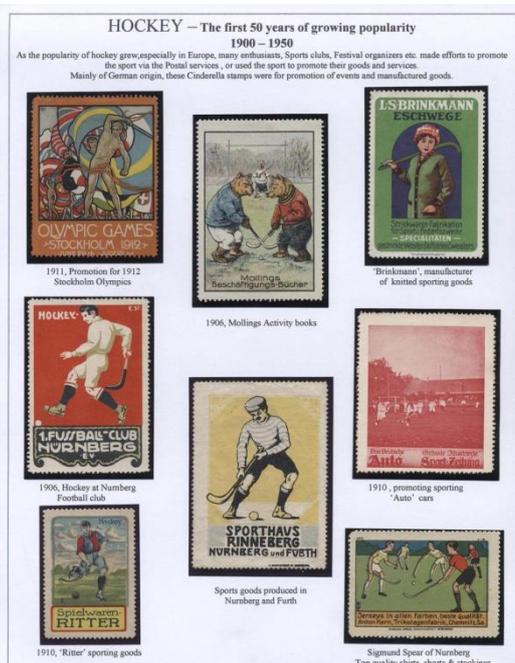


THE CURATOR'S UPDATE : A SUMMER OF CHANGE

Although we are still not 3 years old, the past few months have seen much change & progress at what is now THE HOCKEY MUSEUM. We have dropped the word National from our title, partly because of our growing relationship with the International Hockey Federation (FIH). The world governing body is thankfully very interested in the history & heritage of our sport and see this as an essential part of successfully growing the game – and THM will hopefully be at the centre of these efforts. The origins of the modern game of hockey did start in England & the majority of our current archives do relate to this aspect of the game but there are fascinating archives and stories to tell from all over the world – one is included below. To have the encouragement of the FIH is a great boost to our efforts. The biggest change this summer has undoubtedly been the move to new premises. We are now settled in our new home (we didn't realise how much material we had until we came to move it!), just a short distance from the old one & are much more comfortable & efficient in our working and layout. If you would like to visit us & have a look, please get in touch. Visitors are always welcome & we are planning an **Open Day for Thursday 19th March** – a date for the diary. Even with all this change the regular arrival of new and fascinating collections and new enquiries asking for information has continued unabated. Some are included in this edition. For any information, please email me at curator@hockeymuseum.net.

Mike Smith (Trustee & Curator)



PRIZE FOR NHM STAMPS DISPLAY

THM achieved success at a recent philatelic show, held at Ardingley Showground, Sussex. David Sumpter, our philatelic expert, submitted a display called 'Hockey – the first 50 years of growing popularity – 1900 to 1950' which achieved first prize in the open class. The 16 page display included stamps, postcards, Cinderella stamps & cigarette cards.

FOR FURTHER THM NEWS AND INTERESTING ARTICLES

- Read full report about celebrations at Wimbledon LHC, the oldest women's hockey club as they mark their 125th year
- Announcement of the schools winners of the first Museum Quiz held at the Investec Cup
- Obituary for Bar West who died recently aged 100. Written by Cathy Harris and published in The Times

Go to THM website News page at;

www.hockeymuseum.org

'AN UMPIRES TALE'

One new collection of particular interest was donated by Annie Mitchener and was from her late father, John Atchley, a noted umpire and administrator from the 1950s/60s. The collection has yet to be fully catalogued but one item was a fascinating poem written in the style of 'The Bard' and scribbled on an A4 page. We've transcribed it below. The handwriting is John's but we have no idea of its origin. Can anyone help?

An Umpires Tale....

*To blow or not to blow; that is the question;
whether tis nobler in this game to suffer
the stares and mumbles from outrageous players
or to take a whistle against a sea of offences
and by opposing, end them? To blow, to warn,
send off; and by a send off we end
the heartache and the thousand natural fouls
that men are apt to; tis a consummation
devoutly to be wished. To blow, to warn
To send off; perchance to dream; ay there's the rub
for in that dismissal, what dreams may come
when all have shuffled off this hockey pitch
must give us pause; there's the respect that
makes umpires take up this life
For who could bear the quips and scowls of backs,
the halfbacks' pushes in, the forwards sleight of hand
the obstruction by all, the sticks galore
the insolence from officers and the spurns
that gradually every umpire must suffer
when he himself might his quietness take
on Saturday afternoon? Who but an umpire?*

CAN THE MUSEUM HELP?

We get lots of requests for help. One such request came to Evelyn Somerville, one of our volunteers. It was from a man researching his family tree and he thought that his mother, Mrs Belchamber, had played for England in the 1920s - could we help? Her first port of call was to pull out old copies of The Hockey Field & Lacrosse magazine but came across the first stumbling block – it wasn't published during WW1 and again not until 1921. So she then trawled through other museum archives, including the AEWHA International Playing Records, and found that she had played 7 international matches – 3 times against both Ireland and Scotland and once against Denmark between 1920 and



ENGLAND 1920 - MRS BELCHAMBER IS ON R OF GK

1922, captaining England in 1921. Evelyn also found photos and articles about her and she turns out to have been an outstanding Right Back, being "both quick and clever in outwitting oncoming forwards". She later became President of Surrey LHA. The enquirer was delighted with the information. It shows how much colour and life can be brought to records by researching all the documents now preserved for the future at THM. More of this story on the News pages of THM website.

VOLUNTEERS AT THE MUSEUM:

Martin Ellis joined the Museum earlier this year having recently retired from professional life in the City. He has come back to hockey and is now playing for Woking HC 6th team as well as joining the Museum team. One of his first jobs after joining us was to put his height to good use at the Investec Cup, fixing the displays of flags as a backdrop for the Museum's display but he's now getting involved in the work to acquire and catalogue new Collections and supporting our business planning work. In future he's particularly keen to research Hockey Festivals having played for Trannies (a mixed Army and Civvies team) at the Isle Of Man Whitsun festival for many years.



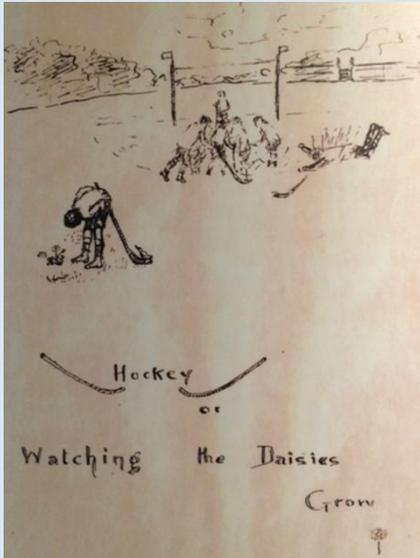
MARTIN ELLIS

David Sumpter, is one of our original volunteers, joining in 2011. He first collected stamps as a boy, then became interested in hockey stamps in late 70's. A meeting with Dil Bahra, one of our Trustees, persuaded him to join the Museum helpers and he's now in charge of pulling together the Museum's extensive collection of all things 'Philatelic' – stamps, first day covers, miniature sheets etc. Now about half way through the cataloguing process, his aim is to continue to improve it to become the best Hockey Philatelic collection. Then, he plans to move onto sorting out the Museum's extensive postcard collection!



DAVID SUMPTER

A SKETCH OF ALAN TURING IN A HOCKEY MATCH 1922



THE BLETCHLEY PARK HOCKEY LINK

Former GB Olympian, Richard Leman, was on a visit to Bletchley Park when he was amazed to come across a sketch of boys playing hockey – further examination showed it to be of Alan Turing, the famous code breaker and now the subject of the recent film, 'The Imitation Game'. Richard sent the image to us and we contacted the Curator at Bletchley Park, Gillian Mason. She was able to tell us that the image is called 'Watching the Daisies Grow' and was drawn by his mother, Sara Turing, in 1922 when he was 8 years old. The original drawing is now held in the archives of Sherborne School. We did look for other references to Alan Turing playing hockey, but from his attitude in the picture, I'd say he wanted to be anywhere else but in a game of hockey!

HOCKEY IN CALCUTTA IN 1864?

One of our researchers found an image of this wonderful trophy (below) presented to Capt. J.F. Shearer by the Calcutta Hockey Club in 1864 on the National Army Museum (NAM) website. This appeared to re-write the history of hockey as the first hockey club in the world has always been regarded as Teddington Hockey Club in Middlesex, formed in 1871, seven years after this presentation. A bit of a mystery as the West Bengal Sports Department archives do state that Calcutta HC, the first hockey club in India, was not founded until 1886 more than twenty years after the dates on the trophies. So, Mike Smith contacted the NAM and had an interesting response from Dr Peter Johnston, their collections leader. Having examined the trophies in question and done extensive research, he confirmed that the date on the trophy was 1866, but he discovered that the game of polo was originally called "hockey" when played in Manipur, India during this period. It was from Manipur that Major General Joe Shearer, the recipient of these trophies, spread the game that is now called polo. Indeed, Peter told us that if you read a letter from 1869 quoted in *Polo in Britain: A History by Horace A Laffaye*, you will see that while the author refers to "hockey" he is actually discussing polo - complete with reference to a "hockey pony." Problem solved and Teddington HC's place in history is still safe!

IMAGE FROM NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM WEBSITE



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