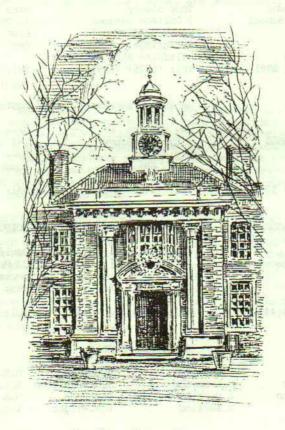


No. 9 DECEMBER 1991



John Roan School. Blackheath

OLD ROAN ASSOCIATION

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M.S. Smith G.M. Legg T.M.Chance

FROM THE EDITOR

The "Newsletter" is intended as a less formal interim publication and offers information on ongoing activities involving the Club and details on opening hours at the Club over Christmas. The more substantial articles and photographs are held over for the "Chronicle" where the budget allows higher quality printing processes.

We are pleased to offer lengthy reports on the cricket season and thanks are due to Daye Andrews and team captains for their efforts. The "Chronicle" is taking shape for 1992 though the main work only starts after Easter. We aim to produce and distribute the magazine next year by mid-July. The usual statement can be made that the magazine is intended for all members of the association and its contents and interest depend on contributions. An increase in material from the Old Girls' and current information on the John Roan School are particularly welcome.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A short note to say how much I have enjoyed the year so far. The only blot on the landscape was addressing 120 Old Roans, a high proportion inebriated, myself included, at our Annual Reunion. Three days prior to this function I spent 45 minutes in the dentist's chair having a molar removed. An experience I found far less frightening. It was particularly gratifying to see those from my years at the school, Dave Bryden (my Guest of Honour), Adrian Buckle and Martin Rider (brother of the well-known sports commentator) in attendance. Dave's speech was a "tour de force". Thank you very much, Dave.

Thirty-two years have elapsed since my last visit to the school. I have returned on two occasions in the past month. The first for a Remembrance Day Meeting and the second to present awards to the sixth formers. My impression of the John Roan School in the nineties is that it is flourishing and has keen, able and well-behaved pupils. This, I am certain, is due to the dedication of our Headmaster, Mr. Chris Deane, and his enthusiastic staff. Well done Chris!

Your presence, with partners, at our Annual Dinner / Dance on Saturday 21st March will be greatly appreciated by Jackie and I. Last year's, with Monty Smith in the chair, was such an enjoyable night.

Simon Perry December 1991

THE EARLY YEARS

The Editor has contacted all Old Roans who started at the Schools prior to 1920 and a lengthy article should appear in the next "Chronicle" dealing with the early years of the O.R.A. and life at the Schools during the first quarter of this century.

The Editor has received a welcome response and contributors include C.W.Daniel, David Bonner, Stan Hunt, A.D. Hewlett, "Ginger" Lister, Fred Cutbush, H.A. Porter. The material received from Mr. Porter, who has lived in Bolton since the 1920s, is of considerable interest and includes an excellent photograph of the Reunion Dinner taken at the Hotel Cecil in 1928. We also hope to include a lengthy contribution by Lionel Berry on the early years of the O.R.A.

It is not too late to contact the Editor with further contributions.

THEATRE NEWS

Brian ("Arthur") Smith ('66-'72) has received excellent reviews for a number of Plays written and produced this year. The comedy "Trench Kiss" was well received at the Edinburgh Festival and again at the Battersea Arts Theatre. Another comedy - "An Evening With Gary Linekar" - opens at the Duchess Theatre in London's West End on December 19. The "Chronicle" will carry further information on these productions and "Arthur" Smith.

".. Smith is on the verge of becoming a sort of Noel Coward for the 1990's"

Iain Grant - "Sunday Times"

The Roan Theatre Company produced an Old Time Music Hall Evening at the CUACO Club in Beckenham on Saturday 30 November. The evening was very well received by a full house who also enjoyed the accompanying pleasures of sausage & mash, spotted dick & custard and an impressive selection of "real ales". The standard of presentation was high and several individual acts were outstanding. A full report on the evening together with a review of the production of "The Odd Couple" in the Spring will be included within the "Chronicle". The Editor finally organised a studio photograph of the company in traditional costume which should ensure that the "Chronicle" is again partly produced in colour. A further engagement for the Music Hall has been negotiated for January. Such is the enthusiasm of this select group for traditional Music Hall that a visit to the Players' Theatre is organised for the seasonal " Victorian" Pantomine later this month.

The "Births, Deaths and Marriage" section will be included as usual in the "Chronicle" but early notice can be sadly given of the deaths of W.L.Garstang (Vice-President and former Headmaster), David Burley, Bert Finch and Keith Richardson. New arrivals include Holie Frances Barwell and Nicholas Alexander Gaunt (Neville).

EXTRACT FROM THE UPDATED "HISTORY OF THE ROAN SCHOOLS" (Unpublished)

In 1958 Mr.Gilbert retired as Headmaster and was succeeded by Mr.W.L.Garstang. Mr.Garstang was so very different from his predecessor that, until we got to know him, his methods, and still more his very personal sense of humour, puzzled many and annoyed some. A public school and Oxford man (achieving a rowing blue), a Christian and a gentleman, sincerely modest but with an eye very observant and inclined to satire, he was greatly liked and respected by those of us who prided ourselves on our discernment. By sheer hard work and attention to detail he steered the School through ten years not unbeset with problems. Mr. Garstang was himself succeeded by Dr.A.J.Taylor in 1968.

Mr.F.White (Written in 1977 for the Tercentenary of the Founding of the Roan School)

We sadly report that Mr.W.L.Garstang died in September 1991. A full appreciation will be included within the 1992 "Chronicle".

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

A very successful General Knowledge Quiz was held on Friday 29 November at the Club. The competition involved 90 participants and was won for the second year in succession by Alistair "Mitch" Mitchell's team that also included Phil Pearce and Laurence "Spot" Hughes. The winning total of 81 out of 100 was comfortably clear of the competing teams.

PRESIDENT'S DINNER & DANCE

SATURDAY 21 MARCH 1992

CREST SPORT & LEISURE CLUB Kidbrooke Park Road / Weigall Road

1940's REUNION

Bill Cramp ('43-'50) is keen to contact all contemporaries who joined the School in 1943 and left in either 1948 or 1950. Bill recalls that his first form-master was Mr.L.C.Hankinson.

Bill welcomes a call from any of his contemporaries:

Bill Cramp 23, Highfield Drive, Ickenham Uxbridge Middlesex. UB10 8AW

Tel: (0895) 235628

OLD ROAN CRICKET CLUB - SUMMER 1991

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Another season which boded well yet failed to reach expectations has come to an end. The efforts of the various elevens can be seen from the accompanying reports (where Team Captains have deigned to write them!).

My own personal highlights of the season include playing my first game for the Club (a "golden duck") when Pat Gregg was injured during the IOW tour. I also enjoyed John Sticking's defiance of "Captain's Orders" in going for a win when defeat would have broken a season-long unbeaten run. It was a pity that the Sunday 2nds failed in their efforts for an undefeated season at the penultimate hurdle.

One would hope for better things for the future. There are a number of lads coming through from the School, but at the recent A.G.M. the Club was not able to select captains for the Ist Elevens (either day) and unless volunteers are forthcoming, how can we continue? I appreciate that many of the senior players have growing family commitments, but surely not all of them! On a brighter note, there was no difficulty at all in appointing the captains and vice-captains for the lower sides.

Speaking of the A.G.M., I must record that some of the Club's Offices have changed hands, with Graham Lawrance taking over as Fixture Secretary from Mike Baxter, and Dave Nash and Pat Gregg taking over as Joint Social Secretaries / Fund Raisers. Our thanks to Mike for his sterling efforts over recent years should be recorded as he certainly enhanced the fixture list. Also, Peter Williams has indicated that he will be standing down as Cricket Club President next year, so all members of the Club are urged to consider nominations for his successor.

A cricket match is played between two sides, yet there is a third "team" involved, without whom the the match cannot be played. I refer of course to the umpires and scorers. I'm sure that all players will agree that the game becomes much more enjoyable when these officials are present, rather than covered by players on a "half-hour" basis. So why is it that we have so much difficulty in finding people to undertake these duties? I am very pleased that we managed to find umpires for the majority of matches last season and thanks must be recorded to those who undertook the duties, particularly Peter Williams, Alan Weir, Rod Stanbridge and Geoff Thomas. It was nice to see "Fritz" Henning available for one game and to see Nick Riley umpiring whilst a broken wrist prevented him from playing. The only scorer available was Karen Amos, occasionally. Courses in both umpiring and scoring are held regularly and details can be obtained from Dave Andrews.

Secretary - Dave Andrews

CRICKET NETS

Net practice has been organised for the new year at the Fosters Oval in Kennington. Practice will be on Thursdays from 7 - 9pm and will start on Thursday 30 January, 1992

1ST X1 - SATURDAY & SUNDAY

The season proved to be a tale of two days. On a Saturday, players made themselves available and a decent lst Xl was put out most weeks, but on Sundays, there were never really enough players of lst Xl team experience playing. Only towards the end of the season did the Sunday team begin to gain these experienced players.

In the league, after a poor start, when we missed the services of three players because of the backlog of football fixtures, we strung together an unbeaten run of 8 games. Although 6 of these games were drawn we had a chance to win in 5 of them.

There were many exciting games in this run of results. Against Eaglesfield, chasing 241, Squire (70) and Barron (37) put on 100 runs in the first 16 overs to give us a tremendous start and consistent batting down the order enabled us to finish only 9 short of this large total. In the match against Croydon Gas, good accurate bowling and eager fielding kept the opposition score down to 182. Again, solid batting all the way down the order resulted in us needing 8 runs to win off the last over - Dan Calnan promptly hit two fours off the first two balls. Another exciting game was against the eventual league champions, R.A.C.S., and but for two debatable L.B.W.decisions we might well have won the game rather than drawing it. The main entertainment was watching Joe Broadfoot dance down the wicket to Andy Tutt, the league's most feared bowler. Joe gave him such a savaging that the bowler asked to come off.

In the next game against Private Banks our batting really clicked and the team achieved the record score ever by a Roan team in the league, 262-5 in only 44 overs. Sales (42), Broadfoot (79) North (51) and Lawrance (43) were the main scorers. Nutall (3-39) and Sales (4-18) then bowled the opposition out for 154. Another tremendous game followed against Elthamiams. Batting first, we amassed 226-7 with major contributions coming from Lawrance (72) and Khan (49). With only 15 overs left and 5 wickets remaining the opposition still needed 120 runs but they inched closer to the target. Wickets were falling, but not quickly enought, and in a very tense last 3 overs Elthamiams only finished 9 runs short of victory with 2 wickets left. Another good win and close match was enjoyed with Old Wilsonians - Tony Nutall showed he is a bit of an all-rounder scoring 39 and taking a match-winning 6-63.

Because of holidays and a loss of batting form the last three games were lost and in the end the team finished 13th in the league. If we had got 10 more points we would have finished 7th - it was that tight. Major contributions for the season with the bat came from Lawrance (339), Broadfoot (272), Squire (246), Sales (213) and Barron (204). With the ball, Nutall took 26 wickets in only 8 games, Woodhall took 15 wickets including 6-28 against Tonbridge and Stickings took 12 wickets.

Sunday cricket has suffered badly this year from a lack of experienced cricketers. Of the 17 games played, 3 were won, 3 drawm and ll lost. Highlights of the season were wins against Addington Village with Dan Calnan's 99 being the highest individual score of the season, and a narrow 7 run victory against Sennocke with Dan again doing well with 5-46. There were some good individual performances: Squire (72) and Mickey Baxter (85*) against Dunstonians; Nutall's haul of 6-63 against a very strong Holmesdale side; Stanbridge's 6-34 against Addington and Johnson's 5-49 against Snaresbrook. Hopefully, next season more people will make themselves available on a Sunday so as to do the strong fixture list justice.

1ST X1 / continued.....

I would like to thanks everyone for playing the game in the right spirit, even in defeat, both on Saturdays and Sundays. Thanks are due also to Sam, Ray and Gary Baxter for the work put in on the square. There was a vast improvement in the tracks this year and hopefully this will continue next year with the help of club members. Lastly, I would like to thank the umpires for standing in so many games.

		P	W	D	L
Captain - Graham Lawrance	SATURDAY	14	3	5	6
	SUNDAY	17	3	3	11

SATURDAY 2ND X1

If ever an Old Roan 2nd Xl skipper had cause to feel optimistic about the coming season, Adrian Jackson must be that man. Surveying an ever growing list of available, and it must be said, young(ish) players must have been quite gratifying and quite likely to provoke a state of near euphoria in a less level-headed young man. But "our Jacko" was not to realise such promise - choosing to break his leg in three places playing football. Thereby ending prematurely a career that could have led him to the heady heights experienced by names such as Cowdrey, Gooch, De Hoog and Lawrance. But then again - perhaps not!

It was therefore left to your humble scribe to don the captain's mantle and adopt a role that even the basest sycophant could hardly have described as suitable. I freely admit that I took on the the job as vice-skipper to ensure a regular place in a side that on paper looked so formidable. With a heavy heart I set about selecting a team for the first game and realised that the most difficult job was in deciding who to leave out. I offer thanks and apologies to all those players who made themselves available but were not picked to play. As for the season, well, "the best laid plans of mice and men...." Suffice to say, we won and drew very few and lost a lot. Disappointing perhaps, but I think that, over all, most of us enjoyed the season at some stage or other.

I don't intend to single out individual games or individual performances in this report. These can all be studied in next year's league handbook or this year's scorebook. I will, however, take this opportunity to mention some of the players who appeared during the season.

Many thanks to Andy Peto for serving his time as my vice-skipper, even though the tea was more expensive when he bought it.

To Les de Hoog, Gary Baxter, Dave Nash, Sammy Morgan, Raj Prabhaker and young Vivian Lawrance I offer my thanks for providing the back-bone of the side and being available (almost) every week. We certainly showed them how its done, eh lads? A special mention to Viv and Maria-Louisa and I am sure that the rest of the lads will join with me in wishing you both the very best of luck with your impending new arrival.

My thanks go out also to "Spot" Hughes, Fraser Lochtie, Steve Tyson, Chris Stanbridge, John Hardy, Tony Sproul, Lucien, Mike Baxter, Pat Gregg, "Pud" Pendergast, Terry Chance, Ian Daniels, Andy Hanks and Charlie Williams — all of whom made at least one appearance during the season and most of them more. Also in this category I'd like to to extend my thanks to Duncan Bell, who apart from being available at very short notice whenever needed, took all the stick that we dished out to him very well and I'm sure that with a couple of years more experience (and a proper pair of cricket shoes) Duncan will prove an invaluable member of the side.

2ND X1 / continued....

I would also like to mention Paul Montgomery, Alan Lucas and Derek Moore, but as they probably won't get to read this I needn't bother.

I don't think that I could finish without mentioning Brian "aggro" Hamer who did so much to raise team morale when things were going badly, and who taught me that if you disagree with the umpire's decision, the best thing to do is to pick him up and remove him from the field. Nice one, Brian!

After a somewhat eventful season I have decided not to stand as either skipper or vice-captain next season and I would like to wish my successor the very best of luck (My word! you'll need it).

Captain - Peter Manners

SUNDAY 3RD X1

Played 13 Won 4 Drawn 6 Lost 3

Resultwise, an unspectacular season. However, we had many exciting games which were enjoyed, I am sure by all of the team.

Many thanks to the regulars; Raj Prabkaher, Mick Price, Darryl Huggins, John Kebbell, Pat Gregg, Tim Bridges, Pier Marshall and Duncan Bell who were available week in and week out. Thank you, all you eight. Commitment such as yours makes life so much easier.

It was particularly satisfying to see some young players of promise emerging. Duncan Bell scored his first 50 against a useful Witan attack. Andrew Barry showed that he will become a very useful medium pacer as well as being able to give the ball a healthy biff whilst at the crease. Sam Simmance bowled consistently and craftily throughout the season. Pier Marshall and young Michael Callaghan also show great promise for the years to come.

Lucien Howlett, Duncan, Mick and your President scored most of the runs. Paul Cock and Sam Morgan, when not required by higher elevens, were invaluable. Raj bowled consistently, finishing with a large haul of victims, and also skippered well. It is a pity that his time-keeping is not so good! John and Timalso showed they could bowl adequately.

Several of this year's players will undoubtedly be promoted to higher elevens next season so please let us know if you wish to start for the third eleven, and are there any stars of yesteryear willing to come back? Our aim is to enjoy our cricket, rather than to win at all cost, and then to partake in a few friendly beers with the opposition after the game.

Captain - Simon Perry

THE EAST KENT TOUR 1991

The 1991 East Kent Tour (as it is now known) proved to be the most successful of the last decade for the Old Roan team comprising of Mike & Gary Baxter, Les De Hoog, Paul Cook, Graham Lawrance, Nick Robinson, Keith "Dan" Calnan, Sammy Morgan, Laurance "Spot" Hughes and nine other day-trippers.

With good wickets and fine weather throughout the week only Sammy Morgan with 4-53 against Sibton Park managed to take more than one wicket in an innings. Runs were in abundance with Mike Baxter (62) and Nick Robinson (59*) scoring well in the first match against Sibton Park which featured Mark (Dan's son) Calnan's debut match for the Roan at a 10der age. Roan declared at 218-6, and in an exciting finish, Sibton Park fell 4 runs short at 214-5. The following two matches proved equally exciting with Roan chasing 233-3 by Broadstairs making 234-7 with just 3 balls to spare. Nick Robinson (84) and Paul Jenkins (35) in an opening stand of 109 setting a good foundation for Graham Lawrance (39), Sammy Morgan (36) and Ian Daniels (28*) to reach the target. Chasing 199-4 by Hythe we reached 200-3 with Mick Heselden (110*) and Graham Lawrance (57*) took the bowling apart with the last 110 runs coming in 10 overs leaving 10 overs to spare.

By Thursday, word must have spread around Sandwich, our next opponents, that no score was too high and we were set a target of 248-5. This proved too much and achieved a total of 194 all out with Mike Baxter and Mick Heselden both scoring 52. By day 5 the week was taking its toll and we were unable to match Whitstable's score of 237-4 with Gary Baxter scoring 62 in a total of 174.

I have been organising this tour since 1981 and each year both our opponents and the standard of cricket appear to improve. It was also pleasing to see Andrew Barrie, still at the John Roan School, in our side at Sandwich.

It was also good to have our Old Roan cripples, Steve Nelson (broken arm) and Pat Gregg (broken leg from the Isle of Wight tour four weeks earlier), turn up and support us at Whitstable. The 1992 tour will be against the same five teams and our headquarters will be back at Whitstable.

Tour Organiser - Mike Baxter

OLD ROAN ASSOCIATION GOLF SOCIETY

This group has yet to receive official recognition from the O.R.A. but it flourishes and organises a number of enjoyable outings.

The Old Roan Golf Challenge this year took place on November 11 in Dartford and produced a worthy champion in Rod Pepper.

FOOTBALL TOUR TO BELGIUM

Following the tour last Easter this is "not-the-tour-organised by-Richard Thomas" and the usual names are appearing on the list. The tour will take place for 5 days / 3 nights between the dates of 30 April - 4 May,1992. The cost is estimated at £160-00 per person. Details are displayed at the Club. You have been warned!

OLD ROAN FOOTBALL CLUB - SEASON 1991-92

The short, cold days and frost-covered pitches have now arrived and find the six Old Roan teams battling cheerfully but without great aspirations. Team captains and managers were approached for comment after the matches on Saturday 7 December and the following observations were recorded.

Liam Mulholland (captain) was pleased to inform that the 1st Xl were still "battling" in three cup competitions and had reached the last 8 of the Kent Cup. They have won only one league match but the fixtures are now stronger with the weaker teams removed from the league. The firsts are missing several key players and the season will be long and tough. A newcomer, Ian Cameron, has shown great promise and names to mention at this stage include Paul Witchalls, Sammy Morgan and Graham Lawrance.

The 2nd Xl are enjoying the most successful start within the club and are second in their league with only one defeat. Captained by Mickey Smith and managed by Dave Hutley the squad seem well organised with a solid defence and forwards capable of scoring goals. Keith Tebutt, "Robbo" and Dave Witchalls were singled out.

The 3rd Xl squad were in good voice and include many stalwarts of the Football Club including Stuart Clay, Gary Barwell, Keith Barron, Martin Muscat, Barry Corbin, Len Sales, Colin Gaunt and the goal-scoring Jimmy Douglas. The team are in the top three of their league and continue to battle in two cup competitions. Barry asked that his four goals should be noted.

The elusive Terry Chance, manager of the 4th X1, again managed to avoid an interview but Mike Baxter was an adequate substitute. Mike raised the important issue that now the Veterans have such an attractive fixture list there are virtually no older players prepared to drop down the teams for a few seasons to share their experience with the younger players. The fourths have 7/8 players aged under 18 and are second to bottom in their league. The limited experience available is provided by Mike Baxter and Tony Osborne. They have recorded wins of 13-1 and 7-1 but their goal difference is 8 in deficit. By their own account they are the worst team in the club but remain positive and cheerful.

Apologies were again made to Richard Thomas for not publishing his highly colourful account of the tour last Easter to Holland. The 5th Xl have made a good start to the season with 5 wins, one draw and two defeats. The squad includes four youngsters from the School and they train each Thursday from 7-9pm at Blackheath Blue Coat School. Notable performers so far include Darren O'Shea and Russell Sontrae who is a P.E.Teacher at the John Roan School.

The record of the Old Roan Veterans offers a neat equilibrium with 4 wins, 4 draws and 4 defeats. December 7 - fifty years on - echoed a "date that will live in infamy" with a totally inept performance against an understrength Blackheath Wanderer's team at Charlton Park losing 2-0. The squad is potentially strong and the fixtures are all competitive and mostly enjoyable. The previous week saw a 7-1 win against a good Villacourt side and the facilities at Charlton Park with a small, bumpy pitch on a dark, frozen, grey December afternoon clearly weakened resolve in a team now used to better things. The inquest continues and the "Chronicle" next summer will record better things!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE AT THE CLUB - DECEMBER 24,1991 (Carol Singing and more!)

NEW YEAR'S EVE DISCO - DECEMBER 31,1991

CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS PARTY - JANUARY 12,1992

PRESIDENT'S DINNER & DANCE - MARCH 21,1992

OPENING HOURS AT THE CLUB CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR 1991

DECEMBER 1991

24 2000 - 0000 THISDAY WEDNESDAY 25 CLOSED THURSDAY 26 1200 - 1700 2000 - 2300 27 FRIDAY 1600 - 2300 SATURDAY 1200 - 1430 SUNDAY 29 1900 - 2230 30 MONDAY CLOSED 2000 - 0100 31