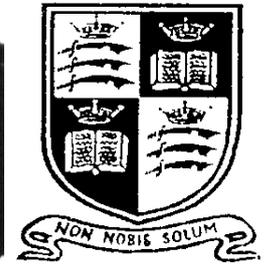


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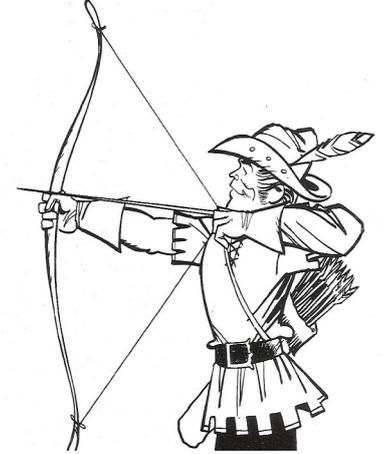
Edmonton County School Old Scholars' Association

Website: www.ecsosa.org.uk

NEWSLETTER June 2015



ROBIN HOOD'S Merry Beanfeast



David Day had negotiated an excellent lunch at the Robin Hood, already known to many as a McMullen Pub, on the Enfield Ridgeway, with a reputation for good food and hospitality. Word must have finally got around right at the last moment because David had to finally shout "time" on acceptance of more bookings ... and over 40 of us were comfortably, if not over-cosily, seated

and we really couldn't have made room for another one. And looking round the table it is likely that the memories of some, like Doreen Bayley, Ted Lawrence and Peter Francis, must have stretched back to school in the late 1930's before World War II. It was also a pleasure to see some distant members who had made the journey from as far afield as the south coast and various points north!

There were no official speeches ... just plenty of repartee, recollections and reports on the life (and death) situation of our ageing membership and absent acquaintances! David had even organised two items of entertainment—the Table Quiz on the subject of Edmonton and its environment was glanced at when conversation eventually flagged ... and out of curiosity! - and the raffle, which must have raised handsome funds for the Association, added to the jollity as the various prizes were allocated (some perhaps to be put aside for the next tombola appeal). Thanks must go to those who kindly donated the wealth of prizes and to the ladies who folded and helped to sell the tickets.



Photos by David Day



Official mention was however made of the approaching Centenary of the School—now only four years off (if we're all still around then). David has scheduled a meeting shortly with the Head, Dr. Tranter, to discuss this, among other agenda matters prepared with Chairman Frank, sadly not with us due to his pending further hospital treatment.

At well after 3 p.m. we realised that our welcome might be wearing thin, and started departing, all thanking David for organising the lunch.

Arthur Spencer (1945-52)

Obituaries

Sadly we have to report the death of another old scholar.

GORDON HARWOOD (1934-39) died some time ago at his home in Frinton-on-Sea. His granddaughter Nicole Stone, living in Enfield, advised us, but unfortunately we have no more information.



MARION LONGWORTH (WEST) (1948-53)

It is with much sadness that I have to report the death of my sister Marion on the 2nd March 2015 after spending some time in a Nursing Home. Marion was married to Alec Longworth, also an Old Scholar (1942-47) who passed away in 2013. They were both active members of the Old Scholars' Association until they move to Bristol with Alec's job and finally settled in the Devon coastal village of Noss Mayo, where they lived for many years and became active members in the village activities.

Marion leaves four children and eight grandchildren and will be much missed by her family and many friends.

Brian West (1947-52)



Bob Goodman (1944-49) writes:

I look forward to each successive instalment of the Newsletter, hoping to read about school friends who have made good, but also to remember those who have passed on. The latest letter, back page, has prompted me to write with regard to the letters from Mick Thompson and Ralph Western.

Although I wasn't playing when Mick sustained his injury, I remember the situation well. Mick was a superb goalkeeper and a great sportsman, and the occasion I remember is an Old Boys' Cup match against Epsom Old Grammarians on the St. George's field round about 1956/57. This was one of my appearances for the first XI. I seemed to shuttle between the first XI and the reserves. We were leading 1-0 when I attempted to clear a corner and sliced the ball past Mick and into our net! Goalkeepers are not keen on this sort of behaviour by defenders, but Mick rushed out in order to console me and to get me to continue to focus. We went on to win the game 2-1. Mick's lovely wife, Frances, was a member of my Social Committee, and after meetings I would walk with her to Trinity Road where she lived, whilst I tackled the trek across Jubilee Park.



Ralph Western is a lifelong friend. We met in Form 1 in 1945 and still keep in touch. Ralph is a bus fan, but has had to dispose of his large collection of bus memorabilia. Going back to the days when every London bus route had their own personal tickets, Ralph and I did our best to collect as many as we could. This involved prospecting in places where litter congregated, much to my mum's disgust at the thought of us scuffing around in gutters and so forth! Ralph's partial recovery from listeria meningitis has been a miracle.



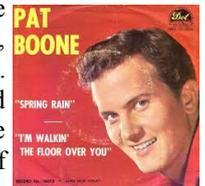
More musings from RON ROULIER (1940-44)

I recall working at the old Wood Green variety theatre after it had been converted into a studio for ATV, not five minutes away from where Pam and I had lived before moving to New Southgate. The stage had been dismantled and the entire studio floor was on one level. They kept the seats though, because at the end of one of the shows the band was told to march out through the audience to a pre-recording that we did earlier of 'When the Saints go marching In'. Since I couldn't carry the piano I just marched on behind. What loused it up was when the recording stopped halfway along, and because the band was only miming to the recording the guys just kept marching and pretending to play to absolutely nothing at that point. There were glitches like that all the time in the early days of TV, and of course all before tape or digital recording.

Here is an account of the shows we did, starting **1957**:

On January 1st, we did a TV show "Startime" on ATV.

Commercial television had started to become reality in England, and Jack Parnell's band was involved, at first in a tentative way, like in any new enterprise, although the opportunities it presented were obvious to anybody. This show featured an American singer we'd never heard of named Pat Boone, and of course everything was tailored around him. After 2-3 days of rehearsal we did the one hour TV show, live of course, and then went off on a tour of one-nighters. Just like any regular concert, the band played the first half, and then we accompanied Pat Boone to the howls of hundreds of screaming teenage girls.



At the rehearsal for the concert tour most of Pat Boone's act went by without much comment or incident, the arrangements being straightforward and easily playable. When we got to one of his big hits though, "Singing the Blues" all went fine until the end of the middle-eight, where the last bar was in two-four instead of the usual four-four. The whole band erupted in a spontaneous peal of laughter, and halted the rehearsal dead in its tracks for a minute or so. To us it just sounded so outrageously unmusical and amateurish, but then what did we know, we were only the musicians in the band, and didn't even see the teenage revolution that was coming. However the Pat Boone fans knew a lot more about him than we in Jack Parnell's band, and we played double concerts to packed houses everywhere. It was next to impossible to get in and out of the stage door between concerts because of all the screaming teenagers.

Boone's conductor, Mort Lindsey was very capable, and a friendly guy, especially to me, since his instrument was also the piano. We chatted about the differences between America and England from the perspective of a working musician, and of course it all sounded very far away, with a certain element of fantasy and an air of unreality to boot.



In February we worked with Guy Mitchell, singing his string of hits, and following the same routine: A TV show on the new commercial channel and then a concert tour. Mitchell too was friendly and very open with us, and surprisingly accessible for someone who, at that time, held the house record for attendance at the London Palladium, but he had none of the airs and graces of a big star about him.



FLOATING BODIES



By John Norrington-Davies

In the Physics Laboratory Solly Galin's method of teaching firstly introduced a topic then outlined the experimental methodology we were to employ. He then showed us the calculation to be made on the data collected.. Our answer would be either correct or incorrect, and this was clearly indicated in our exercise books using a blue chinagraph pencil. Comments were brief and to the point, "Too high" or "Too low". When it was suggested in an experiment that an object appeared to lose weight when "Emerg-ed" in water, the chinagraph wrote that "Immersed" would do nicely next time.



When it came to the measurement of specific gravity, or relative density, as it is called these days, a spring balance was brought into play. We learned that specific gravity was the ratio of the density of a subject to the density of water. It was comforting to learn that gold had a specific gravity 19.3 times that of an equal volume of water.

Physics was not only an interesting subject to study but popped up in life in all sorts of ways.

So it was that at Barrowell Green Baths, just off the Green Lanes in Southgate, another topic dealt with in physics could stimulate the mind, 'Floating Bodies'. When the weather showed signs of promise, and the few pence needed to gain entry were available, friends, acquaintances and strangers met there. Students put their towels down on the paved area or grassy slopes towards the East. More mature visitors occupied the West side.

When Dr. and Mrs. Galin took to the water it was an event that held much interest. Their approach to the steps at the shallow end was measured, there was a pause for reflection and an exchange of views before each, in turn, descended slowly into the water. Anyone who has tried this will know that the pool water is heated to a much lower temperature than that of the body, and the best way of dealing with the sensory shock is to dive in and get it over with. The Galins, indifferent to the vicissitudes of pleasure and pain, would stand up to their thighs, and with slow movements, deliver by way of cupped hands, chlorinated water about their person. Eventually casting off they would swim in line ahead, she with breast stroke, he the trudgen, an ungainly affair combining a scissors kick with the legs, an over arm action of the right arm and, in Solly's case, a tentative probing with the left. En route to their anchorage mid-stream, an occasional period of rest. No wake was left in their train at journey's end, they came alongside one another and rolled over onto their backs. Like two tugs waiting to give assistance to a berthing of an ocean liner they hovered. Such was their buoyancy that with their bellies breaking the surface like islands on a distant horizon, they maintained station with languid movements of the hand.

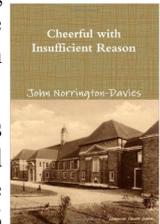
Would it be feasible to calculate Solly's specific gravity one wondered? After all we had been taught how to gain a mechanical advantage using pulleys. It would not be difficult for a three pulley system, with spring balance attached, to be suspended over one corner of the baths at the deep end. With Solly suspended by his ankles and attached to a spring

balance his weight in the air could be established, then with a bulldog clip pinching his nostrils together he could be dunked in the water and re-weighed. The calculation of specific gravity thereafter would be child's play. Like so many good ideas it had to be abandoned. Such enterprises depend, as does the housing market, upon a willing seller and a willing buyer, and Solly would not have been interested under any circumstances in buying that one!

Daydreaming over, it was time for a dip; not that much swimming was done. It was far easier to find a small space in the water to 'dive bomb', or enter by a conventional racing dive, so called, than swim. Standing in one such gap one day, I invited one of the girls to join me, the invitation couched perhaps in that endearing cliché, "Come on in, the water is lovely". In response she took two to three steps to accelerate before taking off, her comely form describing an arc before she straightened her legs for touchdown, the calcaneus of her right leg, the heel, re-arranged the mid section of my nasal septum. An acute pain accompanied my descent to the tiled surface below. This would have prevented anyone from seeing the tears coursing down my cheeks. She was nowhere to be seen when, seal-like, the head broke back through the water-line seeking consolation, indifference to my plight led on the instant to the departure of any feeling on empathy towards her.

At a time co-incident with the need for councils to cut costs the baths were found to be in need of costly renovation, and the decision was made to close them at the end of the 1979 season, 66 years after their opening. A similar fate befell the pools of Broomfield Park, Palmers Green and the Houndsfield Road Lido.

Excerpt extracted with permission from Dr. Norrington Davies's book 'Cheerful for Insufficient Reason' available from Lulu.com, amazon.co.uk or donnorri@btinternet.com



Teacher GEOFF LAWRENCE emails

Reading from your website I am reminded that during the 1960's we had Sunand Prasad as a pupil. Sunand was a really nice chap and I am pleased to note that he went on to get his PhD and become a past president of the Royal Institute of British Architects as well as running his own company. I understand he has done much work as an advisor with the Government. His father was also connected with the great Indian patriot and reformer Gandhi.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed. 1st July	12.00 Noon	Lunch at the Plough
	7.00 p.m.	Committee Meeting
Wed. 7th Oct.	12.00 Noon	Lunch at the Plough
	7.00 p.m.	A.G.M. followed by Committee Meeting.

A STATEMENT FROM THE HON. SECRETARY

The next Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 7th October 2015 at the Cambridge Campus. Start time 6.45 p.m. for 7.00 p.m.

Extract from the Rules of the Association

6) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- a) *Motions for consideration at the Annual General Meeting may be proposed by any member with the backing of five other members giving notice to the committee at least three months before the A.G.M.
At least four months notice of the date and venue of the Annual General Meeting shall be given by the committee to the membership.*

7) CONSTITUTION AND RULES

- b) *Amendments to Rules may be made by a simple majority of all members registered to vote at a General Meeting, provided that such amendments do not conflict with the constitution.*

ECSOSA A.G.M. 7th October 2015 Motions for consideration

MOTION 1

A motion is put forward for consideration at the Annual General meeting to be held on Wednesday 7th October 2015 at the Cambridge Campus "to cease the collection of the Annual Subscription and make the 5 year subscription the minimum joining or renewal fee". The reason is that subscriptions have not risen for many years, despite inflation, and we have very few members who pay annually, and the cost of collecting the Annual Subscription outweighs the benefit to the Association. The proposer and the necessary 5 or more other members have proposed this alteration as required by the Rules, Section 6(a).

MOTION 2

A motion is put forward for consideration at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday 7th October 2015 at the Cambridge Campus "to propose that Committee Members should be appointed as Honorary Life Members of the Association". The proposer and necessary 5 or more other members have proposed this alteration as required by the Rules Section 6(a)

Should any members wish to make any further suggestions please contact Dave Day before the end of June

PROXY VOTING

Applications for a proxy vote at the A.G.M. should be made to the Secretary at least 3 months prior to the AG.M. Please write to, or email, Dave Day for a proxy form.

Dave Day, 11 Coniston Green, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 2AJ. Tel: 01296 484382, Mobile 07743 479752. Email diddy11cg@talktalk.net



2019 and all that By David Day

Recently I had a very pleasant meeting with Dr. Tranter, the current Head, about the centenary of the School. Herewith the results:

Dr. Tranter agrees that the school is interested in making a big thing of the celebration, but there are no plans at present. The Governors are aware and keen for some sort of activity to take place.

It is to be hoped that the pupils will be interested and they have already been made aware of the history and appreciate the meaning of the school motto "Non Nobis Solum", and the Head of History has introduced pupils to some of the history of the school. The current building was not opened until September 1931. The actual date of the founding in 1919 would be of interest. (It was actually 6th January, with 81 boys at Croyland Road and 80 girls at Brettenham Road).

Beryl Cushion's galley of the Potted History up to 1995 was passed to Dr. Tranter. She was very pleased with it and agreed that it was possible that the school printers could produce this, and hoped that the missing years from 1995 to date could be researched and incorporated with help from the school. She was also interested to see that the original words by Gus Locke to the School song were reproduced. I pointed out that the newer version was also published on the ECSOSA website.



To help fund any Centenary Celebration I suggested that, as with the last Reunion, we charge £5 a head. School funds might be available for souvenirs, which could be charged for to help towards costs. Sadly Enfield Council are unlikely to contribute. Dr. Tranter suggested that the School's printers might sponsor the printing of the Potted History.

Published by the Edmonton County School Old Scholars' Association.

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