



AD - VISOR



The Newsletter of Birkenhead Institute Old Boys Issue 2

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SUMMER 1999

COMMENT

Here we are again. The first edition of the "Ad-Visor" was received with enthusiasm, generally. We received some very nice comments about the content and presentation which has spurred us on to produce a second edition. If we are to continue, we do need your contributions. Please let us have your news or reminiscences.

It has been brought to my attention by Len Malcolm (who else) that Birkenhead Institute in its history had been a Private, Secondary, High, Grammar and Comprehensive School whereas, I had given the impression that it was always a Grammar School and by so doing may have alienated some people. If this is the case, I apologise. To be a member of B.I.O.B. all that is required is that you are a former pupil or member of staff at Birkenhead Institute in whatever guise.

RECRUITMENT

It has been most encouraging that we now have over 350 names on the register however this is only 70% of the target of 500 we set ourselves. If each of you were to recruit just one additional name for the register

we would accomplish this figure easily. Please see what you can do.

RUGBY GIANTS

Probably the most distinguished Old Instonian rugby player was **Jasper Bartlett** known in the media as "The Gentle Giant". He was about 6 foot 4 and must have weighed about 18 stone which in his day was quite something. Jippee, as he was known, was capped for England but only once. Although Jasper was not one for making excuses, it was well known that, unfortunately, he was not fully fit when he played and, consequently, was not at his best. Tragically, Jasper contracted lung cancer and died at the very early age of 46.

Ken Carr was another very fine player. He captained the Old Instonians immediately after the Second World War and then joined Birkenhead Park. Very soon he was in the 1st Team and then captained the club. Later he was chosen by Cheshire and played for them on many, many occasions. Ken was a giant of a man and a great leader but sadly he too died early at the age of 46 after a heart attack.

Then there is **Jim Crowe**. He played for the Old Instonians in the mid 1950's and then joined Birkenhead Park and played very successfully for the next twenty years or thereabouts. Jim was a great enthusiast and always supremely fit. He was a very successful club captain and played for Cheshire on over 35 occasions.

Stu Huntriss was a school sprint champion and Victor Ludorum. A very fine centre or wing three quarter, he played for the R.A.F., Birkenhead Park and Cheshire. When his senior playing days were over he returned to the Old Instonians playing for a number of years and being an excellent skipper both on and off the pitch and an inspiration to the younger players.

Finally, **Brian Huntriss**, Stu's younger brother, a big man in every sense of the word as befits someone who took size 12 in shoes. Maybe not as good as his brother but a very good player in his own right. He had a devastating tackle (I know as I had my shoulder dislocated by one of Brian's tackles, and I was on the same side). His greatest service to the club was when he was Club Chairman in the 1970s during the transition to the new pavilion. There was much time-

consuming work and very tricky negotiations had to be conducted but Brian made light work of these

and ensured Old Instonians got the best deal possible. He was a real character and great fun to be with. They say the good die young and this sadly seems to be the case of B.I.O.B.s and Brian was no exception. He died before

he was 50 and is very sadly missed.

RUGBY QUIZ

The answers to the questions posed in the first newsletter are as follows

- 1) An Old Instonian who played for England
Jasper Bartlett (1951)

- 2) An Old Rockferrian who played for England

George Hancock (1939)

- 3) An Old Caldeian who played for England

Andy Maxwell (1975/8)

- 4) An Old Birkonian who played for the British Lions but was never capped by his country

Bill Howard (1938)

LEST WE FORGET

During the Great War (1914-18) 83 Old Boys lost their lives and during the Second World War (1939-45) 93 lost their lives. On remembrance Sunday in November a number of B.I.O.B. attend a memorial service to honour the war dead at Osmaston Road War Memorial. Anyone wishing to attend would be most welcome.

The following are the names of those killed in World War Two.

"At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them"

AINLEY, F.R.
ARTHUR, N.
ASHTON, D. K.
AUSTIN, H.
BARKER, D. R.
BARKER, J. K.
BARTLEY, E. L.
BECKETT, J. G.
BILLING, J. A.
BLACK, L.
BOZIER, H. J.
BRYANT, C. E. T.
CANDAY, C. R.
CASEY, W. A.
CLARKE, L. F.
COATHUP, L. S.
COFFEY, C.
COOKE, J. K.
COOPER, H. L.
COOPER, J. K.
CRAIL, W. D.
CUMMING, D. A.,
DEAN, K. W.
DENT, H. C.

DOWNING, G. N.
EDWARDS, G. R.
FORSHAW, M. D.
FRECKLETON, J. Mc.
GALLAGHER, L. H.
GIBBONS, A.R.
GULLAN, J. N.
HADLEY, G.F.
HARDIE, J. G.
HARDIE, W. R.
HARLAND, R. A.
HAYWARD, P.
HENSHAW, R.
HIRST, E. W.
HUGHES, S.
HUNT, G. A.
IVESON, E. M.
JONES, L. W.
JONES, T. A.
JONES, W. E.
JONES, W. H.
JONES, W. J.
LEEMAN, W. L.
LEES, J. A.

LEYLAND, R.
LIDGATE, R.
MALLEY, D. G.
MALLEY, G. E.
MATTHEWS, E. J.
MEAKIN, L.
MENEELY, R. R.
MOORE, S.
MOSS, A.
McIVOR, H. A.
McKENZIE, D. I.
OVENS, G. V.
PEGG, W. J.
PHOENIX, F. D.
POOLE, W. H.
PRINGLE, G.
REEKSTIN, R. R.
REES, N. W.
ROBERTS, V. H.
ROGERS, H. E.
ROLLINS, P. E.
ROWLANDS, C. J.
SAMPSON, J. D.
SARGENT, A. E. H.

SMART, T.
SMITH, A. E.
SMITH, J.
SPROAT, G.
SUTHERLAND, R.G.
SUTTON, R.W.
TARBUCK, R. D.
TAYLOR, C. F.
TODD, C. G.
TOMLINSON, J.
TOWNSON, F.B.
TURNER, A. D.
WARD, H. L.
WILDE, R.
WILLIAMS, A. C.
WILLIAMS, J. A.
WILLIAMS, J. H.
WILLIAMS, T. H.
WILSON, E.H.
WILSON, H. E.
WOOD W.K.

LIFE AT THE OLD B.1

The following is a contribution from Dick Bell (1931-38)

THE PIANIST'S STORY.

One day Mother asked the Head if I could leave school an hour early, in order to take a Pianoforte exam. He agreed.

Some 6 or 7 months later, I was wandering along the corridor, my mind wrestling with the problem of how

Stitt had managed to lose yet another Inter-House match. I was so engrossed that I failed to see Klionnie heading in my direction. As we met he stopped. "Ah!! Bell, you play the piano don't you?" In chess this is called Check Mate. Then,

having added my name to the pianist's roster, he was on his way, leaving me smouldering and harbouring unkind thoughts about his parentage.

The only duty of the pianists was to provide martial music at the end of morning assembly, while the rest of the school marched out of the Gym. So what were my qualifications for this important job? Whereas my brothers, Vic. and Jack, were sent to an eminent music teacher, (Kok-Albas at the top of Whetstone Lane) at 3/6d per lesson, my musical prowess was rated at no more than a 6d a week lesson with a neighbour. The music exam I took was the most elementary, the preliminary examination of The Trinity College of Music, which I passed with 65 marks out of 100. One mark less and I would have failed. Add to this the fact that my repertoire was not extensive and, while it contained such gems as 'Won't you buy my pretty flowers' and 'The Bluebells of Scotland', it contained only 2 marches. These were 'Blaze Away' by Sousa and 'Marche Militaire' by somebody else.

By now you will have gathered that getting up and playing in front of close on 500 of my fellow pupils was not my idea of fun. All too soon the day of my first recital arrived. With a sense of impending doom, and my confidence draining away at an alarming rate with every step I took, I made my way up the steps and across the stage. This was the moment of truth. Fortunately I managed to hit all the correct notes in the first 2 or 3 chords, and then I was 'blazing away' for what seemed an eternity. In reality it was probably only 4 or 5 minutes. Finally the hall was empty, and I was left deleting concert pianist

from my career options, and clinging to the forlorn hope that I wouldn't be asked to play again.

No such luck, I was on that damned pianist rota to the end of my school days.

ANECDOTES

RUGBY

Joe Sudworth (1931-42) writes that in 1941, when he was captain of Rugby, the 1st XV beat Hawarden Grammar School 65-0 one Saturday. As usual he reported the score to 'Klon' (the Headmaster) so the result could be read out at assembly. Quite naturally Joe expected to hear congratulations but not so. 'Klon' gave him a real ticking off for scoring so many points and added that it was 'obscene' that Jasper Bartlett scored four tries.

Could it be that 'Klon' (Wynne-Hughes) was Welsh and Hawarden Grammar School was a Welsh School?

SCOUTS

Glynne Jones (1937-42) writes fondly of being a Scout in the 23rd (B.I.) Scout Troop and camping at Brynbach and Overchurch and the annual weekend at the Margaret Bevan Children's Home. He mentioned Scout Masters Don. Coughtrie and Frank Tomlinson and the tremendous commitment they gave in running the 23rd. Sadly, they have now passed away as have many contemporaries such as Harry Gregson, Dennis Roddick, Vern Hall, Neville Peters and Ken Pryde.

FINANCE

As stated previously, there is no set subscription and we depend entirely on voluntary donations. Our present situation is healthy

thanks to the fine husbandry of Eric Jackson (1939-44). However, printing, postage, phone etc. is substantial now we have over 350 on the register (over 20 overseas). Your donations are welcome – Cheques to B.I.O.B. please.

ANNUAL DINNER

Last year we held a charity draw and we raised £250 for the Alzheimers Society. The success of this was very largely because of the kind donations of prizes you made. It is the intention to run another charity draw at this years dinner and once again we ask for your support and generosity in the donation of prizes. Bottles are most welcome as are cash donations. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

LADIES' EVENING

This was held on 26th March, 1999 and was a great success. 75 attended and there was even some dancing. There will be a repeat on Friday 7th April, 2000. Incidentally there were a number of single persons present, both male and female. Two people met for the first time in over 60 years! A raffle raised £67 which was donated to Age Concern.

B.I.O.B. GOLF SOCIETY

Derek (Mick) Turner (1946-50) organised a very successful day. The weather was excellent – just right for good golf. Ron Kirchener (1943-49) was the winner and received the Pyke Cup. The runner-up was Stan Allsopp (1927-33) who won the Len Malcolm Tankard.

Another meeting will be held in May 2000. Why not come along and prove what a good golfer you are!

THE REGISTER

For the record we have 3 nonagenarians (try saying that at 11p.m. without your dentures after a few "tinctures") on the register. They are:-

Harold Owen Born 1901
Norman Willcox Born 1904
George Donaldson Born 1908

Guinness Book of Records eat your heart out. Are there any more out there?

INTERNET

Technology has finally caught up with us. BIOB Web Site is now available. It is hoped to keep this updated with news of events and other items of interest. In addition we can be contacted by E-mail. The addresses for both facilities are shown on page 1

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to put on record the tremendous help I have received from Vic Swift (1956-61). Vic recently retired from Merseyside Police and fortunately for us loves "playing" with his computer. Firstly he put the register of B.I.O.B. on a database. Secondly he is totally responsible for the lay-out and printing of the news-letter. In addition he has printed all our envelopes and tickets. I am greatly indebted to him. Thank you Vic. (After 38 years the homework is now a little easier! Vic)

DATES FOR DIARY

110th Anniversary Dinner –
Friday 15th October, 1999
at Prenton Golf Club

Buffet Dance – Friday 7th
April, 2000 at Prenton Golf
Club

NECKWEAR

Dave (DSW) Jones (1940-46) has designed a magnificent BIOB tie to commemorate the 110th Anniversary. The cost is £11 (inc. P.&P.), £12 overseas. Should you wish to order, please send remittance payable to Greg Pandit (1972-78) at 107B, Banks Road, West Kirby, Wirral, CH48 OAB. Tel. 0151-625-6601. Email Panscoe@aol.com



WHERE ARE THEY NOW? ANY NEWS PLEASE

| | | | | | |
|---------------|----|-------------------|----|------------------|----|
| Paddy ADAMS | 65 | Tony DOVESTON | 66 | John SEYMOUR | 67 |
| Graham BAXTER | 74 | Barry DOVESTON | 63 | Dave SHERLOCK | 65 |
| Brian BOWKER | 55 | Bill KEATING | 56 | G.A. (Gas) SMITH | 70 |
| Norman BOYD | 71 | Alan PARKINSON | 62 | Bert THOMAS | 70 |
| Alan BRAMMALL | 63 | Ted (Joe) PRINGLE | 70 | Ted WOOD | 70 |
| Dave DOCHERTY | 54 | PROBERT | 75 | | |
| Gerry DODD | 66 | Ted RILEY | 68 | | |

BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE OLD BOYS

The 110th Anniversary Dinner is being held at Prenton Golf Club on Friday 15th October, 1999 (7-0Pp.m. for 7-30p.m.). The cost is £16. Maximum attendance is 125 and early application is recommended to ensure a place. Please complete the attached booking form and return to: -

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