

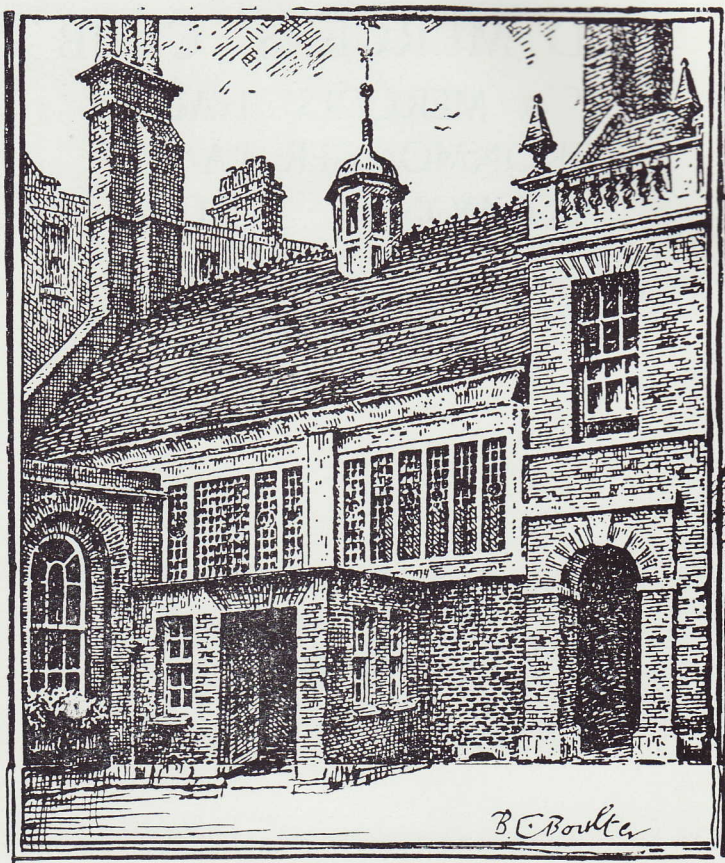


# OLD MERCERS' CLUB

1973

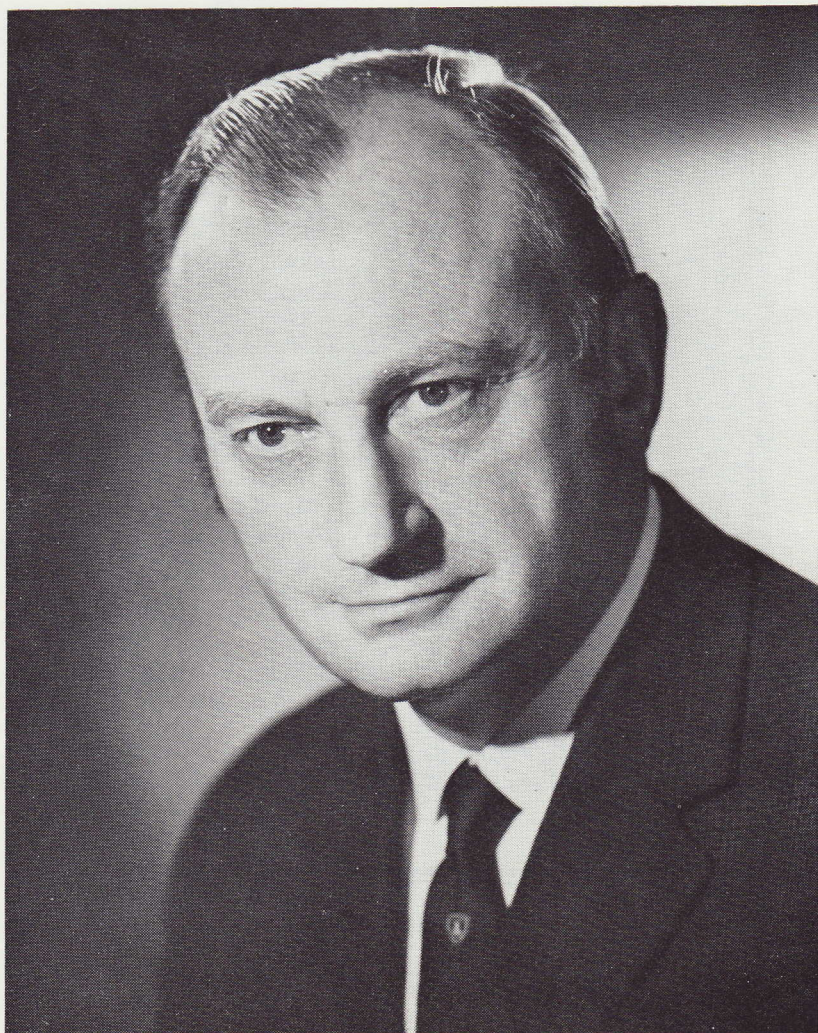
# OLD MERCERS' CLUB

c/o MERCERS' HALL  
IRONMONGER LANE  
LONDON - E.C.2



BARNARD'S INN





T. H. HOLLINGS  
President, Old Mercers' Club, 1973-74.

## CLUB COMMITTEE 1973-74

PRESIDENT : T. H. Hollings

Vice-Presidents : N. S. Fosh  
L. T. Gardner  
D. T. Trigg  
K. Jones  
B. L. Jacobs

Trustees : L. Clifton Crick  
G. Milne  
C. D. Archibald

General Secretary : D. T. Trigg

Treasurer : L. T. Allen

Honorary Auditor : G. H. Searle

Entertainments' Secretary : R. C. Corfield,  
63 Whitecroft Way,  
Beckenham, Kent.  
(01-650 9468)

Records' Secretary : R. Davey,  
2A Belmont Avenue,  
Cockfosters, Herts.

Past Presidents : F. J. Robinson  
H. M. Eade  
C. D. Archibald  
R. H. Cousens  
G. C. Ives

Ordinary Members of Committee : K. F. Holmes  
C. D. Fidge  
H. T. Campbell  
B. D. Percy  
D. J. Griffin  
N. Watson

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

## THE YEAR 1972-73

So this is the fifteenth Old Mercer Magazine as distinct from the O.M. column which used to appear in the School Magazine. For fifteen years we have had no school, comparatively few new members and, sadly, some notable losses in membership. Times have changed; one by one the constituent clubs have had to cease operations and, in March, 1974, the Football Club, having survived longest, plays its last game. The Club Committee have worked tremendously hard to maintain functions under ever increasing difficulties. The Dinner each May has always been well attended; the idea of a Reception, begun by Peter Nailor in his year of office, has usually been very successful, but this year only seventy people attended Armoury House, which must have been a great disappointment to our hard-working President, Fred Robinson. The Lodge, Chapter and Civic Guild continue to be well supported.

What, then, of the future? The Committee have deliberated long on the problem and are still considering whether it is right to organise another Reception in the autumn of 1974. One wonders whether members realise that the two main functions are heavily subsidised from the generous grant given annually by the Mercers' Company. The cost of printing and postage is rising at an alarming rate and the Treasurer is very conscious that his small surplus this year may well become a deficit in 1974.

Consequently he feels that the time has come, after half a century, to raise the annual subscription, and proposes to include a motion to this effect on the agenda for next year's A.G.M.

However, the majority of O.M.'s are life members. The income from their seven-and-a-half guineas (or in some cases four guineas) does not nearly pay for their keep. If and when an A.G.M. of the Club agrees to the Treasurer's proposition, would that be a moment for life members to acknowledge that most of them have had their fifteen years' worth, had they been paying annual subs. and respond to an appeal to help bolster the Club's diminishing income?

At the moment this is only a thought for tomorrow. The Committee feels that there is a future for a Club which can still attract 140 to its Annual Dinner and that they should not make any move to use the capital assets which are at their disposal should the need arise.

Elsewhere our President, Tommy Hollings, reports on the year gone by and his hopes for the future; his former Housemaster reports on the President, the man who probably played more games for the O.M.F.C. 1st XI than any other O.M. We can look forward to a happy and successful year. Despite the gloomy financial future which apparently faces us all, we trust that the Dinner in May will be a "sell-out"; we hope that, if a Reception is arranged, the many who came to Mercers' Hall, will come to whatever venue may be chosen for the function. We are appalled by the price of a meal—be it the

wife's home cooking or the chef's Special—but your Committee do price functions as cheaply as possible. So dig deep and come along—you will not be disappointed.

## REMINDERS

1. If you move house, please let the Records' Secretary know.
2. If you want a new Old Mercer tie, contact the General Secretary.
3. If you need a copy of "A History of Mercers' School", the Editor will be happy to oblige—price £1.50, inclusive of postage.
4. Make a note of the "Dates to Remember"—now.
5. The Editor wants copy for the next magazine as soon as possible.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

What sort of a year has 1973 been for the Old Mercers' Club? Regrettably a little sad, in that we have seen the end of the Dramatic Club and, as this goes to press, we are half-way through the final season for the Football Club. It will indeed be strange not to have Grove Park to visit and not to have the pleasure of refereeing a "gentle" game (despite the fact that it invariably poured with rain when I myself was called upon to carry out this duty).

From the continuing closure of constituent sections of the Club, outsiders may be tempted to think that we will soon have no Club at all, but knowing the Old Mercers, I am sure that the Club will be kept going for many a year, inspired by the "spirit of the School" so well implanted by our old friend, George Andrew, and his colleagues.

Nevertheless, it does become increasingly difficult for successive Presidents to report on the year's activities when they are gradually diminishing, and the Magazine Secretary is still calling for as much material as possible to fill the spaces.

Our main event, of course, is still the Dinner at the Mercers' Hall in May, and once again this year we were over-subscribed and could not accommodate all those who wished to attend. New caterers were in evidence at the Hall and achieved a very high standard, well up to expectations and truly befitting the surroundings. For my part I felt it a pleasant change not to have the bother of serving myself from the platter, but I do believe that some other Old Mercers were not too happy at yet another departure from tradition. The speeches of the President, Fred Robinson, and his guests, had a distinct leaning towards the subject of golf, an activity in which many Athletic Association members now indulge, thus maintaining contact. The speech of the evening, however, was undoubtedly that delivered by our former Headmaster, Mr. Haden—not unnaturally a polished and competent performer!

As forecast in yast year's magazine, the Reception in September was held in the new venue of Armoury House, that remarkable "oasis" in the heart of the city where there are still several acres of turf over which Old Mercers have fought many a battle with the Honourable Artillery Company, dressed in football attire, of course! An excellent evening was enjoyed by all, despite the fact that some of the older members were unfortunate in circulating in the same direction as the solid nourishment and rarely caught up with it. However, they were well compensated by the amount of liquid refreshment available, which stayed in one position!

At the Annual General Meeting few changes in office took place, the most notable being the election as Junior Vice-President of Old Mercer Jacob, returned from the wilds of Africa, and of Bob Corfield as Entertainments' Secretary. Bob has, of course, been an untiring supporter of Old Mercers' athletic activities over many years and has been an excellent organiser of parties and "matches". I am sure he will prove to be an eminently suitable Entertainments' Secretary. My sincere thanks to Ian Pearson, the retiring Entertainments' Secretary, for all his hard work during his years in office, and to all the members of the Committee for their unflagging efforts and support which have enabled the Club to flourish and will, we hope, continue to do so for a very long time to come. Once again, of course, our sincere thanks to the Mercers' Company for their continued generosity, help and encouragement.

In the context of generosity, may I draw your attention to the comments in the Magazine Secretary's report asking for consideration to be given by you all to suggestions for raising some small additional finances to enable the Club to provide the facilities you require. This request follows from the discussions at the Annual General Meeting, and is one which we are regrettably forced to make in these days of ever-spiralling costs. Your Committee trust that your full support will be forthcoming for whatever action has to be taken in this matter.

T.H.H.

#### OUR PRESIDENT—1973-74

A certain Housemaster, who had taught in Northumberland before coming to Mercers', discovering that the new boys of September 1935 included a scholar transferred from Rutherford College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, asked for him to be put into Gresham. The request was readily granted on the grounds that this master might well be the only one to understand what this new boy said. Thus came T. H. Hollings to Mercers'.

After a distinguished, and even at times adventurous career at both work and games and a year's evacuation to Horsham, T.H.H. left Mercers' School to work with a national building contractor until he joined the Royal Engineers, where he was commissioned and later served for three years in India.



On leaving the services "Tommy" joined the College of Estate Management, passing the final examinations of the R.I.C.S. Twelve years' service with a firm of quantity surveyors, the last four as a partner, led to his joining his present firm of building contractors; first as Chief Surveyor and now as Managing Director. He also directs an associated company.

Before his war service Tommy played football for the Club. On returning to civilian life he played cricket for several seasons.

But the football club was his real triumph. For twenty years he played in the First XI, the last ten as either captain or vice-captain.

It is very fitting that he is now our president and it is as such we greet him, together with Betty and his two sons David and Paul.  
\*Infelicem Northumbriam, fortunatam Merciam.

H.G.A.

\*The Latin is scientific—but comprehensible! (Ed.)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, 16th March—THE LAST FOOTBALL MATCH.

O. MERCERS v. O. BRENTWOODS, Grove Park, 3 p.m.

Friday, 29th March—THE LAST FOOTBALL SUPPER.

"City Yacht".

Thursday, 16th May—ANNUAL DINNER. Mercers' Hall.

Saturday, 8th June—HONOR DEO LODGE LADIES' FESTIVAL.

Cunard International Hotel, Hammersmith.

Tuesday, 22nd October—A.G.M. Mercers' Hall.

# OLD MERCERS' CLUB

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER, 1973

| 1972 | EXPENDITURE  | 1973    | 1972   | INCOME  | 1973    |
|------|--|---------|--------|---|---------|
| £    |  | £       | £      |   | £       |
| 232  | Magazine and Handbook                              | ...     | ...    | ...   | ...     |
|      | Cost of Production of "History of Mercers' School" | 330.94  | 84     | Annual Subscriptions :                              | 83.74   |
| 357  |  | —       | 2      | Current   | 7.42    |
| 24   | Stationery and Printing                            | 25.91   | ...    | Arrears   | ...     |
| 22   | Postage  | 23.70   | ...    | ...   | ...     |
| 66   | Rates on Gresham College                           | —       | 86     | Investment Income                                   | 91.16   |
| 52   | Costs of Presentation                              | —       | 154    | Deposit Interest                                    | 197.30  |
| 40   | Sundry Expenses                                    | 42.96   | 31     | ...   | 43.58   |
| 1    | Depreciation                                       | 10.00   | ...    | ...   | ...     |
| 194  | Contribution towards Dinner                        | 163.46  | 185    | Less Tax  | 240.88  |
| 21   | Contribution towards Dance                         | —       | 60     | ...   | 77.82   |
| 62   | Contributions towards Receptions:                  | ...     | ...    | ...   | ...     |
|      | 1972   | £50.33  | 125    | Donations   | 163.06  |
|      | 1973   | £97.31  | 502    | Receipts from sales of "History of Mercers' School" | 501.97  |
| 18   | Contribution towards O.M.F.C. Dinner               | 147.64  | 238    | Sale of Ties  | 14.70   |
| —    | Surplus for year                                   | 38.28   | 138    | Deficit for year                                    | 12.00   |
|      |  | £782.89 | £1,089 |   | —       |
|      |  | £782.89 |        |   | £782.89 |

**OLD MERCERS' CLUB**  
**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER, 1973**

| 1972   | LIABILITIES                        | 1973      | 1972  | ASSETS                           | 1973      |
|--------|------------------------------------|-----------|-------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| £      |                                    | £         | £     |                                  | £         |
| 149    | General Fund 1.10.72               | 11.27     | 205   | Cash at Bank and in Hand         | 271.05    |
| 138    | Less Deficit                       | —         | 477   | Nationwide Building Society      | 344.96    |
| —      | Plus Surplus                       | 38.28     | 6     | Sundry Debtors and Stock of Ties | 61.50     |
|        |                                    |           |       | INVESTMENTS (held by Trustees)   |           |
| 11     | INVESTMENT FUND                    | 49.55     | 1,075 | £1,069 7¼% Cardiff Corp. 1977    | 1,075.18  |
| 4,171  | Life Subscriptions 1.10.64         | 4,171.27  | 2,014 | £3,992 3% Brit. Trans. 1978/88   | 2,014.11  |
|        | Capital losses less reinvested In- |           | 3,089 | Adjustment to Market Value       | 3,089.29  |
|        | come and invested gifts from       |           | 153   |                                  | 300.29    |
| 1,082  | Life Members                       | 1,081.98  |       |                                  |           |
|        |                                    |           | 3,242 |                                  | 2,789.00  |
| 3,089  | Adjustment to Market Value         | 3,089.29  | 10    | Office Equipment                 | —         |
| 153    |                                    | 300.29    | 1     | Other Club Property              | 1.00      |
|        |                                    |           |       |                                  |           |
| 3,242  | Uninvested Life Funds (Rule 48)    | 2,789.00  |       |                                  |           |
| 229    | Subscriptions in advance           | 259.94    |       |                                  |           |
| 19     |                                    | 18.02     |       |                                  |           |
| 440    | Sundry Creditors                   | 351.00    |       |                                  |           |
|        |                                    |           |       |                                  |           |
| £3,941 |                                    | £3,467.51 |       |                                  | £3,467.51 |

L. T. ALLEN, *Hon. Treasurer.*

I have examined the above Balance Sheet and the annexed Income and Expenditure Account with the Books and Vouchers of the Club and certify same to be in accordance therewith.

G. H. SEARLE, *Chartered Accountant.*      *Hon. Auditor.*

Minutes of the  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
of the Old Mercers' Club held at Mercers' Hall  
on Tuesday, 23rd October, 1973, at 6.30 p.m.

*In the Chair:* F. J. Robinson.

*Attendance:* 25 members were present.

*Apologies for Absence:* D. J. Griffin, R. S. Dean, F. B. Angier, G. F. Banks, K. F. Holmes, H. G. Andrew.

1. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on October 19th, 1972, were confirmed and signed.

2. *Treasurer's Report.*

Copies of the Accounts and Balance Sheet were distributed. Allen went through these in some detail although, as he pointed out, the Balance Sheet was self-explanatory. He noted that the Addressograph was now written off with this year's allocation of £10 depreciation, although this equipment should continue to perform for some years to come. Postage costs had not been as high as expected, in spite of recent increases, but we could not expect to be so fortunate next year. Overall, a small surplus was evident, largely due to the continued generosity of the Mercers' Company, for which we were all most grateful.

R. H. Cousens queried the contribution to the 1972 Reception in this year's accounts, and Allen explained that this was due in part to a sum of £33 owing to the Master Mariners for the use of "The Wellington" for which allowance had not originally been made. N. S. Fosh proposed that the accounts be adopted, seconded by R. H. Cousens, and this was passed unanimously.

The Treasurer then explained to the Meeting his disquiet as monitor of the Club's finances. The surplus, such as it was, could not continue to exist in the light of the current inflation and it must be realised that we were leaning heavily on the contribution from the Mercers' Company. The income from Annual Subscriptions came to barely £90, which virtually equalled the total expenditure on postage alone, while that from our investments was unlikely to increase appreciably. Therefore, he felt that the Club should seriously consider increasing the Membership Subscriptions as follows: Annual, from 53p to £1, and Life, from £7.88 to £10. It should be remembered, he added, that such a proposal would need to be passed at an Annual General Meeting, such item to be notified on the Agenda, which could not be done before next year, so that it was by no means too early to consider it now. K. H. Neville was concerned at the effect this might have on membership and wondered if an increased charge for the Annual Dinner might not be preferable, but Allen pointed out that we had already kept the price of this function as low as possible for some years, and this year had incurred a loss of £150.

The cost of catering alone was almost certain to increase by £1 a head next year, so that, were we to increase the price to Members by an amount sufficient to cover not only this but part of the subsidy as well, there would probably be insufficient support for the function. J. L. Roberts suggested asking all Members, particularly Life Members who for some time had received remarkably good value for their one subscription, to make a voluntary contribution each year towards the cost of running the Club. It had been his experience in the case of two other Old Boys' Clubs of his knowledge, that this approach had produced remarkably good results.

### 3. *Report of the General Secretary.*

Trigg announced the names of the officers of the Mercers' Company for 1973-74 :

*Master* : John Grahame Barker, Esq., T.D.

*Upper Warden* : Charles Roger Tyssen Lane, Esq., M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P.

*House Warden* : Martin Arthur O'Brien French Blake, Esq.

*Renter Warden* : Lieutenant-Colonel Sir James Scott, Bt.

The total membership of the Club was now 726, consisting of 546 Life, 173 Annual and seven Honorary Members. 13 names had been removed under Rule 3, one Member had resigned and the Secretary reported, with regret, the death of the following 15 Members :

|                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| J. H. J. Dewey (1910-16)    | Life Member 181 |
| E. W. Searls (1909-13)      | Life Member 161 |
| S. A. Smith (1884-87)       | Life Member 39  |
| C. W. Titford (1892-97)     | Life Member 813 |
| S. R. Stocken (1918- )      | Life Member 275 |
| A. J. Thompson (1910-12)    |                 |
| Rev. F. L. Neal (1898-1901) |                 |
| L. C. Griffin (1897-1903)   | Life Member 94  |
| W. G. Bailey (1899-1907)    | Life Member 243 |
| C. A. Rainsford (1892-96)   | Life Member 14  |
| J. F. Van Baars (1905-10)   | Life Member 274 |
| J. H. Stamp (1881-84)       | Life Member 54  |
| W. J. Bold (1915-17)        | Life Member 135 |
| W. G. Allen (1899-1903)     | Life Member 514 |
| Ven. D. A. Bailey (1924-28) | Life Member 539 |

Three new Members had been elected during the year.

138 had attended this year's Annual Dinner, held as usual in Mercers' Hall. The Secretary mentioned that the Club had been honoured to have among their guests at this function eight Masters of the School, namely: H. G. Andrew, F. J. Elliot, W. J. Fairbairn, H. Fyson, W. D. Haden, V. Rosetti, W. L. Scott and H. Whate. The other main function had been a most enjoyable Reception held this year at Armoury House, the Headquarters of the H.A.C., when 70



Members and their guests were in attendance. The comparatively low numbers at this function had been somewhat disappointing as the Committee had tried hard over the past few years to create in the Reception the convivial atmosphere within gracious surroundings that Old Mercers had known so well on other occasions in past years.

The Secretary, after reminding Members that a further stock of ties had been obtained, which continued to be available at the price of £1, concluded his report by thanking the Committee for their support and in particular the President, whose enthusiasm and ever-willing advice had made it a most enjoyable year.

#### 4. *Report of the Old Mercers' Athletic Association.*

Dean's report was read, in his absence, by the General Secretary.

The results for the 1972-73 football season were as follows :

Played 29, Won 6, Drawn 3, Lost 20.

Up to Christmas 1972 the side had won only one game, but fortunately the New Year proved a little better. Difficulty had been experienced on several occasions in raising a side and at one stage it had been felt that the section would have to be wound up at the end of the season. Injuries had not helped the situation, especially with David Trigg breaking his collar bone during the very first game. The best result of the season had been a 2—1 win with a man short over the Old Cholmelians the day after the Football Supper. It was eventually decided to continue for one more year and finally wind up the Football Section at the end of the 1973-74 season. Dates to remember in this respect are (i) the last game of the Old Mercers' Football Club on 16th March 1974 at Grove Park—please come and support us! and (ii) the final Football Supper on 29th March 1974 which will be held at a new venue: "City Yacht", Royex House, Aldermanbury, E.C.2, at a cost of £4.40 a head.

The eight O.M.'s who continue to play cricket with the Old Citizens again had an enjoyable season. Henry Rolt captained the 3rd XI which had had eight victories.

The football results so far this season, up to and including 13th October 1973 were :

Played 3, Won 2, Lost 1, Goals for 14, against 5.

#### 5. *Report of the Old Mercers' Dramatic Club.*

Pearcy reported that an Annual General Meeting had been convened on Friday, 30th November 1973, to be followed by a Special General Meeting. The London List of Members of the Old Mercers' Club would be circulated to give everyone a chance to attend. The main item on the Agenda would be a resolution to terminate the Dramatic Club and, if this were carried, then a sum of £50 to be donated to the parent Club. Refreshments would be provided after the meeting.

The President commented that obviously the writing had been on the wall for some time; the loss of Eric Wilkins to the section through illness had been a heavy burden. Although regretting the decision, Robinson went on to add that it was probably the correct one in the circumstances and wished to thank the Dramatic Club for all the wonderful times we had all enjoyed in past years—a sentiment most sincerely endorsed by everyone present.

#### 6. *Election of Officers.*

The President now announced the privilege it was for him to propose the election of Tommy Hollings as President for 1973-74. He mentioned, in passing, that not only did we have in this man a stalwart of the Club over many years, but one who had probably been the most demanding skipper of the 1st XI ever! The proposition was carried with acclamation and T. H. Hollings took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

The President was delighted to propose B. L. Jacobs as a new Vice-President; this was seconded by K. E. Jones and carried unanimously. Other officers re-elected for a further year in office were:

General Secretary: D. T. Trigg; Treasurer: L. T. Allen; Auditor: G. H. Searle; Records' Secretary: R. J. C. Davey.

A new Entertainments' Secretary had to be elected, Ian Pearson being unable, for business reasons, to continue in this onerous position. Sadness at the loss of so capable an officer was relieved by Cousins' proposal that Bob Corfield be nominated, a proposition that was carried with acclamation, hence:

Entertainments' Secretary: R. G. Corfield; Magazine Secretary: R. G. Dawson; Past Presidents: H. M. Eade, C. D. Archibald, G. C. Ives, R. H. Cousins, F. J. Robinson; Elected Members: K. F. Holmes, H. T. Campbell, C. D. Fidge, N. J. Watson, D. J. Griffin, B. D. Percy.

7. Hollings now proposed a vote of thanks be accorded to F. J. Robinson for his very valuable services in the office of President for the Club year 1972-73. This was carried with acclamation.

#### 8. *Any Other Business.*

F. J. Robinson, as a retiring President, felt that he ought to mention that the Committee as a whole did make a President's job much easier, even though one needed a strong voice at times. Nevertheless, he would like to thank Ian Pearson, in particular, for the way he had carried out his job over the past year. This was greeted by all those present with acclamation and the meeting closed, with a vote of thanks to the Masters and Wardens of the Mercers' Company for the use of the Hall, and to both Chairmen for their conduct of the meeting, at 7.39 p.m. The assembled company then departed to "The Plough" for refreshment.

## THE ANNUAL DINNER, 1973

138 O.M.s and guests were at Mercers' Hall on May 3rd, to celebrate the 57th Annual Dinner of the Club. George Milne announced us as we arrived and a pleasant half-hour was passed as we met old friends and took excellent sherry. The meal revealed the President's good taste in his choice of menu—all printed in English, too. An excellent hors d'oeuvres was followed by roast saddle of lamb, red currant jelly, broccoli spears, runner beans, roast and new potatoes; then came fresh fruit salad with ice cream, and to finish a fine Stilton with bath olivers. The accompanying wines reflected the excellence of the Mercers' Company cellar—the Cockburn 1950 was a highlight much appreciated.

And so to the speeches; Fred Robinson has always been an original leader and he now changed the batting order. The Headmaster, having been invited from the far north, now, as he put it, sang for his supper, in proposing the toast of the Worshipful Company of Mercers. He said that the excellent history of the School might one day have an extra chapter entitled "The few who made the school in 46 - 58". He recalled the triumvirate, Gordon Allen, George Andrew, and J. K. Tabert, who might be termed the "alternative governing body", and who held their meetings in a hostelry not far from Grove Park. He praised the Company for its decision, in 1946, to change the character of the school, and compete academically, and on the games' field, with other public schools. The success of this policy was due to the unfailing support of the Company and the work of the triumvirate and the rest of the staff, eight of whom were present at the Dinner. He paid tribute to the Old Mercers' Club, mentioning particularly the succession of Presidents who had led it over the years; Bill Bailey, whose recent death had saddened us all, for his work as Treasurer of the War Memorial Fund; and the Magazine Editor—"long may he continue". The corporate strength of School and Club was reflected in the Company; their interest in, and concern for the Old Mercers' Club was much appreciated.

In his reply, the Master, Struan Robertson, said what pleasure it gave the Company to see the Old Mercers at the Hall. He was interested to see in the President's notes in the Magazine that the food for the Reception at Armoury House in September would be "edible and of a high standard". He paid tribute to Bill Bailey, Geoff Parker and Jack Dewey, stalwart O.M.s who would be sadly missed. Turning to the Company's work over the year, he spoke of the development at St. Paul's Girls' School which had been undertaken, and the new almshouses which were under construction.

Coming in at number three instead of opening, the President now proposed the toast of our guests. Silencing a barracker (one of his employees, so he said) he welcomed Messrs. Haden, Andrew, Elliot, Fairbairn, Fyson, Rosetti, Scott and Whate, former members of the Staff of Mercers' School, and recalled one or two stories of his mis-spent youth—indoor cricket and mathematics prizes figured

prominently in these. He welcomed the guests from the Old Ban-croftians, Collyerians and Dauntseians, and his personal guests, with one of whom, R. Dunsire, Esq., he coupled the toast. He was a retired Managing Director of Booth's Gin—and an excellent golfer.

Mr. Dunsire, in replying, revealed that he was also a Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Distillers—he was careful to get "Company" and "Distillers" in the right order. He was particularly appreciative of the excellent meal and went on to make some comments on the President's prowess with the golf club. He owed the O.M.s another debt—the only prize he had ever won at golf had been in partnership with Jim Fairbairn.

The final toast of the evening, proposed by immediate Past President Richard Cousens, was that of the President, the Old Mercers' Club and Constituent Clubs. He announced that there had been no scandal in the election of our President and went on to outline Fred Robinson's contribution to things Old Mercer over 25 years or so. The Presidential bowling action and his golfing prowess were once more called into question.

The hour was late when the President came in to bat in his more natural position—last. He had enjoyed his year of office and the Dinner was a highlight. He was particularly grateful to Ian Pearson who had arranged the evening, and was honoured that 138 people were present. There was now only one constituent club—the ancient footballers—but the spirit was as strong as ever. But why talk any more? There was refreshment available and time for informal chat. So a most enjoyable evening came to a close as we returned to the Reception Room for beer and reminiscence.

## OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE CLUB

We know a dinner took place in Cambridge in November last but no report has been received. No doubt we shall all meet in Oxford in November, 1974; the Editor is already saving up!

## OBITUARY

### W. G. (BILL) BAILEY (1899-1907)

It was with the deepest regret that we reported Bill Bailey's death in the stop press column of our last issue. It was very sad news indeed to all who knew him and particularly to those who had worked with him over the years in the interests of the Old Mercers' Club and its various associations.

Whether or not his schooldays were the happiest of his life is unknown, but he was intensely proud of the School and loyal to its interests.

After the first world war, in which he had rendered distinguished service in action, he gave much of his time to help in the organisation of the Club and soon became one of the best known and most popular members.

He had learned, in the war, the art of controlling men and particularly the care of young soldiers. With this advantage, coupled with his modest and kindly nature, he rapidly gained the confidence and affection of all who came into contact with him. They found him a very genial and good companion as well as a staunch friend.

He interested himself in every activity from sport to drama. For three years, from 1931, he was a highly successful General Secretary and then for the year 1934-35 was elected President of the Club.

Bill was a man of culture and sagacity and was always courteous. His favourite author was Kipling, in whose works he revelled. He delighted in humour and possessed a laugh, which endeared him to all hearers. Though he held strong views, he always avoided controversy.

He had been a keen Freemason since 1924 and had held the highest offices in the Lodge and Chapter. There, as elsewhere among Mercers, he was a much loved character.

His working life had been spent, opposite the School, at the Prudential, where, in due course, he was appointed to the high office of a Controller. Upon retirement, he went to live at Seaford in Sussex, but later moved north and his last few years were spent in Northumberland, where he died at the age of 81.

As a Club, we are poorer for his death, but still rich in the memory of a cherished friend, who served us so well.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Lilian, his widow, who is held in affection by many of us who knew her in happier days, as well as to Hugh, their distinguished son.

D.E.O.

#### OLD MERCERS' ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL SECTION, SEASON 1972/73

The results for the season were as follows :—

|           |       |         |         |
|-----------|-------|---------|---------|
| Played 29 | Won 6 | Drawn 3 | Lost 20 |
|-----------|-------|---------|---------|

This season was the complete opposite to the last in that most of our successes were recorded in the second half of the season—indeed after our first win in October, it was four months before another win was achieved. This long run of fourteen losses broken only by two drawn matches was rather dispiriting for the players, especially as in several of the matches we had more than 50% of the play and enough chances to have won. One of the drawn matches was played against Old Colfeians' Veterans on their own ground and this was a good result for what is always a difficult hurdle. In this match our efforts really seemed to flow for the first time and we were unbelievably two goals up in 15 minutes, both scored by Dave Griffin who barely missed completing a hat-trick with subsequent efforts. Ultimately we conceded two goals and only just managed to force a draw.



Undoubtedly the game most enjoyed by the players was played against Old Brentwoods' Veterans in March. We lost this match 2—1, but it again proved that although there is some satisfaction in winning a match it is far more important to enjoy the Saturday afternoon even if one finishes on the losing side.

There was a remarkable change of fortune concerning Witan to whom we lost 6—1 in December, at Grove Park. We lined up against them in March, determined that history would not repeat itself. We soon found that our opponents were not as strong as they had been in the earlier match. Nevertheless, we were struggling to improve on a 1—1 position well into the second half, until a tactical switch took Colin Fidge out of defence and into the forward line. Colin scored a hat-trick in the space of twenty minutes and we finally won 5—1.

The season proved difficult so far as filling the goalkeeper's jersey was concerned. Up to this season, Neville Watson and Mick Manning, whenever he was available, had alternated between the posts. However, owing to the injury Neville sustained at the end of last season, he was not fit to play in goal again until late in January. Fortunately we managed to obtain the services of two guest goalkeepers on most of the occasions when Mick was not available. When these players were also not available George Niblett or Colin Fidge played in goal very effectively.

Apart from Neville Watson and one other notable exception, we were relatively injury-free for the whole of the season. The notable exception was David Trigg, for whom bad luck was carried over from last season, when he injured his hand whilst deputising in goal and missed the last four matches. In this season's opening match he broke his collar bone and was unable to play again. We hope the 1973/74 season will bring better fortune to David.

Towards the end of the season we were very surprised but delighted to welcome back as a player, Chris Garrett, whose football activities for some seasons had been restricted, by injury, to refereeing. His skills have not been lost during his enforced absence.

Dave Griffin has captained the side with skill and determination. He has set a high standard in both these qualities and what better proof is there than in the fact that Dave was the season's leading goal scorer with nine goals.

As in the past, we were able to rely on a willing band of stalwarts, who were prepared to referee our matches. We are very grateful to Peter Wainwright, Tom Hollings, Chris Garrett, Freddie Robinson and Len Allen for their efforts.

Pat and Charlie Parker again served us well this season. Not a single home match was lost owing to ground conditions and the thanks of the Section are due to Charlie and his team.

At the Annual General Meeting Dave Griffin and Peter Crawford, were re-elected team captain and vice-captain respectively for the 1973-74 season. Ted Richardson was unable to continue as Hon.

Team Secretary and Colin Fidge was elected in his place. John Gransbury was re-elected Hon. Secretary.

Although on many occasions during the season there was a surfeit of players, resulting in some having to stand down, there were equally several occasions when we had to rely on guest players, sometimes two at a time. In view of this, it was thought necessary to obtain an early idea of future Old Mercer playing strength and accordingly all players were asked if they wished to play, and how often, in the season 1973/74. It appeared that only 10 Old Mercers were keen to play every week and although others would play every two weeks and therefore make up a full team, there would almost certainly be even more reliance placed on guest players than had been necessary during the current season. It was considered that in the following season 1974/75 the reliance on guests might be so great that the Old Mercer team spirit would suffer—on and off the field—and it was therefore decided that we would cease to play at the end of the 1973/74 season, up to which time we were still assured of a reasonably full strength squad.

The players felt that it would be fitting for the last Old Mercer match to be played at Grove Park and accordingly this has been arranged for the 16th March, 1974. The next consideration was opponents. It was suggested that we might play against a team composed of players drawn from several of our usual club opponents, but this was considered impractical and it was finally agreed that we would play an Old Brentwoods' team if possible. This match has now been arranged and we would like as many as possible to come and watch what we hope will be a memorable occasion.

It was also felt that the 1974 annual football supper, might be arranged to match the rather special circumstances and such arrangements are now in hand. The date of the supper is 29th March, 1974, and all Old Mercers are requested to make a note of this so that any commitments which turn up for that date in the meantime may be brushed aside! The venue has not been decided at the time of writing these notes but details will be circularised as soon as possible.

J.G.

N.B.—The last Football Supper will be held on the 29th March at the City Yacht, Royex House, Aldermanbury Square, price £4.40.

#### HONOR DEO LODGE No. 3562

A most enjoyable and memorable year has been concluded under the Mastership of W.Bro. George Andrew, who installed as his successor on 1st November last, Bro. P. J. S. Squirrell, the Lodge's 63rd Master. It was, however, a great disappointment to all the brethren that the Senior Warden, Bro. Commander Bernard Robinson, R.N., had not recovered sufficiently from his illness to occupy the Master's chair.

On 30th October, 1973, W.Bro. F. W. Lyons, J.P. was honoured by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master with appointment to London Grand Rank in recognition of "Jimmy's" meritorious services to the Craft in the London area.

The Lodge has been pleased to welcome, as an initiate, the General Secretary of the Club, David Trigg (1938-45).

This year's Ladies' Festival, open to all Old Mercers and their friends, will be held on Saturday, 8th June, 1974, at the Cunard International Hotel, Shortlands, Hammersmith, W.6. This is a change of venue but, under the presidency of Peter Squirrell, the usual happy evening is assured.

R. G. WILLIAMS, Lodge Secretary.

#### HONOR DEO CHAPTER, No. 3562

The year 1972-73, was inevitably marred by the deaths of E. Comp. J. H. J. Dewey, P.G. organist, and E.Comp. W. G. Bailey, both of whom were held in much affection by the Companions.

E.Comp. F. W. Lyons continued as First Principal with E.Comp. A. J. Cutting as Second and E.Comp. B. A. Rollinson as Third Principal.

The Chapter welcomed W.Bro. K. H. Neville, D.F.C. and Bro. H. T. Campbell into Royal Arch Masonry during the year.

The following were elected for the year 1973-74 :—

E.Comp. A. J. Cutting — First Principal.

E.Comp. B. A. Rollinson — Second Principal.

Comp. G. Milne — Third Principal.

Old Mercers who are already Freemasons and who would like any information concerning the Chapter should contact E.Comp. F. W. Yardley, Scribe E, at 5, Gloucester Road, Hampton-on-Thames, Middlesex, Tel. 01-979-1454.

#### CIVIC GUILD OF OLD MERCERS

The following constitute the Court of the Guild for 1973-74 :—

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Guild Master             | B. A. Brewer  |
| Guild Renter Warden      | M. J. Herniman  |
| Guild Junior Warden      | W. R. Lewis   |
| Guild Assistants         | All Past Guild Masters<br>R. S. Dean<br>R. W. Walter<br>J. R. Sargent |
| Honorary Clerk           | A. H. Hall  |
| Honorary Assistant Clerk | K. H. Neville   |
| Apprentice Warden        | M. J. Herniman  |

The membership at the end of the Guild year, 30th June, 1973, was 100, of whom 21 were liverymen and 79 freemen. During the year the Guild suffered the loss of three members — Past Guild Master J. H. Dewey and Past Guild Assistants G. H. Parker and W. G. Bailey. Jack Dewey as in many other Old Mercer associations, took a very active part in the affairs of the Guild right up to the time of his death. He was a founder member of the Guild and served as Honorary Secretary of the society which preceded it. He was Guild Master in 1953-54 and acted as Honorary Clerk in 1956-57. Geoffrey Parker and Bill Bailey always showed a great interest in the Guild and its activities and both had served in the office of Guild Assistant.

In February, 1973, an informal reception was held at the Bishopsgate Institute when about 50 Guildmen and their friends were received by Guild Master H. F. Cochrane. After refreshments, an interesting and informative address was given by the Chamberlain of London, Mr. Richard Whittington, on the history of the livery and how to become a member of it. Later in the year, some 40 Guildmen and their friends were guests of Guild Master Cochrane on a visit to H.M.S. Belfast. After a conducted tour of the ship, the Guild Master entertained the party to refreshments at the Chapter House of Southwark Cathedral.

As usual, the Installation Dinner was held in Tallow Chandlers Hall on 15th June, 1973, with the new Guild Master, B. A. Brewer, in the Chair and 67 persons present. The principal guests of the Guild were the Chief Commoner, Mr Norman Hall, and the Master of the Tallow Chandlers Company, Sir Gilbert Laithwaite. The Guild was also very pleased to have as their guests, the President of the O.M.C., F. J. Robinson, the President of the Old Collierians Association, Roydon Griffiths, and the Chairman of the London Branch of that Association, B. H. Blackman. The guild was also pleased to welcome 17 guests of Guildmen. The toast of the guests was proposed by the Guild Junior Warden, W. R. Lewis and the response was made by the Chief Commoner. As is customary, the Immediate Past Guild Master, H. F. Cochrane proposed the toast to the Guild and this was responded to by the Guild Master. A delightful musical interlude was given, between the speeches, by students of the London College of Music, the Director of which is Guildman Dr. Lloyd Webber.

The Court is anxious for the membership of the Guild to continue to increase and would welcome any Old Mercers or their near relatives who wish to join, particularly those who took up their freedom of the City through the Guild but have not followed this by joining. The Honorary Clerk will be very pleased to send the form for applying for the freedom of the City, a pre-requisite to be eligible to join the Guild, to anyone interested. He would also be pleased to help, if necessary, to find sponsors for anyone taking up the freedom. Attention is also drawn to the Guild's Apprentice scheme for near relatives of Old Mercers, between the ages of 14 and 21 years.

Enquiries concerning either the Guild or the Apprentice scheme should be made to the Honorary Clerk, A. H. Hall, 23 Uvedale Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 6HA.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC REMINISCENCE

17th September, 1973.

Dear Dick,

As promised, here is another photograph to add to your rogues' gallery; this time one from the middle 40's, with faces from the junior part of the school which, because of their youth, would probably not be recognisable to your readers. Hence this explanation.



The photograph was taken by an *Evening Standard* photographer on October, 26th 1944, which was Speech Day that year. The boys were those chosen to give the first rendering of the school grace, set to music by K. B. Rowsell. After the luncheon given by the Master and Wardens, this photograph was taken, when a very Old Mercer joined the party with his 1890's school cap. (Perhaps you will give a prize for discovering his name.)

The singers, from left to right, were :—

*Spink (I. W.)* — the only boy with whom I am still in close touch, and who is now Reader in Music at London University; *Walford* — who used to combine great skill on the football field with a fine boy soprano voice; *Titchen* — last heard of as an engineering officer in the Navy; *Harvey Williams* — who was senior chor-



ister at Westminster Abbey at the time of the wedding of Princess Elizabeth to Prince Philip, and who was subsequently a contemporary of mine at Cambridge, winning the organ scholarship at Pembroke; *Vermont* — whose fate will be of little interest; *Ford* — to be seen off and on in the City selling tea or something; *Kingsmill*—the son of the famous author Hugh Kingsmill.

We were all told that the picture would definitely be published but, unfortunately, the Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, died that day and stole the limelight.

This same group formed the nucleus of a choir at St. Bartholomew the Great Church and, augmented by other Mercer boys, sang there for several years afterwards. The first appearance was at the induction of Dr. Newell Wallbank as rector. Dr. Wallbank still holds the living.

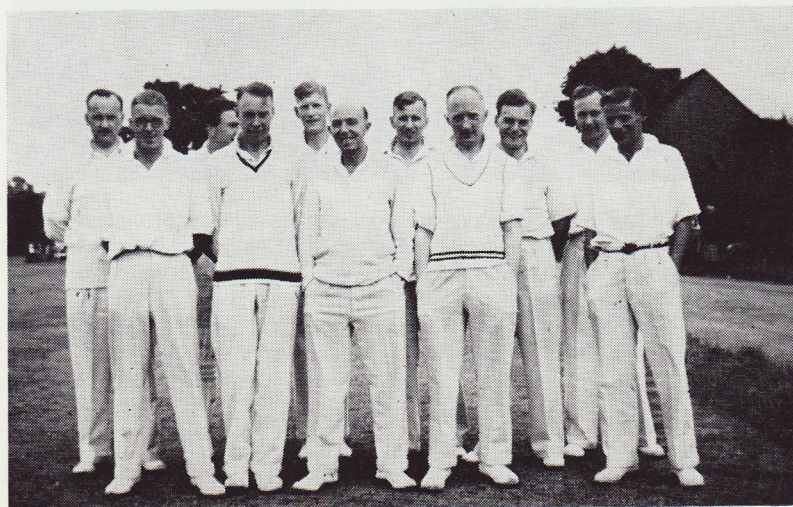
Yours sincerely,

David Vermont. (1942-50)

AND WHAT ABOUT THESE?



Would this side have beaten Dixie's team? (See "Correspondence")



Cricketing O.M.'s Where?

It was a very sickly youth, who with his mother, walked up the corridor from High Holborn towards the porter's lodge in order to keep an appointment with the then Head, the late C. H. Bicknell. I say sickly, because I had barely got over a bout of scarlet fever, necessitating a stay in an isolation hospital. Also, to go to Mercers' School was something quite out of the ordinary run of things — Mercers' was in a class of its own.

In those far-off days, the local vicars were generally men of substance and their youthful relatives, sons or wards, went to recognised Public Schools.

Accordingly, when it became known that I was to go to Mercers', the local vicar's relative, who was at Merchant Taylors', deigned to give me a friendly smile. The barrier of class distinction was broken; it so happened that he too was receiving instruction in Latin from the same textbook — *Via Latina* — as myself, prior to entering Mercers'.

The School was still under some kind of malaise. It was the autumn of 1915, and Dr. Scott had just passed away. The grim features of World War One were beginning to show. The boys in the Sixth were soon to become painfully aware just how near they were to the holocaust — while we juniors blissfully ran around the playground. The air-raids were yet to be. When these did occur, the Company built two sandbagged efforts for us in the lower playground — the first fell to pieces, due to wet weather. Food was not up to the standard of pre-war days, we had to have swedes instead of potatoes at dinner in the Dining Hall, and "*Benedictus benedicat*", duly uttered by Leonard Green as grace, for he was the Master in charge, had rather a hollow ring about it.

We were still wearing the blue-serge "pill box"; one could always spot a Mercer-boy by his distinctive head-gear, though it did not always sit too well on the brainy craniums of the upper School!

We also enjoyed two special holidays, deriving no doubt from our early religious foundation. I refer to Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day. What wonderful gifts they were to us! Certainly we did not like having to go to School on Saturday mornings — even though we had the benefit of Wednesday afternoons off.

Traffic on the roads was relatively leisurely. At 4.00 p.m. one could run across the road in an endeavour, which was barely successful, to beat the descent of the hall-door of the Prudential, as it closed to clients for the day.

For those who came to School by the fairly recent electric tram and petrol-bus, getting there on time was often problematical. Every so often, horse-drawn vans and carts got in the way of the trams; the bus break-downs were more numerous than today's.

There was no permanent School playing-field; later generations of Mercer boys with Grove Park at their elbows, so to speak, cannot realise what inconveniences the boys of those days underwent.

The war went its course, punctuated for us by the grim announcements at morning prayers of the death of such-and-such an Old Boy. There happened to be in my Form, the younger brother of an O.M. recently killed and when the maroons sounded on 11th November, 1918, to mark the establishment of an armistice, that young brother hardly welcomed my joining in the general cheering which greeted the maroons.

A cricket net was sometime erected (I forgot the year) in the playground alongside Buchanan's building. What a boon it was; for the first time we were able to bowl at real stumps and not at a wicket chalked on the wall. We were permitted to use the cricket net after school hours. As a user, I vividly recall the presence of some Old Boys, who had finished work for the day and who were waiting to go into the School premises for some meeting, standing by watching us. Who they were I cannot say; they seemed to us well set-up and even "stuffy"; no doubt they were amused at our school-boy efforts.

The final day came; we were soon to be Old Boys ourselves — indeed three of us in my form became life members of the Club on that very day.

Over the years since I cannot in justice write with any great accuracy; O.M.s must look to their magazines of the periods for detailed information as to the stalwart doings of contemporaries and of successors.

As to the immediate present, I chose one evening, after the A.G.M. in Mercers' Hall, to wander all alone up that same corridor by which I had entered the School in the autumn of 1915. It was fairly late evening of course and I just wandered around the playground, with no questioner. What a sense of desecration came over me — and I came out repeating to myself a well-worn sentence from our Latin primer :— "Seges est ubi Troja fuit". For those who have possibly forgotten their Latin let us say :—

"Corn is where Troy was."

G.E.W.

## CORRESPONDENCE

13th April, 1973.

Dear O.M. Dawson,

I received the magazine of the Old Mercers' Club and was sorry to see that on page 9, I was demoted to a "Certified" Accountant.

Perhaps in the next accounts you will amend this to read "Chartered" Accountant.

With all best wishes.

Your sincerely,

G. H. Searle (1936-39).

Sorry, Geoffrey—See this year's accounts! (Ed.)

Dear Dick,

Whilst patiently awaiting to be released from the bank's strong-room, where I had inadvertently managed to get locked in, the rather morbid thought passed through my mind that the article in last year's magazine may be used in this year's copy as my obituary column.

I would like to make one small amendment to the pen picture in that my first football season for the Old Mercers was in 1949, when I played mainly for the third XI. This side was captained by Jack Morgan whose philosophy of the game has been summed up as "Never mind the ball, let's get on with the game". In fact, my second match in Old Mercer football was an evening game to celebrate the opening of the Ibis ground at Chiswick after the war. In order to arrive in time for this evening kick-off, it was necessary for me to leave work half-an-hour before the normal finishing time. As I had only been employed about one month, the scene that followed my request for an early departure would have done justice to Oliver Twist asking for more. One of our opponents that evening was that grand old stalwart Bobs Roberts, still a regular guest and friend at our football suppers.

Looking back over the past twenty odd years I would not have wished to play soccer for any other club, but then no other club would have put up with me for that long.

In the majority of recent sports books that are ghosted for well-known sporting personalities, there is always a final chapter in which they pick their ideal XI during their career. I would like to indulge in this practice :—

Mick Manning

Tommy Hollings

Reg Vanhegan

Chris Garrett

Peter Wainwright

Robin Whiteland

Paul Mazinke

John Holder

Dixie Dean

Doug Beggs

Arthur Downes

Substitute : Bob Corfield

- 1) Mick Manning :— the club's most consistent goalkeeper since the war.
- 2) Tommy Hollings :— the strong man of the defence who probably did more than anyone else to improve the standard of the club's football in the early post-war years.
- 3) Reg Vanhegan :— impossible to leave out. (*Why?* Ed.)
- 4) Chris Garrett :— one of the most cultured players and, but for a most unfortunate injury, would still be playing.
- 5) Peter Wainwright :— one of the most underrated players. Too much a gentleman, perhaps.
- 6) Robin Whiteland :— the midfield destroyer.
- 7) Paul Mazinke :— the O.M.'s equivalent to "Tom Finney".

- 8) Doug Beggs :— in my opinion the best all-round attacking player in my era.
- 9) John Holder :— my most controversial choice in that position; perhaps I was biased because he used to drive me to most matches in recent years.
- 10) Arthur Downes :— would never admit defeat until the final whistle.
- 11) I refused to be left out of this team.

Whilst it is a pleasant fancy to pick teams from the past, the present bunch which represents the Football Club have a tremendous team spirit which has kept this section going over these final years.

Yours sincerely,

Dixie Dean. (1945-49)

April, 73.

Dear Mr. Dawson,

Thank you for the Magazine. It is very kind of you to remember me each year. I am always interested to see it. I was very sorry, though, to see the report of Mr. Bailey's death; I should be grateful if you could let me have Mrs. Bailey's address as I should like to write to her.

I was at Brecon a week or two ago. I saw Michael deep in farming activities, and particularly busy with lambing.

With all best wishes.

Your sincerely,

Margaret Jepson.

11th April, 1973.

Dear O.M.

I read, with interest, in the Club Magazine that you have a few spare copies of the History of the School left over.

Would you kindly send me two copies, for which I enclose cheque value £3.50 (the odd 50 "piastres" to cover postage).

Am afraid that I am a very inactive member of the Club and Civic Guild, having little claim to eminence. Should any of the Scottish Members of the Civic Guild (three in number) be interested in Scottish Guildry, I could perhaps help as a member of the Master Court of the Incorporation of Cordiners in Glasgow (having served for a year as "Deacon's Goudie"! ). This Incorporation is the equivalent of the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers of the City of London.

Yours sincerely,

D. H. Davis. (1917-18)

Dear Sir,

Your O.M.C. Magazine addressed to D. A. F. Hulls (my son) at "Titwood", Helmons Lane, West Hanningfield, Chelmsford, Essex, has been returned to me as Dennis has left West Hanningfield and is back again in Dacca, Bangladesh.

I found the photograph of the School Cricket Eleven most interesting, as the captain sitting in the middle of the front row is Dennis. Sitting on his left is G. R. Johnson (Pat). They were close friends and Pat still lives in Gidea Park, just two doors from my address. This photograph was taken in 1946 or 1947: probably the latter, as Dennis left to join the Navy in 1947 at the same day, and with "Prof" Peter Nailor, reported to the same Naval Depot. Thus you had the School Captain and School Vice-Captain (Dennis) leaving on the same day for the same reason. Whilst in the Navy, Dennis received his Navy cricket cap as opening bat. At this passage of time I do not remember the reason why such stalwarts as Messrs. Allen and Andrews were absent from this photograph!

Could you please advise your Records Secretary that the present address of Dennis for the next year or so is:

D. A. F. Hulls,

P.O. Box 150,

Dacca, Bangladesh.

or c/o of the writer, 50 Balgore Lane, Gidea Park, Romford, RM2 5JU.

Yours sincerely,

F. W. Hulls.

3rd October, 1973.

Dear Dicky,

I was fortunate to be able to enjoy a one-month trip to the States in May of this year, and before going out there I had a look through the List of Members and established that of Mr. H. R. Caffyn as the only member on the East side.

I had some difficulty in locating him because he moved about eight years ago from the address given in the List; his new address is: 200 East 66th Street, New York City, U.S.A. He was delighted to hear from an Old Mercer and was kind enough to act as my Luncheon host at his club, The Racket and Tennis Club in Park Avenue. Mr. Caffyn has retired, enjoys excellent health and spends about three months each summer travelling in Europe including a stay in the U.K. for about a month or so, and I think he would be delighted to hear by letter from any Old Mercer of his year who would like to invite him and his wife home during the summer of '74.

I took a mini-cruise out from Miami more or less with the sole intention of going to see Tony Hepburn, to whom, again, I had written beforehand, but he had not received my letter. We had a lot of fun together for a couple of days both at his charming home in

Nassau and elsewhere. He enjoys apparently idyllic living; he occupies offices as an Attorney-at-Law in an office block near Government House which is just a mile or two from his home. He and his wife send their best regards to all Old Mercers.

Yours sincerely,

Michael E. Lee (1949-53)

5th June, 1973.

Dear O.M. Dawson,

I was most interested to read of the Oxford and Cambridge Dinner, at which I see you were present.

I would much appreciate an invitation next time. I was about the second O.M. to go up to Cambridge — at least in living memory! I was at Selwyn 1930-33, followed in '31 by J. R. Roberts at Christs. While up, I met Allan J. James, B.Sc., M.R.C.V.S. from London, who was doing veterinary studies at Molteno Institute, resident at Fitzwilliam and, who afterwards went to Nigeria, and (later the Rev.) B. W. M. Berdoe, who took his B.A. in 1931, and went on to Ridley Hall, and is now (I see from Crockford) at P.O. Box 8803, Nairobi, Kenya. Later there was E. H. Day, who left school in 1932. There must be others too.

I would be grateful if I might also join "the Club".

Yours sincerely,

John Burley. (1925-30)

25th June, 1973.

Dear O.M. Dawson,

Amazing how the years slip by. I was turning out a lot of old papers today and came across a document I compiled some 25 years ago.

At that time I was impressed with the number of O.M.s living in Africa, scattered all over the place. I have, during the years, been able to contact nearly all of them.

Today, many have left for other fields: some have passed on.

Simultaneously, I unearthed the menu for the O.M. Dinner of 1951, under the Chairmanship of O.M. Norman O'Blath. Absolutely all who were present kindly signed the menu for dispatch to me out here in Rhodesia. It was a most kindly gesture.

You, of course, were there — and your signature is just the same today!

Going back to those days, has anyone heard of Jack Faulkes? At the time I went to Mercers, he lived almost next door at Boreham Wood. And as he was somewhat older than I — and cleverer, to boot — my parents entrusted me to him for the daily train journey from Elstree to the school.



Jack was outstandingly artistic — good at drawing, illustrating, and an outstanding pianist. I haven't heard of him for simply ages.

I had a letter out of the blue the other day from O.M. W. R. Lewis, a contemporary at school. I thought you might like to have his letter which I enclose. But the other paper — about O.M.s all over Africa back in 1952, should arrive in about a month — by surface mail.

Do excuse the bad typing : this is not my forte, but it is indeed far more easily read than my handwriting!

Hope to see something of you one of these days — and until then our very cordial greetings.

Yours sincerely,

F. Gordon Harper. (1910-16)

### NEWS OF OTHER OLD MERCERS

Those O.M.s who played football with him will be interested to hear that *John Wearing* is a grandfather now! John continues to enjoy the rustic life of Cornwall though he finds reorganisation in education somewhat frustrating.

*Allan Wintersgill* (1930-36) attended the funeral of *F. J. McIntosh* last year. "He was a good man, a man who cared. Mac cared for the people of Stamford and was a pillar of society."

*Norman Dobson* (1941-48) wrote from Canada protesting that he had not received a "History of Mercers' School." We hope this has now been remedied.

*Ian Buist* (1937-40) has been ordained and is now in charge of four rural churches in New Liskeard, Ontario.

*John Squirrell* (1934-38) and his wife, *Pam*, both stalwarts of the Cricket Club in years gone by, have emigrated to Australia where their address is: c/o 79, Wyndura Avenue, Harbord 2096, N.S.W.

# CHANGES OF ADDRESS (to 4th December, 1973).

- W. F. Law Johnson, Esq.,  
29 Grand Court West, Grand Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1BQ.  
1907/12 (176)
- J. Hayton, Esq.,  
18 Hill Drive, Failand, Somerset BS8 3UX. 1945/52.
- J. B. Storey, Esq.,  
34 Pix Road, Letchworth, Herts. 1955/58.
- F. P. Dawson, Esq.,  
Twinstead Hall, Sudbury, Suffolk. 1925/31.
- G. C. Willis, Esq.,  
Man Dara, Sevenoaks, Weald, Kent. 1932/37 (917).
- J. H. Pincott, Esq.,  
Aschlyst, Gibbes, St. Peter, Barbados, W.I. 1931/36 (479).
- G. J. Parsons, Esq.,  
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