



OLD ROAN
Chronicle

Vol 1 No 4

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FROM THE EDITOR

Another issue of the Old Roan Chronicle reflects the news and activities of a flourishing Association, and in spite of an abysmal summer there is much to be thankful for.

These are times of change and the Association cannot expect to be immune; developments in the Schools are beginning to make themselves apparent and there are many still to come. The Association needs to keep abreast of them and the Committee have the future very much in mind. Not all future Old Roans will be conscious of three hundred years of history behind them - indeed, in a sense, a new history is only just beginning, but we believe, profoundly, that the friendships and associations made during schooldays are well worth fostering and it remains an aim of the Old Roan Association to work to that end.

It is good in itself, to say nothing of the benefit to the Association, to receive news and views from members who cannot for one reason or another, keep in personal touch with the activities going on and around the School field and at the School. This is another way of asking you to write as often as you can and to keep in touch in that way.

It is perhaps a little early, but there will not be another opportunity this year, to send seasonable greetings to all Old Roans wherever they may be. We wish you well.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In 1942, when Tommy Holt accepted my first subscription to the Association (five shillings, I believe) and sold me the last of the O.R.A. badges for the sum of one shilling, I hardly imagined that my name would one day be linked with that illustrious list of Presidents that adorns the Club wall. Even after six months in office, I have difficulty in adjusting to the honour.

The Association has kept alive for me, friendships with Masters and Boys which were formed in far-off Ammanford days; more than that, it has through its various clubs, enabled me to make many more friends without whom the world would be a much duller place.

Socially speaking, summer is a relatively quiet time, but Jean and I have enjoyed attending the School Drama Competition which was, without any exaggeration, a most lively and entertaining evening. The O.R.D.S. need have no fears about the availability of future talent. I have not yet attended any School sporting functions in an "official" capacity, but it is a great pleasure to congratulate the School Football XI on retaining their two major trophies.

I have seen something of the activities of the Cricket Club, usually as an official rather than as a player. Whether the teams feel they benefitted from my doubtful decisions I do not know; what is certain is that I derived considerable enjoyment from watching them in action from close quarters. On one occasion it was interesting to find the Club providing both umpires in the persons of the Association's current and previous Presidents: it did the side no good — they lost!

One sad feature is the current shortage of players and several fixtures have had to be cancelled on that account. As the older players retire, too few young ones are taking their places. Perhaps we should consider instituting an energetic recruiting campaign at the School.

I must confess that it is many years since I took an active interest in the O.R. Football Club. My office now gives me a cast-iron excuse for neglecting the garden and the painting to watch their efforts and, as no less a person than the Football Club Secretary confidently assures me of the quality of the play, I look forward this winter to braving the rigours of the touchline. While on the subject of the Football Club, I must compliment them on their magnificent turn-out at the Association's Dinner and Dance last March. That my predecessor, a renowned Kent supporter should choose the Surrey Tavern for the function is itself a telling comment on the popularity of the venue and accordingly I have followed in his ample footsteps and retained the fixture there with the same kick-off time.

With so much activity in the Sports Clubs and the splendid facilities they enjoy, it is surprising and a little disappointing that recruiting to the Association, in spite of Gordon Brooks' strenuous efforts at the School, is down this year. If you know of an old boy who is not a member, try a little persuasion; point out that we are a special group of men, linked closely to an ancient Foundation; that the Club's facilities (and prices) are second to none: our Membership Secretary cannot really be expected to find many more recruits in the Lake District!

FROM THE SECRETARY

If you have read the list which should appear on the inside cover of this magazine you will notice that Brian Thomas is the only official still holding the same office as printed in the last edition.

The changes came about at the Annual General Meeting held at the pavilion on 31st March 1978. At the meeting Alan Weir ('36 — '42) was elected President for the ensuing year and has now a ready made excuse for attending the Club more frequently. He takes over from Geoff Sawyer ('48 — '53) who has done such a good job during his year in office. John Williams ('39 — '41) who had been our Treasurer since 1965 and Assistant Treasurer before that decided that, after holding the purse strings for twelve years, it was time to take a well deserved rest. In his place Dave Hawkins ('64 — '71) was elected and will join the other 'brother', Assistant Treasurer Peter Williams ('38 — '44).

Ron Harmer ('35 — '39), because of increasing commitments to the Stock Exchange, also did not seek re-election and I found myself in the 'hot-seat' as he called it. Thanks to both Ron and his wife, Betty, for the hard work they put in over the eight years Ron was Secretary. As many of you will know I have been Membership Secretary since 1975 and will in fact be continuing to deal with membership duties and distribution of the Chronicle, while Dick Hitchin ('59 — '67) becomes Assistant Secretary to take over other duties. My first encounter with an official of the Old Roan Association was meeting Mike Callaghan in 1966, who demanded my subscription. I now do that job and have a difficult task to be as successful in collecting subs as he was.

Whilst mentioning distribution of the Chronicle, magazines sent to the following people have been returned with the answer 'gone away':—

P. Beech ('19 — '29)	P.J. Crockwell ('56 — '63)
J.E. Biles ('46 — '51)	R.F. Cumberland ('49 — '56)
M. Blackman ('72 — '77)	W.R. Dalzell (Ex Staff)
K.P.M. Brewer ('58 — '64)	D. Dennis (Hon. Member)
J.T. Budgen ('26 — '29)	R.J. Dixon ('58 — '64)
D.W. Collison ('58 — '64)	Capt. D.H. Drackley ('35 — '40)
C. Cooper ('44 — '51)	G.F. Franklin ('09 — '16)
D.J. Fyfe ('51 — '58)	G.B. Parker ('23 — '32)
C.H.L. Galliford ('17 — '23)	S.C. Pearce ('36 — '43)
D.G. Goddard ('33 — '37)	A.E. Ringer ('19 — '24)
L.R. Hayward ('30 — '34)	D.G. Rivers ('46 — '54)
S.R. Hunt ('14 — '18)	J.S. Spice ('34 — '40)
J. Jaques ('52 — '57)	N. Taylor ('62 — '70)
C. Lewis (— '34)	

Normally the list only contains about half a dozen names. The reason for the longer list this time is because the envelopes in which the magazines were sent had the address where to return them if undelivered. If anyone knows the current address of any of the above please send it to me. Please remember to give me your change of address when you move.

About three years ago the method of introducing School leavers to the Association was changed from some Old Roans going to the School to speak to the Sixth-formers. Now with the help from the Staff we invite those who have just left to the Club to meet us and this has proved quite popular. Each year about forty new members are gained, although the total number of members on the mailing

list remains at around 950.

In his last report as Secretary Ron Harmer referred to possible discussions with the Old Roan Girls' Association with the view to becoming one Association. This is a subject that I have been interested in for several years, and the Committee has set up a sub-committee to look into the possibility of a merger. At present I cannot report any progress as the Girls' Association is 'sounding out' their members. Their membership meets only a few times each year and so this will necessarily take some time. Such a merger would affect our Constitution and I should welcome views from not just the regulars at the Club but the membership as a whole.

Requests for Tercentenary ties continue to come in and I am pleased to announce that more were ordered and are now available at £2 each including postage. This is positively the last batch, so place your order NOW. The ordinary Old Roan tie (now in the more modern wider style) is also available at £2 each including postage.

A comment I regularly hear is that in 'Of John Roan's Men' there is never "Anybody I know" mentioned. Remember that Brian Thomas can only print information he receives. It's your magazine, so please help him out by passing on either direct to him, or via myself at the Club, information about either yourself or other Old Roans.

In conclusion I would like to express my congratulations to the School on once again winning the English Schools Football Association Under 19 Individual Schools Championship. This is the third time the School has won the cup and Roan is the only school to have won it more than once. All Old Roans who watched the match against Stoke Sixth Form College enjoyed a good contest and the 3-0 result. Our thanks to Reg Lentle for organising the coach, as he has done for the other finals, and the not-to-be-forgotten semi-final in Newcastle prior to winning the cup in 1971. I am pleased to report that many of the 1971 side are still members of the Association and play regularly for us on Saturdays.

THE OLD ROAN CLUB

This report of the activities of the Old Roan Club is headed by an appeal for your help. Not, as is the usual appeal, for money, but for a small portion of your time. While the Club continues to run satisfactorily, and has shown an improved profit level over recent months, more and more work is being done by fewer and fewer members. We are fortunate in having an active Club Committee and a very enthusiastic steward in Neal Haslam who, following the efforts of John Dennis and his other predecessors, is doing a tremendous job in ordering supplies, maintaining stocks, banking money and all the other chores that finally provide this great amenity for the members of the Old Roan Association.

Why then do we need help? and what kind of help? The need is for more volunteers to help behind the bar as stewards. It is only by the skin of our teeth that we have been able to continue with the Friday evening opening, and we are now having great difficulty in finding volunteers to run the Sunday evening opening. If you have some spare time, and would like to help the Club on Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday evenings, please tell Neal Haslam, Frank Barnes or

any other member of the Club Committee. Your assistance will be welcomed and, of course, the greater the number of volunteers the fewer are the duties of each individual.

On a more cheerful note we have arranged for the lighting of the War Memorial Room to be renovated and it is hoped that the work will be completed in time for the O.R.A. Dinner on the 27th October. There are other improvements that will engage the Committee's attention during the coming months and every effort will be made to maintain and improve the amenities which, we hope, are fully appreciated by all our members, especially the younger ones.

F.P.B.

SCHOOL NEWS

1. FROM THE HEADMASTER

Inevitably the end of the Summer Term sees the departure of some members of Staff and I am sorry to say that last July Mr. J. Rouncefield (Head of Geography), Mr. W. Drew (I/C Drama) and Mr. K. Elmitt (Assistant Chemistry Master) left, each of them moving to a post of greater responsibility and scope.

This term Mr. R. Thorp will be leaving to take a post of Head of Modern Languages at Harwich. All these colleagues have made a significant contribution to the life of the School both in the classroom and — where it matters so much — outside. Mr. Thorp, who has been in the school longer than I have, and Mr. Rouncefield also had special responsibilities for the Sixth Form and they will be sorely missed in that area.

On the Administrative side Mrs. Smith has left the School Office after 9 years of service because she is moving out of London. One of her most valuable contributions was the establishment of the Parents' Association in its early days. In addition Mrs. Andron, the School Secretary, has transferred to a bigger school.

Late in the term the Governors agreed, at the request of the I.L.E.A., to accept an additional thirty boys into the first year in September. This meant that two further full-time members of staff had to be found. It also meant that additional accommodation had to be made available and it was agreed that a prefabricated class-room should be erected in the north quadrangle. Those responsible did an excellent job in having this class-room on site, erected, connected to services and fully furnished by the beginning of the new school year.

We were fortunate indeed in that within a week of the beginning of the Autumn Term we had a full complement of academic staff. The new full time teachers are —

Mrs. Fotheringham	Mathematics (Mrs Fotheringham has been a part-time teacher for several years);
Miss Weston	Drama;
Mrs. Keeley	English and Remedial;
Mr. S. Dagg	Music (replacing Mr. D. White who died last Christmas);
Mr. Bucknell	Chemistry;
Mr. N. Wilson	Geography.

It took somewhat longer to staff the school office. However, Mrs. Duncan joined us during September as School Secretary, but it was October before a replacement for Mrs. Smith was found.

The Summer also saw the usual batch of about 90 leavers, most of them from the second year Sixth. Some 35 of these have gone on to further full-time education and, as far as we are aware, all the rest are now in employment, which is gratifying in the present circumstances.

The Sixth-form leavers gained 135 'A' Level passes between them. The best results were from Stuart Thorp and Jeffrey Daniels who each passed three subjects with Grade A's. Stuart Thorp also won a Post Office Scholarship. John Riley, the School Vice Captain, won an exhibition in English to Clare College and Paul Ridge was awarded an R.A.F. University Cadetship.

In the fifth year, 93 boys gained an average of 5.4 passes each (a 'pass' being Grade A,B,C, at 'O' Level or Grade 1 at C.S.E.) The best performer at this level was Danny Ruta, who has ten 'O' Level passes — nine of them Grade A's. The majority of these boys are now in the Sixth Form.

At the other end of the School the first two years are now boys of all abilities and the Staff are planning and working to ensure that each one of them is engaged on courses and receiving teaching which, while being appropriate to his ability, is demanding the best he can give.

A.J.T.

2. GOINGS ON

The last time I regaled you with the odd literary snippet, gobbet and humourous splinter, and the comments from the more discerning Old Roans ranged from "so — so" via "middling" to "no great shakes". I am assuming that they do not represent the majority feeling, which means that among the goings-on I report there will continue to appear the irrelevant comment; I fall short of the self-discipline necessary to avoid it.

The highlight of the past few months for many of us was our achievements on the football field. We retained both the England Under-19 Cup and the London (Palmer) Cup. The final of the former competition on Stoke City's Victoria ground on 4th May. The boys looked and played like true champions and the 3 — 0 win did not flatter them in the least. The Stoke VI Form College boys were bigger but could not match our skills or speed. We beat our old friends at Westminster City School in the other final, 4 — 1. Roan has now won three England finals in eleven years — no other school has won more than once!

The team is now disbanded and the work of rebuilding is under way. Steve Dixon went to Crystal Palace on an apprenticeship, and Neil Campbell is at Ilford whilst also studying at Queen Mary's College. Micky Smith and Guy Wilkins play for the Old Boys and Adrian Foley is with Charlton still. Dave Sears is still at School and trained with the England Under — 18's in the summer.

The School's cricket teams have played well and a number of boys have turned out for the Old Boys.

Sailing and canoeing are still very popular — as is the burgeoning mountaineering Club. Badminton is a thriving minority sport and the Scout Group is going strong

under the direction of Derek Evans. The keenest member has a Doctorate and a well-worn toggle.

Drama flourishes, with new staff wielding drums and original ideas — yes, Drama is actually taught to the younger members of the School. Alf Knott is unabashed — he has written a musical called "Treasure Island" which is being produced at the end of term. We still have revues and house plays and in that respect times do not change.

The School band lost many old hands (not to mention lips and fingers) last year, and Bill Ellis is busy rebuilding the big band and forming a new concert band. The Music Department hope to put on an end-of-term festival of Christmas music and sketches. There is the possibility of a television appearance. The band have played in the Embankment Gardens and on the South Bank to a delighted public and, would you believe, the reigning Monarch. The new Music Master is Stephen Dagg — a talented young man who plays the organ at St. Alphege's.

The Staff Room is still a happy place; it retains that aura of mystique — visiting Old Boys tread lightly and talk in hushed tones, happy in the knowledge that they have at last entered the inner sanctum. They sometimes seem surprised that we talk to each other, and that I.L.E.A. tea is the only beverage on offer!

The ladies have made a big difference, of course. One or two chauvinists refuse to discuss "Sexism in the Common Hymnal" or what to do with their hair. (The writer is pleased with the current fashion for perms — but is fed up with people asking him where he had his done).

We now have two years of all-ability intake, and in the first year an extra form; they live in a hut in the quadrangle. Despite this extra room and all the other new rooms we are still very overcrowded. The School is jam-packed on some days which makes for great difficulties in organisation.

The Fifth and Sixth Form leavers have all benefitted from the improved I.L.E.A. Careers Service; we work closely with both the Woolwich and Eltham Officers who have developed good relationships with the boys. Every year now we have a "Look at Work" exhibition held in the Borough and most boys find what they want to do. We always welcome contacts from Old Boys who are looking for "likely lads".

It is hoped that this has kept you up-to-date with some of the goings-on — there are, of course, a lot more. Try to come to the production of "Treasure Island" near the end of this term. Alf Knott has, as the music and libretto man, asked that visitors refrain from shouting "where's your Willie Shakespeare now?" at the end of the performance. May I leave you with these thoughts from one who views the onset of winter with some distaste — being of the tribe of sun-worshippers:

"I knew one Schoolmaster who, in winter, would ordinarily in a cold morning, whip his Boys over for no other purpose than to get himself a heat" and

"There is now less flogging in our great schools than formerly, but there is less learned there; so what the Boys get at one end they lose at the other" (Samuel Johnson: from 'The Life' by Boswell).

G.B.

OLD ROAN PERSONALITIES : ALAN WEIR

It was one of those rare English summer days, when the sun was shining, that a certain batsman wended his way from the Roan Pavilion to that chain of assiduously prepared and hallowed turf, known to the faithful as a wicket. His previous three such journeys had each been followed by a rapid return and, against his name in the score book had appeared each time a circular symbol. He approached the combat this time with some misgiving.

As he trudged back, yet again, to the accompaniment of that silence charged with sympathy which goes out from the onlookers on such occasions, his captain, an old Roan not unrenowned for a certain caustic wit, remarked "There's a loaded revolver in the pavilion, Alan."

Happily for the Old Roan Cricket Club and the Old Roan Association, the revolver emulated that similar weapon which failed to discharge in 1744, so saving Robert Clive for the East India Company and British India. Alan Weir had been saved to make more runs for the Cricket Club and to become the Association's President for 1978/79.

Alan has been an active member of the Association since 1946, and his many friends therein have no doubts that he is a most worthy successor to the notable Old Roans who have occupied the Presidential chair.

As well as his long and happy career with the Cricket Club, including a period as the Club Treasurer, he has been involved with the Football Club as a referee, and with the Dramatic Society as a "back stage hand". Always available when there is a job of work to be done, Alan infects all those around him with his bubbling enthusiasm.

A great supporter of the Braithwaite Camp since school-days, he has once again proved his capacity for responsibility by recently accepting the Stewardship of the Hope Memorial Fund from the outgoing Treasurer, Kenneth Binnie.

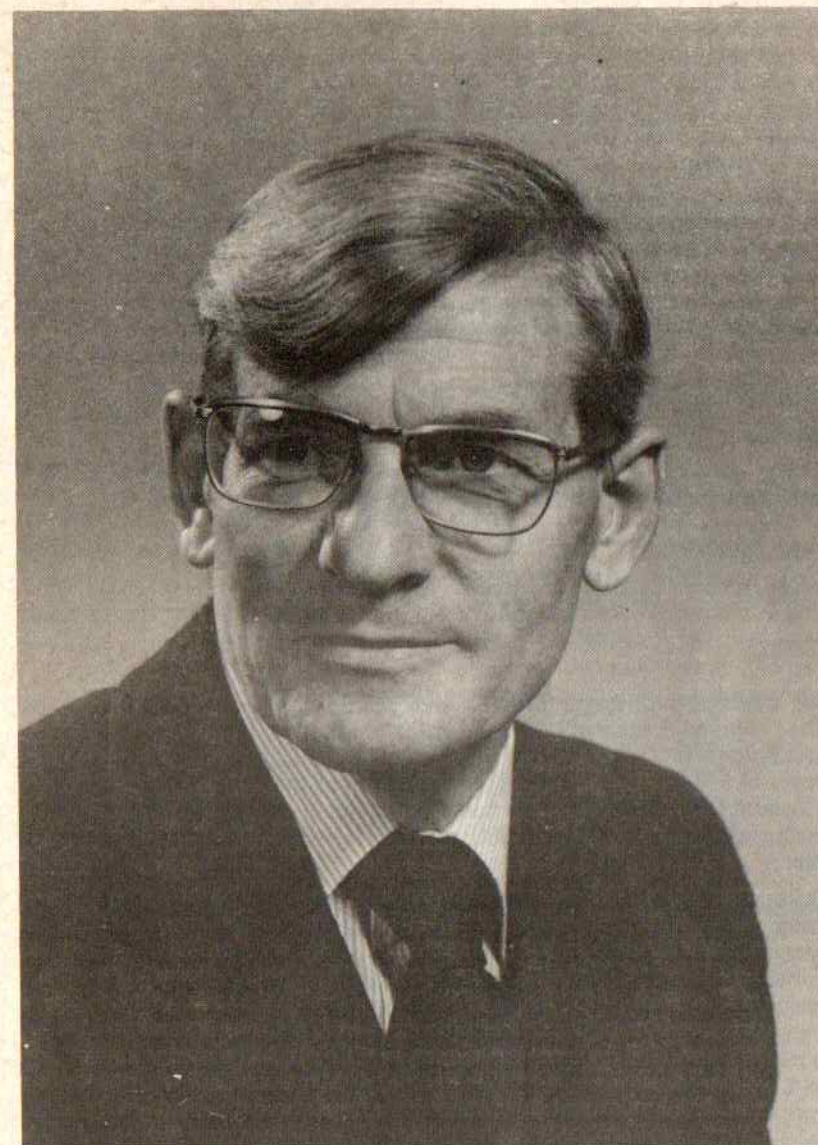
By profession a pedagogue, yet lacking pedagogy; by nature an optimist, as exemplified by the occasions when, with a number of fellow-cricketers, he has stood looking from the pavilion window at the floods of rain teeming down from a leaden sky and cheerfully remarked, "Clearing-up shower; we'll be playing in an hour": he was often right!

The Roan School has not been without a Weir for three generations. Alan's father, the late George Weir, well-known to a number of we more long-toothed, or false-toothed members of the O.R.A., was an Old Boy and an Association stalwart, and his two sons, Andrew and Malcolm have more recently completed their respective stints at Maze Hall.

Alan's attractive and charming wife Jean, can certainly qualify as an honorary member of our Association; she cannot have missed many O.R.A. functions since she and Alan took their marriage vows.

Thus, steeped in Roan and Old Roan tradition, what better man could we have chosen, as the latest in our now long line of Presidents, than Alan Weir.

J.A.L.



ALAN WEIR
President 1978-79

OLD ROAN CRICKET CLUB

The season ended as it began; rain caused the cancellation of the final game, as it had prevented us from getting away to the customary start during the last week-end in April. Indeed, we began to wonder whether we should ever start. The first two week-ends in May were likewise washed away, and the first entry in the score-books bears the date "Saturday 20 May" — a record we don't wish to see broken!

Considering the results of all teams it was an unremarkable season. The 1st and 3rd elevens finished slightly in credit, the 2nd XI with a marginally adverse balance. Individual performances of note were also less numerous and in a lower key than usual: no 1000-run makers, nor 100-wicket takers..... but one hopes that the notes which follow convey the impression that there was some good cricket played and much enjoyment derived by all concerned.

FIRST ELEVEN

Results:—

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost
SAT (Lillywhite-Frowd North Kent League)	12	8	2	2 (3rd place)
ALL SATURDAY	19	8	6	5
SUNDAY	19	8	5	6
TOTAL	38	16	11	11

We achieved our best performance in 6 years of league competition and for 7 days enjoyed dreams of taking the title. Winning our final game against the champions-elect — Belvedere — and doing so handsomely by scoring 222–5 in reply to 221–8 — we leap-frogged to the top of the table with a nine point lead. Our programme complete, we could do no more. Belvedere and Linden Park each had one further match; both won and we had to be satisfied with third place.

In retrospect one can find shortcomings. Needing 134 to win v Catford, and having reached 88–3, we lost by 8 runs! And surely 97 versus 0. Elthamians was an abysmal performance. This was the other defeat — by 6 wickets. Except for these two matches we did usually manage to raise our game in league encounters — in most of the other seven Saturday fixtures we were at best a very ordinary side. At times (on both days) our fielding plumbed hitherto uncharted depths. Of course there were exceptions — Nasir Khan, Roger Dale and Terry Barry, to name three, could seldom be faulted — but eleven-man concentration just did not exist; and it could and should.

There were, notwithstanding, some well-contested games and not a few exciting finishes. In addition to the last-over victory at Belvedere, others were achieved at Worcester Park (also by 5 wickets), and at both Orpington and Bickley where we captured the last wicket in the final over, the margin at Bickley being 6 runs. Less agreeable was a defeat at Norbury, where Nat. West. Bank scored ten to win in the last over; and there were two drawn matches worthy of mention..... in the gathering gloom at Tunbridge Wells our later batsmen played strokes from memory to earn a fifth batting point (180 runs); and an honourable draw v Linden Park..... and at Horsmonden, wanting ten from the last over, we could manage

only eight.

Graham Townsend (109 not out v Warlingham) and Terry Barry (107 v Broomhills) scored centuries and Chris Rodwell and Graham (again) each reached 97. Seven others made fifties and there were in all 24 half-centuries recorded. Terry (85) took more than twice as many wickets as the next most successful bowler.

Statistics, it is frequently said, can be made to prove almost anything. The figures for the season are given below — and you are invited to interpret them as you will..... Here are one or two observations as to how they strike your tame archivist as being unusual:—

No batsman played 30 innings: the leading scorer made fewer than 800 runs; as many as 12 players scored in excess of 200 runs; only one bowler took more than 40 wickets.

As far as I am aware, these facts are all peculiar to 1978; perhaps it was a peculiar summer?

Batting (Qualification: 200 runs)

	Innings	Not out	Highest Score	Runs	Average	Fifties
J. Broadfoot	20	5	70	515	34.3	4
T. Barry	28	7	107	710	33.8	3
G. Townsend	27	3	109*	771	32.1	5
G. Lawrance	20	5	53	397	26.4	2
C. Rodwell	27	1	97	611	23.6	4
P. Ridge	14	2	65	283	23.5	1
N. Khan	17	1	62*	357	22.3	2
D. Calnan	18	4	80*	305	21.7	1
B. Hamer	20	5	47	280	18.6	-
H. Henning	15	2	30	227	17.4	-
R. Dale	14	2	37	206	17.1	-
V. Lawrence	17	2	51	255	17.0	1

Bowling (Qualification: 15 wickets)

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average	5 + wkts in game
C. Wyton	94	26	213	19	11.2	2
T. Barry	466	113	1280	85	15.0	8
C. Rodwell	136	43	336	19	17.6	1
D. Calnan	127	30	228	16	18.0	-
G. Lawrance	200	51	551	28	19.6	-
F. Spink	261	37	932	31	30.0	1
B. Hamer	389	82	1299	40	32.4	-

SECOND ELEVEN

The Saturday 2nd XI played under four different captains during the course of the season and suffered consequently from this lack of consistent leadership.

Due in the main to calls from the Senior XI this situation was reflected in the team performance and we finished in the bottom half of the league.

There were however some notable individual performances. Clive Fuhr was the most successful bowler, with Graham Johnson a close second (times are changing); "Johnno's" 8 for 19 were the best match figures. "Pud" Pendergast dismissed many a batsman in the latter part of the summer with his refreshing leggies, and there was a schoolboy called Squires who plays the organ and the 1st XI would do well to "mark" him. Kevin Cheeseman, too, is an exciting prospect, and reminded one (veteran) performer not a little of Len Groves. When told this, Kevin was puzzled rather than flattered..... which may be put down to the innocence of youth!

Talking of youngsters, Bryan Endersbee has fully established himself in the batting order by scoring runs on nearly every occasion he went to the wicket. Martin Hooker made 99 not out v Poly of the South Bank, Chris Winter 71 against ill-fated Catford and Mike Baxter a remarkable fifty in 23 balls v Addington Village, in a brave but vain effort to win the game; and another colt, trying to make the grade, Geoff Thomas, no less, hit a couple of good half-centuries towards the end of the season.

Next summer we shall be aiming to win the league and beat some of the stronger sides we play, like Blackheath Wanderers 1st XI!

Finally I would like to thank Lauri Mitchell, Mrs Farrer, Mrs Cox, Daryl Hayes and Sheila Conlon for their sterling efforts in providing the teas and suppers.

SUNDAY 2nd XI

The 1978 Season promised so much, but the weather conjured up many dark and wet weekends which undoubtedly affected individual performances.

I think it was remarked in the middle of August, "At last the ball is coming onto the bat". With so many damp and spongy wickets batsman had found it extremely difficult to play their strokes with any authority, consequently, crease occupation rather than run-making became predominant, and it soon became apparent that it would prove hard work for the bowlers to bowl a side out in just over 2 hours. Our bowlers tried tremendously hard, but providence would not produce a match winner. Perhaps the Skipper should have communicated more with his bowlers, and held less consistently to the view that to change bowlers more frequently was a weapon not often deployed in 2nd XI cricket. Unfortunately, this did not prove as successful as I had hoped. Although a new member to the side, Fred Fuhr, gave great support to this theory.

Due to holidays, injuries and other unforeseen events, no fewer than 25 players took part in Sunday 2nd XI cricket this season. I am sure that many of the younger players will make their mark in both 2nd XI and 1st XI cricket. To note just a few: Dave Carter, Andy Bloyce, Paul Ridge, Keith Barron, Mike Baxter, Fred Fuhr and Martin Pendergast. Fred Jacobs' return to cricket was very pleasant to see.

The best performance with the ball was that of Adrian Jackaman. He bowled a good line and length, and even if he lost a little form he had that little luck that still produced wickets. I think, in the time he has been bowling for the Club, luck has not been one of his best allies; it was therefore good to see that the lady was at last looking after him.

I have enjoyed the many years I have skippered various sides and I sincerely thank all those players who have given me their support.

Batting Averages	No. of Games	Runs	Average
V. Lawrence	6	235	39.16
M. Baxter	6	176	29.33
D. Baxter	8	189	23.62
B. Endersbee	13	232	17.84
A. Bloyce	8	134	16.75

Bowling Averages	Wkts	Runs	Average
M. Hooker	3	24	8.00
V. Lawrence	5	44	8.80
D. Carter	15	147	9.8
F. Fuhr	13	161	12.39
A. Bloyce	18	226	12.56
A. Jackaman	34	468	13.76

Other Relevant Details

Total Matches arranged	21
Rained off	5
Played	16
Won	2
Lost	3
Drawn	11

THIRD ELEVEN

After a late start, due to the wet weather, the pattern of the season for the Sunday 3rd XI followed similar lines to that of 1977..... losing the majority of the early games against some of our better opponents, and ending the summer with a run of victories.

Our successes were due in the main to some good bowling performances by Kevin Cheeseman and Dave Ellis. The batting improved as the season progressed with good contributions from Dave Lee, Ian Clatworthy, Mark Squire and Len Sales. Dave Lee, Mark Squire and John Stanford all scored fifties.

ISLE OF WIGHT AND KENT TOURS

The customary invasion of the Isle of Wight was mounted at the end of July, and the inhabitants suitably reminded that yachting is not the only sporting pastime. Graham Townsend scored a hundred at Shanklin and is a mite aggrieved that he has been forbidden to add it to his 1st XI achievements. There is, I would add, no foundation in the rumour that this game was not accorded first class status as a result of the pitch being illegally watered by the opposition visitors.

In Kent, the following month, three games were played — against Broadstairs, Dover and Sibton Park — with not quite total lack of success. We sneaked a draw in the third game, and hope to do better next year..... but Ian Waddell was highly delighted, taking two wickets and his umpire a third in three consecutive balls.

On behalf of the Cricket Club may I express our gratitude to Reg Lentle and to the Headmaster for wickets and facilities provided for our home games.

A tribute to Harry Townsend appears elsewhere in this magazine, but I cannot lay down my pen without trying to convey, wholly inadequately no doubt, the great sadness felt by all Old Roans who had played with him, when we learned of his death. We owe him a great deal, and we shall miss him.

FOOTBALL CLUB

(Secretary: G.J. Sawyer, 18 Beaconsfield Close, Blackheath, London SE37LL)

Before embarking on our hopes for the current season can we cast our minds back to the conclusion of the last one. We managed to lift the London Spartan Benevolent Cup for our show-case at the Club, but only after 'sudden death' penalties! This was a most creditable achievement by a mixture of 1st and 2nd XI players to give us our only trophy. However all six teams played a full and enjoyable season with no fears of relegation for any of them.

On a hot and sunny day in June (probably the only one?) we entered two sides in the Greenwich Festival Six a Side Competition. The "A" team reached the quarter final stage while the "B" Side went one better before losing the semi-final, also on penalties. Well done lads!

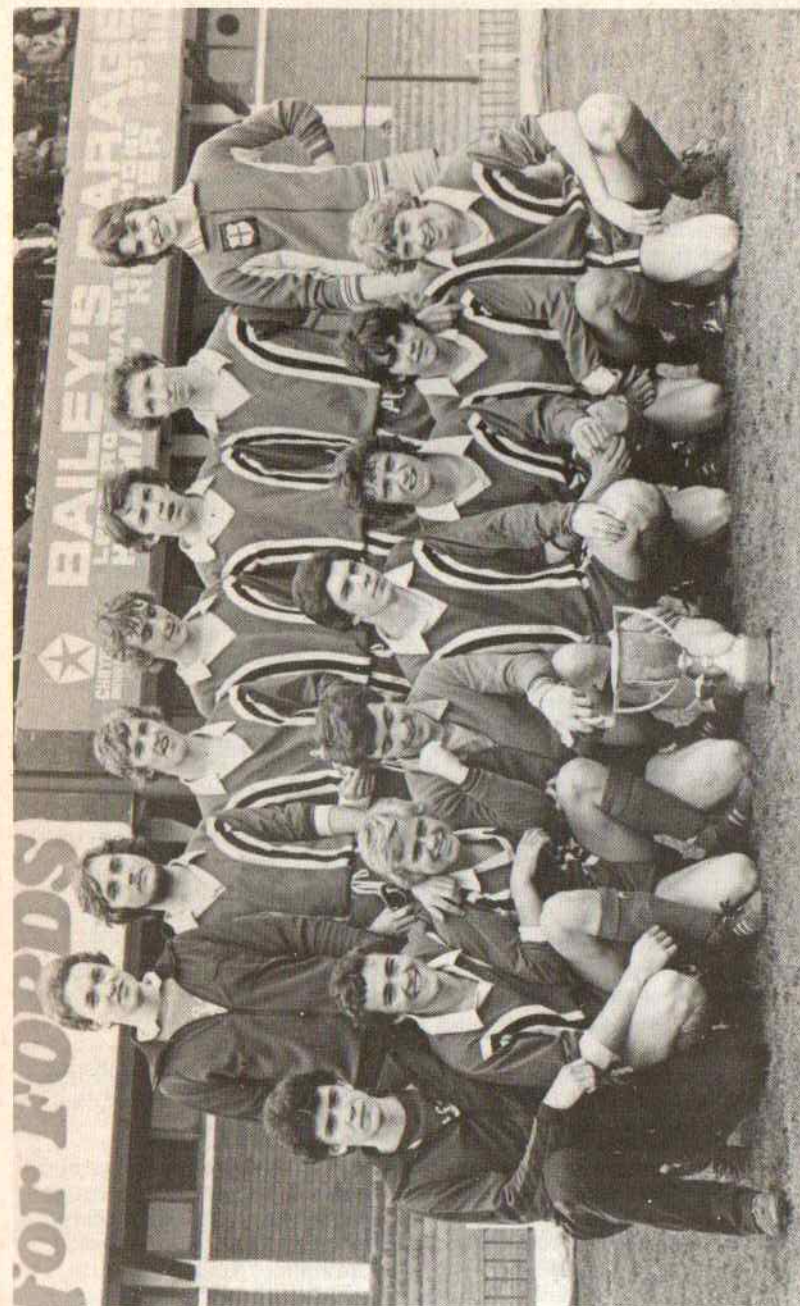
The 1978/79 season is going to prove to be difficult if the opening weeks are anything to go by. The 1st and 2nd XI's having been training since July and starting league games in middle August are going from strength to strength both on and off the field. The 3rd XI have started with some good results which we hope can be maintained, but the problems seem to be looming for the lower three elevens. At the time of compiling these notes it is doubtful that we will be able to field a regular 6th XI due entirely to lack of players who wish to play every week. This is not a reflection on last year's 6th XI members, who are some of the stalwarts of the Club, but more a fact that last season's 4th XI seems to have been decimated by way of promotions, moving away and general wastage. This of course ruins the chances of the last eleven — a great pity! Perhaps the wheel of fortune will turn again — we sincerely hope so.

G.J.S.

OLD ROAN DRAMATIC SOCIETY

(Hon. Sec: Trevor Talbot, 15 Shelley Drive, Welling, Kent, DA16 3NY)

I am confident of speaking for all our members and supporters in announcing the resounding success of the Pantomime we presented in January, "Beauty and the Beast". Our very own writer, Rupert Cake (alias Richard Rickson), must take great credit for having created such an original script, and the songs,



The Champions 1978

P. Ridge P. Cook D. Sears* P. Savage A. Foley M. Smith C. White

D. Morris G. Wilkins S. Dixon P. Pawson N. Campbell** M. McGuinness T. Earnshaw R. Mills

Capt.

* England Under-18 Squad 1978/79

** England Under-18 Cap 1977/78

composed by Alf Knott, complemented it beautifully. Together, these two ingredients presented us with a very strong foundation on which to build. Getting the show "on the road" was very much a combined group-effort, but our Chairman, Martin Rider, should be particularly praised for his sterling efforts as Producer.

As I explained in my last report a Pantomime was a completely new venture for us, and it certainly provided all the problems we had predicted and many others which we hadn't. Holding rehearsals with an adult cast of about twenty plus a further dozen or so children can present certain difficulties, I can assure you! The children particularly put all their hearts and souls into the production, and it was good to see them obviously enjoying themselves so much. The O.R.D.S. clearly has a great future with so much rising talent! As a final note on the Pantomime, I would like to report how pleased we were to have benefitted from the renewed involvement of Beryl and Alf Knott, the invaluable assistance of our musical friends who formed the Pantomime trio, and the hard work (producing fine results) by our choreographer, a newcomer to the Society, Sharon Tidy.

And so to our future plans: it looks as though we have yet another very busy year ahead. Let me first explain, for those who may not already know, that this is a very significant year in the history of the Society — our Golden Jubilee. This year we look back over fifty years of the O.R.D.S.

Earlier this year the Society held a most enjoyable social evening at the Pavilion, where members past and present were reunited to pay tribute to our founder, Lionel Berry, whose entertaining memories of the Society went back, he confessed, far more years than he cared to remember. Practically every stage (!) of the Society's history was represented: by Dorothy Richards (Blackwell), Dorothea Jones (Sitters) and Mary Forgan, all of whom graced pre-war productions; by Norman Spence and Dave Bonner who can also record pre-war as well as post-war triumphs, not to mention Brian Thomas who, he would like to say, just got into that era (as a schoolboy) and later became our second Chairman; by Margery Berry and Ken Wheeler who were in the first post-war production; by George Witten, Eileen Knott, Stan Berry, Alfie and Beryl Knott, and Gina Thomas who appeared in many of our plays in the 'fifties, 'sixties and early 'seventies; by Donald Durban, Martin Rider (our present Chairman and chief organiser of the party), and Frank Barnes who took over as Producer at a critical time and did so much to keep the Society flourishing. Currently active members were there in force — Margaret Rider, Joan Stanbridge, Graham Johnson, Trevor Talbot and Ivor Hughes to mention only a few; their talent and enthusiasm for embarking on new ventures such as pantomimes and play festivals ensures the continuity of the society and its success. All these were or are players and it would be wrong not to mention two of the best Stage Managers its has been the Society's good fortune to number among its members — Colin Walter and Horace Abbott. Altogether it was a very pleasant occasion.

In continuing our tribute to our founder, we are, over our next two productions, presenting our "50th Anniversary Season". In November, we shall be presenting Noel Coward's unlikely farce "Blithe Spirit", which is being produced by Beryl Knott; hopefully we shall have another success to record. This will be followed, early in 1979, by (would you believe?) another Pantomime. Rupert Cake has put pen to paper again to produce "Rumplestiltskin". The Committee has already seen the first draft of the script and it looks like being an ideal follow-up to "Beauty and the Beast". We hope to be able to add to the success we found in

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Once upon a time Piccadilly Circus was the centre of the British Empire and Soho its belly. Sadly for London, things have rather slipped during the past few years, taking Soho somewhere below the navel and leaving St James's to feed the starving masses. Which would account for the success of McDonalds hamburger haven in Haymarket, but not for the failure of Caprice and Prunier in St James's Street. Maybe it needed the Lafayette, to prove the point: geographically and economically sited somewhere between these two extremes, it proves that eating out can still be gracious without bankrupting those who partake of it.

At luncheon, Lafayette is rather busy, especially when auctions are held across the street at Christie's. But in the evening a more leisurely pace prevails, allowing our staff to concentrate on your every whim. Lafayette — as befits the name — specializes in Creole food, which is mainly a mixture of American and French cookery.

our first venture of this kind. Rehearsals will begin almost as soon as "Blithe Spirit" has taken its final curtain.

Look out at the Pavilion and at the Schools for details of our productions, and we hope to see you watching us at our Golden Jubilee presentations.

T.E.T.

OLD ROANS AT BRAITHWAITE

This year the camp was rented for a week in June and a week in September. The June week came about by an unusual gap in the normally fully booked summer period during which the camp is let. Both weeks were well attended with 20 people being there in September. Many fells and pubs were revisited and we were pleased to find that the Coledale Inn now has Younger's bitter on draught which we thought a great deal better than the Mathew Brown keg beer they used to sell.

While we were there Ian Hindmarch, the caretaker of the camp, told us that Jim Batt ('59 - '67) had been seen in Keswick a week or two before. If anyone knows his address could they please pass it on to the Secretary.

Next year's camp will be back to a fortnight in September. The dates are from 8th to 21st September. As usual Tony Slaney, 1 Bushmoor Crescent, London SE18 3EG (phone 01-854 3753) and Alan Palmer, 42 Elliscombe Road, Charlton, SE7 7PY, will be pleased to supply details and receive names of those who wish to join next year's party.

OF JOHN ROAN'S MEN

A frequent remark (I would not go so far as to call it a complaint) in the letters we receive is that there is never any news of "my" contemporaries. The best way of rectifying such omissions is for all members to write in occasionally, for it is mostly letters that we rely on for news. In fact, we do not do so badly, and a recent survey has shown that most years since the late eighteen hundreds have been quoted over the years. L.J. MASON (22-27) suggests we might include a feature entitled "Whatever happened to old so and so"; in a way, "Of John Roan's Men" does this, but if there were a large demand we would seriously consider the idea for future issues. Mason himself, wonders what happened to R.J. ("Squeaker") Green, circa 22-27; can anyone tell us?

As always, our postbag includes letters from all over the world. Doug ARTER (30-35) writes from Raglan, New Zealand, enquiring if we have a chap called Eagle on the membership list: as it happens we have, H.W. Eagle (22-28) living in Ngaruawahia, also in New Zealand; it's a small world. His reason for making the enquiry is that Mrs. Eagle has produced a book that has met with amazing success in that country, about native trees and shrubs.

E.A. WHITAKER (33-40) writing from Tucson, Arizona, also remarks on the absence of news of his contemporaries, so let me say, as Magazine Correspondent, that I for one remember him well; in a very amateur way, as a sailing enthusiast,

I share his interest in heavenly bodies. He remarked also on the absence from the last issue of dates at school of people mentioned in this feature. I am afraid this can be laid at my door and pressure of time to get the Chronicle to the printer; it is realised how important this detail is and every effort will be made to include it in future. Whitaker was involved with the NASA Ranger, Surveyor, Orbiter, and Apollo space programmes, but things are quieter at the moment now that the Lunar programmes have finished, but he is still working on Lunar problems and he has recently supplied a scheme for giving letter designations to the secondary craters on the far side of the Moon which should be accepted internationally. He also says that he has settled a 350-year old argument about when Galileo first looked at the moon with his telescope - perhaps we could hear more about that?

W.P. ANDERSON (21-28) tells us that he retired from the Civil Service in March after 42 years on research and development work with the Ministry of Defence. He is now easing his way into full retirement with some technical writing, part-time.

Our congratulations go to C.K. EVANS (35-40) on becoming a grandparent for the first time. It was good to hear from him after being so long out of touch.

ROGER HEDGES (58-65) left the U.K. at the beginning of June to work in New York for about a year as a computer consultant concerned with a project to connect banks by a computer network. Things are beginning to work too swiftly for the good of overdrafts these days!

PAUL WATTS (57-62) left (again) in May for Spain. His intentions are not yet formed, but it may be remembered that he spent over a year there in 1974 and maintained a successful sign-writing business.

WILL EASTERLING (? - 65) recently spent six months in the Brussels' office of the money brokers, Charles Fulton & Co., leaving CHRIS RODWELL (65-72) and TREVOR DRURY (57-62) in the London Office.

We were delighted to hear from P.D. MANN (12-14) who wrote despite a stroke and partial blindness to give us his news after far too long an interval. He worked in the City for a while after leaving School, then joined the Royal Flying Corps in 1916/17; afterwards he worked in Singapore, other parts of Malaya, Siam, West Africa and Sumatra, finishing up in France for many years, only just getting out in time in 1939 when he joined the R.A.F. His two brothers P.H. and B.C. were also scholars at Eastney Street.

FRANCIS GOLD (24-26) asks if there exists such a thing as a list of all those at the School in the mid-twenties. There used to be a complete set of the annual lists, and enquiries will be made.

TONY BRYER (62-69), now the Reverend Bryer, moved on 1st June to Dagenham where he is Curate to the Parish of St. Mary, Becontree and in charge of the daughter church. We hope his new location will enable him to visit the occasional O.R.A. function.

Any Old Roan visiting the Dartmouth area is invited to get in touch with A.R. WELTON (55-60), who is a Lieutenant Commander in charge of the St. Vincent Division at the Britannia Naval College there. In response to his enquiry let me assure him that the Clubroom and bar at the School field are indeed flourishing and well worth a visit. It is open on Thursday, Friday,

Saturday and Sunday evenings and on Sundays mid-day; business is usually brisk and any time may find a contemporary there.

T.J. LORD (66-70) (see also Marriages) is studying, with another O.R., GEOFF LUNN (66-70) for the final part of the Institute of Bankers examinations; he still plays cricket with DAVID PORTER (66-70) and would be pleased to hear from other Old Roans of the same form who might remember them.

T. RUMBLE (46-54), retired after fifteen years in commerce and now involved with "some 700 children in Ware to educate", remarks how much it makes him appreciate the great care and individual attention given by Mr. Gilbert and his staff. He too misses mentions of his contemporaries who were the last to go into the old Prep. Department under Miss Morton in the first room on the right off the main entrance.

PETER SHEA (66-70) has won a place on a four-month expedition to Central America as a Young Explorer sponsored by Capital Radio; there were 10,000 applications for 3 places. Hopefully we may get a contribution for the Chronicle from him after his return.

JOHN ROAN SCHOOL LODGE No. 5085

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

At this time of year when Summer days give place to the chill of autumnal evenings and trees assume the beautiful tints to brighten the wooded slopes, we assemble on Tuesday evenings to rehearse the ceremonies which will be enacted in the Lodge during the coming months. The first Lodge Meeting was held on Tuesday 26th October when our Worshipful Master Geoffrey Ernest Thomas (1935-40) installed his successor Anthony Cecil Ellis (1938-41) and he in turn appointed his Officers of the Lodge for the coming year.

The School Lodge is very fortunate in that not a year passes without an initiate into Masonry coming forward, though that is not wholly unexpected as all of us are former pupils of the School; we reflect all age groups, and new members invariably meet friends of their younger days. Enquiries from Old Roans who might be interested in the Lodge are always welcome and may be sent to the Secretary as above or to members of the Lodge.

The Lodge of Instruction meets every Tuesday evening at the School Sports Pavilion, Kidbrooke Park Road, S.E.3 until the end of May; it is very well supported and with the knowledgeable guidance of the Preceptors much useful work is accomplished; particulars from the Secretary, W.Bro. V.T.J. Penfold, 11 Studland Road, Hanwell, W.7.

Future meetings of the Lodge, always on a Tuesday and held at Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.2: 28th November next and 27th February and 24th April 1979.

JOHN ROAN SCHOOL CHAPTER No. 5085

In the year ending September 1978 the Principals exalted a new companion in D.A. Baxter, also Bro.D.D. Wellman of the Old Wilsonians Lodge No. 6602. We are fortunate in still having four Founder Members with us in E. Comp. W.J.R. Bullers, E. Comp. W.L. Dodson, E. Comp. G.T. Scudamore and E. Comp. T.D. Wallis. E. Comp. S.R. Nayler of the Old Wilsonians Lodge was installed in the Principal's Chair at the September Convocation. We are looking forward to exalting two new companions in the next year. Companions and Masons interested in joining the Chapter should contact the Secretary, A.J. Jarrett, 90 Chislehurst Road, Orpington, Kent, BR6 0DN; telephone Orpington 26557. The next convocations will be held on May 22nd., June 26th. and 24th. Sept. 1979.

BIRTHS

BOON - to Barbara, wife of Don Boon ('56-'62) on 6th June 1977, a daughter Jennie Louise, a sister for Michelle.

MARDLE - to Kim, wife of Steve Mardle ('68-'72) on 7th January 1978, a son Wesley Mathew.

WATERTON - to Katherine, wife of Keith Waterton ('59-'64) on 30th April 1978, a son Christopher David, a brother for Richard Mark.

THOMAS - to Kathy, wife of Barry Thomas (ex-staff) on 15th July 1978, a daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, a sister for Daniel.

MARRIAGES

BANKS - GAWLEY: on 24th February 1978 at Lewisham Registry Office, Keith Banks ('66-'72) to Jane Gawley.

BARRY - SCHOFIELD: on 9th August 1978 at Lymington Registry Office, Terry Barry ('56-'63) to Tandy Schofield.

DALE - NAGPAL: on 25th February 1978 at St. Andrews, Thornton Heath, Roger Dale ('61-'68) to Pratibha Nagpal.

DAVIS - JAMES: on 18th June 1978 at St. Nicholas Church, Chislehurst, Paul Davis ('57-'62) to Maxine James (an Old Roan Girl).

HAMER - PANNIFER: on 23rd June 1978 at Woolwich Registry Office, Brian Hamer ('58-'65) to Gina Pannifer.

TAIT - STRINGER: on 17th June 1978 at the Church of Edward the Confessor, Mottingham, Gordon Tait ('62-'69) to Patricia Stringer.

TIPLER - HENNION: on 23rd September 1978 at West Wickham Methodist Church, Darryl Tipler ('65-'70) to Susan Hennion.

BURGESS - ELLIS: on 2nd September 1978 at St. Mary's Church, Woolwich, Tony Burgess ('64-'71) to Christine Ellis.

DEATHS

BUNCE T.F. ('16—) in December 1976.
CASTLE F. ('27-'30) on 19th February 1975.
DADE Major H.A., ARCS, FRMS ('07-'14) on 26th July 1978.
ESCOTT P.C. ('16-'22) on 29th December 1977.
GLAISHER W.P. ('00-'09) in December 1977.
KILBY W.E.P. ('17-'22)
McQUARRIE N. (Hon. Member) on 9th May 1977.
PILE A.W. ('22-'28) in February 1978.
TOWNSEND H.J. ('20-'25) on 20th September 1978.

OBITUARIES

Harry Townsend (20—25)

With the passing of Harry Townsend on 20th September 1978 we have lost somebody whose connections with and work for the Association and the sports sections went back to the 1930's.

He acted as Treasurer for many years, he was President during the year 1954/55 and subsequently was elected Vice-President.

In the early days after the War he it was who put to the Governors the suggestion for the building of a social room and bar for the O.R.A. adjoining the school pavilion, and his presentation of the case was such that no objections were raised to the project.

The erection of the original extension was carried out subsequently in 1956 when building licences were no longer necessary and, some years later, a further room was added to give us the very excellent amenities which we enjoy today.

Harry was the obvious choice as the first Chairman of the Old Roan Club which was formed to run the affairs of the new limb to the Association and which, since its inception, has voted considerable funds into the coffers of the parent body; but no doubt to most people, the name of Harry Townsend will be associated only with cricket, particularly the post-war game.

He did play soccer in pre-war days when we were members of the Old Boys' League, but his accomplishments as a cricketer were greater than those in the winter game. He was a more than useful left arm bowler, a good forceful rather than graceful left hand bat, with a slashing cover drive in his younger days that took a very good fielder to stop.

In his latter days as Captain he was known more as a tactician, and had league type cricket with all its mathematical calculations come into being much earlier than it did he would probably have revelled in it.

Cricket claimed his attention in more than one direction, too. For a long period he was Treasurer of the Association of Kent Cricket Clubs and in due course became Chairman; he also served on the Committee of the Kent County Club for several years.

Perhaps the emphasis which has been given to the Association and Club activities would lead one to believe that all else went by the board but he was also a very

successful businessman with a flourishing Chartered Accountants practice.

Regrettably his health was far from good over the last four years or so and it was during that time that his wife Connie, who we all know and for whom we have the highest regard, ensured that he had all the attention that was possible. To those of us who knew him well his name will always be associated with the foresight and subsequent organising of the preparations from which ultimately grew the Old Roan Club and there could be no finer memorial than that.

J.V.L.

Harry Arthur Dade (07—14)

Born at Greenwich in 1895, H.A. Dade was educated at the Roan School and the Royal College of Science, London. Commissioned in the Royal Artillery in both first and second world wars, he served in France, Belgium and Egypt, and was wounded in the battle of the Somme, 1916. On leaving the R.C.S. he entered the Colonial Service as a mycologist, working from 1921—1935 in Ghana (then the "Gold Coast"), doing pioneer research on tropical crop diseases and storage problems of cocoa. His publications on these themes are still consulted. At that early period there were no made roads and many of his long journeys were made on foot with a string of porters carrying head loads. He made many African friends, who continued to write to him up to the time of his death.

In 1935 he transferred to the Imperial (later Commonwealth) Mycological Institute at Kew, shortly afterwards becoming its Assistant Director. He sought no further administrative advancement, preferring purely scientific work. In 1947, he founded the Culture Collection and the industrial aspect of mycology, which soon became a very important department of the Institute's activities.

Dade joined the Quekett Microscopical Club in 1944 and this became his principal pleasure and the source of many good friends. He was particularly interested in the optics of the microscope, in photomicrography and in the techniques of slide preparation. He contributed many papers to its Journal and was its editor from 1958—1961. He was President from 1955 to 1958 and was made an Honorary Member.

Retiring in 1960, he then wrote "The Anatomy and Dissection of the Honey Bee", reflecting one of his interests and his activities on the Council of the Bee Research Association.

In 1962 he emigrated to Victoria, Australia, where his son had preceded him. There he equipped a small laboratory in his home, and for several years studied the coprophilous fungi of the region. His scientific publications numbered over 100.

He is survived by his second wife, his only son and six grandchildren.

It may be of interest to add that Dade was allowed to offer biology as his special subject when he gained the Roan Exhibition in 1913. The important point here was that biology was not at that time on the curriculum at Roan and he studied entirely on his own.

Jack Webber

Jack became a member of the football and cricket sections when activities were resumed after the war, but it is as a cricketer that he is best remembered.

He played for the second and third elevens, and as a batsman took part in many a dour tail-end stand; he is believed to be the only third eleven player to score a century — 109 against the Private Banks.

Jack could not bowl a leg break but, with a heave of his right shoulder, tossed up a prodigious, high-flighted googly with which he captured many wickets. He was the terror of the tail-end batsmen.

In the early 1950's Jack helped to organise the first Isle of Wight cricket tour which is still such a highly successful event in the Club's cricket calendar.

On and off the field Jack was a natural comedian who could turn the most ordinary situation into a "Chaplin - like" episode. He was one of the game's characters who, by his presence, made one's week-end cricket that much more enjoyable.

J.W.B.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Saturday 24th March 1979: The Association's Annual Dinner and Dance, at the Surrey Tavern, Kennington Oval.
- Friday 30th March 1979: The Association's Annual General Meeting at the Pavilion at the School Field at 8 p.m. The formalities will be preceded by the usual Reunion from 7.15 p.m. at which time the bar will be open.

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