



NEWSLETTER



January 2020



The arrival of December was greeted with a sonic boom. Was this to celebrate the 90th birthday of Alan Bellamy on 6th December? No! Apparently an RAF plane had created the explosive sound heard throughout Harrow and which had possibly set off the HBC alarm. We were woken abruptly by a phone call at 4.30am from the alarm company to announce that the alarm was going off at the club. We were too cowardly and warm to venture into the park in the dead of night to check the club house. In the morning when we went the only signs of disturbance were the worm casts covering the grass.



Mike Rosenthal who had also been contacted but not woken by the call was going to investigate further.

A second call the next night at 2am from the alarm company. Perhaps the very club house itself wants to celebrate or maybe the vibrations due to worm movements is setting off the trembler alarm on the fire door!

Luckily Mike Rosenthal was on the case sorting the problem alongside the alarm company.

At the AGM further feedback on the alarm system was given after involvement by Mark and Phil. It looks like mice or rats in the container at the back of the clubhouse may have set off the movement sensors.



Talking of worms and grass

Mark Snell asked me to advertise the following important vacancy.

We urgently require someone to attend a two day course at Capel Manor to obtain qualifications to apply fertilizers and herbicides to our green. As our green is in a public park it is a requirement that we have a qualified person to do this work. We apply fertilizer to the green 5 times during the season and herbicides as and when necessary.

The course covers ensuring that the correct quantities are used and how to spray at the correct rate. It is not difficult, (even your President managed to qualify!) and at the end of the course there is a short test which if you pass you get a City and Guilds certificate.

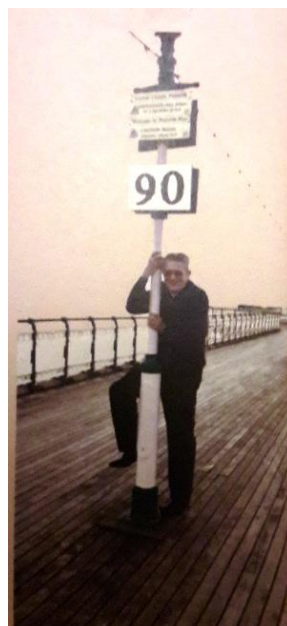
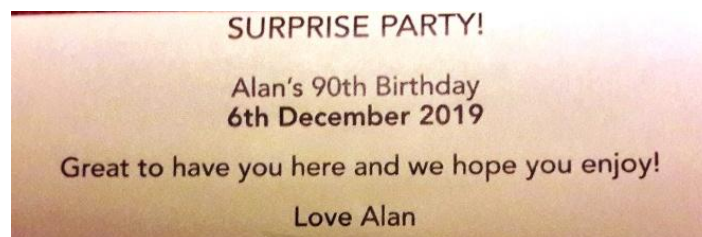
We are no longer permitted to apply pesticides to the green to suppress worms, leatherjackets etc and are only permitted to deal with disease in the turf.

It would be really good if one of our younger members was able to do this course and offer a real service to the club. The club will, of course, pay all the fees and supply all the relevant gear.

If you are interested please contact Mark Snell on 07901 686 354.



Windsock Club 6th December



As usual the members of HBC, always keen to party, turned out in force to celebrate this most momentous occasion, together with Alan's family and friends and members of the Windsock club.



A surprised Alan arrived!



To a beautifully decorated hall, some very tasty food and a lovely cake made by Alan's daughter.



Well done, Jai for all your organisation.

We certainly all enjoyed it.





Mark making a speech detailing aspects of Alan's long life, including his many sporting achievements and responsibilities.

He presented him with a framed certificate made by Mike Rosenthal.



Alan said he could not believe that he had been caught a second time, having been similarly surprised by a party for his 80th birthday.

His son and daughter joined him for the cutting of the cake.



And then the extended family joined in the celebration.



It looks like the sun shines on the righteous!

Or is it just the presence of the paparazzi!



Love was definitely in the air!

And there was no stopping the dancers of the club.



Caption competition from last newsletter



Polly's suggestion:

What was Rex saying to David?

“What were you doing with your finger,
when you got it caught in your zip?”!!!

THE football competition.

Forget Fantasy football. It has nothing on the competition run by another one of our members, Nick Woolford, who is also a member of our green team. Nick carried on administering this competition during the off season. I understand he is thinking of amending the rules to keep everyone in and interested. The current one has only lasted a couple of weeks.

Unbelievably Tony Oakes who put Norwich is still in whereas those who put Leicester, Chelsea and Manchester City are out! Originally Solo was out as Nick had recorded his choice as Leicester. However Solo barked a very loud complaint and insisted that he had chosen Liverpool (along with me). Nick checked his email and found that that was correct so he was reinstated. What a large keyboard he must have got. The keys must be very large to allow for his rather large paws!



Here is Nick being presented with a match ball at Wealdstone f.c.
Looks like he has scored a hat trick!

And who is that in the background?

Our own Tony Paulley who was one of the sponsors at the match.



I was the lucky winner of Tony Paulley's auction of promises.

He offered a VIP trip to Wealdstone f.c.

My son in law and grandson were able to join me.

We went into the director's box before the match, at half time and at the end and chose the man of the match.

Some lovely food was also on offer

as well as a very friendly welcoming atmosphere.

As Phil Bayley said in his AGM report, HBC fundraising is a very important source of income and the gala day including the auction of promises contributes a great deal to this.

Thanks are due to the many members who make the offers and those who bid on them. Not only do we raise lots of money that way but we build and cement friendships.

AGM

So once again we all gather at the Windsock club.

This time not to party but for our ever popular HBC AGM.



With 10 minutes to go the hall is filling up, with over 45 people present.



Some members were bright eyed and eager for the proceedings to start while others appear to have fallen asleep already!

After 1 minute's silence to remember Harry Gallagher and Gerrie Kaufman who passed away during the year, Mark Snell, the President conducted the proceedings with his usual admirable speed and humour.

As Mark was prominent in fixing Brexit last year, he suggested that he would be needed now to fix the Royals. No wonder he announced that this would be his last year as President, otherwise he could be called on to deal with Iran next year!

I would not be surprised if Mark was invited to join the Sandringham confab about the Harry/Meghan situation. After all we at HBC are good mates with the Royals!



The many improvements to the club house were listed by Mark and the current financial situation was explained by Phil Bayley our Treasurer. All reports had been circulated before the meeting so members were invited to raise any queries without the need for post holders to read their reports, thus speeding up the meeting.
All the amendments were carried with an adjustment to Mary Warner's. The green team did not want the club to pay for their annual meal out.



In this photo we see Tony Oakes, manager of the Bidgood B team who have been promoted to the top division and so there will be a grudge match against the Bidgood A team. Mark suggested this should be an all ticket affair! (Did I hear Mark mutter that more people would want to see this match than a Norwich City game? Maybe it was my imagination!!)

Lunchtime social 22nd January

Last year I made the following comment about the entrance to the clubhouse.

The rather bare appearance can be transformed with some suitable shrubbery.



As the year progressed a remarkable change was observed thanks particularly to the tireless work of Eileen and Alan Goodall.



Alan and Eileen arriving for 2020 social- what a difference from a year ago!

Numerous others arrived too!



Was this to celebrate Jim Hughes' birthday?



Or to argue about the quiz answers?

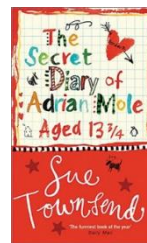
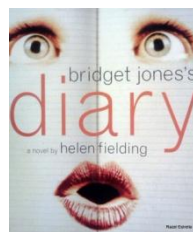
Or to enjoy the excellent selection of food?



Thanks to Liz for organising the event and to Liz, Jeanette, Sandie and Janet for clearing up.


Liz was able to implement her new environmentally friendly system which separates food waste from recycling and landfill.

Dates for your diaries.



Signing on day: Wednesday 8th April between 10 and 2. All the information you need will be sent by Mary Warner. You will need to enrol for the club and enter competitions on this day. Mary will explain procedure if you can't make the day. Also enclosed will be a reminder of etiquette on the bowling green. Please read.

Captain's versus President's day: Saturday 25th April.

Training day. Tuesday 12th May from 10.00 

The coaching team are arranging a training and marking day to enable our bowlers to "move up the ladder" to take on the roll of threes and skips etc. to replace our retired players who were experienced in these positions. PLEASE PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY – it would be great to see as many of you as possible. Further details at the beginning of the season.

Open Day: Sunday 17th May. Do encourage all your friends and neighbours to

come and try this fantastic sport.



Quiz night. Wednesday 3rd June.

Invitational Triples. Monday 22nd June.




Antique Bowls. Saturday 8th August.

Fun Gala Day. Monday 31st August.

Finals Days: 11th and 12th September (13th reserve day).

Captain's supper and match: Saturday 19th September.

Closing day for outdoor bowling: Saturday 26th September.

Beetle drive: Friday 2nd October evening   or .

No, this  

Dinner Dance. Saturday 14th November

AGM: Sunday 10th January 2021.

