

recent growth, its very existence being largely due to the betting and professional element that has crept into Association football and is driving the gentleman amateur out of it.

A Hockey Association guards its progress and to this fact is largely due its increasing popularity. The "striking circle" from within which a ball must be struck to score a goal, is a semi-circle drawn fifteen yards in front and to each side of the goal. This peculiar and distinguishing feature was introduced by the Association. Without it there would be in the game little skill and less science. The "bully," by which the game is started, resembles a "mild sort of war dance" between two forwards.

The positions are five forwards, three half backs, two backs and a goal keeper. The forwards advance in line and outwit their opponents rather by skill in passing the ball than by strength of individual play. In "dribbling" the ball is coaxed along, not struck. The halves are employed as support and feed the ball to the forwards. These important members of their side stop the ball with stick, hands or feet, but if they do more than merely stop it, a free hit is awarded their opponents. A knowledge of fencing is often of use to the half back, who may by a sharp cut frequently disarm an opponent.

The backs check assaults on their own lines and should be good stoppers and able to "drive" the ball to the other end of the field. An expert driver has sent the ball one hundred and fifty yards.



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The goal keeper must stop the ball in any and every way possible.

When the ball is "lobbed" in front of the goal it is raised by a "poke," but no part of the stick must be lifted above the shoulder. Thin guards and gloves are used and cricket boots without nails. The stick, unlike that used in Canada, is bent nearly at right angles, but varies in size and curve with the position of the player, the one recommended having a cane handle and weighing, in all, from twenty-two to twenty-five ounces.

As body checking is strictly forbidden a light man has more chance than in football, where weight, especially if combined with brutality, is the terror of the light dribbler. A man to be a success must have a "cricketer's eye, a footballer's legs and pluck, a fencer's wrist and forearm, with a special faculty for the game itself, and of using the head, hands and feet in combination."

The game is seen at its best in the match between Middlesex and Surrey, the counties containing the strongest clubs.

In the Eastern States the nearest approach to hockey is ice polo, which, because of the shortness and uncertainty of the season, has never taken the place it otherwise would. It is dear to the heart of the small boy who plays it in season and out on the frozen pond or in the streets of the crowded city. Last season some of the athletic clubs of Boston and New York played a series of matches.