

2012/13 Season

Number 3

February 2013



12 Beckworth Lane

Lindfield

West Sussex

RH16 2EH

Email: jb@jbinlimbo.co.uk

Blackheath & Old Elthamians H.C.
Old Members Association

League Results so far this Season

29th Sept	Lewes	Away	Won 3-1
6th Oct	Holcombe	Home	Lost 0-1
13th Oct	Mid Sussex	Away	Lost 1-3
20th Oct	Canterbury Pilgrims	Home	Lost 2-4
27th Oct	Horsham	Home	Won 5-2
3rd Nov	Burnt Ash	Away	Drew 2-2
10th Nov	Cliftonville	Home	Lost 1-2
17th Nov	Canterbury	Away	Won 3-2
24th Nov	Sevenoaks	Home	Drew 2-2
1st Dec	Ashford	Away	Won 4-2
8th Dec	Crawley	Home	Drew 2-2
12th Jan	Lewes	Home	Lost 3-4
19th Jan	Holcombe	Away	PP
26th Jan	Mid Sussex	Home	Won 2-0
2nd Feb	Canterbury Pilgrims	Away	Lost 1-8
9th Feb	Horsham	Away	Won 4-2

We are currently 6th in The League having won 6, lost 6 and drawn 3 matches. The League is being dominated by Burnt Ash, with Canterbury and Mid Sussex fighting for 2nd place.

Having watched most of the teams in our League, either playing us or Mid Sussex, I have come to the conclusion that they are all pretty much of a muchness and Blackheath are as good as the best and better than most – No I can't explain the Canterbury result! Watching Mid Sussex has also been something of a revelation in that it has given me a more dispassionate view of things than when I was only watching Blackheath – 48 years at The Club has left me completely unable to view any game objectively in which we are involved

There are two types of player populating the League at this level. There are any number of young hopefuls who tear about at dazzling speed sometimes with the ball under control but more often not; and there are the grizzled veterans – in modern hockey 30 is old – who control the games with what they have between their ears.

Plastic pitches have equalised skill as the run of the ball is so much truer than it is on grass and players are intensively coached in a number of techniques either unheard of or illegal in previous years. So average players have a level of stickwork vastly superior to those either possessed or needed by all but a very gifted few 30+ years ago. There is no doubt that the changes to the surface, the rules and the techniques have made hockey a vastly more entertaining game to watch, but it has become more formulated.

The Club is acquitting itself well in other areas. The 2nds are just keeping their heads above water in Kent Division 2 and the 3rds are having an excellent season being 5 points clear at the Top of the Kent Open Premier A.

The Heathens currently lie 4th in the Kent Open Division 1, and the embryo 5th XI are also puffed with success and are 2nd in the Kent Open Division 4.

The Vets have lost more than they have won, but scored more than they have conceded – no I don't understand it either!

OLD MEMBERS DAY

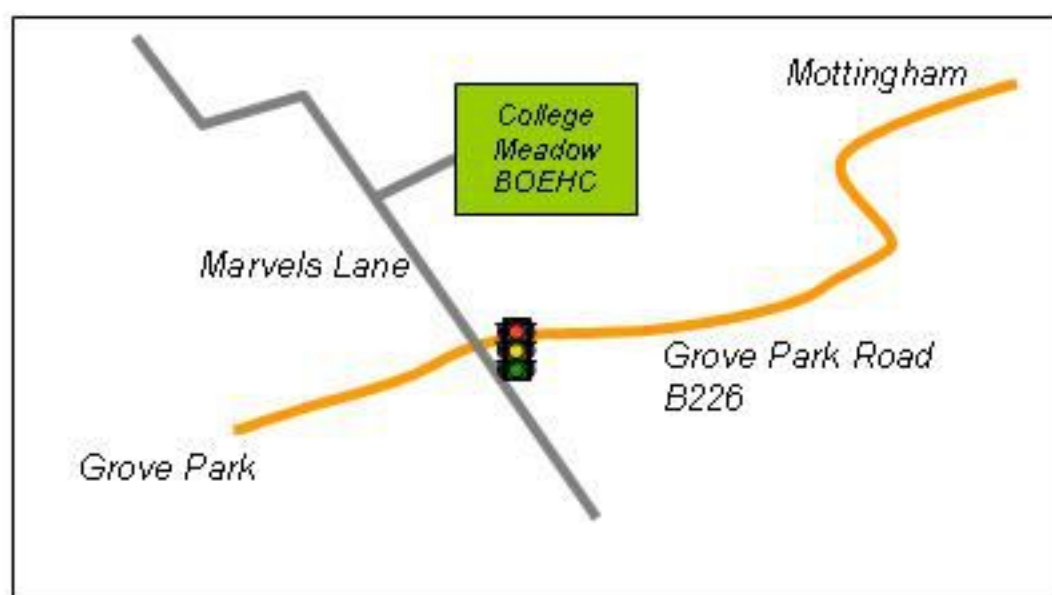
Those with a long history of Blackheath HC will remember Mike Spencer who, I am pleased to tell you, is well and living in splendid retirement in Crowborough. Michael has announced his attendance at College Meadow on Saturday 16th March. A number of us will be attending to watch the First XI playing Ashford at 2.45 with an occasional glance at The Veterans who entertain Wimbledon at 2.30.

This has prompted us to invite all Old Members make an effort to attend on that day and spend a pleasant couple of hours explaining to our younger brethren how we did it so much better in our day! I don't often beg but if I can be bothered to traipse 50 miles up the motorway to see the old fool then some of you can make an effort as well.

Please advise if you intend coming so we know how many to cater for: jb@jbinlimbo.co.uk

Full details of news, teams and fixtures can be found on our website: www.blackheath.co.uk

College Meadow Pavilion & Astro
69 Marvels Lane
Eltham
SE12 9PH



Outcast gets a Gong

Alan Mortimer - last seen at the 150th Dinner - has been made a Member of the Order of Australia for service to food science and technology. He is now Mort A.M. and received his Honour from the Queen's representative – The Colonial Governor - at Government House Melbourne in November. the Governor is the one in the pink tie! you are unlikely to see Mort in a pink tie, being a founder member of the Melbourne M.C.P. society. As he writes *"to think you knew me when I didn't own a suit!"*

