

**75th ANNIVERSARY**

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***CHEAM  
HOCKEY  
CLUB***

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**1920 – 1995**

## **PRESIDENT**

1929/53	J D Crosthwaite	1954/65	E D Truman
1965/72	A S Allberry	1972+	A M Bennett

## **CLUB CAPTAIN**

1920/21	F H Lewis	1921/22	C T Fraser
1922/24	J D Crosthwaite	1924/26	E J Williamson
1926/28	H E King	1928/33	E G Porter
1934/39	R Freeman	1939/40	E D Truman
1956/65	L G Henwood	1965/72	W G Hunt
1972/78	E W Mason	1978/82	P J Croome
1982/88	J A Young	1988/91	A Dawe
1991+	N Worman		

## **HON SECRETARY**

1920/24	P Thomas	1924/30	A N Berlandina
1930/40	H Bourne	1945/46	L Hitchen
1946/52	S P Boase	1952/55	W G Hunt
1955/64	P F Phillips	1964/69	R G Trotman
1969/71	R M Justice	1971/73	B Mackay
1973/76	D Needham	1976/81	P G Euridge
1981/82	M Harvey	1982/84	J E O Mills
1984/90	P Millsted	1990/92	N Davies
1992+	N Smith		

# **CHEAM HOCKEY CLUB**

## **1920-1995**

*A Brief History compiled by  
Tony Bennett, Darrell Fyson, Ted Mason  
and Tony Dawe*

### **1920's**

The Club was formed in August 1920 and was based from the outset on the current ground at Peaches Close. At first only 2 XI's were run but this included at least one star in the person of W L Shorting who later played for the Midlands and England. Another player who featured prominently in the early years of the Club was E G Porter who played for 12 seasons for 5 of which he was Club Captain. Other individuals who brought honour to Cheam were W H Jervis (Sussex) R L Cole (Wiltshire), and R E C Powell, R Freeman and R H Williamson, all of whom played for Surrey. The Boxing Day games which still take place today, originated in 1920 and apart from the War years, have probably had an unbroken sequence. Cheam's presence was also felt in the late 1920's at the Bournemouth Festival.

### **1930's**

The Club continued to prosper throughout the 1930's with an increase to 4 XI's in 1933, and just before the War the annual subscription became £2 2s 0d. In the 1930's Cheam also began to appear at Folkestone, initiating a tradition which was to last some 50 years.

### **1940's**

The early part represented a quiet period in the history of the Club due to the War but by 1946 four teams were again playing in Club colours rather than in khaki. In 1947 Minutes it was noted that hockey shirts were available from Messrs. Dugans at the bargain figure of 4 coupons rather than the correct 5 coupons. September 1947 saw the election Wallis Hunt as a playing member, followed in the next month by Tony Bennett. Economic conditions were obviously equally hard in this era, as by the end of 1949 post match shandies had been abandoned to save expense.

## 1950's

Conditions were generally improving and the decade saw the introduction of Roy Hockin, Mike Towell and Ted Mason. In September 1955 a young Derek Hurden joined and obviously should have taken a life member's subscription as he holds by a clear margin the longest playing record for the Club among our current members. Overall the level of applications remained highly satisfactory and there was a threat that membership might need to be limited. Such was the Club's confidence that in 1952 it was recorded that 'Guildford had had a good season last year, but were not yet fully established in the top flight of clubs'. Club management was also proceeding well with news that shower heads were to be modified and could be chain operated. Match fees of 5d were introduced, and Messrs. Henwood and Wood were charged to investigate the allegation that players were not getting their money's worth from the jugs then being dispensed.

Sporting fashions were undergoing change and the advent of the Indian stick with its mulberry wood head caused great argument from its inception. Hockey balls were covered with leather and many were cricket balls painted white, re-coating becoming a weekly chore for volunteers or conscripts. On the field 25 yard bullies remained the order of the day, with all defenders coming back for both long and short corners.

County honours continued to be won including those awarded to Laurie Henwood, Mike Towell, Noel Cardoza and Bob Schad who was also awarded an England cap in 1952/3. The Club bar was also graced by the presence of 'Chip' Davies who was appointed steward in 1957 and who developed Peaches Close into becoming the focus for many opponents and various members of Southern Counties Umpires Association in search of a late night glass of ale. Grammatical standards were maintained at a high level as the Club minutes record that a letter drafted by the secretary be adopted 'after a split infinitive had been rectified'. In mid-1958 the Club's disciplinary committee was called upon to adjudicate and decided that Mr. Busk had been involved in a number of incidents and on some occasions had been provoked.

## 1960's

In the early part of the decade the bar was altered to incorporate the former ladies bar and, presumably to cover expenses, beer was increased to 1/8d per pint. By 1965 all references to last train times and trolley buses were omitted from fixture cards. Representative honours were won by a number of players, including Stuart Mayes, John Doyle, John Webb, Stuart Alliband and Messrs. Jones, Parsons and Russell-Smith. At this time 9 sides were being run on Saturdays and Mike Austin was proving to be an administrative dynamo. In 1963 the Club colours were altered so that white shorts would be worn and there was adverse comment

regarding there being too much talking in the lower XI's which was to be put right next year. In early 1966 the Sports Club had decided to change brewers from Friary Meux to Charringtons in view of their perceived generosity, although some members of the committee felt that the standard of beer had not been improved. Further representative honours were obtained by Malcolm Creasey, John Parsons, Robin Weare, Colin George, Mike Haigh and Alan Stevens. John Parsons was skippering Surrey and appeared in the final England Trials (as a prospective player and not a defendant).

## 1970's

The Club celebrated its 50th anniversary and at the same time the London League offered the promise of better and more competitive hockey for the Club. Geoffrey Way had played for half the Club's life and was elected a vice president. Mike Towell's 3A XI went through 1971/2 without defeat and was the only second Cheam side to achieve such a record. Brian Kibble played in the side and had also featured in the only precedent which was Maitland Souters 4th XI of 1958/9. Cheam were represented at various festivals at Folkestone, Bournemouth and Weymouth. The Club was continuing to run 9 sides and the team secretaries in the persons of Graham Pusey and Peter Shaw performed well in seeing that most members had a game each week. Floodlights at a cost of £57 were acquired for the training evenings directed by Ian Hawkins.

## 1980's

This decade saw the extension of league hockey to lower sides. The Mike Haigh Trophy made its debut in 1980 and the Boxing Day game was re-titled the E. L. Hollands Memorial Match. John Eggleton was leading the re-formed Hunters XI but even then was complaining, on this occasion of poaching by higher sides. The Club was finding it more difficult to provide adequate teams at Easter festivals in Folkestone, Bournemouth and Weymouth and entries to all were discontinued over the period.

Geoff Way scored his 300th goal since passing age 40 and Derek Wright drove his car into a cesspit, although apparently nobody was in the front seat at the time. The Club's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated in 1980, with events including an invitation tournament, an intra-club six-a-side event and a Club dinner at the London Press Centre.

In the early 80's David Grant and John Parsons introduced colts hockey, and indoor hockey took the stage for a while with the Club achieving a 100% record in 86/7. A veterans' team emerged and the Club was able to run a total of 8 sides.

1986 saw an invitation to the Eindhoven Tournament which for many years led to mysterious match reports which were completely incomprehensible to those who had not attended. The same year saw Roger Bennett and Malcolm Paul score 6 and 4 goals respectively in the same game, earning a written tribute from Sean Kerly, with Roger going on to make 31 goals in the season. Representative honours were achieved by Jimmy Myers, Peter Sudell, David Bennett and Richard Milbourne.

Harold Eggleton reportedly stopped a game to listen to the results of the 2.30 and was reported in the local press as having 'broken up a number of promising opposition attacks'.

The growing amount of matches played on astroturf pitches began to affect the nature of the hockey environment with traditional block fixtures and multi-team occupation of the Club bar becoming the exception rather than the norm. Investigation of our own astro pitch was the subject of many discussions over the second half of the decade, which was also interspersed with much talk of shortcomings in the shower system. Towards the end of the period the National League emerged as a landmark in the development of the sport in the U.K.

## 1990's

Enthusiasm amongst the Colts section continued to improve, no doubt encouraged by the inclusion of Colt ladies into training sessions. A satisfying number of youngsters made the transfer to Saturday sides with Richard Harmer, Ian Moore and William Grant gaining Surrey honours. The training sessions provided by Messrs. Millsted, Grant, Martin, Jones and Dawe had therefore proved to be of benefit.

The veterans' side (now re-named Clarets) continued to gain in popularity, with many players from the higher sides deciding to extend their playing careers.

Although the number of playing members has remained reasonably static, availability is less certain than in than in previous eras and it has been a struggle to run 5-6 sides, although a number of mid-week leagues have been entered successfully. Following changes to the London league, the first XI have transferred to the Surrey/Hampshire and Peroni South system.

Financial pressures also saw the move to each team making its own tea to provide additional funds for the Club. The summer of 1995 however saw the complete refurbishment of the bar and a move towards more professional catering.

The growing presence of astroturf into the Club's affairs has continued. Regular bookings were made upon the opening of the London Transport ground, and planning consent has more recently been obtained to lay a pitch at Nonsuch School. However considerable problems remain to be overcome, including the very heavy financing, non-ownership of the ground/pitch and the administrative burdens associated with developing and running the site. At the same time the economic pressures of hiring external astro pitches and paying for largely unused grass pitches at Peaches Close are leading to a need for fundamental decisions. Various solutions have been examined including mergers with other clubs and a transfer of the Club's base to North Cheam, both of which could lead to direct and major difficulties for the Sports Club.

Following a reasonably long period of relative decline, the future of the Hockey Club now appears to be heading for a watershed. Whether we shall celebrate our centenary without significant change is open to conjecture, but meanwhile most will continue to play the game for the fun and companionship it has provided over so many years.

*The End  
(or a new beginning?)*