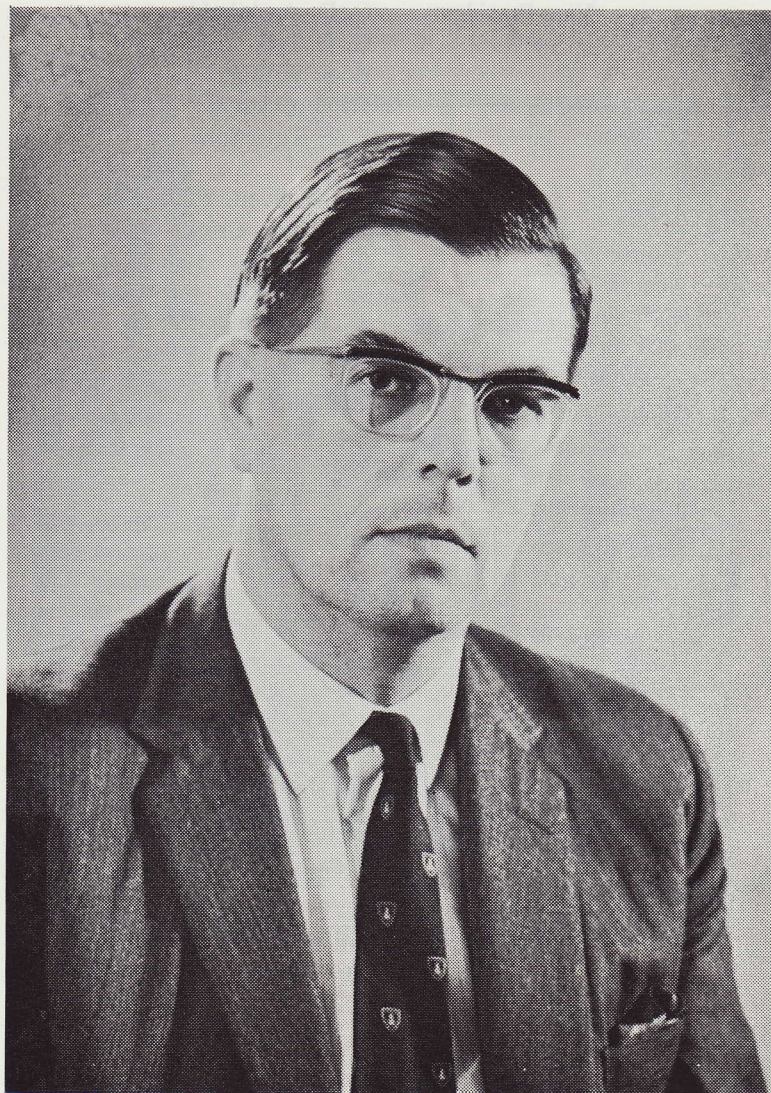




# OLD MERCERS' CLUB

1967



P. NAILOR  
PRESIDENT, OLD MERCERS' CLUB, 1967-68

**OLD MERCERS' CLUB**

**GRESHAM COLLEGE**

**BASINGHALL STREET**

**LONDON - E.C.2**

## CLUB COMMITTEE 1967-68

**PRESIDENT :** P. NAILOR

**Vice-Presidents :** C. D. Archibald  
G. C. Ives  
E. S. Wilkins  
R. H. Cousens  
F. J. Robinson

**Trustees :** K. M. Scott, FCA  
L. Clifton Crick  
G. Milne

**General Secretary :** K. F. Holmes

**Treasurer :** N. S. Fosh

**Honorary Auditor :** W. H. Wright

**Entertainments Secretary :**

**Records Secretary :** I. M. H. Williamson

**Past Presidents :** D. G. Searls  
H. M. Eade  
J. F. Gray  
G. H. Parker  
P. J. S. Squirrel

**Ordinary Members of Committee :** D. Trigg  
C. D. Fidge  
M. E. Lee  
B. D. Percy  
L. T. Allen  
J. Morgan

**Magazine Editor :** R. G. Dawson  
15 Brookmead Avenue  
Bickley, Kent  
(01-467 3108)



## THE YEAR 1966-67

It is difficult to write this editorial year after year without seeming repetitive; the same things tend to take place and the same people are concerned in them. As a rule, little changes, which, in a club which has had no intake of young members for nearly ten years is, perhaps, no bad thing. Yet this year have occurred certain events which would seem to suggest that it has not been just another year. The Cricket Section decided to disband while it was still just about able to fulfil its fixtures; the Football Section optimistically soldiers on, at least for the present. The Christmas Dance was cancelled, partly because of the moderate success of the function over the past few years, mainly because there was nobody available able and willing to organise it. Thirdly, the Committee are proposing to take steps to safeguard the Club financially in days of inflation, devaluation and dwindling income. The generous gesture, reported elsewhere by the President, does not mean that this action is not still necessary to ensure the future of the Club.

The fourth event which was different was the Ladies' Festival held by Honor Deo Lodge in June. The Lodge issued an open invitation to all members of the Club to join them on this occasion. Many accepted, and it is hoped that still more will attend the 1968 Festival in June and so give Old Mercer wives and girl friends the opportunity of enjoying a magnificent evening, superbly organised by Hartley Campbell who, we are glad to report, has been co-opted to the General Committee to help with entertainment.

On a foul day in June more people than usual appeared at Grove Park on Old Boys' Day—the function is to be repeated in 1968 though the form the cricket will take has not yet been decided. Peter Squirrel's Annual Dinner was well supported in May and the Football and Cricket Sections' Club Suppers were both well attended, the C.C. having, ironically perhaps, a record 62 at their get-together in October. The Dramatic Club produced two plays, poorly attended by Old Mercers; the Club is concerned at this and is engaged in a process of self-examination to see how best to remedy the situation. Eric Wilkins would be glad to hear any constructive suggestions from members of the Club. Elsewhere in the magazine is an invitation to members to join the sailing enthusiasts.

A year of much activity and thought then. The Club is very much at the cross-roads; it is well known that the Athletic Association has been the mainspring of the Club and it is all too clear that the days of the Association are numbered. So it is encouraging to find that the General Committee is well supplied with many of the enthusiasts who have given time and service to the Football and Cricket Sections for many years. The future of the Club depends very much on the transference of the A.A. enthusiasm to the Mother Club—for the moment the auguries are good.

## PETER NAILOR

Peter Nailor joined Mercers' in 1940, when the school was divided between Holborn and Horsham. He became one of the sixty odd who stayed in London through the "blitz" and went on to become the first Head Boy of the Haden era in 1946. He also developed a taste for history under the guidance of G. G. Allen and, in due course, went up to Oxford where, at Wadham, he gained a First. Service in the Navy was followed by entry into the Civil Service where he made his mark, inevitably, at the Admiralty and subsequently, when, alas, the Admiralty was no more, at the Ministry of Defence, where he is now an Assistant Secretary.

Throughout these years he has never been far from the Mercers' scene in spirit, even though business has meant many trips to the United States where Peter has obviously succeeded in mixing business with pleasure. A thoughtful cricketer (*he* believes in his off-spinners), a writer with an individual style and a raconteur *par excellence* (I almost said the O.M. Peter Ustinov), he has served the Club almost without interruption since 1947 as Magazine Editor and Club Secretary, in which office he has combined efficiency and diplomacy in a way few others could equal. His mind has clarified many a tortuous discussion in Committee; his minutes were always literary in quality. Previously I have written that the Club is at the cross-roads. We could ask for no more appropriate President for 1967-68 to lead us along the right road.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

You will see in the account of the last Annual General Meeting which appears elsewhere in this magazine a reference to the grant which the Mercers' Company have made to the Club over the next five years and possibly beyond that time. I should like to take the opportunity to make a few comments about this grant, and about one or two other issues affecting the Club.

First, the grant is not only very generous, but imaginative. The Club is not short on talent nor on devotion, when it comes to a crunch. But it has for years been chronically short of a proper operating margin; we hope to do something towards an easing of that situation, insofar as our own funds are concerned, at the next A.G.M. But the Company's offer, which covers some hundreds of pounds a year, enables us to more than double our activities, as they are measured in balance-sheet terms.

Secondly, the money is very timely. We shall be able, in the face of escalating costs, to maintain the features of club activity which represent—in Whitehall jargon—our "essential services", and perhaps even extend them. We shall certainly be able to stabilize, and probably reduce, the price to members of attendance at the Annual Dinner, which the Committee feel is the central Club function of the year. This assistance comes at a time when the first major shift of emphasis in Club activities since the closure of the school is beginning to creep up on us; I mean the run-down of the Athletic Association.

Thirdly, I think the grant is dangerous. It poses problems to your Committee that they have never had to deal with before: the problems of plenty. This new-found amplitude does not remove the need for the general Club, or the constituent Clubs, to run their affairs wisely and economically. It has been given to us to help in maintaining the vigour and cohesion of the general Club; to my mind the essential factor here must be a readiness to deal with the problems of the future, and I do not think that we should take for granted any assumption that the pattern of Club activity must go on as it is shaped at present or has been in the past. The grant has raised in some members' minds questions about our relationship with the Mercers' Company, and I know that one or two have felt that we should not have accepted the offer of help. I could not possibly hope to mirror what might be a consensus of views in the Club about this subject, and I confess that my own views are not necessarily logical; I have never accepted the basis of the Company's policy towards the closure of the School, but I am happy to acknowledge that their attitude to the Club has been consistently understanding and helpful. This last offer of a grant of money is quite staggeringly handsome and, to the extent that any question of principle might be thought to be involved, I could not accept that we should reject this assistance, when we have for so long now accepted the Company's hospitality at Mercers' Hall for our Dinner and our business meetings and when we have accepted subsidies at both Gresham College and Grove Park.

Can I now briefly turn to a couple of other points? The Committee have done a lot of useful work in the last two years, under Jimmy Gray's and Peter Squirrell's chairmanship, in trying to shape how our future policy should be based. It does not seem to me that the additional money which the Company have now made available alters the problems or predicaments of the Club in any basic way. We have still to prepare for a future which is, unfortunately, finite.

We sometimes wonder on the Committee whether the members of the Club in general approve of what we do, or whether they're just too indifferent to disapprove. I don't want to give you the impression that Committee members want buttering-up, or to be told that they're doing a grand job. Nor is it true that we are power-crazy bureaucrats who don't care whether you like the way the Club is run or not. It remains a fact however that it is really quite difficult to get any sort of reaction from Club members; and those few who do speak up are not often willing to support their point of view with their time, though I remain convinced that they would if they felt the Club was facing any sort of immediate crisis. I know this has all been said before (for the first time in this magazine in 1905!), but I think it bears saying again—the Club will only last as long as the members want it to go on.

Finally, I want to apologise for the length of this message and for its essentially didactic tone. My aim has been to inform rather than edify; and, please, if you don't like it, come to the next A.G.M. and say so. The dates of that and all the other Club functions this year are listed in the following pages.

Peter Nailor

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**March 6th, 7th, 8th.** O.M.D.C. "HOTEL PARADISO", CHANTICLEER THEATRE, S.W. E. S. Wilkins, 7, Crescent Court, Park Hill, S.W.4.

**April 19th.** F.C. SUPPER. "WESTMINSTER ARMS", PAGE STREET, S.W.1. P. G. Wainwright, 45, Cancell Road, S.W.9. RELiance 3551.

**April 25th.** ANNUAL DINNER, MERCERS' HALL.

**June 22nd.** OLD BOYS' DAY, GROVE PARK.

**October 25th.** COMMEMORATION SERVICE and ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

HONOR DEO LODGE LADIES' FESTIVAL will be held in June. Hartley Campbell is in charge and should be contacted at "Cairo", Colne Road, Winchmore Hill, N.21.



## THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held this year on Friday, November 3rd, in Mercers' Hall. Thirty-four members of the Club attended and nine more sent apologies for absence.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, and then the Acting Treasurer presented the accounts, copies of which were circulated. An abstract of the accounts appears on page 13. G. H. Parker explained that he had continued to carry out the function of Acting Treasurer, as Fosh has been out of the country on business for long periods of time. Expenditure in 1966/67 had gone up by £34, and income had gone down by £16. There was consequently a deficit on the year's workings of £50. £44 had been lost on entertainments; £23 on the Christmas Dance and £21 on the Annual Dinner. A partial provision of £70 has been allowed for the cost of the magazine and booklet. We had also to buy a new addressograph machine during the year, and the provision which had been made in the accounts reflected the intention to write the cost off over five years. Parker referred to the discussion which had taken place at the previous A.G.M. in 1966 about the Trust Deed, and said that the Committee had formed the view during the year that it would be prudent to take steps fairly soon to amend the Trust Deed. The Secretary would be saying more about that, but he wanted to make the point that a natural opportunity to withdraw some of the capital from the Fund would occur within the next two or three years when a block of stock matured. Accordingly, he thought it likely that the next A.G.M. would be asked to approve an amendment of the Trust Deed, as the first step in the required procedure.

Dewey and Cade commented on the accounts, and both supported the conclusions which Parker had referred to in respect of amending the Trust Deed. In putting the motion for the adoption of the accounts to the meeting, the President said he was sure the meeting, and indeed the whole Club, would want to thank Parker for his continued assistance in the acting treasurership.

The General Secretary reported changes in membership, noting especially the sadly large list of deaths which he had to report. Membership now stood at 811, with 562 active life members. In future, Club circulars would be sent out according to geographical location, tempered by individual members' wishes. As a consequence of the answers which the Records Secretary had had from the questionnaire circulated with the magazine, it appeared there would be 323 "London" members, and 488 on the "restricted" list. Nailor then reviewed briefly the social activities of the last year and gave the dates for the forthcoming events in 1967-68. He referred particularly, and appreciatively, to the dedication of the Collyer's School War Memorial Library, described elsewhere in this magazine.

There had been some very well-worthwhile work done in the Committee during the year. A Sub-Committee had tried to determine what the Club's basic financial situation was, and the whole Committee had spent a lot of time mulling over the facts and deductions which

had been brought out. For years the Club had balanced its books precariously, and the accounts, no less than the administration, were barely up to shoestring standards. The Committee felt that the Annual Dinner, the A.G.M., the Magazine and the maintenance of a Club headquarters were the four basic operations upon which the life of the general Club depended. The energy and resilience of the Club was fostered by groups of Old Mercers, whose support emanated in part from their common interest in activities outside the general Club. The Lodge and Chapter was one such group which had been prominent over the years; the O.M.A.A. was the other big one. But by the end of 1970, when the lease of Grove Park fell in, the O.M.A.A. would be—at least—considerably changed. The principal short-term aim of the Club must therefore be to continue to attract the loyalty and support of O.M.A.A. members. No-one was yet sure quite how this should best be done; but to the extent that it would probably involve a different pattern of social occasions, the Committee was sure that we must be ready to experiment, and be prepared to spend money to keep the Club lively. There might or might not be a crisis in the Club's affairs when the O.M.A.A. packed up, but we must be ready to rethink and change our methods of doing things if necessary. It was this consideration which had prompted the decision, referred to by the Acting Treasurer, to warn the Club of the need to amend the Trust Deed.

During the year, the Company had most generously offered to make a substantial sum of money available to the Club annually, for a period initially of five years, in order to help the Club maintain its vigour and cohesion. The Company were particularly impressed by the loyalty and interest of members, exemplified in the continually high attendances at the Annual Dinner. The Committee were overwhelmed by the Company's suggestion and, after a number of discussions, proposed that the money should—at any rate initially—be applied to four purposes:

- (a) to reduce, and, we hope, hold steady, the cost of the Annual Dinner to members, to a degree which will help to maintain the Dinner as the focal point of the Club's social activities;
- (b) to offset the cost of the rates on the Gresham College club room;
- (c) to provide some offset against the cost of the magazine; and
- (d) to support any special occasions of significance which might from time to time be arranged.

The Company had said that this type of purpose was exactly what they had had in mind. Although this quite unprecedented bounty would take some of the pressure away from the Treasurer, Nailor said that the committee felt it did not substantially alter the basic facts of the Club's position, nor their conclusions about the changing circumstances which the Club must be prepared to face. Gardner and Cade asked questions on the Secretary's report, and Nailor explained that the Company's decision was so recent that he felt obliged not to describe the details, or the method of handling the

money, until the Treasurer had had time to consider the position. L. A. N. Kyle asked about the system used for amending the records of members' addresses, and Nailor apologised for the inconvenience to which Kyle and several other members had been put.

F. Gordon Harper, who was an especially welcome participant at the meeting, brought greetings from Old Mercers in Africa, and described the fund-raising which he had found possible within clubs having a comparable social cohesion with our own.

R. S. Dean, who seemed not a bit daunted at having to deliver the O.M.A.A. report within four days of his election as General Secretary of the Association, described the successful season which the Football Section had had in 1966/67, and the vigorous start which had been made in 1967/68. He also reported on the last season played by the Cricket Section, and the arrangements which had been made by the Old Citizens to enable Old Mercers to go on enjoying cricket at Grove Park. He paid tribute to the friendliness of the Old Citizens generally, and to the assistance received from the ground staff. T. W. Parker commented, in support of Dean's remarks, that the good relationships which existed with the Old Citizens were due in large part to the keenness and good fellowship which Old Mercers had shown in their games at Grove Park.

B. D. Percy reported on behalf of the Dramatic Club. Two productions had been staged during the year, several play-readings had been arranged, and a child-minding service had been organised for Old Boys' Day. The next production would be presented on March 6-8. Percy then itemised the poor support which the O.M.D.C. received from the General Club. The O.M.D.C. had 76 members; 157 handbills for the last production had been sent out. 5 replies had been received and 6 Old Mercers had attended. 197 seats out of an available 310 had been sold; 136 people actually turned up. Two theatre/supper evenings had been organised; the first had been well supported, but the second had attracted very little O.M. support. Allen, Moys and Robinson commented that they had received their notices of the production less than a week before the play, and Fosh said he thought that four weeks' notice was the desirable minimum.

Nevertheless, and in spite of Percy's acceptance of the inadequacies of the O.M.D.C.'s publicity, there were a lot of embarrassed O.Ms. who sat tight and said nothing.

The next item was the election of new officers. P. J. S. Squirrel said he had much pleasure in proposing the election of P. Nailor as President for the ensuing year, and the proposal was carried by acclaim. Nailor was installed, thanked the meeting for the honour it had done him, and continued the meeting. F. J. Robinson was elected as the new Vice-President and a list of other officers, who were all duly elected, appears at the front of the Magazine. No nomination was made for the post of Entertainments Secretary, but the President said it was hoped to fill the post by co-option during the year. It was partly because no-one was available at the moment that there would be no Christmas Party this year.

The President then moved a vote of thanks to P. J. S. Squirrell for his very valuable services in the office of President for the Club Year 1966/67. He said it was a very well-deserved acknowledgement of Squirrell's hard work during the year, and a very easy motion to propose. The motion was carried with acclaim, and Squirrell briefly replied. Votes of thanks were also passed to Canon Atkins and Dr. Lloyd Webber for their parts in the Commemoration Service which had preceded the meeting, and to the Mercers' Company for permitting the use of the Hall and Chapel.

The meeting was adjourned at just after a quarter past eight, to the "Bow Bell" in Cheapside, where we shared the downstairs bar with a relatively quiet juke-box and some relatively mini-skirts.

P.N.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1967.

EXPENDITURE				INCOME			
1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
134 Magazine and Handbook	86	105	...	Annual Subscriptions:	...	103	...
9 Stationery and Printing	15	105	...	Current	...	11	...
29 Postages	32	19	...	Arrears	...	...	...
79 Rates on Gresham College	85	124	...	Investment Income	...	209	...
10 Sundry Expenses (including £20 depreciation on Addressograph)	39	209	...	Deposit Interest	...	2	...
4 Loss on Entertainments	44	215	...	Less Tax	...	211	...
2 Surplus for Year	—	88	...	Donations	...	127	...
		16	...	Deficit for the Year	...	—	...
		127	...		...	122	...
		15	...		...	15	...
		50	...		...	50	...
<u>£267</u>	<u>£301</u>	<u>£267</u>	<u>£301</u>			<u>£301</u>	
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER, 1967							
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
150 General Fund 1.10.66	152	213	...	Balance at Bank	...	92	...
2 Less Deficit	50	4	...	Cash in Hand	...	1	...
152	102	150	...	London Trustee Savings Bank	...	86	...
4171		4302	...	INVESTMENTS (held by trustees of Old Mercers' Club)	...	4302	...
INVESTMENT FUND		939	...	£4444. 5. 3 4% Consols	...	939	...
Life Subscriptions 1.10.64	4171	5241	...	£1029.13.10 3% Funding	59/69	5241	...
Capital Accretions, reinvested in-		1787	...	Less to reduce to M/V	...	1683	...
come, invested gifts from Life		3454	...	Office Equipment	...	3558	...
Members		20	...	Other Property	...	91	...
1070		1	...			1	...
5241							
1787							
3454							
71 Uninvested Life Funds (Rule 4B)	3558						
35 Subscriptions in Advance	86						
130 Provisions for Magazine	13						
33842	<u>£3829</u>	<u>£3842</u>				<u>£3829</u>	

## ANNUAL DINNER, 1967

The 51st Annual Dinner was held at Mercers' Hall on April 27th when well over a hundred Old Mercers and guests attended. It is quite impossible to recapture this evening in words; we were wine and dined sumptuously and the Hall has an atmosphere which adds a wonderful splendour to the occasion. This year the Master of the Mercers' Company was unable to be present; as Peter Squirrell, our President, in proposing the toast of the Company in his own inimitable way, put it: "While the Master's away the Wardens will play". In his reply the Upper Warden, F. H. Tate, Esq., spoke of the great admiration which the Company felt for the Old Mercers' Club and how they wished to help the Club in any way possible.

Peter Nailor, having defined a mini-skirt as one "two inches below 'see' level", proposed the toast of Our Guests, mentioning in particular the Old Collyerians and the dedication of the new Old Mercer War Memorial Library at Collyer's School in May. He paid tribute to Geoffrey Logsdon, Clerk to the Mercers' Company, who was such a friend to the Old Mercers. In his reply Eng. Rear-Admiral Sir Sidney Frew, K.B.E., C.B., gave a graphic account of the submarine service, punctuated with a fund of anecdotes culled over the years.

Proposing the final toast of the evening, the Club, Jimmy Gray gave an outline of Peter Squirrell's many services to the Club. In his reply the President paid special tribute to Geoff Parker who had held the financial fort while the Treasurer had been commuting between the City and Canada.

So the evening ended, as usual, over a glass of beer; we met old friends and looked forward to April, 1968. The following O.M.'s were present; why not join them?

F. J. Robinson, L. T. Gardner, G. C. Ives, R. C. Parish, H. W. Moys, K. M. Scott, P. G. Wainwright, P. Nailor, C. D. Fidge, L. K. Bowman, K. E. Jones, G. Milne, A. J. Cutting, J. F. Gray, H. L., C. W. and H. E. Tittford, F. B. Angier, E. J. Gladwyn, P. Moys, G. H. Cowan, J. B. T. Bird, G. J. Chandler, N. C. O'blath, P. G. Spencer, N. J. Atkins, D. Symonds, H. H. Crane, D. Trigg, J. H. J. Dewey, R. G. Williams, W. J. Fairbairn, G. E. Pow, D. F. A. Vanhegan, I. C. Pearson, S. E. Holmes, G. H. Parker, C. D. Archibald, T. J. L. Cookman, K. A. Williams, T. W. Parker, H. G. Andrew, J. R. Willis, A. R. Woodburn, L. Clifton Crick, K. Allday, J. Morgan, H. G. J. Worth, I. M. H. Williamson, B. A. Rollinson, A. S. Parker, A. Norman, L. A. N. Kyle, J. G. Bender, E. S. Wilkins, L. F. and A. V. Hall, R. G. Dawson, J. L. Squirrell, P. J. S. Squirrell.



## DEDICATION OF THE WAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY AT COLLYER'S SCHOOL, MAY 20th, 1967

It has already been reported in previous issues of this magazine that the remaining monies in the War Memorial Fund were to be made over to Collyer's School for the outfitting of their new library. The opening and dedication of the library took place on the School Founders' Day, May 20th, with a ceremony conducted by Old Mercer the Reverend Stanley Epps, in the presence of a very large gathering, headed by the Master of the Mercers' Company, Mr. J. D. Watney.

The President of the Old Mercers' Club and Mrs. Squirrel, and a number of other Old Mercers and their ladies attended the ceremony. It was a particular delight that Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Bailey and Hugh Bailey were able to attend.

The service of dedication, though short, was most moving. Collyers have accepted the offer of the fund balances, and have used them in a way which reflects the greatest possible credit upon the school authorities and also upon the War Memorial Fund Committee, whose conception the gift was. There cannot be another community who could appreciate better what the War Memorial Fund stood for in the minds of those who had contributed to it; and the quality and style with which the library has been fitted out is a striking testimony to the sensitivity and honour with which the gift was received.

The library is a large barrel-vaulted room with long windows between the shelf bays on one side. On the opposite long side of the room a gallery has been created, which gives more library space and also allows part of the ground-floor width to be walled off to make a passage-way from one part of the school to the other. Reading desks and tables are provided between the bays and in the gallery.

At the headboard of each bay, the names of Old Mercers commemorated have been carved.

## COLLYER'S SCHOOL LIBRARY

Under the will of Richard Collyer, care of the School which he bequeathed to his birthplace was entrusted jointly to the Parish of Horsham and the Mercers' Company, of which he had been so eminent a member. For over 350 years Horsham looked to the premier of the twelve great City companies for provision of buildings and payment of salaries, and indeed for general guidance. On at least one famous occasion the Company rescued the School from extinction.

Although Seventeenth Century Headmaster Nisbet once deplored the fact that his boys had no library, Company records prove that the Mercers certainly made grants for books and in the Nineteenth Century a Library undoubtedly existed under William Pirie, since one of its volumes survives in our archives.

The present Library was founded in 1924 when Canon Peacock acquired "The Hostel"—now the Hurst Road Clinic—and Mr. Hart began there his long career as our first Librarian. Just before the last

war he was able to transfer his books to ampler quarters in the main buildings, where he spent many hours developing the Library of which the School has been so justly proud during the last thirty years: it is a tribute to him that although designed for a school of 250 boys it has until recently been able to cater for the needs of more than twice that number. Now, thanks in large measure to the Duckering bequest, we are once again able to keep ahead of the School's needs, as the old Hall becomes the new Library.

Our ties with the Mercers' Company during this century have remained close, and one of the happiest associations has been with the Mercers' School: for many years we met them on the cricket and football fields and on the running track, and the last war brought us closer still when they shared our buildings for a time. Old Boys of the two schools also have engaged in sporting events and have been guests at each others' functions.

When Mercers' School was closed several years ago, there was already a fund in existence for the building of Fives and Squash Racquets Courts as a memorial to Old Boys who fell in the Second World War. This money has now been most generously given to Collyer's School, a sister foundation, so as to provide the fine panelling, bookcases and other furnishings which you see in our new Library.

Thus the War Memorial to Old Mercers has found a home in the building where, in fact, many Mercers' boys were taught during the early months of the war, and Collyer's School numbers the Old Mercers' Club amongst its benefactors.

## OLD MERCERS' WAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY

### The Roll of Honour

Frederick Clifford Ashley	Victor Donald James Harris
John Bailey	Joseph William Hennessy
Cecil James Berwick	Geoffrey Charles Higginson
Graham George Boyton	Cyril Margerison Hobson
Malcolm Braithwaite	Adrian Garraway Kingsley
Clifford Harris Brown	Desmond George Marchant
Albert Derek Bulmer	Anthony Ian Mills
Frank Ernest Burling	Jack Heachcote Morphet
Alan Marshall Clark	Thomas Frederick John Moss
Joseph Michael Derrett	Kenneth Stanley Oldfield
John Rodger Duncan	Geoffrey Alan Sawtell
Ronald Arthur Dust	Philip George Stapley
Basil Saul Felsenstein	John Clifford Taffs
Gerald Cecil Felsenstein	Edward Scholes Taylor
Douglas William Fenton-Jones	George Elgar Franklin Tett
Geoffrey Harry Firth	Kenneth Horace Tibbatts
Arthur William Foster	Alexander Van Cleef
Denys Henson Hugh Gathercole	William John Boston Wadie
Norman Iszard Gelson	David Bruce Wallace
Kenneth Frederick Glock	Anthony Edward Wells
Dennis A. Guise	Dennis Norman Willis
Norman Harding	Fred Young



Left to right :

O.M. W. G. Bailey; J. D. Watney, Master of the Mercers' Company; The Rev. P. L. Gillingham, Vicar of Horsham; P. J. S. Squirrell, President, Old Mercers' Club; R. G. Napper, President, Old Collyerians' Association; Rev. S. M. Epps; E. D. Slynn, Headmaster, Collyer's School; C. S. Buckle, Chairman of Governors, Collyer's School.

## MARRIAGE

Atkins—Carr. On September 1st, 1966. B. J. Atkins (1946-54) to Margaret Carr.

## BIRTHS

To the wife of D. J. S. Brown (1945-51), a daughter, Patricia Anne.

To Christine Jean (née Player), wife of M. E. Lee (1949-53), a son, Jonathan Charles Daniel, a brother for Jamie.

## DEATHS

We regret to report the death of the following members: W. H. Arnold (1906-08), A. Davie (1891-99) (116), E. F. Dowsett (1903-08), W. Heilbuth (1885-90) (77), R. J. Maxey (1924-30) (777), J. A. Merrett (1891-99) (22), G. E. Rumball (1920-26) (395), Major-General H. Stott (1898-1902) (32), Commander R. A. Thorburn (1896-1902) (115), H. E. Titford (1891-97) (166), General Sir Daril G. Watson (1899-1904) (76), W. D. Wells (1897-1900) (226).

## OBITUARY

We publish the following obituary by permission of "The Times" in whose pages it appeared on July 4th, 1967.

### SIR DARIL WATSON

General Sir Daril Watson, G.C.B., C.B.E., M.C., who died on Saturday at the age of 78, was Quarter Master General to the Forces from 1946 to 1947, and, for six years after his retirement from the Army, was a member of the British Transport Commission.

His talents lay mainly in the realm of administration, and he had a reputation for outstanding competence and thoroughness both in the long series of high staff appointments which he held at the War Office and in his work for the Commission.

Daril Gerard Watson was born on October 17th, 1888, the son of J. B. Watson of Paisley. He was educated at the Mercers' School, from which he joined the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. He worked for several years in the Company's offices in Portugal and Brazil, and, when the 1914-18 War broke out, he was an accountant in their London Office. He enlisted, in August 1914, as a private in the 10th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers, and, after six months' service in the ranks, he was given a temporary commission.

At the beginning of the Second World War, Watson served first with the headquarters of the Eastern Command in England, and then as Brigadier, General Staff of the 3rd Army Corps, with which he went through the Dunkirk campaign, the last active service he was to see in the field. After Dunkirk he commanded the 2nd Division in England for a year, and was then brought into the War Office where, between 1941 and 1944, he held, in succession, the posts of Director of Staff Duties, Assistant C.I.G.S for organization, and Deputy Adjutant General. In 1944 he was appointed G.O.C.-in-C. Western Command. After three years in this appointment he returned to the War Office as Quarter Master General to the Forces. He did not complete his full term of office, but retired in 1947, with the rank of full General, at the age of 59.

A year later he entered a new sphere of activity when he was appointed by Mr. Barnes, then Minister of Transport, to succeed General Sir William Slim as the member of the newly formed Railway Executive responsible for the departments concerned with stores, rating, estate property, police and fire protection. On the abolition of the Executive in 1953, he became Chief of General Services of the British Transport Commission, and in this capacity he continued in control of the same departments, with the addition of the Marine Branch. His association with this last gave him special pleasure, for ships were his first love. When the Commission was reorganized in 1955, he was appointed Secretary General and he served in this post until his retirement.

## OLD MERCERS' ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL SECTION

Results for the 1966/7 season were:—

1st XI	—	Played 23	Won 10	Drawn 6	Lost 7
2nd XI	—	Played 21	Won 10	Drawn 4	Lost 7

The season was a very heartening one and results show that, although we are now playing the lower sides of our traditional opponents, the section can still give a good account of itself on the field. The activities in the bar go from strength to strength and perhaps this has something to do with the fact that each year the Secretary receives offers of many more fixtures than he can accept.

The 1st XI performances were improved and the lack of goals remedied, largely by the introduction of John Holder to a permanent place at centre-forward. He leads the attack with considerable cunning—and also contributed 25 goals!

In one of the first matches, an A.F.A. Cup-tie, the 1st XI were badly beaten by Leicester University at Leicester. This was primarily due to the fact that directions were misunderstood and the team had to play with only nine men until nearly half-time when the missing players turned up. Following this experience and in the light of our poor Cup performances over the last few years, the Committee decided reluctantly not to enter for the A.F.A. Cup in future. It was felt that in view of the considerable travel sometimes involved it was fair neither to our players nor the opposition to play fixtures which have become very much too strong for the section.

The 1st XI were not dismayed by this unfortunate start and, very capably led by Mickey Cato, settled down to play some good football in a season when notable victories were won, especially against old opponents Chigwellians, Colfeians, Brentwoods and Norsemen. It says much for the spirit of the side that many players travel a long way for their game; Robin Whiteland still makes the round trip from Brighton each weekend!

The 2nd XI (now commonly known as “Dixie’s Old Men”) had only been beaten twice up to the end of January and looked to be heading for a great season. However stamina ran out and the remainder of the programme was not fulfilled in quite such a spectacular manner. The Team Supper was held in March at “The Westminster Arms” and was one of the most enjoyable and successful for some years, 55 people being present.

The Officers elected for the 1967/68 season showed two changes in that Chris Locke resigned as both Team Secretary and 1st XI Vice-Captain. Peter Crawford was talked into the former post and Chris Garrett took on the latter. The section is most grateful to Chris Locke for all his hard work and we congratulate him on his recent marriage.

The present season is well under way and while the results, which will be given in full in the next issue, are rather disappointing, the

section is continuing to enjoy its football and all members still look forward to Saturdays with keen anticipation.

The Athletic Association has run into some financial problems at the moment and it was obvious that, if the section was to continue in its present form, some more money would have to be found. At the recent A.G.M. of the Athletic Association the playing members passed a resolution that their subscriptions be doubled from the season 1967/68 onwards. It is hoped that this increase in revenue plus the proceeds from the Christmas Draw will keep the section "in the black". On the subject of the Draw, mention must be made of the tremendous amount of hard work put in by Graham Hargrave-Smith in running it year after year. He did accept some help from a special Committee formed this year but the brunt of the work inevitably fell on him again. Over the years Graham has raised hundreds of pounds to keep the Athletic Association solvent and he has well earned our deep gratitude.

Charlie and Mrs. Parker continue to look after us extremely well at Grove Park and it must be gratifying for him to hear our opponents commenting so favourably on the fine condition of the pitches and the ground as a whole.

At the present time the Football Committee are trying to decide whether the section can run two sides for one more season. If any Old Mercer feels the urge to put on a pair of boots again, now is the time to contact the Secretary; one or two new players would tip the scales in favour of two sides for just one more year. Anyone not quite active enough to play would be most welcome to the small but gallant band of referees who turn out each week to be maligned!

Lastly, this season has seen a change in the drinking habits of Old Mercer footballers in that the Old Citizens have most graciously invited our players and opponents to use the bar facilities in their new Clubhouse at Grove Park. The invitation has been gratefully accepted and the hospitality shown to all members of the section is much appreciated.

P. G. Wainwright.

## CRICKET CLUB MEMORIES

It is difficult to think of Saturday afternoons in the summer without Old Mercer cricket. I had not thought, when I first appeared for the second eleven at Midland Bank in June, 1945, that, twenty-two years later, I should lead out the last side to represent the Club. As we held our final Team Supper in October, the memories of those years came flooding back; there was that famous (or infamous) occasion when we were all out for 6 at Sydenham, one of the few occasions when we made the National Press; happy days at Lloyds' Sports Club when we were sure of a lively game of cricket and an enjoyable evening in the bar afterwards; the visits to Leigh on August Bank Holiday in a coach organised by George Finch, when the other George, Milne, entertained on the piano in the "Brickmakers' Arms".



Few of us had cars in those days and John Squirrell, possessor of the celebrated "Bomb", used to transport the kit and that queen of scorers, who was soon to become Mrs. J. L. Squirrell. George Milne, in the gully, used to hold nearly anything that came his way, at the same time engaging the slips in conversation—maybe that is why *they* dropped their catches, to the chagrin of Geoff Webb and Maurice Lucock who bowled over after over philosophically. Derek Archibald put us all to shame with his speed in the covers while Don Jackson held some amazing catches in all sorts of places. John Squirrell and Len Allen rolled up to the wicket in their own peculiar (in both senses of the word) ways and diddled unsuspecting batsmen. Bill Parker, most elegant of batsmen, practised assiduously and gave us heart failure for the first few overs of the innings; his partner, G. Milne, never had a net and looked as though he'd been batting all winter.

"Down the hill" Graham Ives and Geoff Meredith made hundreds of runs. Fred Robinson and Henry Rolt terrorised friend and foe alike with their own brand of swing and swerve, Mick Spry bowled phlegmatically, Dick Cousens kept wicket and lapped his partners when batting.

The years went by; Alan Johns joined the Club, became a prolific scorer and ultimately Club captain. One remembers two hundreds, one against Epsom when he scored his hundred out of 130, including a second wicket partnership of 50 of which his partner made one, and the other against the Old Bancroftians one Whit-Monday in possibly the most exciting game we ever had, won by four runs when the last O.B. wicket fell at 237 to the "other" Ives, David. All too briefly we had the services of Jack Mapleson, perhaps the best left handed batsman the school ever produced. "Tab" appeared occasionally and made one sparkling hundred against Old Roans. Peter Wainwright returned from National Service and the firm of Wainwright and Vanhegan, besides making a lot of runs on the field, became famous (notorious?) in pavilion bars all round London. Graham Hargrave-Smith and Dixie Dean introduced their various bowling talent and enthusiasm, adding much to the high class dressing room conversation, always a feature of Old Mercer cricket.

The School closed; the writing was on the wall. The second eleven disbanded and we became one side for the last few years. Now "anno domini" was catching up on us; we became a team of close-to-the wicket fielders, not because we could catch but because we could not run. Mick Manning, who could, saved twenty runs whenever he was playing. Charlie Parker succeeded "Nick" as groundsman and as our most penetrating bowler, adding much to the already spirited conversation. We held a Cricket Week and toured the Isle of Wight twice; we continued to play opponents of long standing, the Old Bancroftians, Edenbeck, Australia House, Jim Hepburn's Lloyds Bank side, and we made many friends. If we keep one memory more than all the hundreds of others, it is that so many of our opponents thought enough of us to honour our final supper in October, 1967. To have over sixty people at the supper of a Club, who, at the end, numbered

only nine regulars, suggests that, quite apart from all the pleasure we ourselves have gained through the years, we have made for good fellowship outside our Club.

It is appropriate, at this moment, to say thank you to some devoted Old Mercers who have made the last few years possible; Graham Ives, who, till 1966, led the side, trying always to ensure that we gave of our best with our limited numbers and talent; Graham Hargrave-Smith, who managed somehow to get eleven people on the field on Saturday when on Thursday it seemed we should be lucky to have eight; and, finally, to Dixie Dean who, to the end, carefully arranged fixtures which provided good games of cricket. To these three, and to all the many with whom I have had the pleasure of playing over twenty odd years I am indebted; Saturdays in the summer of 1968 will not be the same.

R.G.D.

### OLD BOYS' DAY, 1967

The sight of about 28 cricketers, including H. G. Andrew, changed and ready to begin the seven-a-side competition at 2.30 p.m. on June 24th was a happy one—by 2.40 p.m. and for the ensuing two hours it was a case of the cricketers' nightmare—rain. Meantime a number of visitors arrived hopefully and at 4.15 the ladies began serving tea to what they considered the largest assembly at O.B.'s Day for many years.

After tea, thanks to the enthusiasm of Graham Hargrave-Smith and the co-operation of Charlie Parker, a 20 over match was played on the saturated second XI square, which gave pleasure to players and spectators alike. Much barracking ensued; Michael Cato made us regret that he has not been a regular member of the Cricket Club, Tommy Hollings made his customary O.B.'s Day 50 and Hartley Campbell was run out while conversing, it seemed, with the wicket keeper. Umpire Robinson attempted to catch a skier with fatal results to his posterior and the President, umpiring at the other end, gave a good example of being in two minds at once by holding up his finger and shaking his head at the same time over a run out decision. It was all great fun.

Meanwhile Brian Pearcy held a potted athletics meeting for the youngsters—results of this appear below. This too gave great pleasure.

Later on a large assembly gathered in the Old Citizens' bar for a convivial evening. Prizes were awarded to cricketers who had excelled, or gained notoriety, in the game, and to the junior athletes; the President thanked all those who had helped to organise the day, particularly the ladies, Mesdames Archibald, Cousens, Dawson (senior and junior), Holder, Hollings, Parker and Tong, who had provided and served the tea. Our thanks are due to the Old Citizens for so kindly offering the facilities of their pavilion for the evening and particularly to Charlie Parker for his help in so many ways in making this day enjoyable when the weather had been so much against us. There was general

agreement in the bar that there must be an Old Boys' Day next year. Geoffrey Darke, who travelled specially from the West Country, was heard to say that he would see that H. G. Andrew and George Finch were there; only nineteen more cricketers are required.

## JUNIOR SPORTS RESULTS

### Potato and Spoon Race:

- 1st Susan Percy
- 2nd Neil Parrott
- 3rd Louise Parrott

### Three-legged Race:

- 1st Neil Parrott and Susan Percy
- 2nd Nicholas Wilkins and partner.
- 3rd Lindsay Holmes and Nicola Holmes

### Handicap:

- 1st Louise Parrott
- 2nd Julia Parrott
- 3rd Lindsay Holmes

### Cross Country Handicap:

- 1st Neil Parrott
- 2nd Lindsay Holmes
- 3rd Brian Archibald

## OLD MERCERS' DRAMATIC CLUB

### "THE TYPEWRITER"

In the past few years we have come to expect from the OMDC a well written play, sincerely acted and intelligently directed. Although the acting has been uneven, every production has contained two and sometimes three outstanding performances. "The Typewriter" was a disappointment. Perhaps one missed a lot by seeing the play in translation and perhaps French direction would have brought out more than was apparent to an English audience but Cocteau's description of his work as a "pseudo-detective play" could well have been replaced by "pseudo-play".

The setting is provincial France. Several local inhabitants have been driven to suicide following the arrival of poison pen letters from someone called The Typewriter. The characters in the play include a man and a woman, old partners in an affair, the twin sons and adopted daughter of the man, and a detective. One of the twins has an affair with the woman who previously had been living with his father and the other is engaged to the adopted daughter. This adopted daughter also has a relationship of sorts with the other twin and the detective is in love with the older woman. The detective appears to discover who The Typewriter is by waiting for each character in turn to confess and picking on the last one. And really, that's all. There is no development of character, no portrayal of what provincial life is like, no convincing picture of anguish, love, hatred or jealousy. It's

not a funny play and by the end of the evening the identity of the culprit does not really seem to be very important.

With such material to work on it is not surprising that the acting was of a generally lower standard than usual. Judy Kingwill gave a neat portrayal of a teenage confessor and while Michael Poole was sympathetic in the part of Didier, the father of the twin boys, he vanished at the end of the first act and left a kind of constructional hole in subsequent scenes.

Susie Coleby looked just right as the adopted daughter and had some fine moments but marred her big scene by speaking too quickly with too little variation in pitch or power; by the third act she had settled into a more relaxed performance. Brian Percy is a first rate natural actor who needs only to be well cast. In the part of the detective he was never really at ease and his contribution lacked the force and vitality we normally expect of him. Much the same can be said of Margaret Wilkins as Solange, the older woman; she is an excellent actress but she had little of value to build on and was left only with technique. This was enough to add up to something pleasing but not something real. John Lawrey played the demanding part of the twins. At one point he had to have an epileptic fit on stage and this he achieved magnificently. He, too, had some effective moments but for too much of the time he was not really inside his part and seemed to overcome this difficulty by speaking at top volume; in the tiny Chanticleer Theatre this level is seldom necessary.

Eric Wilkins made a workmanlike job of directing, and both setting and lighting were excellent.

R.G.L.

### "LORD ARTHUR SAVILE'S CRIME"

Oscar Wilde is best known as a dramatist, the creator of Lady Bracknell and the master of the epigram. Perhaps one of the most memorable moments in the theatre is to hear Dame Edith Evans utter the exclamation, "A Handbag?" in "The Importance of being Earnest". One wonders why he never dramatised "Lord Arthur Savile's Crime" himself for it is excellent dramatic material and, as such, plays well in Constance Cox's adaptation. It must be played broadly for none of the characters is particularly credible, coming and going in a series of episodes with Sir Arthur and Barnes, the butler, as the basic characters.

I suppose this play might be considered a "black comedy" in that Lord Arthur's objective is to murder someone before he can marry his beloved Sybil. His many attempts, aided and abetted by Barnes, form the basis of the plot, such as it is, but it is the various caricatures who are introduced who create the main interest of the evening.

Michael Poole, the absent-minded cleric, seemed perfect in the part and his spats (were they back to front on purpose?) were entirely in keeping with the character. Margaret Wilkins revelled in the gorgeous part of Lady Windermere of "Fan" fame and she more than

anyone else used Wilde's epigrammatic dialogue to advantage. As Arthur's great aunt, Lilian Ford managed the extreme age of the character excellently—one was very conscious of this dear old soul and her craving for chocolates. Sybil's forbidding mother, played by Pat Kelly, struck terror into the heart of all—one could sympathise with her doubts about Arthur as a suitable partner for her beloved daughter. As Sybil, Susie Coleby, having made a most impressive entrance in Act One, never looked back in her performance as the long suffering fiancé, Podgers, the man whose prophecies started the plot moving, appeared, in the hands of Jeremy Beale, a smooth crook and Brian Percy as an anarchist (*sic*), gave another of his gorgeous send-ups of a buffoon as he did in "Dear Charles".

This play depends, however, on the two linking characters, Sir Arthur and Barnes, and here John Lawrey and Eric Wilkins gave excellent performances. John Lawrey, so promising in "Dear Charles", made the most of his chances, showing what a "silly ass" Arthur really is. Barnes, urbane, unflappable, gave Eric Wilkins his best opportunity for some time and he took it with both hands. Inevitably one compared him with the Jeeves of Denis Price, fashionable at the moment because of the T.V. presentation—suffice it to say that Eric compared most favourably with the more famous actor.

All great fun then—special plaudits for the make-up, always good in O.M. productions but particularly notable here, excellent costumes and the hard work of the stage managers (the best bang heard in Kensington for some time one feels) and for Madam Producer, who had the difficult task of acting in her own production.

I wonder what the Club can do to bring back the audiences? Engage a star? Do a revue? A musical? Perhaps the demand for amateur dramatics is no longer as great as it was. I can only suggest, as I seem to have been doing for years, that O.M.s make the journey to Kensington next time there's an Old Mercer show; better still, take your friends with you.

R.G.D.

### O.M. OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE CLUB

The sixteenth annual dinner of the Oxford and Cambridge Club was held in the Old Combination Room at Christ's College, Cambridge, on Saturday, November 25th. Twenty-one members and guests attended: Messrs. Haden, Fairbairn, Moss, Chandler, Foster, Nash, Harman, K. E. Gray, Jepson, Epps, Shelley, Brent, Dawson, Nailor, Ramsden, G. C. Ives, Cousens, Morgan, Foster, Walton and Vermont. Cambridge switched on the Christmas lights in honour of the occasion, and the dinner itself was excellent: soup, salmon, pheasant, soufflé.

After dinner there was a general discussion about the desirability of keeping the dinners going for as long as possible in the university surroundings; and as a consequence the next dinner has provisionally been arranged for Saturday, November 23rd, 1968, in Oxford. Members will have notices sent to them at the end of the summer, but please reserve the date now.

Anybody who is not on the mailing list, and thinks he should be, will be welcomed; please let either David Vermont or Peter Nailor have your address.

P.N.

#### HONOR DEO LODGE, No. 3562

On November 3rd, 1966, Bro. B. A. Rollinson was installed as the 56th Worshipful Master. Three new members were welcomed in the Lodge: Nigel Marshall (1942-1947) and Geoffrey Pegg (1947-1954) as initiates and Edmond Vernon (a past Master of the School) as a joining member.

It was good news from Overseas to learn that W.Bro. John Cottet had been honoured by the District Grand Master of Rhodesia with the rank of District Grand Sword Bearer. He has the warm congratulations of his fellow members of Honor Deo Lodge.

The year brought its sad news too in the deaths in July and August of W.Bro. General Sir Daril G. Watson, Past Grand Sword Bearer, G.C.B., C.B.E., M.C., and W.Bro. Herbert E. Titford, Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. The General and Bertie were much loved and respected by Old Mercers, within and without Freemasonry, and they will be sadly missed and long remembered.

The Ladies' Festival made a welcome return to the Zoological Gardens Restaurant and, under the enthusiastic presidency of the Worshipful Master, was a most successful and enjoyable evening. It is understood that the Master-Elect, W.Bro. Harold Goldner, intends to repeat the event at the same place during his year of office in 1967-68.

The regular meetings of Honor Deo Lodge are held at the National Liberal Club, Whitehall Place, S.W.1, on the first Thursdays in November (Installation), December, February and March. Old Mercers, wishing to become members, are invited to get into touch with me at "Langdale", 75 Culverden Park, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

R. G. Williams, *Lodge Secretary*.

#### HONOR DEO CHAPTER, No. 3562

The Chapter enjoyed a happy year with E.Comp. R. G. Williams as First Principal, E.Comp. J. L. Roberts as Second Principal, and E.Comp. A. C. Winn as Third Principal. One new member was welcomed.

The following were elected for the year beginning October, 1967:

E.Comp. J. L. Roberts as First Principal.

E.Comp. A. C. Winn as Second Principal.

Comp. J. F. Gray as Third Principal.

Old Mercers who are already Freemasons and who would like any information concerning joining the Chapter should contact



E.Comp. F. W. Yardley, Scribe E, at 5 Gloucester Road, Hampton-on-Thames, Middx. (Tel. 01-979 1454).

## CIVIC GUILD OF OLD MERCERS

The Court and Officers of the Guild for 1967-68 are:—

H. H. Crane	Guild Master
A. C. Winn	Guild Renter Warden
F. B. Angier	Guild Junior Warden
All Past Guild Masters and M. J. Gosling, M. H. Woods and W. R. Lewis	Guild Assistants
A. H. Hall	Hon. Clerk
K. H. Neville	Hon. Assistant Clerk

The Guild much regrets that its Guildmaster, H. H. Crane, was unable to attend his Installation Dinner, or any of the Court meetings since, due to illness. It is hoped that he will be well enough to take up his office in the near future. In the meantime the Deputy Guild Master, J. B. T. Bird, has been Acting Guild Master.

Like many other Old Mercer Societies, the Guild is mourning the death of two of its most loyal supporters—Past Guild Master Herbert Titford and Guildman General Sir Daril Watson.

The Annual Installation Dinner was held at Tallow Chandlers Hall on June 16th last with the Deputy Guild Master in the Chair. Some 60 members and guests were present, the two official guests being the Rt. Hon. Lord Ebbisham, Chief Commoner, and Mr. P. Deverell Stone, Master of the Tallow Chandlers Company.

The Court wishes particularly to bring to the attention of Old Mercers, the Guild's apprenticeship scheme. Sons, or grandsons, of Old Mercers, between the ages of 14 and 21, are eligible to become apprentice members of the Guild. The object of the scheme is to encourage young men, who are interested in the City of London and its traditions, to become freemen of the City on reaching the age of 21. To foster this interest, visits to places of interest in the City are arranged from time to time. The subscription is 5/- per annum and anyone interested should write to the Guild Apprentice Warden, M. J. Herniman, 46 Worrin Road, Shenfield, Essex.

The Guild itself is open to all Old Mercers or their sons, and the Court would be very happy to welcome new members. The annual subscription is £3 3s. 0d. Further particulars can be obtained from the Hon. Clerk, A. H. Hall, 23 Uverdale Road, Enfield, Middx.

## AN O.M. IN PRETORIA

It is, as Dick Dawson recently reminded me, long since news of either of the Boucher brothers appeared in the pages of the magazine. I am therefore, at Dick's request, repairing the omission so far as the elder and more distant member of the family is concerned. I haven't seen Leon for several years now, although I receive regular news of

his activities in Chester and hope to visit him again in the course of a projected trip to Britain early in 1969.

I cannot say that I have been in very close touch with the O.M. affairs of late; none of the Club members in South Africa, so far as I am aware, is of my "vintage", and the only recent contact I have had was with Gordon Harper in Rhodesia. It was with some surprise that I heard, quite by chance, an interview which he gave over Salisbury radio towards the end of his term of Office as Mayor of that city, in the course of which he mentioned his Muswell Hill boyhood and Mercers schooldays. I had hoped to meet him at a later date, but unfortunately this plan failed to materialize.

I came to Pretoria in 1964 from Malawi to join the staff of the Department of History in the University of South Africa, that unique institution which provides, largely but not exclusively by means of the written word, university courses from pass degree to doctorate for students of all races in this country and abroad. The majority, of course, are South African residents, but I have among my own students several living in Rhodesia and others as far distant as Britain, Canada and the United States. This University is of particular interest, not only in the context of South African higher education, but also with reference to the world-wide extension of university facilities which began in the 19th century. As the University of the Cape of Good Hope, founded in 1873 on the model of London University, then exclusively an examining body, this institution was, until 1918, South Africa's only degree-conferring establishment. Since that date, and under its present name, it has been both a federal university with affiliated colleges and, after 1947, a teaching institution for external students. I have been engaged for some time upon research into the history of the University and hope to publish the results of my labours in time for the centenary in 1973.

So far as my tutorial work is concerned, I can at least hope that some of the fruits of the late G. G. Allen's fine teaching in the classrooms at Barnard's Inn are still being offered to a later generation of students in a distant land.

Pretoria is a delightful city, and at this season of the year, now that the first refreshing rains of summer have fallen and the jacarandas which line so many of our suburban streets are in full purple blossom, the capital can be seen at its best. Pretoria is predominantly Afrikaans-speaking, and if the acquisition of a second language is not quite so easy for middle-aged parents, our children seem to be gaining a commendable fluency in the tongue, sufficient I trust for one of my daughters to achieve her heart's desire, announced a few weeks ago, of becoming what she described as a "second-hand typist"!

We cannot lay claim in Pretoria to a past which even remotely approaches the five centuries of Mercers' School; however, the city is not without historical sites of more recent interest, particularly in connection with Paul Kruger and the former Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek. My own department and the University library are within a short distance of the old Staats Model School from which a youthful

newspaper correspondent, Winston Churchill, escaped during the South African War.

I should be delighted to see any O.M.s who may be visiting the Transvaal in the future; meanwhile, "totsiens" and best wishes to you all from South Africa.

October 23, 1967.

Maurice Boucher (1931-39)

## OLD MERCERS' BOATING CLUB?

O.M.s E. S. Wilkins and L. T. Gardner both keep their small sailing cruisers at Conyer Creek in Kent. The address is:—

Conyer Marine, Conyer Quay, Teynham, near Sittingbourne.

During the last season we have both entertained a number of O.M.s and have had some good sailing in the River Swale and off the Isle of Sheppey. Other O.M.s have visited Conyer to find the boat owners either sailing or in the pub, which is one of Conyer's attractions.

Many of the old Thames sailing barges were built there by local craftsmen and a number of the barges form permanent homes in the Creek. Some Dutch "botters" are moored there and are lovingly maintained by their owners.

If any O.M. has a boat to sail, the charms (and problems) of Conyer should be enjoyed. There is a good concrete slipway owned by the boatyard. The journey out to the River Swale is full of challenge and recourse to oars or engine is usually required.

Any O.M., beginner or otherwise, who is interested in trying his hand at sailing is invited to write to either of the O.M. boat owners. We shall be pleased to have you aboard for a day and to help you get your feet wet.

L.T.G.

E.S.W.—Flat 7, Crescent Court, Rodenhurst Road, Clapham Park, S.W.4.

L.T.G.—7, Manorbrook, Blackheath, S.E.3.

## NEWS OF OLD MERCERS

H. G. Andrew is now teaching for a year at Blundell's School, Tiverton. He was not, as reported by last year's magazine, President of the London and Home Counties Section of the Association for Secondary Education, but of Science Education. The editor apologises for a bad piece of proof reading on his part.

B. J. S. Brown (1945-51), in Bahrein, has been accepted as a corporate member of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers (C.Eng.A.M.I.Mech.E.). He bought the pram for his daughter from O.M. Roy Weaver; he would welcome any O.M. who happens to be in Bahrein—"Scotch is only fifteen bob a bottle".

J. G. H. Edkins (1935-42) is now a Principal Lecturer at Chester Training College where one of his students is the daughter of R. C. Parish (1936-42). Edkins visited Roy Moore at Mill Hill just before Mr. Moore's departure for America.

E. T. How (1928-35) is now manager of the Holborn branch of Barclays Bank.

L. A. N. Kyle (1923-32), stalwart Old Mercer for many years, was ordained Deacon in Tonbridge Parish Church on Sunday, December 17th, and is now at St. Luke's Church, Bromley Common, Kent.

A. P. Stringer (1950-52) is breeding Salukis and Tibetan spaniels (Prayer Dogs). He would be glad to hear from any O.M. who may have travelled in Arabia or Northern India and has met these dogs. Stringer is now a Staff Officer, Movement Control (Capt.), Southern Command, in the T.A.—as he says, “A busman’s holiday from my job in the Ministry of Defence (Army) in London.”

## END OF AN ERA

On September 30th last, the General Secretary’s account book had to be closed. It was the end of the Club Year, so the account had to be balanced anyway, but it was the end of an era too because the account book has been started in 1933. It had cost three-and-eleven-pence, so the Club got quite good value for petty cash.

Practically the first entry concerns the 1933 Annual General Meeting. At the supper afterwards, the artistes cost £3 12s. 6d. and sank eleven shillings worth of refreshments. Guests’ refreshments only cost nine shillings. The hire of a piano was five shillings.

In 1934, 79 members subscribed to a presentation fund for Springett, the school porter. Five bob was the upper limit, and £17 3s. 0d. was collected. Two years later, 85 members subscribed to a similarly limited fund for B. C. Boulter. In February, 1935, 250 foolscap envelopes cost three shillings; but in July of the same year, the same number of “commercial” envelopes cost but one-and-eleven. A minute book (which lasted twenty years) cost 7s. 6d.; the replacement, which I bought in 1955, cost exactly three times as much and lasted less than half the time.

Between 1935 and the end of the Second World War there are regular items of expenditure each year for Armorial Bearings licences; they range from one guinea, usually, to one and a half.

On June 10th, 1934, the Secretary had to send telegrams to O’Blath and Rollinson, which set the Club back two-and-tenpence. I see that there had been a committee meeting on June 8th or 9th.

The general level of expenditure on routine administrative tasks has altered surprisingly little, and averaging between £13 and £18 over the majority of years. Some costs have fluctuated for no apparent reason. In 1933 it cost 1s. 6d. to engrave the Presidential collar; in 1934 1s. 0d.; in 1935 3s. 6d. In 1947 it was still only 3s. 0d., but after that time the responsibility was apparently removed from the secretary, and the item disappears.

By 1951 we had been presented with a piano of our own. Tuning it cost nine shillings. So did a telephone call that October to Harry Merrett. 250 envelopes had gone up to 7s. 9d. by 1952; and the petty expenses involved in sending a team to Bisley that year were £2 17s. 0d.

P.N.

## ADDRESS CHANGES

It is hoped that a new booklet will be published early in the new year. Please let the Records Secretary know, at once, of any other changes which have taken place or are imminent.

- G. C. ANDERSON, Cross Keys, Lydford-on-Fosse, Somerton, Somerset. 1957-58.
- J. W. ANTCLIFFE, 14 Crawford Road, Broadstairs, Kent. 1947-55 (791).
- B. J. ATKINS, Austin Friars Lane, Stamford, Lincs. 1946-54 (767).
- H. S. BAILEY, Hillsborough, London Road, Daventry, Northants. 1934-38 (566).
- W. G. BAILEY, Hillsborough, London Road, Daventry, Northants. 1899-1907 (243).
- R. BARTON, 23 Baskerville Road, Wandsworth, London, S.W.18. 1952-58.
- P. BERKS, 40 Warley Still, Brentwood, Essex. 1951-58.
- R. A. BIGNELL, Cherry Garth, Albany Road, West Bergholt, Colchester, Essex. 1915-19 (376).
- The Rev. R. G. BOX, M.A., B.D., College of St. Mark and St. John, Kings Road, Chelsea, London, S.W.10. 1930-38.
- P. D. BRINCK, 7 Donai Close, Farnborough, Hants. 1951-54 (855).
- P. J. BRINCK, 10 Wye Road, Borough Green, Kent. 1949-52 (856).
- S. P. CHAPMAN, 43 Broadwood Avenue, Ruislip, Middlesex. 1944-49.
- L. F. COCKMAN, 7 Highfield Close, Saltwood, Hythe, Kent. 1919-22 (406).
- G. H. DARKE, F.R.C.S., Roadwater Farm, Roadwater, Watchet, Somerset. 1925-31 (660).
- G. P. DARKE, 17 Pukenui Road, Auckland, S.E.3, New Zealand. 1923-31 (417).
- The Rev. S. M. EPPS, M.A., B.D., R.N.(Retd.), 19 Summerhill Road, Sion Hill, Bath. 1914-18 (193).
- W. L. FORD, "Green Tiles", 46 The Rise, Sevenoaks, Kent. 1942-49 (707).
- D. A. FOWLER, B.A., 46 Suffolk Road, N. Harrow, Middlesex. 1943-47 LL.
- G. A. FROSH, 18 Stuckleigh Hall, Prince Albert Road, London, N.W.8. 1953-58 (859).
- H. FYSON, M.A., "Cherry Trees", 31 Gaggie Wood, Mannings Heath, Horsham, Sussex. (845).
- D. H. GADBURY, F.A.L.P.A., Tunmore Cottage, East Clandon, Guildford, Surrey. 1931-35 (681).
- J. M. D. GAUNTLETT, M.Sc., A.R.I.C., 13 Grove Street, Summertown, Oxford. 1904-13 (259).
- W. J. GEERS, 31 The Brow, Haydon Wick, Swindon, Wilts. 1951-58.
- W. E. GELSON, M.Sc.(Eng.), M.I.C.E., M.I.MechE., 1 Lygon Place, Grosvenor Gardens, Westminster, London, S.W.1. 1910-14 (286) LL.
- B. J. GIBBS, 39 Halfpenny Close, Chilworth, Surrey. 1949-56 (808).
- W. S. GOOCH, "St. Merryn", Blue Waters Drive, Lyme Regis, Dorset. 1900-05 (140).
- J. GRANSBURY, 26 Brook Road, Brentwood, Essex. 1945-51.
- J. R. GREEN, 21 Alexander Drive, Bexhill, Sussex. 1906-11 (105).
- F. J. HAWES, 177 Bradstow Way, Broadstairs, Kent. 1897-99 (37).
- K. J. HARRY, 1 Redthorn Court, Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada. 1947-53 (742).
- M. J. HERNIMAN, 46 Worrin Road, Shenfield, Essex. 1942-50 (741).
- P. A. HILL, 14 Cannon Hill, Southgate, London, N.14. 1953-58 LL.

- M. J. HOLDEN, Edelweiss, Cotswold Close, Tredington, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwicks. 1945-54 (769).
- E. C. HOUNSLOW, Virginia Cottage, Gussage All Saints, Nr. Wimborne, Dorset. 1919-23 (766).
- M. W. HUDSON, F.R.I.C.S., Corner Oak, 78 Hainault Road, Chigwell, Essex. 1919-25 (402).
- B. L. JACOBS, B.L., A.C.I.L., Bay Tree Cottage, Peasmarsh, Sussex. 1929-34.
- M. D. JEPSON, M.D., M.A., A.M.I.Mech.E., Marl Ridge, Swan Lane, Edenbridge, Kent. 1932-39 (538).
- The Rev. L. A. N. KYLE, 7 Deepdene Court, Kingswood Road, Shortlands, Bromley, Kent. 1923-32 (511) LL.
- M. E. LEE, Slades, The Beeches, Sole Street, Cobham, Kent. 1949-53 (793).
- N. D. LEMON, Willowcroft, 33 Woodhurst Lane, Oxted, Surrey. 1949-53.
- R. MOORE, 138 Santo Tomas Lane, Montecito, Santa Barbara, California, 93103, U.S.A. (886).
- H. MOYS, 5 Ewey Gates Drive, Hale Barns, Altrincham, Cheshire. 1921-27 (505).
- H. T. W. NASH, 8 Ryder Road, Bordeaux, Randburg, Transvaal, S. Africa. 1931-37.
- G. S. A. OLLIS, "Newberie", Cross Lane, Braunston, Rugby. 1914-19 (303).
- D. S. POMSON, 66 Sherwood Road, Hendon, London, N.W.4. 1945-51.
- C. D. ROBINSON, 8 Gardner House, Albany Street, London, N.W.1. 1952-58.
- K. J. ROBINSON, 8 Laburnam Way, Nayland Heights, Nayland, Nr. Colchester, Essex. 1935-39 (548).
- Sir GEORGE F. STEDMAN, K.B.E., C.B.B.A., M.C., 57 Westhorpe, Southwell, Notts. 1906-13 (75).
- P. A. STEVENS, 190 Cozens Road, Ware, Hertfordshire. 1947-57 (875).
- A. P. STRINGER, Saluq Chase, 82 Woodlands Road, Little Bookham, Nr. Leatherhead, Surrey. 1950-52 (749).
- Capt. D. C. TATEM, H.Q. 44 Para. Bde., Duke of York's H.Q., Chelsea, London, S.W.3. 1950-55 (816).
- F. S. TOON, Hazel Mount Lodge, Thwaites, Millom, Cumberland. 1929-35 (453).
- Sqdn. Leader E. B. TOWNSEND-DYSON, R.A.F.(Retd.), c/o Royal Air Force Club, 128 Piccadilly, London, W.1. 1920-27 (582).
- D. J. WALTON, 67 The Woodlands, Beulah Hill, London, S.E.19, 1954-58 LL.
- B. J. WELLER, 6 Kynance Gardens, Stanmore, Middlesex. 1950-54 LL.
- H. WHATE, M.A., 9 Dorchester Court, The Park, Cheltenham, Glos. (852).
- B. G. WILLIAMS, M.A., F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., Little Dormers, Verney Road, Stonehouse, Glos. 1943-48 (677).
- I. M. H. WILLIAMSON, B.Sc.(Eng.), 7 The Dower House, Canwick, Lincoln. 1952-58 (863).
- W. H. WRIGHT, "Byways", 6 Old Oak Avenue, Chipstead, Coulsdon, Surrey, CR3-3PG. 1911-15 (222).
- P. J. CHAPPLE, 18 Bramley Close, Olveston, Bristol. 1948-53.
- Dr. K. E. GRAY, 97 Keadon Drive, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol. 1945-55.
- M. A. NASH, 155 Great Tottenhams, Epsom Downs, Surrey. 1944-54 (776).
- J. B. STOREY, 84 Pix Road, Letchworth, Herts.

## TRANSFER TO LIFE MEMBERSHIP

- L. F. HALL (873).

## MEMBERS FOUND

- D. S. CHAPMAN, The New Fullbrook, West Bromwich Road, Walsall, Staffs. 1930-36 (646).  
The Rev. G. K. HAWES, M.A., B.D., 24 Park Close, Bladon, Oxon. 1917-23 (418).  
R. W. LUCRAFT, 8 Gt. Russell Mansions, 60 Gt. Russell Street, London, W.C.1. 1926-30 (388) LL  
M. T. READ, M.C., The Old Vicarage, Nether Wallop, Stockbridge, Hants. 1924-32 (398).  
E. STABLES, The Torres, 25 Brunel Avenue, Watcombe Park, Torquay. 1905-11 (603).

## NEW MEMBERS

- G. F. CASTLE, 4 Oban Road, Bournemouth, Hants. 1927-33.  
The Rev. F. J. NEAL. 1898-1901.

## LAST WORD FROM THE EDITOR

You have just read and, I hope, enjoyed your magazine; perhaps you are even looking forward to next year's edition. I feel that I personally have written far too much of this edition and so I am asking members of the Club, nearly a year in advance, for copy for '68-'69. A circular reminder nearer November 30th, 1968, which is the deadline, is expensive and there is no harm in sending copy long before that date. Comment, criticism, reminiscence, all are welcome, together with personal news. So please put pen to paper—now.

To keep his records in order is a thankless task for the Records' Secretary; there have been nearly three hundred changes of address since the last booklet and it does help if, when you move, you can drop him a postcard giving your new address. His address:

I. M. H. Williamson, The Dower House, Canwick, Lincoln.

## THE FINAL CRICKET REPORT

It was most pleasant to end the life of the Cricket Section with a win—even if we did have a little outside help. David Trigg, John Holder, Hartley Campbell and Bob Corfield were always prepared to help out at short notice so that we could fulfil our fixtures in this, our last season. While the results were not sensational, a close look will show that three of the drawn games might have been won with a little better luck and more penetrative bowling. Indeed the bowling was a headache for our harassed but unflappable skipper, Dickie Dawson, for, on the occasions when Charlie Parker was not available, his choice of opening bowler lay between inaccurate leg breaks and slow left arm floaters which failed to move off the pitch but moved rapidly off opponents' bats.

There were several good individual innings; Mick Manning's 64 against Edenbeck, Peter Wainwright's 61 against Lloyds Bank and Graham Ives' 57 against Old Cholmelians, which he still maintains

should be well over 60 and that 8 leg byes were hits. Mick Manning became the regular wicket-keeper with Robin Whiteland playing occasionally—when he could be persuaded to leave the sunny shores of Brighton.

One event which no O.M. cricket side has ever experienced before was the feat of the Old Beccehamian captain who made a century against us both home and away, thus exploding the myth that Graham Hargrave-Smith knew exactly how to get rid of this batsman. Old Boys' Day has been described elsewhere; we are pleased to announce that the Old Citizens' C.C. have kindly opened their club to those Old Mercers who wish to continue playing cricket. So far seven O.M.s, plus Charlie Parker, have expressed a desire to play and this has enabled the Old Cits. to form an additional side. At the recent A.G.M. Reg Vanhegan was elected vice-captain of this side and Dixie Dean elected to their committee to facilitate its organisation. We must express our sincere gratitude for this most generous offer and we hope we can repay this generosity by our performance and enthusiasm. Old Boys' Day this year will be held on June 22nd when it is planned to hold a single or double wicket competition in conjunction with the Old Citizens. We hope that a number of our former players may take part; details will be announced later.

One could write a book of thanks to the many O.M.s who have put so much time and effort into making the section such an efficient and respected club over the years. As the final Secretary, I should like to mention my two predecessors, Dickie Dawson who held the office for ten years, and Fred Robinson who, during his five year stint, organised the two tours of the Isle of Wight. In conclusion I should like to quote from a letter received in reply to my letter resigning from the Club Cricket Conference :

"My Council would like to express its thanks for the support given by your Club to the Conference over the years and to hope that the present cessation of your cricket activities is only temporary ..."

We may no longer have an Old Mercers' Cricket Club; I feel sure the Editor will be pleased to report on the cricketing activities of the new Old Citizens in next year's magazine.

R. S. Dean.

## RESULTS 1967

April 29th

Old Mercers 160 for 9 dec. Lloyds Bank 74 (Lucas 4 for 12).  
Won by 86 runs.

May 13th

Old Brockleians 48 (Parker 8 for 11). Old Mercers 51 for 0.  
Won by 10 wickets.

May 20th

Old Mercers 53 for 5. Rain stopped play. Stanstead did not bat.



- June 3rd  
Old Mercers 125. City of London Police 126 for 2.  
Lost by 8 wickets.
- June 10th  
Old Erithians 127 for 8 dec. (Parker 5 for 20). Old  
Mercers 58.  
Lost by 69 runs.
- June 17th  
Old Beccehamians 198 for 2 dec. Old Mercers 61.  
Lost by 137 runs
- July 1st  
Edenbeck 178 for 8 dec. Old Mercers 130 for 9 (Manning 64).  
Draw.
- July 8th  
Old Cholmelians 165 for 8 dec. Old Mercers 163 for 4  
(G. Ives 57).  
Draw.
- July 15th  
St. Johns 96 (Lucas 4 for 23). Old Mercers 97 for 3 (Lucas  
47 not out).  
Won by 7 wickets.
- July 22nd  
Old Mercers 181 for 9 dec. (Wainwright 61). Lloyds Bank  
127 for 8.  
Draw.
- July 29th  
Old Mercers 65. Rain stopped play. Edenbeck did not bat.
- August 5th  
Epsom Old Grammarians 193 (Parker 4 for 64). Old  
Mercers 103.  
Lost by 90 runs.
- August 12th  
Old Mercers 120. Pearl Assurance 77 for 9 (Rolt 5 for 31).  
Draw.
- August 26th  
Bickley Park 225 for 5 dec. Old Mercers 106 for 5.  
Draw.
- September 2nd  
Old Beccehamians 175 (Parker 6 for 62). Old Mercers 54.  
Lost by 121 runs.
- September 9th  
Old Mercers 104. Epsom Old Grammarians 90.  
Won by 14 runs.
- Played 16. Won 4. Drawn 5. Abandoned 2. Lost 5.