



AD - VISOR



The Newsletter of Birkenhead Institute Old Boys

Issue 7
Autumn 2002

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OBITUARY HAROLD BECKETT

It is with very deep regret that I have to announce the sudden death of Harold Beckett. Harold died, as he would have wished, attending a Rugby Union club dinner. This was at the Old Parkonians' club where he was one of their guest speakers. He had, from all reports, been in sparkling form and gave a very witty speech.

Harold restarted the Old Boys' Association and by his singular efforts had managed to get the numbers up to in excess of 500. I will add, for those of you who do not know, that Harold was keen on writing to local newspapers. He wrote several articles to the Wirral Champion, the best of the local free sheets. In one of these articles he mentioned the demise of the Old Boys and asked if anyone was interested in restarting the Association. The rest is history. I feel that the Association owes a lot to the Editor of the Champion for his tolerance and help with publishing several good items about our progress and I feel we should acknowledge this fact. Harold played cricket and rugby and was Captain of School and Old Boys' teams. It was after his playing days that he qualified as a referee with the Liverpool and District Referees' Society and in later years was Chairman of the Referees' Assessment Committee. Harold was commissioned in the Royal Navy during the last war and served in the Algerine class of minesweepers. He was involved in the clearing of the minefields around the Coast of County Cork and was an active member of the Algerine Society in Liverpool.

COMMENT

I reluctantly picked up the mantle that Harold left behind and I hope you will all bear with me as I try to continue my friend's good work. You will notice a dearth of the articles he produced with such regularity. The truth behind this is that I have no items to publish. I am aware that you will all be rushing to put pen to paper and be sending me all sorts of snippets, tales of past glories, stories true or at least reasonably true, or any item that you think would be of interest to Old Boys. Please don't be shy, put your thinking caps on, let me have your stories. I promise that I will publish as many as I can find space for in future issues. I would like to stress that if anyone has submitted "decent" copy that has not been published then I do apologise. Harold did keep everything close to his chest and I have tried to collate the various items but with limited success. I would ask that if anyone has submitted copy to be published please send a duplicate to me. Harold once told me that he had difficulty delegating his

responsibilities. I was agreeing with him until I realised he had just given me three terrible jobs to do. I pointed this out to him and he looked at me with that peculiar grin of his; then he said, "It's a gift, isn't it?"

FINANCE

Our finances are still in good order under the stewardship of Eric Jackson (1939-44). We do not have a subscription but rely on donations. These should be made out to B.I.O.B. We do appreciate the generosity of Old Boys and will continue to make the best use we can of our funds.

AD-VISOR THE TEAM

I would like to pay my tribute to the original members of the team set up by Harold. Vic Swift (1956-61) continues to give sterling service and always responds instantly to my plaintive wails when my computer 'falls over'. Thanks Vic! Jack Bassett (1940-45), Bert Bushell (1939-44), Mike Pollard (1939-45) are always ready with help and advice. There are lots of other people who have helped in the

past and I offer my thanks and if I haven't mentioned someone by name please do not think that your efforts are unappreciated. Len Malcolm (1934 - 43 and 1945-82) continues to give advice, guidance and help with the quality control of the newsletter in his own inimitable way. At the last dinner Don Mathieson (1947-55) volunteered his services, thanks Don. My thanks to everyone who has made the transition so smooth, and to Harold Beckett who set everything in place so that my position was made so much easier.

MEMORIAL GATES INGLEBOROUGH ROAD.

After the note in issue 5 regarding the above, R.E.P. Wright O.B.E. made some enquiries and received a letter from Lorraine Rogers, Chairman of Tranmere Rovers F.C. The following is an extract from that letter. "The club has no desire to upset or hurt any of our war heroes but the archway was disintegrating and as Ingleborough is used by the children in all our youth teams, we were very concerned

to get hurt because large pieces of metal were flaking and falling off. It was not so much a case of the club taking the archway down but more a case of the archway slowly falling into pieces and being beyond repair. This is the way we inherited the archway and was due, no doubt, to normal wear and tear over the years. It reached the point that when a child was hurt on the pitch and an ambulance came we were given a warning about it. I am sure you would agree that the well-being of local children must be of paramount importance to a football club.

There is a memorial stone on the building itself and this is in better condition.

Kind Regards

Lorraine Rogers".

As Peter Wright states "Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 I believe that Tranmere Rovers acted correctly". I think this brings the matter to a successful conclusion.

4th ANNUAL DINNER 2001

Harold died just days before the last dinner but the team rallied around and the dinner was a reasonable success; lessons were learned and mistakes will be put right in the future. 100 Old Boys attended at Prenton Golf Club and a very good speech was given by Walter (Wally) Girven (1950-55), a former Chief Constable of Wiltshire. Please note if any Old Boy could give a quarter of an hour or so of talk, on any subject within reason and decency, I would like to hear from him.

OLD INSTONIANS' GOLF SOCIETY

Another successful meeting was held at Prenton Golf Club this May. Once again the weather was very kind. The winner of the Pyke Cup was Mike Hayman and the runner-up was Paul Andrews who received the "Len Malcolm" Tankard. Bill Rixon was third. Next year's meeting will take place at Prenton Golf Club on

interested golfers should contact Derek Turner on 0151-608-5785. Derek is hoping that the price will remain the same as this year viz. Golf and meal £32. Meal only £12. Golfers who think they would like to participate should contact Derek now. This will allow him to write to you in good time for next year's competition.

5TH ANNUAL DINNER 11TH OCTOBER 2002

This dinner is to be held on Friday October 11th 2002 at Prenton Golf Club. We ask for your usual support and generosity for the draw. Bottles etc. will be most welcome as are cash donations. Thank you in anticipation. There is an application form at the end of this newsletter. I ask for your assistance by returning the form as soon as possible. Thank you.

OBITUARIES

Tommy Ellis-Jones (1949/56)

Frank Sheridan (1941/49)

**W.L. Edgar (Former member of
staff)**

J.G. Allan (Former member of staff)

**GONE,
BUT NOT FORGOTTEN**

cut here

**5th RENAISSANCE DINNER FRIDAY 11th OCTOBER 2002
AT PRENTON GOLF CLUB.**

I wish to attend the dinner and enclose A cheque for £20 (this covers the cost of the Dinner plus wine on the table, free entry into the Charity Draw and gratuities to catering and bar staff)

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE NUMBER

DATE OF BIRTH (For seating arrangements)

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

DRESS Lounge Suit/Blazer

6-0p.m. for 7-0p.m.

Please help by using the application form and replying as soon as possible. Return to
Harry Burkett, 13 Prenton Farm Road, Prenton, Birkenhead, Wirral CH43 3BN