

50 years of Hamble Old Boys' Hockey Club

23rd September 2008 - Roy Underdown Pavilion

As it was Hamble Old Boys' Hockey Club 50th anniversary year, representatives from the Club were invited to talk to the Society about its history. Dave Wilde spoke about the Club's first 25 years and Rob Lovesy, the current Chairman, covered the following 25 years to the present day.

In 1958, Ken Makepiece a teacher at Hamble Secondary School founded the Hamble Old Boys' Hockey Club, to enable ex pupils who played hockey at the school to carry on their enthusiasm for the game. Dave spoke in detail about the early years including building their clubhouse and the first tours abroad. He also mentioned some of the characters who played such as Ashcan, Jumbo and Water Pump.

Rob described how the building of their all weather Astroturf hockey pitch led to further success and how it changed how the Club was run. Previously, most of the matches were played at the same time, so everyone met together afterwards in the clubhouse. From this time matches would follow one another or took place at different times, including in the evenings under floodlight, so there was less contact between members after matches.

The Club eventually changed its name to Hamble Hockey Club to enable other local people to join the Club who had not attended the school.

Rob told of the Club's success in the higher leagues and how they were seen as one of the most prominent hockey clubs in the south of England. They had many top players including some from abroad. A ladies team was also formed.

Today there are four men's teams, a ladies team and a great youth setup with many having a trial and going on to play for Hampshire or South of England. Sons and grandsons have now followed their fathers into the Club, with some even playing in the same teams.

Throughout its history the Club has enjoyed a close association with the school, now known as Hamble Community Sports College.