



OLD ROAN

Chronicle

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OLD ROAN ASSOCIATION

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No. 1

SEPTEMBER 1976

FROM THE EDITOR,

Hello and welcome to this the first edition of the new Old Roan Chronicle. For the first time we are free of the shackles of publication at the whims of the school to which we owe our inheritance; we are free to fulfill that role of which we have been unwilling recipients of criticism; lack of immediacy but the purveyors of historical record. You may have read or heard of the wish of the school to divorce themselves on various grounds from our periodical; it has been alleged that the school could operate better on a 'duplicated newsheet' where 'All information is current'. Be that as it may, it has been decided that the Old Roan Association, now of nearly three generations standing will stand on its own two feet and continue publication of a magazine to encompass, confirm and record those activities of men who are proud to stand up and own allegiance to our founder, John Roan.

None of us know the future and no-one can, or is prepared, to intimate where and what form our school will take in the years to come; will it be that the President of our association may be a lady? Must the bar stewards be taken from a rota of bar persons?

The whole future of your Association as you know it and as it has been since 1914 could well change beyond your wildest imaginings and we can only hope that this new publishing venture, The Old Roan Chronicle, will be around to record the events as they happen.

Our aim is to record such changes, those events and every happening so that you can read of your friends and contemporaries, and relate back to those changes that undoubtedly will happen to make your school and your club a very different place. Keep in touch.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have hardly had time to find my feet yet but no doubt I will as the time passes.

I will of course use my best endeavours to further and preserve the interests of the Association in the changing climate (even the Magazine has changed); to this end a sub-committee has already been formed.

I and my Committee are also mindful of the historic event of next year when the Schools celebrate their 3rd centenary, or should I say the tercentenary. It is hoped to mark the occasion appropriately.

K.M. GRAF.

ROAN SCHOOL — 300 YEARS ON

Next year, 1977, is the tercentenary of the foundation of the Roan School for Boys and, coincidentally it is also the centenary of the Roan Girls' School. Dr. Taylor and Mrs. Scott (Headmistress of Roan Girls) have drawn the attention of the Board of Governors to these anniversaries and suggested that special events should be organised by the Schools, the Old Roan Associations and the two Parents' Associations in celebration thereof. Resultantly, the Governors have appointed a sub-committee to deal with these matters and this sub-committee is representative of the various sections and associations that are concerned.

It is the intention of the Old Roan Association to give full support to those events that come within their sphere of interest bearing in mind the privileges and amenities that we enjoy at the School Field all of which result from the co-operation and assistance given to us by the Governing body. At this very early stage we have one or two ideas but we would welcome suggestions from all of you relevant to these anniversaries. If you have any proposals, or comments, please advise the O.R.A. representative, Frank Barnes, who will be pleased to place them before the sub-committee.

OF JOHN ROANS MEN

*"..... wherever men should be
our Greenwich Men are lighting new beacons in the night".*

Roan men have, by and large been very keen sportsmen and over the years we have had the pleasure of reporting some outstanding successes in and within many spheres; Glen AITKEN, captain of the school side that won the All England Trophy back in '71 was very instrumental in the FA cup run of his current club Wimbledon when they drew with Leeds.

This year, a Roan schoolboy Dave CAMPBELL played twice for Charlton in Division Two. Many readers will remember that David was a schoolboy prodigy with the Old Boys' sides of two years ago, but at Cricket. Now it appears that he has the difficult choice to make between a University career and that of a professional sportsman.

Further details of all the Old Boys Football teams can be found on another page, compiled by Geoff Sawyer, manager of our first eleven, who claims the dubious distinction of watching three games of football (at least) every weekend for over nine months. As can be seen, another successful season and with the up and coming schoolboys who have made the odd appearance this year the future still looks bright.

Ken Farrer, the most outstanding Old Roan batsman since the war, is now in his second year in the middle east. His mother, Mrs. Farrer, who provides lunches and teas at the pavillion for our cricket teams tells us that Ken's wife and family flew out in March to join him in the hot, humid heat of Dubai for another 18 months. Ken left the Kidbrooke area several years ago and played with Ron PARKER for High Wycombe before taking a foreign posting with his Civil Engineering firm.

Still on a sporting note the Old Roan Tennis Tournament, 1976 is well underway; early results show the demise of several 'stars' and despite the organiser's observation that 'everyone gets a bye in the first round' 32 players are involved in the singles. LBC's Steve RIDER has a tricky first round match against Barbara BRYDEN and Gordon BROOKS (Staff) has already been obliged to make an early exit. The favourites Messrs. TOWNSEND, RODWELL and ROWE are still in there and it could be that the winner will come from one of these three. The finals will be held at the club late in September.

Peter MOTTON and his family are visiting this country in late July from Geneva especially to celebrate the baptism of the three children of Reg HODGE, now a teacher in Crayford after several years with KEY Transport; you will remember that Alan HODGE had great success as a motor racing driver back in the early seventies and only serious injury stopped him from completing a successful career on the track. Reg's brother in law, Alan MOSS still plays against Old Roan thirds for Brockley in the South London Alliance — and still gets goals and gives out bruises as Chris WYTON will testify.

The success of the Third eleven is well documented elsewhere though full credit must be given to Kevin HUTCHINS who has made the leap from the sixth to the third eleven; we must congratulate Kevin on his betrothal at Christmas to the lovely Gina Caffell. John HARDY was married on 10 July to Christine, and up until then was playing cricket with Kevin for the Sunday third eleven under their new captain Ian CLATWORTHY whose brother Ron CLATWORTHY was captain of the Roan school in the early sixties. John HARDY has been scoring many runs for the Old Boys and will be especially remembered for his 77 to win the match against St. Mary Cray back on May 16 when all seemed lost.

Another successful man with the bat has been the Saturday first eleven skipper Dan CALNAN. Although primarily a bowler he had the pleasant duty of amassing a lot of runs early on in the season for both the Saturday and Sunday first elevens; up to late June only one game had been lost on Sundays and of course a full report will occur in the next magazine.

We append below a list of the matches to take place at the school field during the latter part of the season and to all prospective 'voyeurs' you are assured of a warm welcome amongst pleasant surroundings, especially if you appreciate the warm summers we now seem to enjoy.

Sat First eleven

30 August V Colfes
4 Sept. V Belvedere

Saturday Second eleven

7 August V Old Elthamians
14 August V Wilmington
21 August V Linden Park
28 August V Thames Poly (the Old Woolwich Poly)

Sunday First eleven

1 August V Bromley C.C.
8 August V Bexley
22 August V Hadleigh and Thundersley
29 August V Gravesend

Sunday Second eleven

15 August V Bexleyheath

OBITUARY

The death of Major 'Austin' Dunphy on Saturday 24th April who passed away peacefully in Herne Bay General Hospital, will leave a seat at our annual functions, that cannot be replaced.

Over the last few years my wife and I became to respect this quiet 'little' man, with a big heart. His service to man and his country is so remarkable that I feel a fitting tribute to him is to relate but a short history of his life — a life full — and full of interest. Austin celebrated his Leap Year 80th birthday on 29th February. To mark the occasion he threw a party in his home town of Herne Bay. Major Dunphy has led a most adventurous life. He has been a soldier (winning the Military Cross in the First World War), wrestling champion, immigration officer in Palestine, gang buster in Rumania, journalist and author. He has many links with the City. From 1955 to 1961 was B division superintendent of the Special Constabulary. He retired in 1971 after completing a record 36 years service with the City of London Special Constabulary. Apart from his 36 years service with the City of London Special Constabulary he worked for Beaverbrook Newspapers for many years before retiring in 1972. He spoke Arabic, Turkish, French, German, Russian and Hindustani. His military record includes active service in France, Greece and Macedonia. He took part in the Palestine Campaign before being attached to the Indian army. He was then appointed liaison officer with the Arab forces before being sent as a British Agent to Russia where enemy soldiers tried to ambush his train in the Caucasus! Other high spots include intelligence service in Egypt and extensive travels in South East Asia, China and Ceylon where a bridge collapsed into a ravine just as he was about to drive over it in his car. For the last four years he was the Public Relations Officer of 1063 Squadron Air Training Corps at Herne Bay. I was reliably told that he took up this appointment after being retired from the Special Constabulary; he was hoping to do some parachute jumping.

Certainly one would not expect less from this truly remarkable man. May he rest in peace.

D.A.B.



1st TEAM 1975/6

Back Row:

D. Hart (Trainer) J. Stanford, R. Grimwood, J. Hutley, T. Leask, G. Briscoe, K. Thomas, C. Rodwell, G. Townsend, R. Lentle, (Groundsman)

Front Row:

K. Hedges, D. Weaver, K. Todd, G. Sawyer, (Manager) D. Boon, C. Davies, (Player/Coach) D. Hutley.



3rd XI 1975/6

(AFA MINOR CUP WINNERS)

Back Row:

C. Fuhr, N. Carrick, P. Edwards, T. Barry, K. Calnan, S. Gillman, F. Gosling, C. Wyton, K. Hutchins, D. Dreher, T. Puddifoot.

Front Row:

THE ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE

This annual function was again held at the Forest Hill Banqueting Suite where the meal and service came up to the high standards experienced in previous years. The evening seemed to have been thoroughly enjoyed by all those present, and Del Baxter is to be congratulated on another social success; he would want Peter William's name to be mentioned in this connection since he shared the not inconsiderable load of preparatory work, work without which a function of this kind would simply not get off the ground.

This particular event in the Association's calendar does not meet with everyone's approval, and some Old Roans even feel that it should be discontinued because so few O.R.s support it. It may be true that the number of O.R.s who attend is small but their support, in the persons of the considerable number of guests they bring surely argues the event's popularity, and provided it does not cost the Association anything then there is every reason for it to continue. It provides many members with a welcome opportunity to repay hospitality and enjoy themselves with their friends, and serves to spread and burnish the Association's image in a wider circle.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Annual Dinner and Old Boys Reunion to be held at School Pavilion on Friday 12.11.76. Annual Dinner and Dance is to be held at Forest Hill Banqueting Suite Saturday 26.3.1977. Further details will be announced in the next issue of the magazine, as it is hoped to incorporate this together with the Boys/Girls Schools, Staff and Governors in support of their celebrations, being that 1977 is the tercentenary of the foundation of the first Roan School for Girls.

JOHN ROAN SCHOOL LODGE No. 5085

(Secretary: W.Bro. G.P. Marsh, 33 Rennets Wood Road, Eltham, SE9 2NF)

Following a very successful and progressive year, our Master, Derek Arthur Baxter (1943-48) now looks forward to installing his successor, Dennis Frederick Brookland (1942-50), at the Annual Installation Meeting to be held Tuesday, 26th October next. He, in turn, appoints his officers for the ensuing year. Lodge Meetings are held at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.2; it must not be forgotten that the Master wears the rare Hall Stone Jewel. Dates of future Meetings, always a Tuesday, to be noted are 23rd November next, the 22nd February and 26th April 1977.

Old Roans seeking information regarding the Lodge should contact the Secretary; new members are always welcome. A very active year lies ahead and here the Lodge of Instruction plays a vital role. This, an ever growing body guided by the keen enthusiasm of our Preceptors, meets on Tuesday evenings from September to May, at the Roan School Sports Pavilion, Kidbrooke Park Road, S.E.3; particulars from the Secretary, W.Bro. V.T.J. Penfold (1927-33) 11, Studland Road, Hanwell, W.7.

Details of the Ladies Festival for 1976 were given in the last issue of the Roan Magazine — please note that there is a change of venue and date: the Ladies Festival will now be held on Saturday, 25th September next, at the New Hackwood Hotel, Widmore Road, Bromley, further details from W.Bro. R.L. Harmer, 6, Chesterfield Drive, Chipstead, Sevenoaks, Kent.

OLD ROAN FOOTBALL CLUB

Secretary: G.J. Sawyer, 18 Beaconsfield Close, Blackheath, SE3 7LL
01-858 4550

A season that started with disastrous results in mid-August sunshine, carrying through with much success and a few disappointments during the Winter months ended on a rather sombre note in mid April. This has been an interesting season with players who were hitherto unknown emerging as stalwarts in the first two elevens. This upsurge of players gaining valuable experience will put the club in good stead for the immediate future and will certainly more than compensate for others who make the break from us to seek higher football. To these players we wish good luck but unless they leave in an honest Old Roan manner they may not have 'Welcome' written on the mat if they return, rather disillusioned, some months later, and may well find other players have established themselves in the top sides. The undoubted strength of the Football Club is the spirit of being an Old Roan and being pleased to represent us at whichever level the Committee decide.

The 1st XI finished sixth in the London Spartan Reserve Div. 1. although it did look that we would finish in the first four until a couple of

lapses at the end of the season, but nevertheless the spirit of the side was the best I can ever remember during my time with the Club — and that covers a couple of decades now! John Stanford and Tim Leask shared the goalkeeping duties with nothing much to choose between them while David Hutley came into the side straight from School and played right back as though he'd been there all his life — as left back Dougie Weaver has!! When Bryan Marsh decided in January to marry Jean (or was it the other way round?) and move away to Essex, we feared that half our side had gone as well as our Captain but events didn't turn out that way Graham Townsend came into the team determined to prove to everyone concerned that he could also be strong and reliable and he's still there so can rest his case. Kevin Todd took over the responsibility of Captain like a duck to water (although he never drinks the stuff!) and his allround game improved to unbelievable ends. Well done Kevin, we'll miss you when you take up your business appointment in Madrid, and are unanimous in wishing you every success.

The midfield section of the side has really worked hard (under the threat of extra training!) but they've certainly appeared to like the outcome of Cyril Davies's devotion, to say nothing of his own proven midfield ability (although he still tells me he's a goalscorer). Don Boon and Keith Thomas in particular have relished more often than not being in the right places at the right time.

The forwards, after the early calamities, have been spearheaded by Bob Grimwood whose strength and goal scoring ability have caused endless headaches to opposing defences whilst the improvement to the front running of Keith Hedges has been a joy to us all. John Hutley was available for selection far too infrequently for the side is much better balanced when he plays. Chris Rodwell flattered to deceive but will surely come again with the right approach to the game. His ability is there for all to see and he scored many important goals for us although never believing his own worth. Chris, your football future lies at your own feet. Graham Briscoe is still waiting for Dougie Weaver to retire from left back but may have to be patient for a little longer yet but when Graham was occasionally allowed to express himself in midfield he did his reputation no harm at all. Keith Silcox played in the early part of the season but injury and other commitments didn't help his game.

The 2nd XI had a satisfactory season, perhaps not always getting the results they earned. They supported the 1st XI well with players but in so doing sometimes left themselves short on experience, allowing other sides to dictate games that we could and should have dominated. Graham Briscoe held the reins most of the time while players like Peter Grindley, Steve Mardle, Terry Thurley, Rob Mumford, Chris Winter and Dave Ellis learned a lot in the season and were therefore able to blend with the stalwarts of Old Roan football, Simon Perry, Keith Silcox (when not needed by the 1st XI) and Graham Townsend until his promotion. Here is a team that could

do well next season if circumstances allow them to have a reasonably settled side.

Not very many seasons ago the 1st XI were playing in the Premier Division of the South London Alliance and it is a measure of the strengthening of the Club that the 3rd XI will be competing in that same division, on merit, next season.

After a tremendous start it soon became apparent that they would have a successful season. The side was built round a strong defence consisting of Fred 'Fingers' Fuhr, Frank Gosling, Peter Edwards, Chris Wyton the Captain, and the promising Kevin Hutchins. The midfield of Dan Calnan and Neil Carrick was supplemented by the non stop running of Trevor Puddifoot who had a fine season. The plan was to stop the opposition scoring and get the ball to "Goal Machine" Del Dreher whose 20 goals in 24 matches made the difference between winning and losing matches. Steve Gillman also made an impact once he became established, his ball skills and the knack of scoring important goals, has not gone unnoticed by higher elevens! The return after injuries of Terry Barry and Roger Dale made the selecting of the side pleasantly difficult. In mid season the appearance of Joe Broadfoot for a few games helped the side no end and some of his professionalism was still remembered when he was no longer there.

The match that gave the team the most satisfaction was a 1-1 draw with Blackheath Wanderers which was the first point anyone had got from them. They won the Division long before the end of the season and we scrambled into second place to earn our promotion with a record that read:

P 18. W 11. D 2. L 5. Goals for 36: Goals against 20: Pts. 24.

Not content with this the 3rd XI enjoyed the glory of winning the AFA Minor Cup against Old Fairlopians where goals by Gillman, and Puddifoot saw us home 2-0. Chris Wyton led the team which a consistency that was bound to get results and he tells me that the most striking individual performance of the season was given by Neil Carrick in the Semi Final of the AFA Cup. Well done Neil, but I'm sure the Skipper's resolute play all season had a big bearing on the success that was enjoyed by all.

The 4th XI although having a team of more ability than normal did not have the anticipated success until the end of the season when a more settled side was maintained. It has been decided however to enter the team next year in the Bromley and District League who we feel will be more receptive to the Club, and also the AFA Senior Novets Cup.

After a very slow and unsettled start the 5th XI eventually began to improve but unfortunately it was then Christmas and useful points had been lost.

The back four finally stabilised with Robin Hills, Mike Titheridge, Jim Bird and Rod Stanbridge. As usual it was difficult to find a regular goal-

keeper and the spot was mainly filled by Ian Clatworthy. Having served their apprenticeships Malcolm Brown, Martin Harris and Ray Westwood were all stolen by the 4th XI and never seen again. Other stalwarts were Keith Berry whose 11 goals gave him top spot, Brian Matthews and 9 goal Mike West while it was nice to see Dave Case having a good season at such a young age. Nigel Potter, Howard Baines and Bernie Hampton also played from time to time.

The team finished midway in their Division and if nothing else enjoyed the games and the action talk-back at the Club afterwards. We will all remember Jim 'Saville Row' Bird having to play in a complete set of borrowed gear one Saturday (his own unwashed outfit having temporarily vanished after the Cricket Supper!?) looking really immaculate, even down to matching socks, but the whole effect rather spoilt by his size 9 feet in a pair of size 12 training shoes! He managed to play well though.

The 6th XI struggled as usual but nevertheless had some useful results, never being really outclassed and continued to enjoy themselves. They can be proud that their sportsmanship has been mentioned more than once by League. Well Done lads.

Having come to the end of the playing side may I draw your attention to the people who really make your Club tick. Keith Thomas has had a few years now as Team Secretary and has earned a rest from that — thanks Keith you've made my job easy as has "Trainer Dave" Hart who has turned out rain or shine to pamper the senior players. Vic Brooker works in such a way that it is all too easy to take his enormous contribution for granted. This we must never do for it would take 3 other people to tackle the work he does in a season. Chris Wyton has emerged as somebody reliable off the field as well as on it while we're gradually working on Graham Briscoe to do something similar. Ian Clatworthy almost single handed carries the administration of the lower three elevens and does a superb job while it was most pleasing to see Mike Baxter take over the Team Secretary's duties for these teams at very short notice indeed. Don Bourne was still involved but to a lesser degree.

Last, but by no means least, may we thank most sincerely our friend Reg Lentle for his understanding at times and the quality of his pitches — thanks a million Reg, we couldn't do without you.

These are all the people (if I've missed anyone I'm sorry) who make the Football Club the enjoyable institution it is, so next time you are leaning on the Bar why not offer one or other of them a drink — they've certainly earned it!

G.J.S.

OLD ROAN DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Following our very active 1975, crammed with dramatic activity, we are off to yet another promising start this year with rehearsals for a one act play, "A Man in a Street" by T.B. Morris. We entered the 1976 Lewisham Drama Festival with this play in May. "A Man in a Street" has a cast of fifteen, and we are pleased to have taken on several new recruits in the process of trying to fulfil this requirement. This will doubtless increase our scope and potential for future productions. "A Man in a Street" is an intriguing and thought provoking play with plenty of serious and sometimes grim messages, in complete contrast with "Pygmalion", the light-hearted play we took on last year for both the November production and two drama festivals.

The situation of enthusiastic unity within the Society which we reached at the end of last year still stands and, although no firm plans have been made at the time of writing, we look forward to presenting an annual production this year at the school in November.

T. Talbot
Secretary.

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