



AD - VISOR



THE NEWSLETTER OF BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE OLD BOYS

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COMMENT

Some of us attended (or taught at) B.I. when it was called a Secondary School, some when it was called a Grammar School and some when it was a Comprehensive School. Some of us were housed at Whetstone Lane and some of us at Tollemache Road. However, all of us have two things in common. We all went to Birkenhead Institute and we are proud of it. In this age of materialism, when it would appear that money is "God", it is most interesting that nearly 500 B.I.O.Bs. wish to be on the register knowing there is nothing in it for them and there will be no monetary or material gain. In fact, it costs money and/or time

and/or effort. To me this has been most uplifting.

MILLENNIUM DINNER

This was held at Caldy Golf Club on 13th October 2000. Judging by the emails, snail mails and 'phone calls it was a great success. 100 B.I.O.Bs. attended and were entertained to a very fine speech by Tony Hudson C.B.E. (1942-50). Harry Burkett (1942-8) ran a very successful draw/auction, which produced £300 for charity. There were two in wheel chairs, five "expats." and an octogenarian's table of nine B.I.O.Bs.

FINANCE

Boring, boring, boring. For the sake of new

names on the register, there is no subscription. We depend solely on donations to finance administrative costs. These include phone, postage (500 newsletters. U.K. and overseas), printing costs etc. If you wish to make a donation, cheques please payable to B.I.O.B.

TIES

There are still a few B.I.O.B. 110th Anniversary Ties available. Cost is £11 (inc. p.+ p.) £12 overseas. Should you wish to order, please send remittance to Greg Pandit, 107B, Banks Road, West Kirby. CH48 0AB (0151-625-6601)

REUNION DINNER 2001

This has been fixed for Friday 12th October, 2001 at Prenton Golf Club. If you wish to attend we suggest you put this date in your diary to avoid a clash of interests (e.g. holidays)

MEMORIAL GATES INGLEBOROUGH ROAD

It has been noted that in the last 6 months these gates have been removed from the playing fields (now owned by Tranmere Rovers). Has anybody any knowledge of their whereabouts? These (together with the pavilion) were bought by subscription to commemorate the memory of those B.I.O.Bs. who lost their lives in service to their country in the 1914-18 war.

TEA TOWELS

D.S.W. (Dave) Jones (1940-46) has designed a very fine tea towel depicting eight scenes of B.I. These are available at a cost of £3-50p. (including p.&p.) U.K. or £4 overseas. Apply to Harold Beckett. Cheques payable to B.I.O.B. £1-50p. from each towel sold goes to charity.

CHARITIES

Through draws and auctions over the past 3 years we have raised £1067. This has been distributed as follows:- Age Concern £367 Alzheimer's Society £550. Arthritic Research £150. Thank you for your generosity and very many thank to Dave (D.S.W.) Jones (1940-46) for his magnificent prints and artwork on the tea towels.

LADIES EVENING

After much thought it has been decided to give this a miss this year. The reason is that it is the one event that has not been fully successful. Those who attended in 1999 and 2000 appeared to enjoy it immensely. However, only approximately 60 attended in 2000 which means only 30 B.I.O.Bs. were interested. To make it viable we need an attendance of 100. I am interested to know your views by 'phone, letter or email. I need to know if you would support a Ladies' Night. If so would you like it in the form of a Buffet, a Dinner, a Buffet Dance or a Dinner Dance? If I receive sufficient support we will have a Ladies Evening in 2002. If not, I will forget the idea.

OLD INSTONIANS' GOLF SOCIETY

The annual meeting will be held at Prenton Golf Club on Friday 4th May, 2001. Those interested should contact Derek (Mick) Turner (1946-50) 46 Cornwall Drive, Prenton. 0151-608-5785. The golf is followed by a dinner which is open to all B.I.O.Bs., day/evening.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you change your address of 'phone number please advise me by mail (not telephone). It is important you do this if you wish to receive the "AD-VISOR".

NEWS, VIEWS, STORIES

Please let me have your news. Are you famous (e.g. have you run the New York Marathon, have you been to the North Pole, have you become a Knight?) – don't be too modest! Have you an interesting story for an article? What do you think of the AD-VISOR?, the Reunion Dinner?, the Old Instonians' Golf Tournament? What could we do better? I want to know.

LETTERS

JOHN WILLIAMS

1943-48

In the Summer 2000 issue of Ad-Visor you printed a list of Victores Ludorum from 1922 to 1958. My father like myself, was a pupil at Birkenhead Institute and was a keen sportsman who won this medal in 1920. I do not know the exact years he was at the school but assume it must have been between 1913 and 1920 and his name was John Trevor Williams. For your interest, I have attached two photocopies of the medal. The front face shows his initials, J.T.W., inscribed on a gold centre surrounded by silver decoration and the back of the medal is printed with the following inscription: "Birkenhead Institute Championship 1920". Although of poor quality, I have also attached some photocopies of pictures showing him participating in various school activities. I am afraid that this letter does not fall into your "under sixties" category but I hope it might be of some interest.

LEIGHTON HILL

1931-38

It was pleasant to have a conversation with you and many thanks for issue 3. I was at the Institute in the 30's, at the time the school changed from soccer to rugby. For a time I played both games, even getting a

game with the second XI. As a third former I can recall watching with great admiration those who played for the first XI. A name I remember was Milligan - played in goal I think. Another name was Willie Clare I thought he was a stupendous swimmer and gazed in awe at his tremendous splashing racing dives. I recall with affection some of the names of masters of that time - A.O. Jones ("Bummy") taught chemistry and with whom later in life I had many happy games of golf at Prenton. Charlie Moat - French, who caused me to join the chess club in order to stay in his good books. "Biddy" Harris - History, who would always talk about his days in Palestine, Tiger Lewis who had a reputation in Welsh rugby and so on. Among those I grew up with through my school years were Paul Simpson, a brilliant scholar but alas now dead, Ron Ceha no longer with us, Ken Carr of rugby fame, Bob Lowson, one of the best centres I've met, Frankau - a Latvian - wonder what happened to him? Ray King - a good cricketer, (later played for Tranmere Rovers), A.C. (Ace) Williams - a good wicket keeper but a war casualty. Then there were Arthur Taylor who relished cross-country running; Alec Blackburn who became a very important decorated person at Cammel Laird. I could go on, but mustn't write too much. I played rugby for

the school; we were a pretty successful team. I recall playing against the O.Bs and being picked up and dropped on my head - one of my grandsons, a stalwart of Derby mini-rugger, says I have never recovered. I played school and O.B. rugby. Ken Paige used to pick me up in his Ford Popular and I entered a new world of rugby. The Wilson Brothers were captain and secretary and changing conditions were rudimentary. I remember one of the brothers being sent off for stamping! I enclose a copy of a photo of that team - all their names I can't remember, but Gordon Hosker had taken over as captain at this time. The war arrived and with it many good things - tennis club dances and golf matches, rugby and many good team-mates and opponents went forever.

GRAHAM EDWARDS

1947-51

My memories of B.I. not only recall the fabulous Nancy Price but also that confusion which began after breakfast and the hope that, on the 'bus ride to school, the stunning "Val" (from the unglamorous brown - uniformed Holt Hill Convent), would manage to be close enough for discomfort!

But my detentions were many and various, despite liking Dickie Richards, Thynne, WEW, Johnny Paris and Dickie Harris plus Monsieur Joubert and Mr. Bailey, who played the Sabre Dance so well. I was later to learn properly from Jewish friends, why Herman Turner (and brother) of Victor Ludorum fame was able to miss prayers every day as all my chums realised how privileged he was. A sort of anti-Semitism in reverse! But, when writing that "a wise man has riches within himself", I wrote an explanation which indicated that passing exams meant more wages (a fact I truly believed). I later realised how appropriate that has become.

E. Wynne Hughes regularly told us that "Manners Makyth Man" but he brought the school from soccer to rugger and had the audacity to rub the soccer-boys' noses in it, by retaining one set of goal posts on the ground at Ingleborough Road. There is no doubt that Rugby was introduced because it was supposed to be a game for the higher class of the so-called educated boys at B.I. I was appalled then as I am today, for being a well educated person surely means to be able to behave properly on and off the sports field and not fit into the pattern dictated by our "class-ridden country". I

have always thought that much of the covert behaviour in the scrum was more reprehensible than the antics of some footballers but players like Ron Yeats, Alec Young, and John White, who became professional footballing colleagues and friends (when I was privileged to serve as a national service subaltern and play alongside in various Army and Combined Services XI's), were every bit as sporting as any rugby or cricket players. B.I. old boys had a long history of soccer playing which I suppose is partly because the school was situated in an area of Birkenhead much more likely to have a soccer playing culture. Did the old boys have no influence?

I suppose we should look back and ask what it was that caused the school to cease to exist - and I think that perhaps some of us should be ashamed, for had we been Harvard, Birkenhead School, Manchester University and others, the governors, the old boys and the teachers, would surely never have allowed complete extinction! Many will recall the elation of passing the 11 plus and gaining their first choice at BI, so how was it that the school never quite had the strength to stay in being? In closing what a pleasure to hear about Miss Cojeen's 90th birthday. She was always diplomatic,

helpful and calm when we had personal difficulties, as well as being someone pleasant to talk to whilst awaiting the cane from the man who probably was, as Graham Vahey reported in the last issue, a poor role model and a frightful snob!

Graham graduated from and taught at UMIST, was a professor of manufacturing at INSEAD, and is now Chairman of TRANTOR Vehicles.

RON WHITMORE 1936-40

Idly wandering around the web, when I wondered if Old Instonians featured and lo & behold we did! I am an Old Instonian of 1936 to 1940 vintage. I now live in Australia and had a schooling in which I performed with a signal lack of academic distinction, although I did manage to pass the Royal Navy entrance exam in 1940 at 15 and went to help Churchill defeat Hitler and later Hirohito. Served at sea in the North Atlantic, Indian Ocean and at Okinawa from 1943 until the end of WW2 as an Air Ordnance Engineer in the Fleet Air Arm. In 1948 started flying training, but half way

through decided I did not want to spend the rest of my life as a latter day Biggles and became a General Service Seaman Officer. Having married an Australian woman in 1947, in 1950 I transferred to the Royal Australian Navy and in 1953, specialised in Hydrography and had the pleasure of serving in the RAN Hydrographic Service from junior surveyor to the top job of The Hydrographer RAN. Retired from the navy in 1975 as a Commander. Consultancy, Private practice and a 17 year lectureship in Hydrography and Law of the Sea at the University of New South Wales followed, until 1992 when I retired from all forms of income earning

labour. In 1993 the RAN Hydrographic Service asked me to join a research team which I did, working full time until 1995, since when I have worked at home for them. I come to UK and coastal Europe twice a year as I am on the Council of the Hydrographic Society, an international body, on which I represent Australasia & Oceania. I do have an Old Boy's tie, but I fear it may be out of date in design as I bought it at either Robbs or Alansons in Grange Road in 1957 - it is still wearable !!! I have been through the register keeping in mind the relevant dates and the only person I can guarantee I remember is Stuart Huntriss: we both lived in Pensby. I used to open the batting for the 2nd

XI with a chap called Vick, but whether it is the Mick Vick in the register is another matter, as he has no dates against his name. I look forward to hearing from you and perhaps meeting up with you some day, as in my annual Apr/May visit to UK I always stay in my old home area Nannerch, Flint. The other visit is usually Sep/Oct, but then I normally go to mainland Europe for relaxation after my Council meetings.
Memory Lane. Ron – do you recall a brush with Tiger Lewis in the Memorial Hall in Oswestry in the winter of 1939/40)

WHERE ARE THEY NOW ?

Ted Wood	71	Stu Lichfield	78	Bert Thomas	72
G.A. (Gas) Smith	72	Dave Docherty	56	Bill Keating	60
Norman Boyd	73	Tony Doveston	65	Alan Bramwall	65
Graham Baxter	76	Alan Parkinson	64	Barry Doveston	59
Peter Probert	77	Bob Bladon	70	Gary Silk	43
Paul Shakespeare	43	Neil Foster	43	Steve Taylor	43
Paul Waters	43	Trevor Bowen	43	Steve Evans	43
Roger Fairclough	43	Paul Grannon	43	Gary Wigfield	43
Neil Gardner	63	Keith Hitchell	43	Brigadier Harold Higgins	65
Tom Gill	67	Colin Roderick	63	Colin Rankin (Police Insp.)	65
Stan Davies A keen scouter	80	John Kitching	70		

If you have any news (address/phone number or you know they are deceased) please let Harold Beckett know.)

B.I. HEAD PREFECTS

1935	C.A. Alldis	1953	M. Marston
1936	I.S. Melville	1954	A.S. Hodgson
1937	G.R. Edwards	1955	K.W. Jones
1938	I. Roberts	1956	T.J. Walsh
1939	I. Roberts	1957	R.F. Salmon
1940	K.I.C. Vincent	1958	T.H. Harris
1941	G.E. Foxcroft	1959	A.G. Harding
1942	L.T. Malcolm	1960	R. Peters
1943	B.E. Ware	1961	K.C. Harding
1944	P.J. Harris	1962	A.K. Jones
1945	D.N.A. Osborne	1963	L.K. Smith
1946	J.E. Morris	1964	E.L. Pye
1947	R.E.P. Wright	1965	P. Parry
1948	K.O. Gore	1966	J.B. Gunson
1949	A.A. Smith	1967	P. Whitehead
1950	J.R. Morris	1968	P.M. O'Hare
1951	J.R. Morris	1969	P.M. De Santos
1952	T.S. Hodgson	1970	J.R. Jones

OBITUARIES

Ian MacDonald (1941-48)

Prenton

Died September 2000

Tony Eccles (1939-44)

Prenton

Died January 2001

Basil Cliff Jones (1938-44)

New Zealand

Died September 2000

**GONE,
BUT NOT FORGOTTEN**

OLD INSTONIANS' R.U.F.C. 1957-8

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[Details supplied by Bob. Howard (1942-49)]

STOP PRESS

Register of B.I.O.Bs.

We now have 488 on the register, which is within a very small stone's throw of our target of 500. Hopefully, in issue 6 we will be able to report we have reached our target.

Will the 500th B.I.O.B. be aged 40 or aged 90? Will he live in Wirral or will he reside 13,000 miles away in New Zealand? Will he have found us via the Internet? Will a fellow B.I.O.B have introduced him? Will he have discovered us via "The Wirral Champion"? Will he have heard about us on the grapevine? It is fascinating and only time will tell.

Reverend Sidney Y. Richardson (1922-28)

Sidney is one of our latest recruits and is 90 years of age and likes to be known as 'SYR'. He is a very interesting character who was a founder editor of the "VISOR" and was responsible for giving the B.I. Magazine it's name. Before becoming a "Rev." he was a schoolmaster and deputy head. He has written his autobiography – more about him in issue 6.