Gowers 1946/48, to Alec Lambert 1948/52, Charles Burrett 1952/54, Ian Bedford 1954 and because of illness to Ian, first to Charles Burrett and then to Howard Felton in 1955/56.

Four XIs were fielded in 1947/48, the first three in the S.A.L. and the 4th in the Nemean League. The acquisition of a third pitch on the lower part of the Ground in 1948/49 made possible the running of a 5th XI and the entry of the 3rd and 4th XIs in the newly formed Minor Section of the S.A.L. An extra 5th XI became the regular 6th XI in 1950/51, when the 5th XI entered the S.A.L. There were times in 1952/53 and 1953/54 when seven sides took the field, such was the strength of the membership. The depth of playing strength of the Club at the end of the 1955/56 Season is reflected in the final League positions, for, in addition to 1st XI achievements, the Reserves were champions of their League in 1953/54 and were runners-up in 1955/56 when the 3rd and 5th XIs headed their Leagues.

A.F.A. Senior Cup results saw the Club reach the semi-finals in 1948/49, 1950/51 and 1954/55 and the final in three consecutive Seasons. In 1951/52 losing to Norseman at Leyton Orient, in 1952/53 against H.M.S. Daedalus with whom they drew 0 - 0 after extra time, at the ground of the now Football League Club, Wimbledon, and shared the cup, and in 1953/54 losing to Southgate Olympic at Barnet. After all these years of endeavour it was not to be until the end of the 1959/60 Season that this Cup was eventually won outright (against Cuaco 1 - 0) for what has turned out to be the only time.

The period from 1956/57 to 1969/70 can only be described as an anti-climax in comparison with the heady ten post-war Seasons. Apart from winning the A.F.A. Senior Cup in 1959/60 the 1st and Reserve sides were relegated, and it was not until the late 60s that the Club fully recovered. In 1960/61, the Reserves, having been relegated at the end of the previous Season regained their Division I status by being promoted at the first attempt. However, the 1st XI were relegated in 1963/64 but three years later saw them back in the 1st Division for the 1967/68 Season which was Championship year indeed. They promptly won the Championship and were joined in success by the 3rd, 4th and 5th XIs who also won their Leagues, and for good measure by the 6th XI who were runners up in theirs. The Reserves were again relegated at the end of 1966/67, but were back to the Reserves Division I in 1968/69.

CHAMPIONS 1st DIVISION S.A.L. — Season 1950/51



J. Ferraby C. A. Burrett P. I. Bedford R. M. Carter L. A. Lambert J. Peters W. K. Brooks A. R. Bailey A. H. King
(Hon. Sec.)

J. Perry V. A. Haskell H. Felton J. Pearl A. W. Lambert (Capt.) E. H. Wiseman N. Haslam Serg. Ambridge
(Asst. Trainer) (Trainer)

WINNERS A.F.A. SENIOR CUP — Season 1959/60



(Inset)

G. Wilson

H. Felton

Serg. Ambridge M. Fusedale J. Hardman J. C. Tait K. Gibbs D. Constable W. K. Brooks C. A. Burrett
P. I. Bedford J. Taylor D. Carter A. R. Bailey (Capt.) D. B. Callwood L. Rogers

CHAMPIONS 1st DIVISION S.A.L. — Season 1967/68



M. Milton P. Knight P. Coxall M. Harris A. Smith J. C. Tait Brian Davies R. Pearman
A. Grainger D. Crotty (Capt.) Barry Davies R. McWilliam
R. Ward J. Noah

(Inset)

The Golden Jubilee Season 1969/70 was one of which all could be justly proud. The 1st XI after an excellent start, dropped points in their later games and eventually finished in third place. The Reserves were champions for the second successive Season. The 3rd XI were runners-up, the 4th XI finished in third position in their League and were narrowly defeated in the semi-final of the Novets Cup, while the 5th XI were also third. The 6th XI having lost only one League game, were another side to be League Champions. The 7th XI upheld the Club's record of high League positions, finishing third. A Dinner was held at the Press Club when founder members, Messrs F. G. Lavers, the Club's first Captain, W. Heald, H. H. Gower and J. Follett, the first Treasurer, honoured the Football Club with their presence. Some representative honours were gained during these years by the selection of G. Wilson, D. Carter, M. Fuzedale and P. Knight for the A.F.A. who were also joined by several others in gaining places in the S.A.L. League side.

Features worthy of note included a Junior Section for U16 and U18 for five years from 1958 to 1963, Training Courses at Winchmore Hill School and the snows of early 1963 when the League programme had to be cancelled. The report of 1963/64 recorded that 'the 5th XI under T. Watson were Champions of their League having been alternately cajoled and goaded to victory. Artistry, pattern weaving and guile had no place in this rugged often ruthless but highly successful campaign'. The 6th and 7th XIs entered the S.A.L. in 1960/61 and 1967/68 respectively. Finally 1965/66 saw the commencement of Sunday League football and 1968/69 the start of the annual five-a-side competition.

The 70s saw seven League sides fielded each week increased to eight from 1976/77. All began satisfactorily with creditable League positions, particularly in the case of the lower sides. The A.F.A. Minor Cup was won for the first time in 1970/71. However, the 1st XI had a mixed bag of results for the first five Seasons of the decade and respectability in a safe position or midway in the League was disappointing. The Reserves lost their way and had a Season in the lower Division but came back to win the League and narrowly miss a League/Cup double in 1974/75. Likewise the other sides had indifferent Seasons which did not reflect a standard expected of a Club with such numerical support.

The second half of the decade saw the 1st XI maintain a mid-table or above position. The Reserves had another spell in the lower Division but soon returned. The lower elevens fortunes again fluctuated and a variety of adjectives were used to describe their results.

Much good fellowship and Club loyalty is abundant but success in a thriving Club is elusive. Efforts to improve the playing strength are being made and to encourage young players to join and remain with the Club, a Youth policy was implemented from Season 1977/78 with the introduction of two youth sides.

The Annual Club Supper at the end of each Season, sometime referred to as the zenith or nadir, (whichever way you choose to look at it) has been held in the Pavilion since the War except for half a dozen years in the early 60s when the venues were Selborne Hall and the 'Green Dragon'. Always well attended by past and present members and a goodly sprinkling of guests from other Clubs, and those who can remember them have happy memories of these occasions.

The Easter Tours recommenced at the end of 1951/62 with a return to Wimborne for some years, but since then the Club has made itself known in the Midlands, East Anglia and the South Coast. Emphasis has always been to enjoy good company, much refreshment with not a little successful football.

Women's Hockey — 1947/48 to 1979

The recommencement of Hockey at Ford's Grove after the War did not materialise until 1947. Miss Margaret Ellis, who in 1946 had been appointed a teacher at Enfield County School, and was living near the Club in Halstead Road, decided that Winchmore Hill must be revived. The reasons for this decision were brought about by the fact that having been invited to attend Middlesex County Trials in October 1946 (she had been a Leicestershire County player before the war) she was selected into the 1st XI, told to join a Club and joined Highgate. However, after discussions with members of the parent Club Management Committee, she obtained assurance of their support for a Hockey Section of the Cricket Club, but

not as a self-managing Section as it had been before the War.

On the 24 September 1947 (after making a fixture list for two XIs in the absence of any club members), the first meeting of the Hockey Section was held when Miss Ellis was elected Captain and Secretary. Initial practices in early October preceded the first match on 18 October v Northampton Poly (away) which was won 4 – 2.

Uniform was often a problem in those early days, since clothing was 'on coupons' but later an allocation of clothing coupons was obtained for the white blouse, purple divided skirt and black socks with purple turnovers.

W.H.W.H.C. - Season 1947/48



M. Ward P. Howes J. Bedford B. Endersby K. Shacklock W. Bedford
 V. Robins M. Beveridge M. Ellis F. Wharburton E. Hurt (Umpire)
 (Capt. & Sec.)
 G. Murfitt P. Johnson

The second Season, 1948/49 started with, if anything, more enthusiasm than the first and a number of new members were welcomed. Miss Ellis was able to relinquish some of her offices with the increased membership and the Secretaryship was split into three — a general secretary, team secretary and fixture secretary. Miss Ellis was Chairman and Miss M. Ward 1st XI Captain.

In 1949/50 membership stood at 30 and representative honours were attained by two more members. The Club was represented at the Middlesex County Clubs' Tournament at Chiswick finishing third in their section. For the first time a Club side took part in the Southend Easter Hockey Festival.

The Fifties

In the middle of the 1950/51 Season, the Section regretfully said goodbye to Miss Ellis on her appointment to the headship of Saltburn High School. She had done much for the revival of the Winchmore Hill Women's Hockey Club. (Subsequently she married and now, as Mrs M. Kingston, lives in Stratford-on-Avon, still with a keen interest in hockey in the Midlands.)

During the fifties the Section's membership continued to increase. In 1950/51, with 42 members, a 3rd XI was run and by the 1954/55 Season a 4th XI was fielded for the first six weeks and then added to the regular fixtures for the 1955/56 Season. Membership remained constant and four elevens were fielded every Saturday for the remainder of this decade, although a paragraph in the annual report for the 1957/58 Season reflected what must be termed 'hazards of the female game!' 'Membership at the beginning of the Season was at its peak — 63 — but gradually through the influence of Messrs Cupid and Stork, it dwindled considerably until it was necessary to cancel the last few matches for the 4th XI'.

Representative honours for the County were numerous and E. Bartle, S. Lowing and P. Springham (now Mrs Marvel), were selected for the South teams, reflecting the high standard of play attained by the Club. Mention in particular must be made of Miss E. Bartle (now Mrs Turner) who, in addition to playing for Middlesex and the South Territorial teams during a period from 1955 to 1960, reached the England International team in the 1957/58 Season. In April 1959 she was selected as a Reserve for the England team that entered the International Federation of Women's Hockey Associations Conference and Tournament held in Amsterdam. She played in three matches, one of these being the final v Australia which England won. (Mrs Turner now lives in Edinburgh and continues her interest in hockey through the Scottish W.H.A.)



E. Bartle

The Section entered the Middlesex Clubs' Tournament annually, which they won in 1954/55 for the first time since the Section's revival, were losing finalists in 1957/58 and lost in the semi-final to Highgate, the eventual winners, in 1953/54.

Due to the reputation the Section had made in the Hockey World, the Ground was the scene for a number of representative matches. Firstly for a Reserve Territorial match in 1951/52, then in 1953/54 an I.F.W.H.A's Conference match was held between New Zealand and the South of England Reserves. In 1958/59 the South of England played Australia.

The Sixties

There can be no doubt that during this era the Hockey Club reached and maintained its most successful series of Seasons. With a constant membership of over 60, it was possible to regularly field five sides from Season 1966/67, in spite of heavy County representative commitments. During these years most of the first eleven, and a number of the second eleven who could not get into the first, received County recognition for Middlesex, Essex, and Herts and several members were selected for the Middlesex

Junior sides. Higher recognition was obtained by C. Argent (now Mrs McCowen), D. Hall (née Langford), Y. Martin, A. Moody and C. Picton in selection for the South teams and D. Farman for the East Reserves.

Particular mention must be made of the memorable 1962/63 Season, the unbelievably bad weather on the one hand causing hockey to be halted for two and a half months, and on the other, the excitement for the Club of the selection of Sheila Gray-Williams to play for Wales against England at Wembley. (Sheila was a member of the Middlesex 1st XI and of North Wales Territory team.) She scored the only goal of the match that brought about the first defeat of England at Wembley.



S. Gray-Williams

Probably the most successful Season the Hockey Club has ever known, was 1966/67. The first eleven lost only two of their 23 games, were Middlesex County Club Champions and then became Club Champions of the South. The crowning achievement was a 2 – 1 victory against a team, selected by the President of the Southern Counties, which contained some former Internationals.

In 1968/69 the Club was again successful in becoming Champions of the South at the Southern Counties Clubs' Championships – a fine record as winners twice in the three Seasons of this new championship.

Throughout this decade there were only a few Seasons when the Club did not participate in either the semi-finals or final of the Middlesex Clubs' Tournament.

The Seventies

Nothing could emulate, and it is doubtful if the overall achievements of the previous decade could ever be surpassed. A steady membership was sustained, reaching nearly 80 in 1973/74, enabling the continued running of five teams. This was greatly enhanced by the opening of the new dressing rooms and showers for the 1974/75 Season.

The Club's standard of play was maintained, but representative honours were not achieved as prolifically as in past Seasons, although D. Pearce (née Keable) is currently playing for the South Reserve team. It is significant, however, that the continued strength and consistency enabled the Club to win the Middlesex Clubs' Tournament for five consecutive Seasons from 1970/71 to 1974/75 and for good measure win the Southern Counties Clubs' Tournament in 1973/74 as well.

A high honour was accorded the Club on being asked to act as hosts for a match with the visiting Jamaica team in August 1975, when they came to play in the First Women's Hockey World Tournament held in Edinburgh. The High Commissioner for Jamaica, Mr. Arthur Wint, also of International Athletics fame, and his wife attended the reception given in the Pavilion.

In January 1973 and 1979 the Ground was chosen for Territorial matches – for both the South v the Midlands fixtures.

The Section has always had a good proportion of Juniors in their membership, but in Season 1978/79, an Under-18 'Colts' Section was formed to provide girls still at school with coaching and matches.

The Mid-Week XI has flourished since its formation in 1969/70, and two international matches against Argentina and Ohio, U.S.A. were played to celebrate their 10th Anniversary.

The first of the Annual 1st XI Tournaments run by the Club was held in October 1958. Seven other invited Clubs taking part. This successful feature has continued throughout the years with the Section winning on occasions. In March 1962 a Tournament for the 3rd XI was started on the same lines, and has also achieved similar success.

The annual match against the Football Section – at Hockey – was commenced in the 1957/58 Season. These games have provided much entertainment for players and spectators – most of the honours being with the Hockey Section. A suitable pewter tankard presented after the 1961/62 Season's game has always been well filled by the losers. Two teams have generally been fielded since 1961/62.

The 1st XI – Season 1966/67
Winners Middlesex and Southern Counties Inter-Club Tournaments



J. Hall I. Rickett D. Farman (Capt.) A. Moody M. McGhie Mr. H. Oaker P. Phipps
 (Umpire)
 D. Cole C. Argent E. Traue D. Capps Y. Martin
 M. Garrett

(Inset)

The 1st XI – Season 1973/74



J. Hall D. Capps D. Farman J. Fell P. Phipps S. Haley A. Moody
 (Umpire)
 C. McCowen E. Ayre S. Kittrell J. Kirkland (Capt.) E. Phillips S. Wilson

Since 1956, tours abroad at Easter saw the Club participating in many Continental Festivals. This has been in addition to continued attendance at Festivals throughout the British Isles and other Tournaments held during the Seasons.

Among other activities in which the Club has taken a major part are Indoor and Floodlit Hockey, while during the Summer months they have turned their hand to Cricket – a ladies Cricket Section being formed in 1969.

In conclusion, much credit for success is due to the efficient back-room work of the Committee, and for this the Hockey Section has been fortunate in maintaining a stream of dedicated members who have, in addition, taken their full part in the wider affairs of the parent Club.

Table Tennis 1945/46 to 1979

In the Summer of 1945, the Tennis Committee suggested to the Management Committee that a Table Tennis Section be formed as an off-shoot of that Section. The proposition was agreed, and at the end of its first Season the Tennis Chairman, Mr. G. A. Roberts, reported to the Club Annual General Meeting in March 1946 that 'The opening Season had been very successful, the Men and Ladies having won their respective competitions'. Mr. Roberts expressed appreciation of the heating and lighting improvements, but asked if it were not possible for electricity to be installed! The Club Chairman, Mr. North said it has been discussed and in fact arranged, but just previously local orders under post-war measures had prevented it.

However, facilities did improve and during the next few Winters four and sometimes five Mens and a Ladies team played in the North Middlesex League. By the 1952/53 Season the Mens 1st team had progressed from Division 5 to the Premier Division and the Club had a team in each of the five Divisions of the League, the Ladies competing in Division 3. Each Season there was a Club Championship and the Pavilion was used for inter-League matches. Unfortunately membership dwindled, support promised did not materialise and at the end of the 1955/56 Season the Section was disbanded.

The revival of the Section was a long time coming, but in August 1975 there was sufficient interest from a membership of approximately 25 players for three teams to be entered in the North Middlesex Table Tennis League for the Season 1975/76. The Club Championships were also revived and the Singles champion was presented with the Challenge Cup by the previous holder of 20 years before.

Interest in the re-establishment of the Section was such that six teams were entered in different Divisions of the League for 1976/77. Membership came from other Sections of the Club but the increase in the number of new members from outside the Club reflected the growing impact of the Section in the League. Playing conditions underwent a radical change with extra lighting and heating, etc. creating a setting second to none in the League. This was recognised when, soon after their completion, the Section successfully staged its first representative match.

Steady progress continued during the next two Seasons 1977 to 1979 to the extent that at the parent Club AGM in 1979 the Section was officially recognised as a playing Section with representation on the Management Committee. The introduction of Club nights on Tuesday and Sunday evenings during the Winter have proved very successful with an Annual Dinner/Disco being a highlight of the year.

Non-Playing Section

The Club has always made a point of encouraging and welcoming friends and spectators to become subscribing members and to avail themselves of its amenities. It is therefore perhaps surprising that it was not until as recently as the Annual General Meeting of the Parent Club in 1959, that a Non-Playing Section was formally constituted with representation on the Management Committee. Its membership includes, in addition to the above, past players and wives or husbands of all playing members.

Monthly Whist Drives are held by the Section throughout the Winter, occasional social evenings and an excellent Christmas Supper. They also support the many social functions organised by other Club Committees.

As well as manning the Tea Hut during the Summer months, members of the Section regularly help with the catering facilities and licensed bar.

Over the years, the Section has grown from strength to strength and proved to be a valuable asset for which the Club is indeed grateful.

Conclusion

For reasons which have been given and of space, it has not been possible to detail the whole story, but there has been fascination and pleasure in unravelling the long and ever widening facets of the Club over the past hundred years.

As this record is dedicated to Club Cricket at The Paulin Ground, it is only fitting that it should have the final words. The game itself and the spirit in which it is played remain unsullied, though its technique and playing conditions have changed considerably. Competitive it always has been, but it is to be hoped that the coming of Leagues and Knock-Out competitions, entry to which is necessary to protect the Club's fixture list and its status, will not lead to an unwanted change in approach to the game generally. After a sporting struggle on the field, the Club is proud of its sociability and the pleasure of sharing the jugs of those who may have done rather well with bat or ball.

And so, to all Members, in whatever sphere, may the ensuing years towards the second century continue to be fruitful and further the best interests of everyone associated with the Winchmore Hill Cricket Club.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Michael Busk, Esq., — grandson of Mr. Thomas Teshmaker Busk

Major (great grandson) & Mrs T. W. P. Connell)
Mr. & Mrs (great granddaughter) B. N. Willis) Descendents of Sir William T. Paulin, J.P.

Alex Paulin, Esq.

Sir Rupert Mann, Bt.

Lady Clare Mann

Crossman, Block & Keith, Solicitors

The Staff of the :-

Enfield Reference Library (Enfield Gazette and Observer)

Palmers Green & Southgate Gazette

Bruce Castle Museum (Sentinel Newspaper)

Guildhall Library, London

D. Pam, Esq. and G. Dalling, Esq. of the Local History Department of the Enfield Public Libraries

A. H. Hall, Esq. (General and Historic References)

Douglas Pike & Associates, Photographers, N.21 (Aerial Photograph)

Mrs June Parish (Cover Badge)

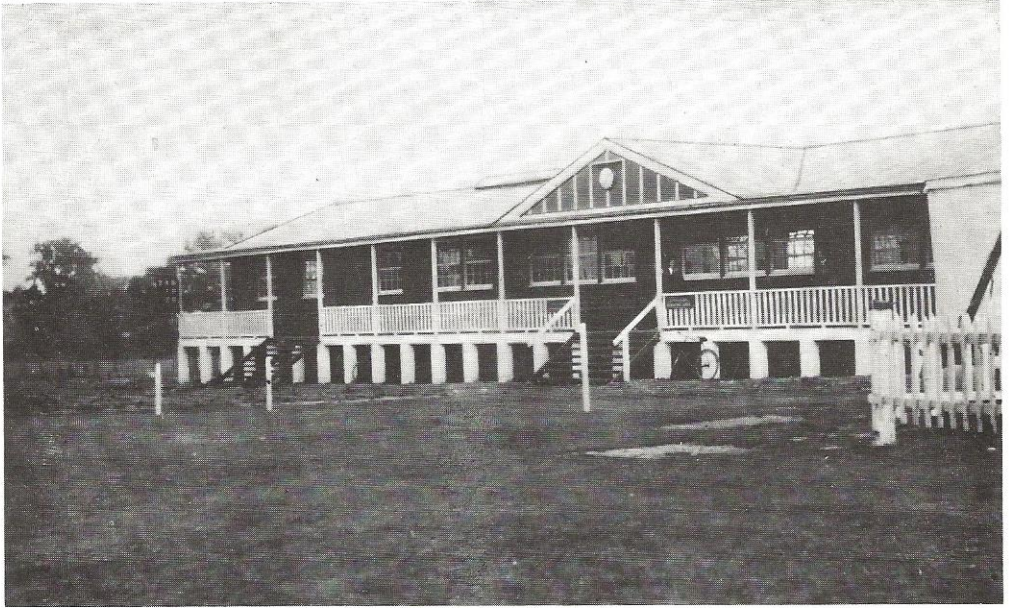
The following have been consulted in addition to general reference works and the newspapers mentioned above.

The Field Magazine

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The Story compiled by Tony and Jennifer Bath

THE NEW PAVILION 1922



THE PAVILION 1980

