

Clapper

The Newsletter of the Clapham Old Xaverians' Association

Winter 2007

Concordia res parvae crescunt



Editor Alec Morrish

120 Kent House Road,
Beckenham,
Kent BR3 1JY

Email: clapper@claphamoldxaverians.co.uk

Website: www.claphamoldxaverians.co.uk

Editorial

This issue has been printed in a new format to minimise postage costs. If this format is successful it will be used for future issues so your comments would be greatly appreciated.

Although future issues will continue to be printed and distributed in the traditional way, it is intended that they should also be available through the Clapham Old Xaverians' Association website (www.claphamoldxaverians.co.uk). This will make it available to people who are not currently members of the Association and may encourage them to join.

Those of you who have received the Chairman's invitation to the Annual Luncheon at the Oval will have noticed that the reply form contains a request for your email address. We are hoping to improve communication by advising you of planned events electronically. So please feel free to send me your email address via

Clapper@claphamoldxaverians.co.uk.

If you have time to add some personal news that could be included in Personalia so much the better.

I am grateful to all who have helped in the preparation of this issue and in particular to those members of COXASS who provided me with football and cricket reports. In closing, I have noticed that several articles refer to drink and drunkenness. Moderation is a great virtue, but remember the words of the late Dean Martin, "You know that you aren't drunk if you can lay on the ground without holding on."

Chairman's Report

Good evening from a snow covered Moscow. I am sorry I can't be with you tonight.

2006/07 was an interesting year for me and for the Association. For me it was my second year as Chairman meaning I had done or been involved with all the normal events of a COXA year so there were no real surprises and so, in my inimitable style, I introduced two extra activities for the year.

The first was the re-organisation of COXA and COXASS into two separate operating units in order to avail ourselves of the benefits of being a Community Amateur Sports Club. Without going into too much detail it will enable us to save 80% on the business rates at Norbury and to use Gift Aid for any gifts or bequeaths. The EGM was well attended and the motion passed, many thanks to those who attended.

My second activity for the year was the re-introduction of the dinner and dance. Well, what can I say, the choice of the date seemed reasonable in January when it was selected and even seemed ok when England were scheduled to play Australia in the Rugby World Cup quarter final but by the time the French had been vanquished I knew we were in trouble and so duly following a number of

drop outs the function was cancelled. The response had not been that great (75 including partners) and I am not sure we could have got the 100+ the size of the venue required. I will canvass opinion at the Luncheon in January (last Friday as usual!) before deciding whether to give it another go next year.

Football had a pretty good year with promotions and no relegations but a tightening up of the fiscal controls would be appreciated.

Cricket fielded teams on Saturday and Sunday seeing mixed results. This was all topped by the Saturday league side winning the sportsmanship award. Well done to you all.

The Clubhouse was hit by the freak July flood and was knee deep in water until Mick and Bob (yes Mick not Vic) sorted it out. The insurance claim has been processed and through Mick's tireless efforts the Clubhouse was open for the start of the Football season.

The Friday Club continue to meet and their numbers could do with some swelling so why don't you try to catch up with them once or twice this year.

Thanks for all the efforts of all the members of both committees this year and I look forward to seeing you all at the Oval.

Brendan Williams

Football 1st XI Report

The season started off with the great news that the 1st XI had been promoted to Senior Division 1 and are now one promotion away from the Premier Division.

However we started the season with injuries to new captain Mick Gorman, Peter Codd and a long-term injury to Paul Hamilton. Despite these set backs pre-season training went well with additional sessions arranged for Saturday mornings.

Apart from the usual suspects Josh Yasar, Tom Benedict and James Brown were introduced into the squad, which over the first few weeks has bedded in well despite a never-ending change of personnel.

We kicked off our League Season with an away game at Glyn and came away with a hard earned 2 - 2 draw, goals from Garvey (honest) and Bogle giving us a share of the points.

Next up were Sinjuns at Norbury, an entertaining game giving us a 5 - 4 victory, with goals from Daramy 3, Bogle and a McTavish penalty.

This was followed by Sutts at home and in truth we were well outplayed in this but it took some comical defending from the COXA defence before we went down 4 - 1. Kearney scoring our only goal.

We then went on our travels for a couple of weeks, firstly to Amersham against Challoners where we were really unlucky to go down 3 - 2 to a late goal. Scorers were Yasar and Bogle this was followed up with a fine win away to Ignatians at Enfield 2-1 with both goals coming from Yasar.

So here we are in a Division we did not expect to be in, having played 5 games and got 7 points in what looks likely to be a very open Division.

We have had several outstanding individual performances, notably from Daramy, Yasar, Kearney, Rooney, Izzard, Rice, Benedict and Garvey. With a bit of self belief and the avoidance of further injuries we should be able to mount a promotion charge in the coming games.

It was also good to see Peter Codd make his first appearance, from injury, since our Cup Final win against Salesians 18 months ago. Finally well done to Luke Roszkowski who has slipped into the captain's boots while Gorman recovers from injury. No doubt when he has recovered he will get involved in a few stag dos to occupy his time at weekends.

John Mansi

Football 2nd XI Report

The 2nd XI have started to show their potential in recent weeks. With back-to-back 4 -0 wins the boys are on track for promotion. The pressure is on as the 3rd XI are also in the hunt for promotion so we have to go up to ensure we don't hold them back. Hopefully with a good blend of youth and experience we can continue to gel and achieve our goals.

Bernard Mensah

Football 3rd XI Report

With the fourth eleven so convincingly winning their league last season, many of the players moved up 4 divisions to assemble a new third eleven for the 2007/08 season. Much was expected this season to replicate the last by the players, but there was slight apprehension to whether all the troops could step up to the level, especially after losing our most creatively dressed player (a fusion of pauper and Parisian poet) to the second eleven after just one friendly match. We have also had to overcome a number of later player dropouts and injuries this season. However, the team is getting settled with a regular 14 and we are sitting second in the league and still competing in the cup. The players should be happy with the achievement so far, but winning this division is very much a possibility and not just promotion. There is also no reason why the team cannot make it to the later stages of the cup providing players don't get complacent. It is good to see the strength of the players available in the lower teams and quality of additional players acquired by the second eleven's

captain, Bernie Mensah, providing good competition for places. With the results to date this could be a successful season for COXASS football section, with both players and the elevens fulfilling their potential.

Matt Benedict

Football 4th XI Report

The 4th XI had a real bad start to the season as we tried to find our feet. New players, not enough players and for a long time no goalkeeper. We lost the first two matches of the season heavily but kept our heads up and drafted in some new talent, which is now the backbone of our squad. Working with the older players of the club we are now starting to find our feet, week in, week out we are all over teams but we're just finding it hard to find the back of the net. Now that all the players know each others' games and abilities and having a regular keeper we are in search of points and moving up the table. We have a regular goalkeeper and have 14 to 15 players turning up each week plus more on the outskirts who want to be involved.

Andre Joseph

Football 5th XI Report

We started pre-season not knowing what to expect. A different league, new teams to play, new venues and the probability of losing key players to University, anno domini etc

A couple of pre-season friendlies went fairly well, nothing spectacular, but once the season proper got underway the players responded magnificently

Unbeaten at the time of writing, only a 1-1 draw against a Sinjuns side stuffed full of ringers from their 2nd XI, preventing an unblemished record

The highlight (apart from stuffing Sinjuns proper side 9-1 in the return) must be the Cup trip to West Wickham to play a much higher Wilsonians side. A long difficult journey, and the prospect of a very strong home side, didn't bode well. However, every member of the team responded magnificently: we scored 3 fantastic goals, each one a contender for goal of the season; kept the clean sheet and came away with a tremendous win.

We have a combination of youth and experience, and are bringing on young players like James Brown, who is now playing better than ever and is competing as a man not a boy, with Adam Harrison showing just as much ability and promise.

The one blot on the season has been the very unfortunate injury to Kieran Gumasingham, a really promising youngster who was learning so quickly and had such skill. He was injured catching his studs in a very poor substandard Powerleague pitch, and had to be taken to hospital by ambulance, with the game not surprisingly abandoned. A very nice message of support was subsequently received from our opponents on the day, Suttonians

We are all looking forward to the second half of the season.

Andy Brannon

Football 6th XI Reports

After last season's romp to the title, the 6th XI is facing a much tougher challenge this year. Still, a decent start of 3 victories and 3 losses sees the team in upper mid-table, with the first round of games against the breakaway group at the top already out of the way!

The next few games will hopefully see the 6th XI consolidate 4th place and build some momentum to chase the leaders.

As ever, team spirit is excellent and there is extra competition for places with some new talent in the ranks.

Paul Bailey

Cricket 1st XI Report

As the football Season drew to a close thoughts soon turned to the forthcoming Cricket season and how Clapham would mount their title challenge. With a decent turn out at winter nets (albeit the usual suspects) and the prospect of finally playing at a ground worthy of hosting competitive division 2 cricket with our imminent move to the new home ground at Guy's Hospital Sports Ground, Honor Oak Park, spirits appeared high and thought of a serious promotion campaign became a realistic goal. For a young side that had gained much experience and learnt valuable lessons from the previous campaign this had to be our main objective.

With the start of season just around the corner, it was essential I promptly assembled and prepared my team for the new campaign. I had a clear picture of my starting XI; unfortunately it wasn't long before that would need to change.... Before a ball had even been bowled, or a run scored, we would lose our very own Freddie Flintoff (Matt Benedict) in a freak accident as he decided to go green on us and cycle to work. In my opinion a disaster waiting to happen and just days after purchasing his new toy Matt had an ill-timed fall meaning he was likely to miss the entire season with a broken bone in his left hand.

Our first league game was a toughie up against Whyteleafe one of the relegated teams who we believed were sure challengers for promotion and a swift return to the top flight. Again I felt we went in to the new season slightly under cooked with very little preparation and the loss of Matt being a major blow to team morale. If there were a slight air of optimism before the season, it soon began to disintegrate, on a damp, cold windy opener at Whyteleafe Park. A dismal batting display simply left an already depleted bowling attack a near impossible job of defending our measly total of 109. Defeat was inevitable.... However, I would commend the team's fighting spirit and 'never say die' attitude by giving a competitive account of themselves by claiming 6 Whyteleafe wickets and going down gracefully to defeat by the better side on the day.

Lessons had to be learnt, and extremely quickly, if we were to compete in this division. After another heavy defeat away to John Fisher (the eventual champions) we then saw three consecutive home fixtures and three consecutive home wins, the best being an 8 wicket victory against Beddington Village having bowled them out for 64.

Our winning run was unfortunately interrupted by a period of poor weather that saw one match cancelled and a further two week break from league fixtures. Our return would see us lose to Economicals and end our 100% home record. But if we're honest, we had only ourselves to blame: after posting a competitive total of 200, we then went on to drop their skipper and key man three times in the innings. He was dropped first on 1, then on 33 and finally on 70. All of which were routine chances that should have been snapped up with ease. He went on to make 143 not out and single handedly steer his team to victory.

It has to be said the story of our season could simply be summed up in one word 'inconsistent' and it was our inability to kill off games when in a winning position ultimately cost us promotion. We did, however, end up improving on last season: recording seven wins; and six losses with one postponed; finishing in the top half of the table and receiving sportsmanship of year award. Yes you read correctly Clapham won sportsmanship of the year!!

I felt on a whole team spirit was much improved this season with the addition of two Australians: Damian 'Snuggles' Costello and Chris 'Fingers' Wilkinson, who both added to the dressing room banter. This new found relaxed approach almost certainly contributed to the team's improvement in our final league position. However, we need to understand the importance of playing at a high intensity throughout the entire game if we are to seriously push for promotion next season. There were many high-class individual performances during the season. Nevertheless the two players who deserve a special mention are Tom Maslona and Richard Williams aka 'Spanky'. Tom performed consistently with the bat and was always someone I could turn to for valuable advice, whilst Rich, recording his first 5 wicket haul in the league, was amongst the wickets in every game and finally stepped up to the plate and took responsibility realising he was a hugely important member of the team.

This season proved to be yet another very testing and demanding one. However it will sadly be remembered for loss of the late Stan Miller, a great cricketer who represented Clapham for many years and will be hugely missed by everyone involved in the club. I would like to thank everyone who paid their respects to Stan by joining the team in a minutes silence held before our next match. Special thanks should also go out to our opposition on the day (Economicals) who conducted themselves with great decorum.

Sadly this will be my last season as captain, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for the support given to me throughout my two year reign. The support and commitment shown by both the players on the day and from the club committee by ensuring the move to a new home ground have been magnificent and without it there's no way we would have been able to set the foundations for future success. However, it must be said that for the team to progress further it is essential team members show more commitment to the cause by regularly training as nets were poorly attended again this season and there was a lack of dedication from senior members of the team. We have to understand that it's not good enough to simply turn up on the day and expect to win; regular practise is required. I wish both the new captain and his team good luck and every success for the club in the future.

Tom Benedict

In addition to my report I asked members of the team to contribute their view on the season's

events:

Tom Maslona: For me, the most positive aspect of this season was the development of Richard Williams. Spanky finally stepped up to the plate and took responsibility and, as a result, found himself among the wickets. It was great that he no longer thought of himself as a bit-part player and, instead, acted and performed like one of the key members in the side. Time others did too, I reckon.

The biggest negative, though, is the attitude within the team. We are not good enough to win games without practising and we certainly won't win games if we don't approach them with the right intensity. For the third season in a row, Tom Benedict and I were the only players to train regularly. Tom's going away soon, so I better start tying a ball on a rope, attach it to a washing line and hit it...

My favourite moment, though, has to be the victory of the 7 players against Battersea Ironsides in a Sunday fixture. Battersea were so arrogant, we were knackered and we still won. It should never have happened and, despite the fact that we only had 7 players, Damo and I still didn't do any running in the field!

Richard Williams (Spanky): *Favourite moment:* Constant banter including the almost instantaneous transformation of Chris Wilkinson into Andrew Henderson due to a Tom Benedict 'slower' ball.

Positive: A better team spirit due to the lack of egos in the team, unfortunately Matt Benedict is back available next season! Seriously, the team pulling together for one another and not being afraid to express themselves to the full.

Negative: Inability to kill off games when in a winning position, which could be down to the occasional switch-off of concentration/lack of practice during the season. Better commitment needed by both players and senior members to find a time & location that is available to as many as possible in order to improve.

Ray Clarke: For me the best part of the season was against Battersea Ironsides away. It was one of the best all round performances by a Clapham side I have ever played in. The team spirit and atmosphere were superb

The down side is in general there is not enough support off the field to help the few players who are trying to run a cricket team

Positive side we have a good bunch of guys to build a team on if we all pull together

Kev Horkan: My favourite moment and team performance was the win at Putney, a win in 25 overs. Positive point for me was the introduction of new players such as Damien and Chris. Low point was our catching: the game against Economicals comes to mind

Joe Benedict: My favourite moment was the introduction of the two Aussie's, definitely value for money!!! On a positive, the move to the new home ground and a much improved team spirit.... On the negative side there was sometimes a lack support towards Tom our captain with his efforts sometimes going unnoticed. Players must be more dedicated and committed to supporting the man in charge.

James 'Domino' Clarke: My favourite moments were the new-found banter and team spirit; my 3-3-0-1 bowling figures and the move to the new ground. On the negative side sadly I feel we could have offered Tom a little more support at times by being more committed to training. This is something

that must change!

Chris ‘Fingers’ Wilkinson: My favourite moment had to be getting hit in the nose by a Tom Benedict’s slower ball and generally going out drinking after every match whilst also getting lucky with Brisbane. No real negatives, however maybe a little more support could have gone Tommy’s way and I should have taken a few more catches behind the stumps. Positives you’re all a good bunch of lads!!!

Damian ‘Snuggles’ Costello: Favourite moments: Ben making that Sydney joke in the Five Bells, when Andy fingered Chris and Ray’s classic pork packed tea on the last game of the season, shame the opposition were all Muslim. Guys I’m just grateful you all welcome me in to the side, loved the team spirit and the nights out after every game. I’ll like to thank Tom for his efforts and all those involved in the running of the club.

Dave Hickey: A much improved team spirit and morale, largely due to the move to the new ground move. I felt we learnt that we are no longer have a team of superstars and have become a workman like side. However, we did miss one or two real strike bowlers with the ability to nail a team. Loss of early wickets due to poor shot selection and poor application was a big negative. More Training required!!!

| | A | P | W | L | T | Bonus Points | Total Points | Average |
|-----------------------|---|----|----|----|---|--------------|--------------|---------|
| Putney | 4 | 11 | 10 | 1 | | 8 | 208 | 18.91 |
| John Fisher | 1 | 14 | 12 | 2 | | 17 | 257 | 18.36 |
| Economicals | 1 | 14 | 10 | 4 | | 31 | 231 | 16.50 |
| Old Thorntonians A | 4 | 11 | 7 | 4 | | 27 | 167 | 15.18 |
| Battersea Ironsides | 2 | 13 | 7 | 6 | | 39 | 179 | 13.77 |
| Whyteleaf | 3 | 12 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 63 | 163 | 13.58 |
| Beddington Village | 3 | 12 | 6 | 6 | | 36 | 156 | 13.00 |
| Clapham Old Xaverians | 2 | 13 | 6 | 7 | | 38 | 158 | 12.15 |
| Morden | 2 | 13 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 56 | 156 | 12.00 |
| Selsdon | 3 | 12 | 5 | 7 | | 43 | 143 | 11.92 |
| Putney A | 2 | 13 | 5 | 8 | | 53 | 153 | 11.77 |
| St Lukes | 2 | 13 | 5 | 8 | | 52 | 152 | 11.69 |
| Osterley (2000) | 3 | 12 | 9 | 3 | | 20 | 140 | 11.67 |
| Addington (1743) | 2 | 13 | 5 | 8 | | 51 | 151 | 11.62 |
| Bec Old Boys | 1 | 14 | 3 | 11 | | 65 | 125 | 8.93 |
| Sunbury | 3 | 12 | 0 | 12 | | 67 | 67 | 5.58 |

Obituaries

Alan J Thomas (1920 – 2007)



Alan Thomas, a past Chairman and long-time Vice-President of the Clapham Old Xaverians' Association, died peacefully at Jubilee House, Godalming on the 9th July 2007 aged 86. A Requiem Mass, attended by his family, friends and colleagues from the Ministry of Defence, was held at St. Joseph's, Grayshott on Thursday, 19th July.

Alan attended the College between 1930 and 1939. While in the 6th form, preparing for his Higher School Certificate, he was awarded a scholarship to study French at the Sorbonne. Unfortunately, the Munich crisis intervened. His French hosts decamped to the countryside leaving him homeless and short of money. Undaunted Alan returned home and successfully gained his Higher Schools Certificate in English, French, Physics and Pure Mathematics in 1939.

Alan joined the Admiralty in August 1939 as an Assistant Naval Stores Officer. His wartime postings included spells in Chatham, Rosyth and Freetown in Sierra Leone, where in 1943 he was promoted to Deputy Naval Stores Officer. In 1945, following the Japanese surrender, he was a member of the Naval party that went to Singapore to reclaim the dockyards. In September of that year he was promoted to Naval Stores Officer.

Between 1947 and 1954 Alan worked at the Admiralty in London. During this time he was captain of the COXA football 1st XI (1949-50), Vice-Chairman (1951-52) and Chairman of the Association (1952-53).

A long and successful career in the Civil Service culminated in his appointment as Director of Supplies and Transport at the Ministry of Defence (Navy). In this position from 1974 until his retirement in 1980, he was in charge of a department of 280 headquarters staff responsible for:

the management of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service comprising 32 ocean going ships with a total complement of 3,000 officers and ratings;

the supply of fuel and lubricants for the Royal Navy and the management of Royal Navy fuel depots worldwide and NATO fuel depots in the United Kingdom;

the management of Royal Navy motor transport comprising some 5,500 vehicles;

the movement of Royal Navy personnel and material and

the supply of food for all three services and of clothing for the Royal Navy.

A devout Catholic Alan subscribed to Christian Order, 'a booklet devoted to Catholic Social Teach-

ing and incisive comment in current affairs in Church and State'. An article that he contributed to Christian Order entitled 'Holy Mass: Meal or Sacrifice' contained thought provoking comments on post-Conciliar practice within the Church.

In October 1965 Alan married Vivienne Anne Surry, who had converted to Catholicism during their courtship. Vivienne died in June 1976. Alan met his second wife, Mary at Christmas 1976. They were married before his official retirement date on 29th March 1980 and shared twenty seven wonderful years.

Requiescat In Pace

Urban Myths

Urban myths are stories, which are re-told so many times that we wonder if they really happened at all. Can these stories about Clapham College or the Old Boys be true?

The first is true, because I saw it happen. About 1960 Cecil Pocock was leading his annual camp at Mayfield. One day, as Cecil cooked lunch, in his shorts, the local police officer drove into the centre of the camp. He marched towards Cecil in a forceful and aggressive manner. He barked out in a rustic accent, "Look, mate, someone did some damage in the village last night, and your London boys must be responsible." Cecil bristled, "Excuse me officer, I am Mayor of Chiswick, and also a Justice of the Peace. My pupils are no angels, but they wouldn't do deliberate damage in the village." The policeman's jaw dropped. He bowed, almost touched his forelock, and said to Cecil, "Your honour, I'm sorry. It must have been the village boys. Sorry to trouble you, your worship." He retreated backwards to the car, bowing all the time, then drove off. Cecil was beaming for a week.

I didn't see the second incident, but the culprit tells me it is true. By the 1980s, Clapham College was a large comprehensive school with a 1000 boys on roll. The entrance was now in Malwood Road. Two Clapham pupils were out at lunchtime, when they came across a Sinclair C5 in Malwood Road. Naturally they got in, started it up, and drove around the streets. Proud of their feat, they drove it into the playground (the former paddock) where they were surrounded by hundreds of pupils. Simon Cowdry, a young teacher, strode across, told them to get out, then said those fateful words "Let me have a go!" To the cheers of the pupils, he drove it around the playground. Suddenly a police car, with a blue light flashing, drove into the playground, and the officers apprehended Simon. The myth is that he was arrested and spent a night in the cells, but more likely he explained it away on the spot. What really happened, Simon?

Scotty MacDonald – never one to exaggerate – claims that when he was in the Fourth Year, up in 4A classroom, the Maths teacher, Ron Casey, couldn't find the board duster, so opened his case and took out a pair of underpants. To the mirth of the class, he cleaned the board with these Y fronts. When he finally left the classroom, Scotty led the chant "Ronnie, Ronnie, Ronniepants....". Scotty will know if this true – we only know the chant.

There were plenty of witnesses to the last incident, so it must be true. In the early 1970s, Graham

Hudson held his Stag Night in the Clubhouse at Norbury. Copious amounts of beer were consumed, and the singing started. I seem to remember seeing, through an alcoholic haze, a naked Graham singing an Elvis song, when someone sprayed him with a soda siphon. The next part is rather vague. I remember Vic Roskowski and Keith McEllegiott taking off all their clothes, and running round the football pitch in the dark. Mark Roskowski – was he wearing clothes? – pursued them on his motorbike, catching them in his headlight. Suddenly there was a sickening noise from the motorbike and the headlight was now pointing into the night sky. Mark has driven into Mr. Slade's tractor at the side of the pitch, but luckily was unharmed. It was back to work the next day.

The last word goes to Dan Condon, who took the COXA 6th XI to Woking about ten years ago. The Loop Road ground was looking perfect this golden, autumnal afternoon. The 6th XI were playing on the big pitch. Before the game our team walked over the freshly mown grass. Pat Duggan announced to the team "I can't wait – this is my kind of pitch." The team went to get changed. Suddenly there was a cry from the toilets – Pat had put his back out, as he went to sit on the toilet. The team carried him to the side of the pitch where he watched the game from a chair borrowed from the bar. After the game, as the 10 man team trudged off the field, he said to Dan, "Pity, because it was my kind of pitch!"

Who could make any of these stories up?

Colin Garvey

Stan Miller – A Legend in His Own Lifetime



Well he was in my family anyway.

I first met Stan when cricket match fees were half-a-crown a match and teas were 1/6d. I used to play for St. Paul's Cricket Club. We were playing the Inland Revenue at Thames Ditton and Stan turned up guesting one day. I don't remember Stan's statistics for that day, although I dare say Stan would, but I do remember filling in for tea. Stan walked in with the team and picked up a plate and took a selection from the three tables of the best cakes! I was somewhat astonished by this behaviour, you had to eat sandwiches before tackling cakes in my circle. Although I never mentioned it to him or anyone else at the time, when I got home I told my wife in an idle moment before my two children, who would have been about four and six years old,

and they never forgot. Each week I would be asked by them, "Daddy, was that naughty man playing?" and when he had been I would usually tell them that he had scored a lot of runs.

Over the years I played a number of matches with Stan and he always stood out either with the bat or the ball. I well remember walking off the pitch at West End Esher when Stan had scored 70 or so and then taken 5 for 48 or some such and he confided in me that he really couldn't carry on like that. "I'm too old for this." He must have been about 33.

Stan, as a guest was not a regular, but he would show some exasperation if things did not go as he expected in the playing of the game. I had very limited talents, but I don't think he ever criticised me for poor ability to my face, and I don't think that it would occur to him to criticise somebody behind their back. To their face or not at all. He had no great problem with lack of talent, but could be very hard on someone who was not trying or otherwise wasting his or her talent according to his lights.

On another occasion playing on a bright Saturday morning at Colfe's I was bowler's umpire and Stan was standing at my end, with Mick Grice due in next. The match was not going well. As the ball was being returned to the bowler a sudden bellow came from Stan. "Grice, get out of that box!" Mick had entered the score box to check some statistic or other, and Stan had noticed him. "He will be dazzled by the light when he comes in if he stays there." He noticed just about everything.

A couple of years ago my son Ben, now 30, was at the Oval watching the Australian Test match. He was introduced to Stan in the Pavilion, and remembering the cake affair and the runs and wickets that he had been told of, dropped to one knee, and asked for the blessing of a legend. It was their first meeting for 20 years. I phoned Ben yesterday and told him of the death of a Legend. He paused for a couple of seconds and then said "Stan Miller".

Arthur Richards

Personalia

Congratulations again to Philip Sanders. On Sunday, 9th September Philip took part in The London Duathlon in Richmond Park, which is the biggest event of its kind in the world. He completed the course - 14 kilometres running and 20 cycling - in a little over 1hr 30min, finishing 28th. out of more than 1600 competitors (2400 if you count the fun runners) and 4th in his age group. Philip has a number of other runs lined up but the next really big one is the Paris marathon, next 6th April, for which he has already been accepted.



Returning from Saturday evening Mass as usual on his 60th birthday, Chris Smith popped into his local pub with a message for his daughter Tracy, who was working there. Seeing his niece Donna and her husband Peter waiting to have a meal, he decided to join them. Only later did he realise that this was a cunning plan hatched by Tracy and Linda, his wife, to stall him as the final preparations were made for a surprise Birthday celebration. When he arrived home and opened the front door, he was stunned to be greeted by a sea of faces. Steadying his nerves with several lagers, he realised that among the guests were the following Clapham Old Xaverians and their wives: Tony Amura, Seamus Burke, Aidan Coletta, John Mansi and Mick Power. During the evening, Seamus Burke invited him to watch Spurs play Arsenal at White Hart Lane. A match he thoroughly enjoyed. The novelty birthday card shown here was sent by Aidan Coletta.

In response to **Pat Breslin's** obituary in the last issue of Clapper, Brian Lawrence has written to say that although he didn't remember much about Pat, other than he liked him a lot, he does remember the 'stink' he created during his first days as an officer in the RAOC. Apparently there was to be a Mess function requiring full dress uniform. When Pat turned up in his best uniform he was taken aside by the Mess President, who asked him why he was not properly dressed. Pat replied that that he did not have dress uniform and that unless the Army was prepared to issue it to him then they would have to accept the uniform provided by Her Majesty! Being a National Service Man dress uniform was beyond the reach of his meagre pay. Nevertheless, he was immediately put on a charge. Somehow the story got out and was immediately taken up by the Press with headlines ranging from "Young Upstart Not Fit To Wear Uniform" to "Not Toff Enough for these Over Privileged Prigs". Brian's brother Charlie Lawrence also remembered this story and confirmed that it was finally resolved in Parliament where it was decided that National Service men did not need to wear dress uniform in the Mess.

On trip to East Anglia in September Brian Lawrence took the opportunity to seek out Pip Gunn. Although he would not have immediately recognised him, Brian said the as soon as they spoke it was clear, even after 52 years, that it was Pip Gunn. Brian reports that Pip has had a good life and is enjoying retirement.

Len Powell wrote in response to **Pat Breslin's** obituary to say that he started at the College on the same day in 1937 as Ken Prince, **Mary Prince's** eldest brother. Len subsequently told me that he had sent a letter of condolences to Mary and that they had enjoyed a telephone conversation updating each other on the progress of mutual friends.

Andrew Brannon, noting the comment in the last Clapper about three generations of Browns being present at the Chairman's Lunch this year, has written to point out that he has played football with all three generation of the family. Making his debut in 1988, he played in mid-field for the 5th XI along side Peter Brown. Last season he played in the 5th XI with Colin Brown and James Brown having played in the interim in every team except the 1st XI. He suggests that he is now waiting for Spencer and **Gary McGuire's** children to grow up so that he can claim to have played football with three generations from two families!

Brian Donnelly has made contact through the Clapham Old Xaverians' website. He was in the same year as Johnnie Quirk, Ben Schwenk, Colin Garvey and Lorcan Farrelly. He remembers Ben Schwenk particularly well, having attended the same primary school, Our Lady and St Phillip Neri in Sydenham, with him. He also mentioned that his younger brother attended this school with Frankie Rossi of Status Quo. Having left Clapham with no formal qualifications Brian went up to Oxford in his thirties and read PPE. He has been visiting the Pyrenees for the last twenty years. Now retired he lives there from April to October as the English winters are milder.

Eddie O'Brien tells me that he recently met Peter Kelleher, a former pupil at the College. I see from wartime time issues of Concordia that Peter was in the Royal Navy, originally in the Far East (December 1941) and subsequently visiting the United States, Canada, Gibraltar and South Africa (December 1942). Peter also illustrated a book called the 'Water Sprite', which was very successful

both here and in the United States. Peter is hoping to attend the Chairman's Lunch in January.

Eddie has also told me that Francis O'Shaughnessy is also hoping to attend the Chairman's Lunch in January. Frank was at the College from 1960 to 1965 and is hoping to meet friends that he hasn't seen for nearly 30 years. Mick Power, who knows more about these things than I do, tells me that Frank was COXA's own Marvin Hinton in the 1970s.

And finally, Eddie tells me that he attended a great party at The Magdela public house in Lordship Lane, East Dulwich on 6th October to celebrate the 50th Birthday of Henryk Murlowski. Now known as Harry, Henryk attended the College from 1969 to 1974 and now lives in Burbank, California where he flies helicopters.

As reported elsewhere, **Tom O'Dee** has recently joined the Association as a Life member. Tom was at the College from 1965 to 72. He was Head Boy and 1st XI Football Captain in his final year. He has 2 children: Lynsey (24) and Alex (19) and lives in Sutton with his partner Jane. Among his many contemporaries were: Stephen Parker, Len Hatton, Pete Gallagher, Joe Murphy, John Hickey, Seamus Burke, Charlie Rettner, Stephen Schwenk, Gerry Taggart and Brian Earp

Congratulation to Spencer and Lea McGuire on the birth of their daughter Grace Ellen, who was born on the 4th July weighing 6lb 1oz. Thanks to the introduction of the ban on smoking in public places on the 1st July, Grace Ellen was able to have lunch with her proud parents in the Robin Hood, Bexleyheath, on her way home from hospital.

Congratulations to Seamus and Christine Burke on their wedding on Friday, 12th October.

While working on the repairs to the Clubhouse Mick Power was approached by Malcolm Day, the son of George Day the College caretaker for many years. Malcolm was just passing and stopped to see what changes had occurred since the Slades left Norbury. He was a pupil at Mayfield, but nevertheless a familiar figure to many at the College in the 50s. Malcolm, whom Mick thinks might be a teacher, shared a flat with Rob James in his early days and remembers Colin Garvey, Eric Tope and Brian Sanders.

In the postscript to a letter to Mick Power about the recent insurance claims, Philip Schwenk mentioned that he had met Fr. Eric Mead at a recent funeral. Fr. Eric was in the same class at Clapham as Philip's brother Michael Schwenk aka Jake. Apparently this is the second priest from Jake's class that Philip has met in recent months. The other being Fr. Terry Creech. All three were born in 1941.

The last issue of Clapper mentioned that Julian Minghi had recently had lunch with Ted Hayter and friends. Julian tells me that after two years National Service in the RASC, mostly in Germany, he went on to King's College, Durham University (later Newcastle University) to get an honours degree in geography in 1957. After earning some money delivering meat from Smithfield to South East London butchers, he flew off to the States to do an MA and PhD in geography at the University of Washington in Seattle, meeting his future wife, Lee Loewus along the way. They were married in 1960 and have one daughter, Monica, born in 1967 and now living on Long Island just outside New York City. After graduate school, he and Lee lived in Connecticut where he served on the

geography faculty at the University of Connecticut (1961-64). They then moved to Canada for nine years (1964-73) where he taught geography at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. He, Lee and 6-year-old Monica moved back to the USA in 1973 so he could take up the challenge of chairing and building up the geography department at the University of South Carolina in Columbia – a last move! He stepped out of administration after 17 years and from 1990 to 2001 when he retired, he had fun as an ordinary professor. The department at USC is now recognized as a leader in research in geographic information processing with a new PhD program established in 1983. During retirement he has remained professionally active, publishing and presenting papers at international conferences in his specialty – the nature of border regions and international borderlands – and has taught short courses in Italy, Slovenia and the UK where each October he regularly offers 8 hours of lectures in the MA Programme in Geopolitics, Territory, and Security jointly run by King's and SOAS at London University. His mother died in 1984, his father in 1996, and his sister, Norma in Rome in 1998. Last year, with his surviving sister, Diana, he sold the family flat in Cato Road just off Clapham High Street. He and Lee are now renting a new flat in Stockwell, near Union Road, ironically only 200m. from his birthplace in Jeffreys Road! While still residing officially in South Carolina, they are spending considerable time enjoying London and, finally, re-establishing links with Clapham College pals of 55 and more years ago!



Kevin Horkan has sent me this picture of the youngest two players to represent COXA in the Surrey Cricket League. Aaron O'Sullivan and Jack Walsh, both of whose fathers are Old Boys, made their debut in the game against Addington, Jack spent the next two days wearing his Clapham cap even in bed. Both boys fielded very well and Jack ended up 2 not out.

G

erald Rowe has sent me two articles that I hope to publish in a future issue. The first is a graphic account of a typical day in the life of a hands-on import/export executive. The second is a recollection of childhood summers spent 'Hopping' in the area of Kent now occupied by the Bewl Bridge reservoir.

At the September meeting of the Friday Club at the Pied Bull in Streatham, Brian Sanders was recognised by Clyde Davis, who attended the College in the 1960s and had been taught French by him. By a strange coincidence it turned out that Gerald Rowe, another member of the Friday club, had recently worked in the same company as Clyde.

Having met Pat and Terry Fitzgerald at various Old Boys' events over the years, it was a pleasure to meet the third Fitzgerald brother, Mike Fitzgerald, at Stan Miller's funeral. Mike who was in the same year at Clapham as Colin Luke and Michael Ivers left to pursue a successful career in book-binding. A former mayor of Maidstone, he now sits as an Independent Councillor for Broughton Monchelsea & Chart Sutton Ward.

Congratulations to the cricket 1st XI for being awarded a prize for Sportmanship. Pity that they forgot to attend the prize giving ceremony to collect the prize and were fined for doing so!

Stan Miller's Funeral

Stan Miller's funeral took place in pouring rain on the 29th June, the feast of St Peter and St Paul, at Honor Oak Crematorium. Fr. Fergal Maguire SSCC, from St. Thomas the Apostle (Nunhead), conducted the service and tributes were paid to Stan by his cousin Joseph Fitzgerald and Colin Garvey.

In addition to Joseph and his cousin Moya Frost and their families, the large congregation included the following Old Xaverians and friends: Tony and Ina Amura, Ted Hayter, John Keenan, Peter Keenan, Colin and Mary Garvey, Michael Garvey, John and Margaret McGuire, Gary McGuire, Spencer McGuire, Victoria McGuire, Brendan Williams, John McGowan, Mick Powell, Phil Roderick-Jones, Ben Benedict, Matt and Tom Benedict, John Leathem, Harry Mellor, John Ryan, Kevin Bond, John Hickey, Mick Grice, Mick Power, Mick Duffy, Chris and Linda Smith, Paul Smith, John Mansi, Joe Mansi, Paul Hixson, Tim Hixson, Aidan Coletta, Alan Webber, Seamus and Christine Burke, Eddie O'Brien, Steve Parker, Vic Rozkowski, Jim Gallagher, Mick Fitzgerald, Terry Fitzgerald, Kevin Horkan, Trevor Jones, Serge Cefai, Lev Myatt, Frankie Ryan, Alec Morrish, Brendan Walsh, John Pettley, Eamonn Taggart, Gerry Taggart.

The service was followed by a reception at the Ivy public house in Stuart Road, Peckham

C.O.X.A Golf Day 21st July 2007

On a rain sodden Mitcham Golf course, despite the objections of the R & A (as it was the third day of the Open) and of the Cricket section (some of their players wanted to play golf – and I hope that they are better golfers than cricketers), 27 golfers (or alleged golfers) of varying handicaps turned up to enjoy the reincarnated Golf Day. I must admit from my point of view that it was rather pleasing to see so many new faces at golf both young and old plus the regular bandits.

The early group started in the pouring rain but it soon brightened up and the weather conditions remained good for golf. Bearing in mind that it was the first time the competition had been held at Mitcham, it was not known what a good score would be. The early leader in the Club House was Brendan Williams, which is not surprising given that he spends more time at the club than at home. Fortunately, and with no disrespect to Brendan, Tom Judge overtook him. I say this because it would have been rather embarrassing for the Chairman of the Association and resident at the club to have won the competition. Only 3 points separated the top six players and in reverse order the top three players were: Steve Parker (35 points); Brendan Williams (35 points) and Tom Judge (37 points).

Well done Tom and a new name on the shield if we ever get it back from the previous winner. Many apologies to Tom that it could not be presented on the day, but as the previous winner simply failed to turn up on the day, there was nothing that could be done about it. However, due to Brendan's previous negotiation with the Golf Club very good prizes were handed out to the first three.

The closest battle, however, was for the "rookie" of the day. Brian Unthank (a name known only to me) led the charge with the grand total of 3 points, but a late surge by Giggsy (Nick Armitage) over-

took him with 2 points. There were prizes for the nearest the pin and the longest drive, but I have to admit that I have forgotten who won them.

I would also like to thank Tom Proxa and Lev Myatt for donating prizes. No doubt other players will bear this in mind for next year!

I would like to thank Mitcham Golf Club for allowing us the use of their facilities (at a fee) and Brendan Williams for arranging the venue. I would also like to thank Paul Hixson for his organisational help in the lead up to the event, but more importantly to all the players who attended. I believe that all had an enjoyable day and long may it continue. The only downside was that six players, who had previously indicated that they would be attending, simply failed to turn up. No names but at the next Chairman's lunch Brendan Walsh, Paul Williams, John Petley, Fergal McGuire, Jim Thornton and Tony Longworth each owe me a pint.

On a closing note, pencil in your diary Saturday, 26th April 2008. This has been agreed with the R & A; the cricket and football section as the date of the next Golf Day. It will be held at the Mitcham Golf Club again. All are invited, but I am afraid next time it will be deposits with names.

Thanks once again to all those who attended and made it such a great success. I look forward to seeing you all again in 2008.

John McGuire

A Drink to Gerry's Memory

Sad to say, Gerry Hickey died, quite a bit on the early side last year. Hardly the most frequent visitor to the clubhouse in recent years, it is a testament to his popularity and the respect which he commanded that so many people came together on 6th October with no other aim but to have a few pints and remember one of our favourite old boys.

Colin Garvey was there, and if we were causing any trouble, I guess Ambrose or Peter would have called him the ringleader. Certainly, his exhortations to "give me a fiver" and then "get some of that bitter down you" were high on my list of reasons to have a headache the next day.

Mick Power organised that barrel of beer but turned up too late for me. I decided that if anybody knew how to open the barrel, it was me, and since there was a spike and a hammer nearby, it seemed obvious what to do next.

Apparently, there is another hole to be opened before juxtaposing barrel, spike and hammer. My wife's description of my shirt a bit later will have to be reported in a less Catholic paper.

Eric Tope turned up, out of retirement and soon demonstrated that he hadn't lost his touch in finding the fastest way to the bottom of a glass of bitter. It really was a bit like the old days in the bar that

is now the changing rooms. Nice one Eric, but trumped by the conversational car-crash that is Terry Clegg. Seriously (annoyingly) fit and remembers everything and everyone, but as Eric Morecambe once said "not necessarily in the right order".

Not done with teachers yet – Gerry, I don't recall word that you were such a swot, mate – in walks Graham Hudson. Did he sing? He must have. He always does. We always insist. I was just a bit drunk, so can't swear to it. What I can swear to was the inaugural COXA rendition of "Hit Me With Your Rhythm Stick" to the tune of Jerusalem. That was me, no doubt inspired by Brendan Williams' "Wild Rover" to the tune of "Ghost Riders in the Sky".

If Mick Collins turns up, (and he did), make sure you're there too because he turns up to few, but they're the best ones. Likewise Chez. (Or was that my imagination?) Local heroes, Steve Parker and John Pettley; stalwarts Eddie O'Brien, Vic Roszkowski. Even Alan Webber turned up, looking as fit as a fiddle, post stroke (is it two years ago now?).

Who else? I can't remember. I told you, this was a drink in Gerry's memory, and although the obituary may have been more gently complimentary, the drinking was a dizzy tribute that says more for an old mate.

Rest in Peace, Gerry,

David Leatham

COXCC Cricket Tour s 1976-77

Some time ago returning to London, I had to detour from the M40 to avoid the road works and consequent tailback at Stokenchurch, and to my surprise found myself driving through the Cotswold village of Tetworth, which was very much the centrepiece of the 1976 tour to the Cotswolds. Cruising past the village green, phantoms appeared in the gathering gloom, and just as fleetingly returned to their other dimension: Micky Butler airborne at mid-on, Bruce Milburn oinking at the moon, Dave McCleave looking for the seam on Johnny McGuire's head, ... I had been awaiting inspiration to get me started on this second COXCC tour chronicle, and thus was it provided. Also, following the sad news earlier this year, I have tried to include a few "Stan Miller" moments and observations.

1976 was to be a joint tour between COXCC and St Paul's Cathedral CC, Wednesday to Saturday, with us returning on Sunday for a regular fixture. Mick Power captained St. Paul's, a Saturday side and several of us played with him. Mick Grice and Martin Parker – St Paul's wicketkeeper - had set up the itinerary, having made two or three advance trips to inspect and select cricketing venues, accommodation, pubs, and local beers, and based on Mick and Martin's advance reports we were expectant of great things: idyllic village greens with lovingly maintained squares set against a canvas of patchwork fields in the rolling Cotswold hills, gurgling chalk streams driving centuries-old water-mills, country pubs built in the golden local sandstone serving draught bitter fit for a Britannic Bacchus, and I suppose all this did transpire at one moment or another during the tour.

Our first game was against Banbury CC. Whenever you play a club called simply "Well Known Place" C.C., rather than The Banbury Bar Buddies C.C. or suchlike, you are usually playing a quality cricketing club, and so this proved. On arriving at the ground we saw a square 30 yards wide, cinema-scope sightscreens needing 4 people to move them, the grounds man setting up the stumps and moving wicket covers off the square, and we wondered if we had been somewhat ambitious in our choice of opposition, an impression sharpened as I opened the batting with Mick Grice against a 15 stone, 6'3" fast bowler who started his run-up from the pavilion steps (a pavilion, let alone steps leading thereto, being a rare-enough experience for COXCC). We did well enough to force the score up to around 130 by tea, despite the budding Merv Hughes' replacement being a gnarled, parsimonious off-spinner bowling for leg-side stumpings in-between defying Newton's 1st Law of Motion with massive deviations of the ball from outside off-stump.

I remember hearing some lunchtime chat on Test Match Special once on the difference between first-class cricket and top-level club cricket, and the main conclusion was that it's basically the same thing, but things happen just so much faster. One of the pleasing experiences of touring was to meet players from another cricketing grade, and indeed the speed of the game is a critical element similarly between grades in club cricket. This guy bowling medium-paced off-breaks with the keeper breathing on your backside underlined this for us. In Sunday club cricket you tend to meet a fairly uniform standard of player week-in and week-out, whereas on tour you'd tend to meet a couple or more really good players in a mid-week fixture, playing alongside 2nd/3rd XI players and a local or three there for the beer. A Sunday afternoon spinner might tweak the ball but you have time to decide whether to "block or bash", and an error will often go unpunished by a clumsy wicket keeper. Not with this guy: it was like the Yes/No interlude with Michael Miles on Take Your Pick (apologies to readers under the age of 55 who probably will not know this reference); one lapse of concentration and you are out. Additionally we were used to "taking one for the throw" for any ball fielded near the boundary, but their fielders seemed able to fire in Exocets from 70 yards, which precluded such leisurely run gathering.

Our eventual total of 128 was probably OK given the standard of the bowling and fielding. Tea was followed with a spirited defense of our unchallenging target, and despite us getting some wickets, Banbury were able to comfortably carry the game, their batsmen untroubled in the pursuit. Thanks to Mick Power exploring his attic I can provide scorebook summary information for the 1976 tour matches. As you can see their two main bowlers cleared up all our wickets but they fed us scraps from their less daunting colleagues, though it's obvious that we hardly took them apart either, as we needed 45 overs to score our 128 runs. At least we used 36 overs defending our total.

| Scorecard vs Banbury CC Wednesday, 14th July 1976 | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------|--------|----|-----------------|-------|------|------|---------|
| COXACC/St Paul's Innings | | | | Banbury Bowling | | | | |
| Duffy | stumped | Spicer | 27 | | Overs | Mdns | Runs | Wickets |
| Grice | bowled | Hughes | 7 | Hughes | 12 | 2 | 36 | 3 |
| Miller | bowled | Spicer | 39 | Beard | 8 | 4 | 20 | 0 |
| Power | bowled | Spicer | 0 | Spicer | 16 | 6 | 46 | 6 |
| Parker | bowler | Hughes | 22 | Smith | 9 | 1 | 17 | 0 |

| COXCC/St Paul's Innings | | | | COXCC/St Paul's Bowling | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|-----|-------------------------|----|---|----|---|
| Walker | lbw | Spicer | 10 | Miller | 13 | 3 | 49 | 1 |
| Milburn | bowled | Hughes | 1 | Duffy | 4 | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| McGuire | bowled | Spicer | 3 | Grice | 14 | 1 | 51 | 1 |
| Baker | not out | | 3 | Walker | 5 | 0 | 16 | 1 |
| Butler, M | bowled | Spicer | 2 | | | | | |
| Janusewski | not out | | 5 | | | | | |
| Extras | | | 9 | | | | | |
| Total for 9 | | | 128 | | | | | |
| Banbury CC Innings | | | | | | | | |
| Total for 4 | | | 129 | | | | | |
| Banbury won by 6 wickets | | | | | | | | |

You may note the unusual entry of: "Miller bowled"; Stan did not give up his wicket easily but regarded being bowled as a failure of character and technique. He hated being bowled, such a dismissal resulting in an immediate re-assessment of technique. When umpiring I remember that Stan's determination to not be bowled would often lead to him in defence to move to the off and cover his stumps with his pads, fending the ball down and away to the on-side. Being a good bat he invariably made contact but on each straight ball I would countenance Stan missing and the consequent LBW appeal. I don't believe I ever had to give Stan out LBW, and indeed can hardly remember any appeals, but must have mentally rehearsed the situation a thousand times while wearing the white coat.

Thinking through who toured for the first time we have Richard 'Chez' Janusewski, Micky Butler, and Brian Baker starting their touring careers, plus Bruce 'The Pig' Milburn coming along as tour drunk, and from St. Paul's there was Martin Parker (who had toured with us in 1974) and Malcolm Walker, and then Mick Patten, Dave McCleave and Peter Escott who arrived the next day.

Our accommodation was in the small Cotswold town of Woodstock, built almost entirely of Cotswold sandstone, and adjacent to Blenheim Palace, ancestral home of the Dukes of Marlborough and birthplace of Winston Churchill, son of the 7th Duke's younger brother and his American wife Jenny (yes, our Winnie was half-American). We were split across two pubs either side of the High Street, one being absolutely preferable as I recall, having been allocated to the other. I mentioned in the first article that tours had their own epithets, and this tour was the Pyrotechnists Tour; read on to discover why.

Ben did tour but was recovering from a broken leg suffered playing football, and envisaging not playing most games had for company invited Bruce Milburn, aka The Pig, so named as he could produce incredibly realistic porcine vocalisations. Ben was pretty fired up about showing the St Paul's contingent what touring was all about, and desperate to play at least once declared himself fit for the Tetsworth game on the Thursday. We batted first on a pudding of a wicket, a consequence of the overnight and morning rain – in fact we were quite fortunate to play at all – so runs weren't easy to get, and the ball was hardly racing to the boundary boards when we did manage to make contact. It was the sort of wicket where you could see the imprint of the seam on the pitch, and where you could

score 20 as an early batsman and feel like you had a fifty. We scraped 130 at any rate.

I can just imagine Stan Miller's 48 being one of his "muck and bullets" innings (as in "being up to one's neck in..."). Stan didn't usually enjoy farming easy runs against indifferent bowling, and would often get out to sloppy shots when our total was looking secure but also of course when he had 30 or so to his name to ensure his average was not too severely damaged. However when runs and survival were hard to come by, and team ignominy loomed, Stan would usually play to his best, reveling almost in the adversity, and could severely castigate anyone who did not similarly stand up and be counted, or in today's parlance was "not up for it".

I remember that this was a fine tea, ranking with Broadstone in 1974, and given the lowly total posted, both sides were happy to have more than a leisurely half-hour to clean up the scones and cream cakes. So, we were out again in the field, and the wicket naturally evidenced a schizophrenic tendency, being all of a sudden placid and comfortable (which was of course nothing to do with our bowling compared to theirs). Things started to get a bit ratty in the field as we seemingly headed for an uncomfortable defeat (ever played for COXCC and noticed anything different in such situations?), although we did get a wicket or two, and find the occasional edge. One of these edges went by Ben at slip, who turned to try and run after the ball but was, basically, immobile given the mending lower limb, and gave a imploring look to point to run after the ball speeding down to the third man boundary. (Thinking more about this, from 1976 I'm not sure that I ever saw Ben run after a ball from slip...)

The game progressed, and so after losing 2 early wickets Tetsworth got to over 100 with only 4 down, at which point we saw their 10 and 11 disappear to change, and in fact the No.11 left the ground, waving and with a parting "Cheers, lads, well played, have a good tour" **between overs**. Well, such a display of in-the-bagness required a response and captain Mick Power, with a bowling change here and a field change there, duly delivered. In fact, thanks to Mick Power finding the scorebook for this tour I can piece together the finale in detail. Their No. 4 bat seems to have taken command and scored around half their 110 when we bowled their No.6, who had been his quiet but supportive partner in a stand of 61: 110 for 5. A few runs more scored and Stan then bowled their hero on 58 - clearly a good bat to score thus on this wicket: 118 for 6: mildly precarious at 13 to win with 4 wickets left, but surely home and dry. This game was a good example of the psychology in cricket, when to reverse a team's performance in the field takes a mixture of high hope and determination overcoming low expectation and supineness. Such a sea-change can occur when the fielding itself sharpens and threatens on each ball, giving encouragement to the bowlers who start to think that a chance will be held or a spanking off-drive will be stopped by an heroic extra cover, just one such a prodigious feat of fielding often being catalytic in improving the whole team's fielding and the bowler's confidence and performance.

Such was how our mood had started to change, galvanised when I (evidently) served up a leg side half-volley to their No.7, who had started to take calm command, and Micky Butler held a rasping on-drive, leaping at mid-on and fully airborne grasping the ball two-handed above his head (and surviving the reacquaintance with mother earth): 118 for 7. Thus inspired, the team became united towards an unlikely victory, and the pressure upon Tetsworth mounted. At this point we saw one of their players running over to the village phone box outside the pub across the road from the mid-wicket boundary, and evidently call their No.11 at home. We also noted that their No.10 had returned the dressing room to emerge re-attired in whites. One run more and No.8 was run out on 0 -

a sure sign of panic - so now it's two new batsmen at 119 for 8 after cruising along at 110 for 4. Still, only 13 to win; surely still possible. The No.11 duly re-appeared at the ground just as their 9th wicket fell one run later, and fully used up the allowed two minutes to pad up over his civvies and enter the field of play. We took delight in toppling their 10th wicket with no further addition, a Miller caught-and-bowled, and won by 10 runs; a memorable win! Stan was brought back into the attack by Mick and bowled three consecutive wicket-maidens to mop up the tail.

| Scorecard vs Tetsworth CC on Thursday, 15th July 1976 | | | | | | | |
|---|---------|-----|--------|-------------------------|------|------|---------|
| COXCC/St Paul's Innings | | | | COXCC/St Paul's Bowling | | | |
| Duffy | bowled | 10 | | Overs | Mdns | Runs | Wickets |
| Grice | ct | 0 | Miller | 9 | 5 | 15 | 4 |
| Miller | ct | 48 | Duffy | 11 | 4 | 37 | 4 |
| Parker | run out | 36 | Grice | 7 | 2 | 20 | 1 |
| Power | not out | 23 | Butler | 6 | 0 | 29 | 1 |
| Walker | bowled | 0 | Walker | 1 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| Baker | bowled | 0 | | | | | |
| Butler, M | run out | 2 | | | | | |
| Janusewski | not out | 1 | | | | | |
| Extras | | 10 | | | | | |
| Total for 8 wickets | | 130 | | | | | |
| Tetsworth CC Innings | | | | | | | |
| Total | | 120 | | | | | |
| COXCC/St Paul's won by 10 runs | | | | | | | |

Naturally the evening went well, including Bruce Milburn celebrating periodically with porcine mating calls on the green. So, we ended back at base in Woodstock, with Messrs Escott and McCleave, who showed up by the end of the match in time to join us in the pub, allocated to the 'garret' room right at the top of the pub. Dave M was a slow left-arm spinner with huge hands (he was known as 'Bluto' for those of you familiar with Popeye). In the pub, talking about bowling, he espied John McGuire's head and said he could see a seam, and proceeded to demonstrate his orthodox left-arm spinner's grip using JM's bonce as a ball. Dave and Peter decided to retire early and Bruce and Ben decided that this wasn't really the done thing; entreaties through their door to re-join us fell on stony ground, so they thought that they'd smoke them out, starting a small fire outside their room at the top of the steep narrow stairs leading to the top floor, shoving burning embers underneath the door. After a while, voices inside enquired to those outside what the hell was going on, with threats emanating from Bluto should there be anything untoward in progress; finally the said Bluto emitted a huge yell of 'Go Away' or similar sentiment. An angry Dave M was a disturbing presence; Bruce tore down the stairs leaving a lame Ben to try and get down as quick as he could without succumbing to the unhindered effects of gravity. He just about made it, but the sight of Ben, look of terror on his face, trying to get down the stairs and back into the bar was hilarious. He certainly moved far more quickly than when at slip earlier in the day. Peter and Dave did come back down eventually so

the pyrotechnists' campaign was in fact successful

The Friday and Saturday games were unremarkable; that's to say that I can't recall that much about either, other than we won Friday's easily and had the best of a draw on Saturday, and that conditions were damp.

| Scorecard vs Temple Farm, Friday 16th July 1976 | | | | | |
|---|---------|----|-------------------------|------|-------------|
| Temple Farm Innings | | | COXCC/St Paul's Bowling | | |
| Total | | 91 | Overs | Mdns | Runs Wicket |
| COXCC/St Paul's Innings | | | Miller | 9 | 4 19 2 |
| Escott | ct | 0 | Duffy | 13 | 5 30 3 |
| Milburn | bowled | 18 | Butler | 7 | 2 20 1 |
| McCleave | bowled | 7 | Grice | 4 | 1 11 1 |
| McGuire | bowled | 0 | McGuire | 1.1 | 0 1 2 |
| Parker | not out | 48 | | | |
| Duffy | ct | 0 | | | |
| Walker | Not out | 9 | | | |
| Extras | | 12 | | | |
| Total for 5 | | 93 | | | |
| COXCC/St Paul's won by 5 wickets | | | | | |

After Friday's game we went for drinks at a Donnington's pub by a fast-running stream with water mill in the background, the pub identified by Mick and Martin and it was a glorious and idyllic evening, which got better after each pint.

Note Johnny McGuire's devastating spell of 7 balls and 2 wickets to finish the Temple Farm innings, which led to a longer spell the next day. Evidently though, John felt he had done enough on the day when he went out to bat at No.4 (as indeed did your correspondent at No.6). Martin Parker no doubt hit a lively 48 not out and was probably tried for and found guilty of jug avoidance.

John McGuire came good with the ball again and no doubt had a good few "Mackies" that night. Mick Power and Stan Miller got their 50's so two jugs there, and it looks like Mick Grice bowled a mean spell of his vicious medium pace. Also it would appear that Mick Power brought himself on to open up the game and "buy" the remaining 2 wickets with his occasional off-spin, giving up half of the 54 he had scored in just 3 overs.

| Scorecard vs Windrush Valley CC Saturday 17th July 1976 | | | | | |
|---|--------|-----|-------------------------|------|--------------|
| Windrush Valley CC Innings | | | COXCC/St Paul's Bowling | | |
| Total for 8 | | 133 | Overs | Mdns | Runs Wickets |
| COXCC/St Paul's Innings | | | Miller | 9 | 2 42 1 |
| Escott | bowled | 19 | Duffy | 7 | 3 5 0 |
| Milburn | bowled | 3 | Walker | 9 | 2 26 2 |

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|---------|-----|---------|---|---|----|---|
| Duffy | bowled | 8 | Grice | 8 | 4 | 9 | 3 |
| Janusewski | run out | 10 | McGuire | 6 | 4 | 13 | 2 |
| Power | not out | 54 | Power | 3 | 0 | 27 | 0 |
| Miller | ct | 50 | | | | | |
| Parker | not out | 9 | | | | | |
| Extras | | 31 | | | | | |
| Total for 5 | | 184 | | | | | |
| Match Drawn | | | | | | | |

And so on to 1977, and what a tour! This was the Fuhrer's Tour, although it could equally be the Pernod Tour although 1979 could lay claim to that sobriquet also. It was a full five-day tour – cricket Wednesday to Sunday inclusive. Also it was the first tour for two of COXCC's "big beasts" – Tony Amura and Chris Smith, and I think it was Seamus Burke's first tour also. A great tour: lashings of Pernod, "13 pints of Banks' Bitter" (imagine that spoken in a Brummie accent), Seamus attacking a barbed-wire fence, who would get the first tour duck, a flatulent opposition opening bat, Paul Hixson goose-stepping down the wicket in full keeper's regalia...

To Be Continued.

Mick Duffy

Membership

I would like to welcome Patrick Ryan, Tom O'Dee and Kevin Barnaville as Life Members.

At the recent AGM the following proposal was accepted, relating to the cost of becoming a Life Member:

80s or over £10

70s £20

60s £30

50s £50

Under 50s – No Change £75

The following are either Life Members or have paid by Standing Order in September.

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Frank Attwood | Terry Cremins | L Larkin | S P Quick |
| Brian Baldock | A V Crichton-Smith | Brian D Lawlor | Dennis Quin |
| Paul Barber | Lyndon Davis | B E Lawrence | John Quirk |
| Philip Barrington | Adie Decoursey | David Leathem | John Rayer |
| Matthew Benedict | David Donnelly | John Leathem | Kevin Ridge |
| Richard Benson | Peter Doran | Phil Leeder | Phil Roderick-Jones |

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Peter Bonthrone | Mick Duffy | Jan Luba | Connor Rooney |
| W L Booth | Brian Earp | Mike Lynch | Vic Roszkowski |
| Wilson Bowers | Tom Ennis | Nick Lynch | Gerald C Rowe |
| Martin Boyd | Bernard E Farrell | Mick Magee | Joe Rowe |
| Andrew Brannon | Lorcan Farrelly | John V Mansi | Frank Ryan |
| Mick Brien | P J Fitzgerald | Joseph Mansi | Michael Ryan |
| R C Brookes | Terry Fitzgerald | Dave Martin | Patrick Ryan |
| Gerry Burgess | Peter Flaherty | Brian McDermott | Gerry Salmon |
| James Burke | John Freddi | Scotty MacDonald | Andrew Sanders |
| Michael Burke | Peter Fry | John McGuire | Brian Sanders |
| Pat Burke | Pat Furey | Tom McLoughlin | David Sanders |
| Seamus Burke | Colin Garvey | John McNicholas | Ben Schwenk |
| Michael Butler | John Gilhooly | Jim McQueeney | Phil Schwenk |
| Paul Butler | Mike Grice | Mick Meade | Guy Sheppard |
| Brian Campbell | Pip Gunn | Chris Megoran | John Sheridan |
| Nino Carraccio | Richard Harris | David Mellor | Paul Shimell |
| Terry Carroll | Ted Hayter | Harry Mellor | Robert Speight |
| Kevin Cassandro | John Henderson | David Miles | Eamonn Taggart |
| Lt.Col. F Cetri | Harry Hickland | Robert Murphy | Gerard Taggart |
| Jim Chambers | D A Hicks | Matthew Murtagh | Paul Tehan |
| Rich Clark | Tim Higgins | John Norton | Eric Tope |
| Terry Clegg | Frank Hixson | Sean O'Connell | C Truss |
| Kevin Clouter | Paul Hixson | Tom O'Dee | R A Tuft |
| Aiden Coletta | Tim Hixson | Mick O'Shea | Mick Ware |
| Mike Collins | Jim Howard | Mick O'Sullivan | Paul West |
| R T Collins | Peter J Hughes | Briony O'Sullivan | Alan Webber |
| W C Collins | Barry James | A C Page | Michael J Weir |
| Daniel Condon | John F Jones | R F Pierce | R F Westwood |
| Derek Cooper | Trevor Jones | Henry Pinsent | Brian P White |
| Andrew Cordani | John Keenan | Bernard Plummer | Arthur Williams |
| Franco Cornelli | Peter Keenan | Len Powell | Brendan Williams |
| Malcolm Corey | John A Keen | Brian Pryke | John Williams |
| Ted Corrigan | Peter Keen | Tom Purcell | Peter Wills |

| Paid by Standing Order in September. | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Amura A N | Cousins P | Hodges | Noulton JD & A |
| Barnaville K | Crean Nicholas | Hounslow P T & M S | O'Brien R E |
| Barretta 290597 | Davorn J | Howard Kevin | O'Connor PT |
| Boyd JP & CM | Doran P | Januszewski R & M | O'Flynn M & A |
| Brady KF | Egan JP & TM | Jordan F | Pinsent P & HG |
| Brandon J | Farrell MF | Kanssen PMT & JM | Ridge K |
| Brannon A | Fearns EJ | Kearns BJ & M | Ryan J |
| Brown P C & SAS | Fowler M W & CA | Kelly TJ | Scott CJ & GL |
| Bunce J S65 | Frost JA | Kidd W R | Speight RO/GCA |
| Burkhard MM & FT | Fulker A E | Laghi H | Twokowski AS |
| Cain T P | Gavigan JJ | Martin-Rodriguez | Unknown Bank Credit |
| Carpenter L | Gibbons M | Maxwell R J | Wedgworth T N |
| Carter P | Gowan M & B | Meggyesi P A | Weir MJ & JC |
| Casey BJ & VA | Griffin AA | Meric Ltd | West P |
| Cleather AG | Hadida DH | Morrish A & S | White 010897 |
| Coll JF | Hadida Michael | Morrish AJ | Williamson KA |
| Conneely MA | Hayland MJ & JE | Murtagh DA | Wills P J & Mrs C |
| Conner J M | Henderson JE | Nathan D Walters D J | Window JC |

In addition several of you pay by standing order later in the year and a number of you pay by cash, at an event **Chairman's Lunch**, annual **Mass**, **Ad Hoc** payment.

I have also not yet had returns from the football and cricket sections.

If you do not fall into any of the above then you are not officially a member of our Association, currently. Please let me have your payment in time for the next edition of Clapper or you will not be entitled to receive a copy.

In the last two years we have increased the number of Life Members by over 50

Several of our Life Members are also generous enough to pay a Standing Order, Hopefully I will put out a note to these with the next edition of Clapper.

Please take advantage of the Life Membership rates as it will make running the Association and in particular the Membership Section much easier.

Cheques made payable to COXA and sent to :

John Mansi
9 The Chase
Norbury
SW16 3AE
0208 764 8282
john.mansi@blueyonder.co.uk

John Mansi

Monsignor Cyril Murtagh – A Celebration

Monsignor Cyril Murtagh (1944) celebrated 50 years in the Priesthood this year. A service of thanksgiving for the golden jubilee of his ordination was held at the Immaculate Conception Church, Liphook on 13 October and was attended by almost all of the extended Murtagh family, including John Murtagh (1969), Matthew Murtagh (1972), David Murtagh (1974) and Bob Murtagh (School Captain 1977).

Cyril joined the Clapham College preparatory school (based in the Hollywood building) in 1935 and then moved up to the main school in 1937. Two years later the school was evacuated to East Grinstead. During this period the staff included Br. Bernardine (Headmaster), Br. Alphonsus ('Doggie') and Br. Dunstan.

After leaving Clapham in 1944, Cyril spent four years in the army before going up to Pembroke College, Oxford in 1948 to read English. Among the lecturers were JRR Tolkien and CS Lewis. Having graduated from Oxford in 1951, Cyril then started studying for the priesthood at the Venerable English College in Rome and was ordained at the English College in 1957. He served as Parish Priest in Portsmouth (where the curate in an adjoining parish was his fellow student from the English College, Fr Cormac Murphy-O'Connor), Jersey, Southampton, Oxford and then Petersfield from 1972 to 2001.

In 1968, Cyril was appointed a Canon Lawyer and still practises in this capacity in the Matrimonial Tribunal. From 1980 to 1993 he was the Vicar-General of the Diocese of Portsmouth and at one point ran the diocese for 10 months while a new Bishop was appointed. He was appointed Monsignor by Pope Paul VI.

Now aged 81, he is currently the Parish Priest at the Immaculate Conception, Liphook, in the Portsmouth Diocese.

Annual Remembrance Day Mass

The celebrant at this year's Remembrance Day Mass in the College Chapel was Fr. Anthony Richins. The reader was a remarkably spry and fit Cecil Pocock speaking in an unmistakeably clear voice that

took me straight back to my first day at the College in September 1953.

Fr. Richins has very kindly provided me with the text of his homily, which is reproduced below for the benefit of those members of the Association who were unable to attend on the day.:

When I look at my bookshelves at the stage of my life in which I now find myself it has to be to ask the question what should I do with so much of its content I shall never take up: and the supplementary question which follows is do I wish to burden those who have the task of closing the water over my head with the additional problem of their disposal.

Among the dust gathering volumes are, inevitably, many works on Education. What, some of them ask, is the purpose of Education. There we are invited to consider Citizenship, the Whole Person, Service of the Community and other possible uses. We used to have, in this country, a Ministry of Education, then a Department of Education, after that a Department of Education and Science, and, when I worked on Schools' Grants, the Archbishop having found out that I had passed School Certificate Mathematics with forty two percent, it was called the Department for Education and Employment. Two denominations later the title of Education has been abandoned in favour of something to do with Young People.

We have been fortunate here, on these premises, a practical approach was adopted. I hasten to tell you that I am not proposing any reference that you might expect to the teaching of Drill as it was in the forties and early fifties, but to the other areas that would fit us for life after St Philip's Square, East Grinstead, Taunton and Nightingale Lane, wherever the College happened to be.

Life after Nightingale Lane has almost certainly been full of surprises for almost everyone here in our own constantly changing context for life experience. Seventy years ago our predecessors would have confidently and accurately predicted a career as Bank managers or important operatives in Sainsbury's. They might not have been so clear on that intervening period from which some of them did not return and for whom we are praying today. It is likely that they took with them from Nightingale Lane a sense of gratitude for what they had received at Clapham College, although it might have needed some sifting to separate it from the less agreeable elements. No one, surely, could have enjoyed Drill even if it were to be called gymnastics, a Greek word which would today fetch down the wrath of the Child Protection authorities.

One of the items of life context I did not expect in 1943 was that I should become Chairman of Governors, another more recent, especially so as I move towards the late evening of life was the increased involvement with funerals.

This year, with an average of two a month, they have been varied, except in one detail: all but one have been for people younger than I am. Otherwise there has been much difference: the funeral of a biker, with a sidecar hearse and mourners with appropriate transport, a wickerwork coffin, a Chinese funeral to be conducted entirely in French that being our only common language. One where all involved lived what I will tactfully describe as an alternative lifestyle. Several others felt they needed to tell me, in case I did not see it for myself that they did pray "in their own way" although they no longer had any formal involvement with the Church.

You might wonder where all this discursive material is heading, but for all of them and for us too the ending of

our passage from the Book of Job, which we heard today, is significant: "I shall look on God. He whom I shall see will take my part: these eyes will gaze on Him and find him not aloof."

The mass was attended by Brian Sanders, Phil Leader, Colin Garvey, Harry Mellor, Bernard Farrell, Kevin Williamson, Tony Frost, Peter Serafinowitz, Mick Power, Malcolm Corey, Eddie O'Brien, Nino Carraccio, Bernie Borland, Ben Schwenk, Paul Milligan, Lawrence Milligan, Dennis Hook, Joe Cernuschi, David Sanders, Seamus Burke, Dr. Eric Tope, John and Mrs Gilhooley, Rudolf Masarra, John and Mrs. Noulton, Alec Morrish, Brian and Mrs Lawlor. After Mass bacon rolls and other traditional refreshments were provided by Mark Preece and several people subsequently spent a pleasant time socialising in the Oliver Plunkett Club.

400 Club

The latest winners are:

| | £100 | £50 | £25 |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| July | Eamon Kearns | Kevin Ridge | John McNicholas |
| August | John Sheridan | Phil Leeder | Jim Connor |
| September | Jim Norton | Eric Tope | Phil Schwenk |
| October | Frank Ryan | Joe Williams | Pat Burke |
| November | Steve Parker | Brian Sanders | Paul Davis |

COXA needs all the money it can raise. One ticket in the 400 Club costs £12 per year. If you want one or more tickets please phone Colin Garvey on 020 8764 0313.

Some winners' cheques were sent out late this autumn. Others have been delayed in the post. If you are a named winner and have not received your cheque, please ring Colin Garvey.

Colin Garvey

It never rains but it pours...

In the annals of the Norbury Clubhouse, 2007 will go down as a year to remember, unfortunately for all the wrong reasons.

Like so much of the rest of England, Norbury suffered from the deluge on 20th July. The aptly named 'Ark' Nursery School was midway through its end of term party when the rain draining down from the playing field started to flood the building and rose to the level of the children's' knees. Fortunately the staff managed to get the children out safely to neighbouring properties without anyone

being injured. Efforts to contact the Fire Brigade were unsuccessful.

Fortunately within a few hours the water had drained away but it left in its wake a vast amount of damage. This included damage to the fabric of the clubhouse, damage to flooring and contents including furniture, the central heating boiler, electrical goods and stock.

The first job was to hire a skip and clear away the sodden and destroyed items so that the buildings could dry out.

To date, one wall has been rebuilt. The buildings have been cleaned and sanitised and some redecoration has been completed with new carpet tiles laid in the Clubroom.

Currently the central heating boiler is not working but hopefully it will be replaced shortly (suitably qualified engineers are thin on the ground). Other works will follow.

As if this wasn't enough to contend with, on the night of 22nd October some kind 'locals' paid the Clubhouse a visit. They gained entry by jemmying open the fire door. They helped themselves to our large screen TV, a large quantity of spirits, a small amount of cash and a full box of Kit Kats. They also damaged various cupboards looking for goodness know what. Don't they realise that we are a voluntary organisation?

Following the recommendation of Philip Schwenk, our broker, we have beefed up our security arrangements.

I would like to thank the members of the Association and the Pigeon Club who helped in clearing up the mess and making the Clubhouse functional again.

It will be some months before the true cost to the Association of this Act of God and vandalism will be fully established. By good management we had insurance covering both incidents but as is usual in these circumstances the insurance settlements will not cover all of our costs.

Mick Power

Friday Club

The Friday Club meets on the second Friday of every second month. The last meeting, on the 14th September, was held at the Pied Bull, Streatham Common (near Sainsbury's). Regular members (Brian Sanders, Joe Cernuschi, Gerald Rowe, Colin Garvey and John Mansi) were joined by the editor. A pleasant social evening, enhanced by the atmosphere of a good old fashioned pub with an excellent choice of beers and plentiful, reasonably priced meals, was enlivened by the arrival of Clyde Davis. Clyde a former pupil at the College had been having a quiet drink with a friend when, perhaps attracted by the good humoured banter emanating from the Friday Club, he recognised

Brian Sanders , his former French master.

The next meeting will be held at the Pied Bull on the Friday, 11th January 2008 from 8:00 pm onwards. Why not come along?

Brian Sanders

The Chairman's Luncheon

The next annual Chairman's Luncheon will take place in the England Suite at the Kennington Oval on Friday, 26th January 2008. Last year's event was a great success, but by contacting former class mates and encouraging them to attend the premier event in the Associations' calendar you can make the 2008 luncheon an even greater success.

As usual there will be a complimentary bar from 12 noon until luncheon is served. The menu is:

.oOo.

Spiced winter vegetable soup, cumin crème fraiche

.oOo.

Confit duck leg, butter fondant potato, white bean cassoulet, thyme jus

.oOo.

Warm chocolate fondant pudding, boubon ice cream, malt foam

.Ooo.

Coffee

A vegetarian option is available. If you have any other special dietary requirements, please let us know.

The cost of this event is £39.60. Please make cheques payable to COXA.

Your booking form should be returned by Monday, 14th January 2008. No tickets will be issued for this event. All enquiries should be made to the Secretary, Eddie O'Brien

Please note that the England Suite is in the OCS Stand, which is at the Vauxhall end of the ground in Harleyford Road. Enter via the Alec Stewart Gate and report to reception. There is no access to the OCS stand by the Hobbs Gate.

| Chairman | Secretary |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Brendan Williams | Eddie O'Brien |
| Sherwood Mount | 12 Montrose Gardens |
| 10 Uplands Road | Sutton |
| Kenley, Surrey CR8 5ES | Surrey SM1 3BZ |
| 0208 660 2170 | 020 8644 1803 |
| brendanwilliams@btopenworld.com | EddieObrien@tesco.net |
| Treasurer | Membership |
| Seamus Burke | John Mansi |
| 60 Louisville Road | 9 The Chase |
| London SW17 8RU | Norbury, London |
| 0208 767 5098 | 8764 8282 |
| Football | Cricket |
| Spencer McGuire | Ray Clarke |
| 203 Upper Wickham Lane | 99 The High |
| Welling | Streatham High Road |
| Kent DA16 3AW | London SW16 1EZ |
| 020 8316 0361 | 020 8696 0982 |
| 400 Club | Norbury Manager |
| Colin Garvey | Mick Power |
| 84 Norbury Hill | 9 Cheviot Close |
| London SW16 3RT | Sutton, London SM2 5SB |
| 020 8764 0313 | 020 8642 6959 |

COXA Golf Day



Back by popular demand!

The 2008 COXA Golf day will be held at Mitcham Golf Club, Carshalton Road, Mitcham on Saturday, 26th April.

All handicaps and levels of ability welcome.

Places are limited so early booking is essential.

To book your place contact John McGuire on 020 8394 6579 (business) or 01322 409 769 (home).

Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose?

...As further proof of this lack of playing support, members should draw their own conclusions from the fact that, apart from the beginning of the season, net practice on Tuesday evenings at the College dwindled progressively through the summer months, until it ceased altogether at the end of July owing to a lack of support. In spite of this, however, a considerable number of games were played, and only in one instance did we have to field a side with ten men, and that was on a day when two fixtures were being played. Our sincere gratitude is extended to those members who played regularly, and to those who turned out at weekends often with only two or three hours notice....

Concordia, September 1964