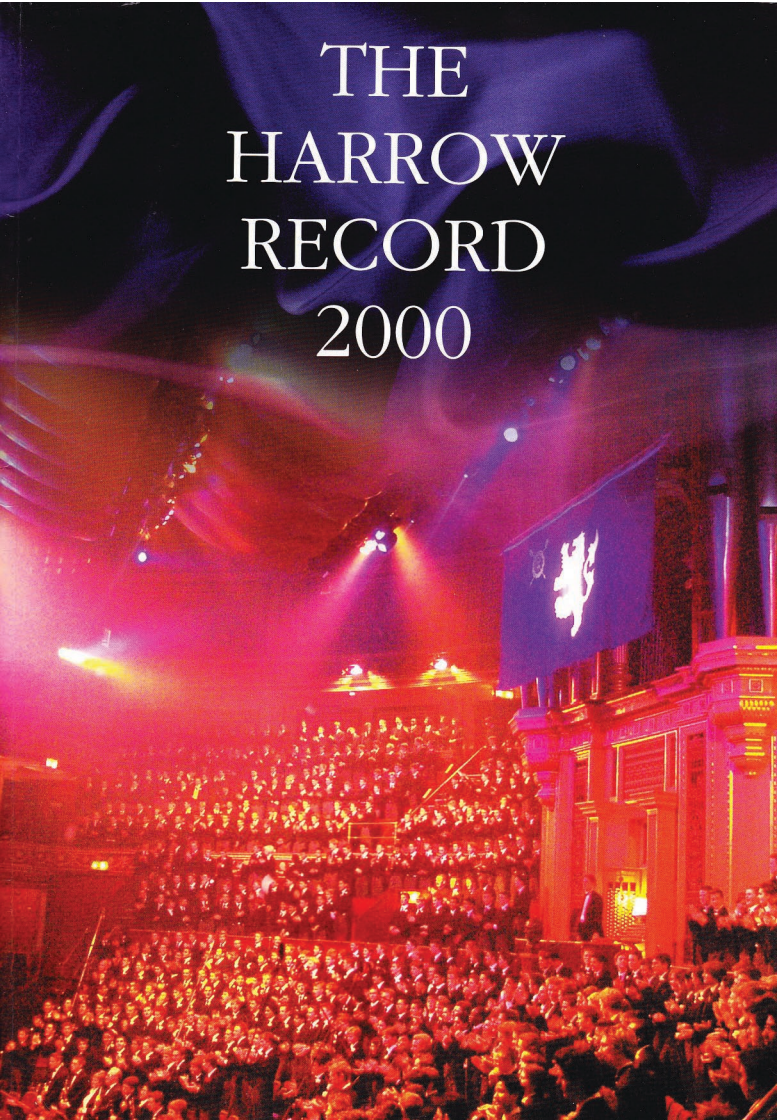


THE HARROW RECORD 2000



OH ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

This was a season of spectacular success for the OHAFC. The 1st XI finally secured promotion to the Premier Division of the Arthurian League; the 2nd XI survived a relegation scare to maintain its Third Division status and now move forward under the captaincy of Ivan Li (*The Knoll 1989*); and the Veterans completed their longest ever fixture list with great distinction, winning 19 out of a record 27 games. To cap it all, the Club was awarded the Bill Chivers award, given annually for sportsmanship and hospitality, at the League's dinner in May.

Visions of another frustrating campaign followed our first competitive fixture, a 3-1 defeat away to Haberdashers'. They were quickly dispelled. The team eased itself into form with wins over Winchester, and in the return against Haberdashers', and then disposed with relative ease of Wellingborough and King Edward's, Witley. The same could not be said of our win against Aldenham: Paul Molloy scored two of three injury time goals to ensure a 5-4 win!

By February we had eight wins out of nine but the big guns, Bradfield and Eton, awaited us. We won a memorably intense game against Eton 2-1, and the following week beat Bradfield by the same score. Trailing for 85 minutes, our perseverance as chance after chance was squandered was the hallmark of a team of growing confidence. In the return matches we defeated Eton 1-0 and, promotion secured, thumped Bradfield 7-1. We finished with 26 points out of 28, six



ahead of our closest challenger. Credit is due to Quentin Baker, an increasingly inspirational captain, but this was a genuine collective effort: everyone had their day.

The great spirit within the Club was emphasised by the success of a week-long end-of-season tour to Puerto Banus, impeccably organised by Nick Warner and his numerous contacts in the ex-pat community of southern Spain. A trip to Brazil and Argentina is being mooted for our 40th anniversary in 2003. We would welcome assistance from any OHs with knowledge of those countries.

The Premiership awaits but, if further testimony were needed to Harrow's growing footballing prowess, it is that the only team to hold us since October last year has been the School XI. We look forward to welcoming a few of them to our ranks soon. New recruits at any level are always welcome and can contact Quentin Baker (0797 1003215) or myself (0976 353203) for details of training, matches, and other activities.

Andrew Butler, Secretary OHAFC

