



SUSCEPTUM PERFICE MUNUS

# Old Roar

# NEWSLETTER

Number 4

Christmas  
1985



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# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Annual Dinner and Dance 1986	8th March
Annual General Meeting 1986	21st March
Old Roan Braithwaite Camp	30th August - 13th September 1986 (subject to demand) Contact the Secretary, or Alan Palmer, 42 Elliscombe Road, Charlton, SE7 7PY

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

Number 4! And by all accounts, it seems that the Newsletter is well received and has quickly established itself. Many thanks to the production team, who have again compiled this issue in a short space of time in the hope that it will bring you right up to date with Old Roan 'goings on'.

The Annual Dinner and Reunion held at the Pavilion on 25th October was, as usual, a successful and most enjoyable evening. I was very pleased that Geoff Sawyer accepted my invitation to be Guest of Honour; his contribution and guidance to Old Roan sport, particularly the Football Club, has been invaluable. Geoff has a keen interest in the School and the Association. He recently joined the Board of Governors of the John Roan School and is certainly a gentleman we respect and hold in high esteem.

We had an excellent cross section of members at the Reunion, representing school years from 1909 to the present. Some of you perhaps did not come for fear of not knowing anyone! In this issue we are printing a list of those who attended and hope it will encourage more of you to come next year.

Life has been hectic recently, but I must say I am enjoying my year as President and attending functions on behalf of the Association. As the School year progresses, I hope to be present at as many of their activities as possible. We intend visiting the Upper School during the spring and summer terms to acquaint pupils with the Association, and look forward to them becoming members when they leave school.

Next year we shall be celebrating the Association's 75th anniversary, and it would be nice to mark the occasion in some way - suggestions please! Although a little early perhaps, as our attentions are focussed on Christmas, I would like to remind you of the Annual Dinner and Dance to be held on Saturday, 8th March, 1986, at the 'Harrogate Rooms', Yorkshire Grey, Eltham. Why not get your friends and relatives together and make up your own table? Please contact the Social Secretary early in February to make your booking (he'll even take reservations now!) Don't forget! Hilary and I look forward to greeting you all for an enjoyable evening.

I make no apologies for another reminder. The attendance at the Annual General Meeting is always disappointingly low. It seems that people are quick to criticise but slow to take the trouble to come along. The A.G.M. will be held on Friday, 21st March, 1986, at the Pavilion; amongst other things membership subscriptions and the possibility of re-introducing Life Membership will be discussed, so please make sure YOU are there to give us your views.

As not everyone can enjoy the facilities at the Club, the 'Chronicle' and 'Newsletter' are our voices to communicate with each other. Please send us your news and views so that we can all keep in touch.

I hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter and that you'll try our 'Brainteaser' - after all, the winner will start 1986 on a prosperous note! Merry Christmas.

Neal S. Haslam



Every now and then members ask me about the possibility of becoming life members. It was possible, in the case of boys, until 1974 and until the merger in 1982 in the case of girls. The simple reason new life membership was suspended was the high rate of inflation and thus the difficulty in setting a subscription. Many now feel the time is right to resume acceptance but at a rate which will cover costs. When the Old Roan Association (boys) was founded in 1911 the annual fee was one shilling and life one guinea. Clearly a lot of thought must go into fixing a fee so that the ordinary members do not subsidise the "lifers" and your committee will be discussing this with a view to submitting a proposal at the Annual General Meeting on 21st March 1986.

Continuing on the membership vein the records have been put on computer files. The advantage of this is primarily for addressing the Chronicle and Newsletter envelopes. However it does mean that it becomes a relatively easy matter to produce a list for reunion purposes of those who went to Roan in a particular period, provided the years at School are already on record. The returnable slip asking members if they would like to continue receiving the Newsletter has been most helpful in filling in some gaps and those who still have not completed and returned theirs are again urged so to do. Another function the computer can provide is a list of members in a particular postcode area (even if the member has not provided a full postcode) so that someone moving to (say) Southwold (IP18) can be put in touch with other Old Roans in the IP (Ipswich), NR (Norwich) or CO (Colchester) areas. For ease of tracing, members maiden names are also included and can be searched for. There are also benefits for the Sports Clubs, if they can provide an original list, details can be kept up to date and duplicated for the team secretaries and captains. Of course paid membership status is recorded so that reminders can be sent to those whose subs are out of date. It is not linked in to any other computer. It cannot "tap" electoral roles. So please remember to let me know your change of address as and when it occurs.

The Annual Dinner was held on 25th October last when about 120 members enjoyed a pleasant evening and Geoff Sawyer was the Guest of Honour. Steve Nelson proposed the toast to the School in which he reminisced about his days at Roan. Wynn Austin, formerly of Greenwich Park School and now a Deputy Head of Roan gave us an informative speech about the activities at the School. Neal Haslam, President, replied on behalf of the Association. This is one of the few Association organised reunions and ages ranged from the senior sixth form officials to Len Sullivan (09-12). There were several new faces and we would like to see even more taking this opportunity of meeting their contemporaries next year.

Tony Slaney

Another Old Roan magazine! ..... the vitality and high level of activity of the Association gives me considerable satisfaction and pleasure. When I was interviewed for the Headship, I had only a vague idea of the 'other' Roan - Braithwaite, the Kurt Bac Fund, the Old Roan Association, Founder's Day and the archive from Devonshire Drive. I have since learned to order tree felling, to agree to cavortings on the school stage, to understand what 'hollow tining between batting creases' means and to recognise some of the faces in the photographs.

Now I have been in the post for 6 months it is most encouraging to see the solid foundation of support which parents and past members of the school give to the current staff and pupils. In a time of action by the teachers' association we depend heavily upon general professionalism and goodwill from all members of the Roan community.

Some 500 parents of children from local primary schools visited the School to see if they wished to select the John Roan School for their children and the comments were very favourable. We are opening the school every Tuesday from the 3rd December to any visitor so all Old Roans who are able to do so are invited to come and see us in action now.

A. Tonkin

# NEWS OF OLD ROANS

The Ammanford Park photograph taken in 1950, which appeared in the last edition of the Chronicle, sparked off considerable interest, Mrs CYNTHIA RYAN, MBE (nee FISHER, 33-40) writes from Houston, Texas, where she has lived since the early 1950's, to tell us that three of the girls are - MARY WILLIAMS, MARY MAWER and herself. Cynthia, who was Head Girl at the time, went on to college to study Rural Horticulture. She is still involved in that field doing the 'back-room' work for a Gardening Almanac.

MARGERY KELSEY (NEE chambers, 35-42) however, names the girls as Cynthia, ELIZABETH HORNE (33-40), HAZEL YOULTON (nee BASING, 35-42) and Margery herself. She names the 5th boy as JOHN VICKERS and this latter name is confirmed by ERIC DIBBLIN (33-40) of whom more later.

Margery recalls that they were at Bexhill for the first 9 months of the war and most of the group belonged to a youth club attached to St. Stephen's Church. Morning lessons were taken in the church hall, whilst afternoon lessons were in the County school which was shared with the Bexhill boys and girls.

After the fall of France, the two Roan schools moved to Ammanford in South Wales where they were housed in the old Amman Valley County School buildings which consisted of a hall and 3 or 4 classrooms. A



PETER DEW, now living near Oxford, recalls with obvious relish a school trip to the Ardeche in the early 1970's organised by Gordon Brooks. In particular he remembers the limitations of Gordon's spoken french - hence the somewhat cryptic memo in "Goings On".

A number of readers have written in giving details of births and/or marriages (not in that order I hasten to add!). Details of these will be included in the next issue of the Chronicle.

BARRY THOMAS (Staff) is now living at Aldborough Mill, Mill Lane, Aldborough, Norfolk. IAN NICHOLS (61-68) is chief economic development officer at North West Leicestershire District Council. G.F. FRANKLIN (09-16) has moved with his wife into a retirement home in Shrewsbury. He still follows the goings on at the School with great interest and recalls the early ORA Dinners which were held at the now demolished Ship Hotel.

A.W.LEE (65-72) has left for Australia with his wife and two girls. He has taken up a teaching post in his subjects of mathematics and computers. R.W.PEARMAN (31-37), a member of the soccer club on both sides of the war, has recently moved to Etchingham, East Sussex. He recalls the problems involved in running 2 sides "...now you talk of 6 or 7 teams". R.J.A. SMITH (70-77) has finished his PhD at Liverpool University in organic chemistry and now works for Courtaulds research in the Midlands.

TONY HOWITT (60-65), a recent member of the Vets football XI, has turned his talents to running The Dove public house in Newport Pagnell. OR's travelling on the M1 are invited to call in. ANNE-MARIE CHEVANNES (78-84) is studying jazz, contemporary and ballet dancing at a local college. She was recently chosen to go on the Marrakesh Express Expedition organised by the Explorer's Youth project. This entailed spending a month camping, eating basic food, travelling through a desert and climbing a 14,000 ft. mountain.

LIONEL BERRY (Staff) provides news of a number former colleagues and boys. He tells us that former Headmaster TIM GASTANG has recently moved to a small cottage at Warden Hill, Cheltenham, where he and his wife intend to pursue the simpler way of life. Lionel was recently visited by JOHNNY THORPE (Staff) who's Latin form of 1938 was pictured in the last edition. Unfortunately they were unable to remember the names of all the boys - but it was 50 years ago! There has been a further reunion of Bill Wedge's 1930's group. New faces included KEN WHEELER, who had travelled over from the Malverns. PIP WEDGE (38-44) recently visited this country from his home in Canada. Pip has been involved in the entertainment field working, in his younger days, with the likes of Steve Race and Hughie Green.

A long letter has been received from J.J.MORROW (08-14), who continues to live a very active life. His reminiscences about contemporaries and the masters he knew make most interesting reading and will be given fuller coverage in the Chronicle.

PAM PERRETT (nee HAMBLETON 41-45) enjoyed the "40 years on" articles in the last Chronicle. She writes: "I, too attended the S.E. London Emerg.Grammar School for Girls together with my sister Beryl. Katy Gatnell (nee Surridge) mentions the mixed uniforms and there were many, including Askes, Eltham and Blackheath High. I wore the uniform of 'The brown school'. Miss

short distance away from the main building across a muddy strip of grassland was 'The Woodshed' where Miss Denchfield looked after her depleted kindergarten and the first year girls, including Margery's sister VALERIE GODFREY (nee CHAMBERS 40-47). The LVI and VI forms used the Elim chapel across the road.

The Schools integrated well with the local people and many longstanding friendships were made. At the annual Christmas carol concert in 1940, it was pointed out that the school had sung carols in English, German and Latin, and maybe next year Welsh could be included. Nothing daunted, the following year Miss Wendon had the choir singing "Mae hen wlad fy nhad" (O Land of my Fathers) to the delight of the partly Welsh audience.

The photo also brings back memories for GEORGE PARTRIDGE who lives locally at Charlton. He remembers all the named boys, particularly Henry Cousins who was best man at his wedding. He offers the suggestion that all those in the photo were members of the joint 6th form geography class.

Eric Dibblin's recollections of those unnamed in the photograph are less clear, though he recalls the names of Elizabeth and 'Marjorie'. He does however, remember that the Ist XI football photograph, which also appeared in the Chronicle, was taken at the first match against Amman Valley County School. Apparently we were soundly thrashed, but held our own in subsequent games over the next two years.

The other soccer photograph brought back sadder memories in that the team included Bernard Trew, who went down in his very first raid over Berlin. After his own war service in the Royal Navy and graduation Eric worked initially in Birmingham and then in Newcastle - where he now lives.

CHRIS SALTER (64-71), a one-time editor of the Roan Magazine, continued his journalistic career after leaving school. Following a stint with the Sidcup Times he became chief reporter with the Chislehurst Times. The local knowledge gained should assist him in his new job as public relations officer with Bromley Council.

BRIAN KINSEY (49-54) has also recently taken up a new job. The former Charlton Athletic skipper has been appointed visitor manager at Chatham Historic Dockyard. He will be responsible for looking after an estimated 50,000 visitors each year to the former dockyard which houses one of the country's largest collections of ancient monuments.

On leaving school URSL ROBSON (nee ARNOLD, -77) worked initially for the Crown Agewnts before training as an SRN. After staffing on a general surgical ward at Greenwich District Hosital she took 5 months off to walk the Pennine Way and then to experience life on a farm in northern Norway. She qualified as a midwife earlier this year and got married the same month. She is currently working at King's College Hospital.

Her brother, ULLI ARNOLD (68-75) is working as a vet in Moretonhampstead, Devon. At the time of writing he was awaiting the birth of his second child. He clearly has some way to go to catch up with ANDY BUTTERFILL (61-68) who is awaiting his fifth child. After some time in Sheffield and London Andy has settled in Hereford where he is a consultant paediatrician in the County Hospital.



Richardson and her Staff were wonderful and her 'one rule' of Quiet, Orderly behaviour' covered it all. Miss Marsh despaired of the liberties taken by my friend and I with French grammar and Iris Honess (who sadly died young) never mastered the past tense.

Dr. Scott has the gift of bringing the Bible characters to life and allowed us to knit in class "as long as it is plain". I shall never forget one fact in Science as the lesson was always opened with the request "Pamela describe the principle of Photosynthesis". Miss Beer was determined I should never forget.

My greatest memories, however, are the two years 43/44 when we helped to bring in the harvest at Upavon in Wiltshire, living in the Village Hall with Miss West in charge of 40 girls. Working in the open air we were constantly hungry and would pull and eat raw swedes, mangles and potatoes. Baths were taken in shallow bowls in the cycleshed with no curtains, water had to be carried from a Tanker in Mr. Alexander's garden and who will ever forget the breakfast porridge with 2 inches of burnt oats at the bottom of the dixie, half raw potatoes, caterpillars in the cabbage, but by far the most memorable - Miss West's home made cheese and carrot sandwich spread - UGHH.

We arrived in the village on a quiet Sunday afternoon on bales of straw in a lorry and singing at the tops of our young voices (It was lovely to leave Doodle-bugs behind). Curtains twitched and although slow to welcome us at first, the villagers were more than kind - offering to wash and iron for us and sending along treats of cakes and pies to 'those poor kids'.

Memories of swimming in the pool at Chisenbury, blisters on our arms, wellies never off our feet, midnight feasts, Old Tom hanging on the door before 7 a.m. the tinny old piano in the corner, straw beds and Harvest bugs under our skins.

I can share all these memories with my husband as I was the only girl to marry a village lad and John and I are approaching our 38th wedding anniversary.

## "LIFE BEGINS AT FORTY"

Brief reference was made in the last edition of the Chronicle to the athletic exploits of LES ROBERTS (55-62). Many readers will recall that Les was an amiable performer with the lower football XI's until he hung up his boots in the mid 1970's. Subsequently, as the following article shows, athletic life has blossomed giving us all encouragement not to give up too early.

In 1980, at the age of 36, Les joined Blackheath Harriers simply as a source of mild diversion. However, it rapidly became apparent that he possessed a hitherto hidden talent and he found himself in the Harriers track and field first team running 5,000 and 10,000 metres and road races. He found himself getting up near the front in open events and even occasionally winning.

By 1983 his times for 10 miles, 5,000m and 10,000m were 50mins 5secs, 14mins 39 secs and 30mins 15secs respectively, the latter ranking him 60th in the nation. He also completed the London Marathon in 2hrs 26mins 28secs (or approximately the time it takes Steve Nelson to recover after a stint in goal!)

In 1984 at the age of 40 he entered the domain of veterans (masters) athletics. Blackheath were by then in the 1st division of the British League where the opposition included many of the star names familiar to athletics fans and the TV viewer.

In the veterans category in road races Les began to win consistently. In August 1984 he won the European Veterans 5000m title and took the silver medal in the 10,000m in a time of 30mins 21secs. He followed this with a further silver in the European Veterans 10,000m road race championships in Switzerland. When the national veterans track statistics came out at the end of the 1984 season Les found himself ranked first and second for the 5,000m and 10,000m respectively.

In 1985 he achieved the pinnacle of his career to date when on June 26th, in the Olympic Stadium in Rome, he won the World Masters 5,000m track championship in a time of 14mins 40secs, which included a 60 second last lap.

For the future Les is hoping to improve both his 5,000m and 10,000m times. He is seriously contemplating a spell in the USA where the veterans road race circuit offers great opportunities.

Les is not the only aging Old Roan active in athletic circles. JOHN BALDWIN (48-55), also a Blackheath Harrier, won the World (over 45) 10,000m road race championship in 1983. John currently holds the UK (over 45) 5,000m track record of 14mins 57secs which is only a second or so below the world record for his age group. He is also coach to Gillian Burley one of the country's top lady marathon runners.



# 65TH ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE

President	N.S. Haslam 67-74
Guest of Honour	G.J. Sawyer 49-54
Deputy Head	Mrs W. Austin
School Officers	Miss G. Stephens, Miss S. Webster
Other Guests	J. Chilvers, P. Mansfield

D. Allen	24-31	Miss C. Forrester	71-78	T. Puddifoot	64-71
Miss E. Allen	70-77	Miss C. Francis	70-77	S. Rance	63-70
Miss L. Bradley	70-77	B. Goddard	61-67	Miss J. Sackett	70-77
C. Barnes	59-66	A. Goodyear	72-77	A. Slaney	59-66
J. Batt	59-67	K. Graf	28-32	M. Smith	58-65
A. Berry	33-39	B. Hamer	59-67	M. Smith	71-78
P. Berry	68-75	C. Harwood	63-70	F. Spink	64-71
D. Boon	56-62	Mrs H. Haslam	71-78	C. Spooner	63-69
Mrs D. Bradbrook	65-72	D. Hawkins	64-71	J. Stanford	65-70
K. Bradbrook	66-73	K. Hedges	59-65	Miss C. Stephens	56-62
G. Brooks	Staff	R. Hedges	58-65	Miss J. Stephens	56-62
C. Finlay	63-70	H. Henning	56-63	L. Sullivan	09-12
D. Brittan	43-48	R. Hills	62-69	S. Syrett	38-42
A. Buhl	67-74	D. Horsburgh	62-69	Mrs A. Talbot	65-72
R. Burton	59-66	L. Hughes	65-72	T. Talbot	65-72
K. Calnan	58-65	J. Hulford	28-35	N. Taylor	62-70
J. Card	63-70	D. Jackson	34-39	K. Tebbutt	71-78
G. Carter	16-24	Mrs J. James	ex-staff	B. Thomas	ex-staff
B. Chamberlain	32-38	Miss P. Jeal	70-77	G. Thomas	35-40
G. Chambers	49-54	G. Johnson	60-67	Miss T. Tipler	63-70
T. Chance	71-78	Miss S. Johnson	70-77	M. Titheridge	51-56
I. Clatworthy	58-65	V. Lawrence	64-67	G. Townsend	61-67
C. Combes	67-74	J. Leach	55-62	B. Turner	Staff
F. Cook	58-65	J. Long	32-37	M. Waterton	56-63
P. Cox	67-73	Mrs W. Martin	40-47	T. Wallis	26-31
J. Cramp	48-53	B. Matthews	55-62	M. Walpole	63-72
Mrs M. Davis	64-71	R. Mills	71-78	A. Weir	36-42
P. Davis	58-64	K. Mullings	62-69	A. Weir	66-74
G. Dennis	70-77	Miss L. Nelson	63-70	M. West	58-65
R. Edworthy	66-73	S. Nelson	61-67	Miss L. Whittle	70-77
D. Ellis	67-74	A. Palmer	59-65	H. Wilkie	63-70
B. Endersbee	44-49	C. Palmer	63-70	Mrs K. Wilkins	58-65
T. Farnham	74-79	S. Palmer	26-30	I. Williams	64-71
Miss L. Ferguson	70-77	C. Parker	71-78	P. Williams	38-44
Mrs D. Fidler	43-50	G. Prendergast	65-70	P. Winter	37-40
S. Perry	56-60				

- GOINGS ON -

"All that bowery loneliness  
The brooks of Eden mazily murmuring."

Item: A postcard from Dr. Taylor on tour in the USA - "we rounded a corner and saw this enormous hoarding ..... "Life at Roan is a holiday" .....

Oh, if only it were. The School continues to operate against the background of industrial action. The future looks grim and no sign of a solution, settlement or compromise. Pupils are regularly sent home, lunch is for the "free dinner" pupils and the Sixth Form only, after school activities are at a minimum, meetings are few and far between. One thing is for certain, things will never be the same again.

I wonder if the deep seams of goodwill and voluntary extra-curricular activities will ever come back. Teachers are finding a new found existence, families see more of them, pressures in some ways are reduced and having stepped back, they may never step forward again.

Despite the action, things have gone on and continue to go on. The Ordinary Level Theatre Company has returned from Edinburgh successful and some new members of the company in the Lower Sixth are busy setting up their own production for next summer. They hope to perform at the Albany Empire and elsewhere in "Midsummer Night's Dream".

The Sixth Form Charity is launched and hopes to raise a £1,000 for a local youth club for the handicapped. Events are taking place daily.

The new Head of Sixth Form is Dave Newson - late of Eaglesfield (the Old Shooters Hill). He has settled well and is heavily involved in linking a new consortium from our own (the Park) and that of Kidbrooke and Eaglesfield (the Central). Naturally, the new structure will be called Central Park. Sixth Formers will undertake courses at any site. Students will travel only when necessary. They maintain a continued identification with Roan and certainly carry on the tradition. Our present Sixth is a very pleasant, able and talented body of young men and women.

Many students continue to Further or Higher Education and of last year's leavers from both the Lower and Upper all have found places or jobs. It pays to stay in the Sixth.

In 1986 all non 'A' level students will take the CPVE course involving work experience. We would be grateful if any local Old Roans would offer placements to our present pupils.

Before I take my leave, let me say that there will be a full report on the School's Edinburgh plays in the next magazine. And one short anecdote:-

Young man attempting to distance himself from blame whilst engaged in making an illicit telephone call to the Fire Brigade, whilst in the company of two others inside a telephone kiosk.... "I stood as far away from the others, on the far side, in the corner... I wanted nothing to do with it". Small boy, large kiosk?



Memo to P. DEW - my french is to his Economics as the Sun's circulation is to the Mirror's.

Memo to Sir K. Joseph:-  
From D. Thomas

The hand that signed the treaty bred a fever  
And famine grew, and locusts came;  
Great is the hand that holds dominance over  
Man by a scribbled name.

Gordon Brooks



Ordinary Level Theatre Company back from the Edinburgh Fringe - outside the BBC.

#### OLD ROAN CRICKET CLUB

(Secretary: K. Barron, 25 Liffler Road, SE18)

After the disappointments of recent seasons when the 1st XI League side sank to the lower depths of the table, it is pleasant to report that we are again Champions of the North Kent League. This turn-around in our fortunes is largely the result of the personal enthusiasm and achievements of skipper Nazir Khan who's leadership by example persuaded sufficient other 'old hands' to play. As the following reports suggest however, this success has ramifications for some of the other sides. Nevertheless congratulations are clearly due to Nas. and his side for the credit that they have brought to the club. Our thanks are also due to Ray for all the hard work he puts in on our behalf.

#### SATURDAY 1st XI

1985 was a bit of a mixed bag giving everyone much to think about for the future.

The fortunes were that after a long time we had a backbone of regular players. Nazir Khan led the side. Graham Lawrence, Roger Dale, Keith Barron, Ahmed Khan, Dave Sears and Mark Squire all made themselves available every week, giving the side stability. However, problems were faced in fielding eleven, and in fact altogether some 38 players appeared in the side.

Success came in the form of the League Championship. Yes - after many years of finishing near or at the bottom of the table we won the league.

The foundation for the success were laid in the first two games of the season, when we beat (convincingly) Wickham Park and Old Wilsonians. This gave the team new hope and much enthusiasm. The attitude was so positive that we only lost one game in the whole season, that against Thames Poly, where the opposition chased 197 and got 17. Even the non-league games were well fought, as was proved against G.L.C. where we batted first, scored 183 for 5, and G.L.C only just managed to hold out for a draw. Old Roan only had 9 men, but they bowled and fielded brilliantly.

The season was an all-round team performance. Khan was the premier batsman (scoring 600 runs in the league), Lawrence bowled and batted better this season than in previous years, due possibly to relief from the pressures of captaincy. Keith Barron still has a lot to learn but has potential and showed much promise with the ball, in fact was the first-choice spinner through the season.

It was proved by us this year that to win the league it is not necessary to win in the toss and chase runs. We won 9 league games in all, 5 of which were when bowling second.

Two games stand out as games of note, Sydenham and Westerham. The first saw an exciting finish. We were chasing a total of 155 on a rain-affected wicket (the rain coming down in the 2nd over of our innings, having lost more than 15 minutes for rain it meant an 8 o'clock finish regardless of overs bowled). Dan Calnan and Nasir put on 100 for the first wicket, the opposition had slowed down the over rate hoping to hold out till 8, but our batsmen against all odds, bad light, light rain, and hostile opposition reached the required total in the 30th over, which was the last having started at one min to eight.

Against Westerham it was our bowling and fielding that stood out. We batted first and managed only 154. Westerham, feeling confident, were faced with some fierce bowling. Messers Lawrence, Squire and Ali (Nazir's friend), between them dismissed Westerham for a dismal 51.



As a final thought, I would like to say that if we can win the league with the problems that we had, namely not enough numbers and some senior players choosing not to play on Saturdays, what can we do if we field regular sides with Old Roans, who play or can play, turning out for O.R.C.C.

I would like to thank Talit Ali and Mushtaq (for turning out on many occasions at short notice), Gina, Pat and Farida (for helping out with the teas), Ray Keeling (for his co-operation throughout the season and his imposing wickets), and thanks to all the players who turned out and made victory possible.

The Indoor season has started, we have on writing this report won our first two games, an exceptional start for a side playing in its first season. Players, umpires and spectators are welcome.

#### SUNDAY 1st XI

The dreadful weather and the sudden shortage of 1st XI (and 2nd, 3rd XI) players made the 1985 Sunday season a hard one to enjoy as both a captain and player. There were 7 games rained off. The 1985 side played without the skills of Briscoe, Broadfoot, Dale, Ellis and Khan and in several games we were without 7 of last years regular XI. Obviously with these handicaps the side was going to struggle and in comparison to the all-conquering performances of 1984 the results are inferior - won 5, Drew 3, Lost 3. However, out of this gloom, glimmers of light appeared.

Of the victories our win against a very strong Gidea Park and Romford, on the first day of the season, was by far our best performance. Excellent bowling by Brian Hamer and batting by Nazir Khan, backed by good all-round cricket by the rest of the side ensured an impressive win. With the benefit of hindsight, this result was the 1984 team at work and for the next 2 months a much weaker side struggled through the damp until eventually there were signs of a recovery to accompany the arrival of some sunshine in a good draw at Reigate Pilgrims and a crushing victory over Warlingham. Alas, all the ground gained during the previous two months was washed away as the side didn't play again for the next five weeks and by then the season was almost over.

Of the individual performances, Dan Calnan played the best innings of the season against Holmesdale and looked a class batsman. Early in the season, Graham Lawrance suffered with the rest of us but emerged to show his true form with both the bat and the ball. Again, Graham Townsend played too little cricket to do his ability justice and Mark Squire gave further evidence of his considerable talent - although the wet summer did not help his bowling. The 'new-comers', Len Sales, Keith Barron and John Bain, all showed that given a good run they have the ability to bat and bowl well at this standard. The Perry 'brothers' made a considerable contribution to our fielding and enjoyment of the game.

My thanks to Dan, Graham, and Nas for their help and let's look forward to better times in 1986.

Terry Barry

#### SATURDAY 2nd XI

While the 1st XI were struggling in the League the 2nds were enjoying their usual vast success.

Even narrow defeats, by 8 wickets against Sydenham and Westerham, and 7 against

Colfes for example, could not hold the rampant force from finishing bottom of the League - by at least 30 points. Occasionally the 9, 10 and sometimes 11! man outfit lapsed and stunned all by getting close to victory. (Sennocke were the only side to suffer this indignation.)

In a season so successful personal performances were way above average Peter Williams and Martin Hooker being the major contributors. Other players scored the odd run - double figures occasionally - took the odd wicket - I've got a long memory - and sometimes, only sometimes a catch was held. But you could expect no less from a side which, as opposed to a 1st XI full of talentless allrounders, could boast (no offence) such well known cricketers as Keith Tebbutt, Peter Osborne, Tim Fish, Rahim, Nicky Green, Gary Martin, Rod Pepper and Mathew Nelson. How could they fail? More importantly what would have happened without them?

I don't think the side could cope with another season like 1985, all that team spirit, organisational help, willingness to do the score, make the teas, do the bar, etc..... where was it?

Len Sales

#### SUNDAY 2nd XI

The Meteorological Office would have you believe that the English summer of '85 was, by climatic standards, very average indeed, but I doubt if cricketers anywhere would have agreed. 'Rain-affected', 'abandoned as a draw', or simply 'abandoned' were the monotonous epitaphs of many a game and the Sunday 2nd XI suffered as much as most. And when the heavens did relent, the scarcity of new talent that has blighted Old Roan cricket recently, reflected itself rather starkly in our meagre total of 3 wins. Batting was the prime concern, particularly in the early matches, descending to its nadir against Romford & Gidea Park when we were dismissed for 61.

The proverbial silver lining, however, was particularly warming: in the latter stages of the season, Mick McGuinness was mercifully released from the 1st XI and proceeded to entertain us with some high-class batting. He has a sound defence and a fine array of shots; most notably, a delightful square cut that was very much in evidence in a splendid 80 against Harvel. Simon Hooker was another late arrival who contributed a straight bat and consistency to the side, and we eventually pinned down Del Dreher to playing on 1st September against Old Brockleians. He promptly obliged by scoring a half-century with an unflappable ease that merely underlines his talent; it's always pleasing to have Del in the side, because there's no substitute for class. Graham Johnson and Peter Williams batted consistently throughout the season, as their averages suggest, and Martin Hooker and Bryan Endersbee, although not the prolific run-scorers of previous years, were still very welcome in the batting line-up. Our batsmen, of course, were very fortunate to have an umpire in Dave Andrews who never succumbed to the vociferous appeals that plague our game. Thanks for adjudicating Dave.

The bowling was fairly evenly-distributed between Matthew Hooker, Graham Johnson and the Stanbridge Clan, with support from Narinder Ganesh, Spot Hughes and Keith Barron, who, for the second half of the season became an important element of the 1st XI.

Matt. Hooker, on his day, can be a match-winning bowler. Your correspondent, who is of the old school in that he delights in watching spin bowling, was particularly impressed by his delivery and flight; his 7-62 against Old Alleynians achieved a win that no amount of medium pace could ever have done.

Those, briefly, were the facts: individual performances of note that stood out against the more sombre back-drop of few successes; but cricket, of course, is much



more than score-sheets, and the feeling of being amongst good friends never flagged. When Bryan Endersbee packed away our kit for us, we were all saddened at the thought of long winter months, and just contented ourselves to meet up again in April. Perhaps you'd care to join us?

Graham Johnson

And finally an amusing tale which appeared recently in the Guardian. It concerns Ian Botham's epic John O'Groats - Lands End trek and the part played by Alisdair Ross (late of the 3rd XI and Isle of Wight touring party). I quote:

"Botham has long been signed up for lots of loot by the Sun newspaper, and his ghostwriter, the corpulent young Alisdair Ross, was naturally despatched to cover the trek from John O'Groats. Not only that, for with carefree bravado, the ghost boasted in print for weeks - and matched it with some handsomely wild side bets - that he would be stepping out every single stride of the way with the hero (Botham).

Alas, at Brora after two 30-mile days of walking, there was a funeral silence, except for a couple of unkind and muffled giggles at the sight of the wretchedly pale and horizontal Master Ross being carted off to the local hospital where he was given injections, told to buy himself a pair of slippers, and not to take another pace for a fortnight.

Since then, of course, Sun readers have been oblivious that all the exclusives have been filed from the back of an accompanying mobile rest home".

Clearly years of training propping up the club bar has finally taken its toll on our 'corpulent' friend!

#### OLD ROAN FOOTBALL CLUB

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The Club has enjoyed several successful seasons at all levels and it was therefore inevitable that a year of change and mixed fortunes should follow. At least two teams have been completely 'broken' up and the higher teams are seeking to introduce younger players following their promise in the lower sides. The 'hangover effect' from a wider footballing world recovering from events at Luton, Bradford and Brussels and a late 'Indian Summer' made the start of the season appear more premature than usual but the onset of heavier pitches in early November has coincided with a series of good results for the higher elevens.

The veterans led by Mike Titheridge have been strengthened this season by the retirement of several quality players from higher teams. Keith Mexter and Don Boon are now regular members and should be joined by Graham Townsend when a current injury improves. The team have an enviable fixture list involving excellent facilities, good hospitality and the opportunity to play against some very fine players who despite advancing years and weight retain their natural skill and knowledge of the game. The team have been defeated only once and one particular 5-2 win at the Field against a team comprised almost entirely of ex-professionals was particularly pleasing.

The Sixths gained promotion last season and have produced some good early

performances this season. The new captain is John Coyle and the majority of players have stayed together since the team was formed from school leavers three seasons ago. The performances of Paul Witchells, Tony Sproul, Steve Sawyer and John Coyle have been consistently impressive and talent scouts from higher teams have been keeping a close watch.

The fifth team fielded on the second Saturday in November did not contain one member of the squad of 13 that narrowly failed to gain promotion in May. The regular members of the previous two successful seasons are now playing up the elevens and the early season has been difficult. The results have been mixed and include one cup win over Wickham Park with 8 players. The team has been jointly organised by Keith Banks and Tin Farnham and it is a pleasure to record that Andy Griffin has returned to the team following a serious injury in 1983.

The Fourths are also in the process of almost totally rebuilding the side following the departure of five regular members to the Vets, Fred Fuhr to New Zealand and Roy Hunt to the Thirds. Injuries to Graham Briscoe, Tony Osborne, Stuart Clay, and Graham Lawrence have also depleted the playing resources. The team is playing at a high level in the Senior Division of the Bromley League and the learning processes have been at times painful. A league win has been recorded and the determination of the team thus far has avoided any embarrassing scorelines but the winter will be long and hard.

Dave Ellis is determined to produce a winning team in the Thirds and having looked at nearly 60 players when avoiding relegation last season has emerged with a fairly settled side. The end-of-season tour to Germany was also useful for Dave to scout for talent in the lower teams and Dave Armstrong and Tony Hutchings are now performing well at this higher level. More seasoned members include Mike Baxter, 'Mitch', Sid Dampier, Kevin Hutchings, Keith Hedges and 'Bres'.

Doug Weaver continues to captain the seconds despite entreaties from a Vets side in which he would be the most senior member and he now plays alongside his son Mark. The team was re-shuffled with the Firsts at the start of the season and has produced some good performances. A 3-1 win over former F.A. Cup Winners (in the last century) Corinthian Casuals during early November followed good cup wins. Rod Pepper and Mark Winter are currently 'up front' and are matched in experience by John Hardy, John Leach and Dave Carter.

The Firsts are managed and led by Cyril Davies and after several mixed results the side has returned from difficult fixtures at Leyton County and Chigwell Police with impressive wins. The present forward line includes Alan Goodyear, Bernie Turner and Keith Bradbrook. Stuart Tierney has been promoted from the Thirds. The team also includes Ian Daniels, Tim Fish and Jim Hardy with several players continuing to 'float' between the first two teams. Ray Mills has returned from a long injury and is seeking to re-establish his place.

There is a general shortage of goal-keepers at the Club which may be eased when John Stanford makes himself available again. Efforts have been made to encourage recent school leavers to join the club with limited success.

Vic Brooker continues to provide invaluable assistance throughout the season and Ian Clatworthy should be recognised for his efforts as secretary for five teams. We are indebted to Ray for his efforts on our behalf.

Dave Horsburgh



## BRAIN TEASER

Tax your powers of deduction.....

EXAMPLE: 26 = L of the A

ANSWER: 26 = Letters of the Alphabet

1. 16 = O in a P
2. 7 = W of the AW
3. 1001 = AN
4. 12 = S of the Z
5. 54 = C in a D (with J)
6. 88 = PK
7. 13 = S on the AF
8. 32 = DF at which WF
9. 64 = S on a CB
10. 90 = D in a RA
11. 200 = P for PG in M
12. 3 = BM (SHIR)
13. 4 = Q in a C
14. 24 = H in a D
15. 1 = W on a V
16. 57 = HV
17. 11 = P in a FT
18. 1000 = W that a P is W
19. 29 = D in F in a LY
20. 40 = D and N of the GF

When you have solved all the clues send your entry to N.S. Haslam, 34 Heversham Road, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA7 5BG to arrive no later than 10th January 1986. (Don't forget to include your name, address and years at school!)

The first correct entry to be drawn at the January Committee meeting will receive a crisp £5 note.

## THE DATA PROTECTION ACT 1984

As mentioned in the Secretary's Report the membership file has been computerised and many members will be aware of the Data Protection Act. The Act covers organisations or individuals who control the contents and use of a collection of personal data processed automatically and such organisations or individuals must register with the Data Protection Registrar for a fee.

However there are conditional exemptions from the need to register including:-

1) data held by unincorporated members' clubs and relating only to club members.

2) data held only for distribution of articles or information to the Data Subjects and consisting only of their names and addresses, or other particulars necessary for the distribution.

The information kept about members falls within these exemptions. The only criterion not concerned with distribution is the "Years at School", which falls under section 1. This information will only be used for Association purposes.

The condition is that the Data Subjects (Members) must have been asked whether they object to these uses of data about them and must not have objected.

The purpose of this article is to inform you of the Act and to give you the opportunity to object to the information which is, and will continue to be, kept on record cards, being placed on computer files.

Needless to say having the records on a computer has streamlined certain aspects of distribution, and going back to record cards would cause additional work for the Secretary. Nevertheless you are entitled to object in which case your details will be removed from the computer. If you do object please contact the Secretary (address inside front cover).





# Christmas & New Year

at the  
Old Roan Club



*YOUR CLUB will be open for your Yuletide Celebrations with friends, old & new, at the following times;-*

**Christmas Eve ~ 8pm until 12.30am**

*(Cabaret, Carols, Cocktails, Raffles & Fun!)*

**Boxing Day ~ Noon to 3pm**

**Friday & Saturday ~ 8pm to 11pm**

**Sunday ~ lunchtime & evening**

**New Years Eve - Disco from 8 'til late**

**New Years Day ~ Noon to 3pm**

**Children's Xmas Party - January 12th**

For further information & tickets, please contact

Dave Andrews

Steve Nelson

Trevor Puddifoot

Terry Chance

