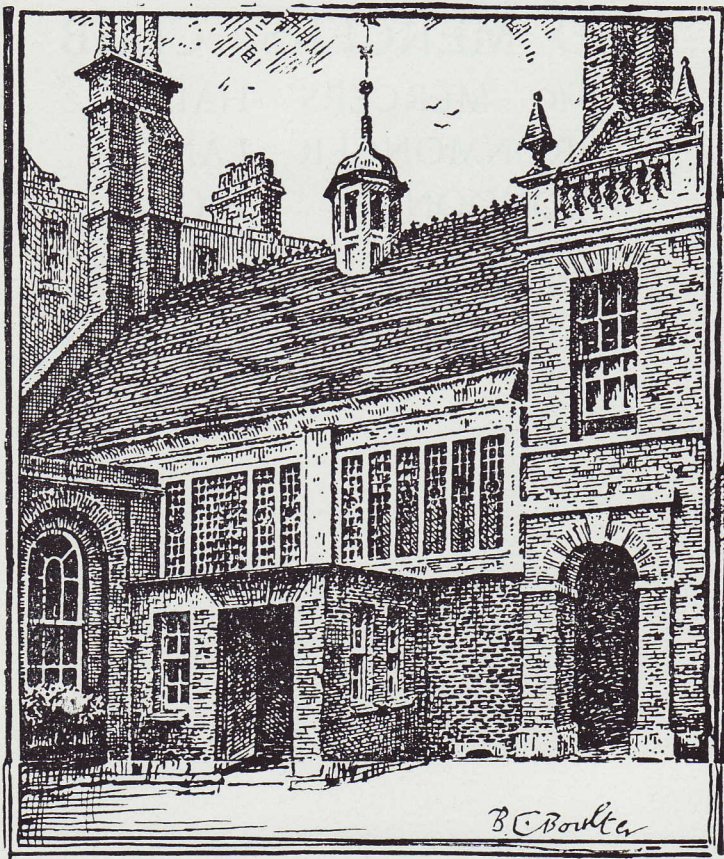




# OLD MERCERS' CLUB

1974



BARNARD'S INN



N. S. FOSH  
President, Old Mercers' Club, 1974-75

# OLD MERCERS' CLUB

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

## **CLUB COMMITTEE 1974-75**

**PRESIDENT :** N. S. Fosh

**Vice-Presidents :** L. T. Gardner  
D. T. Trigg  
K. Jones  
B. L. Jacobs  
L. T. Allen

**Trustees :** L. T. Gardner  
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  
T. H. Hollings  
G. C. Ives

**Ordinary Members of Committee :** K. F. Holmes  
C. D. Fidge  
J. Gransbury  
P. G. Wainwright  
D. J. Griffin  
N. Watson

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

## THE YEAR 1973-74

So, after fifteen years, the Old Mercers' Club has lost its last constituent club. The footballers bowed out on a glorious sunny afternoon in March, when about a hundred spectators appeared to say farewell to Grove Park. Seven or eight stalwarts still have a foot (or bat) in with the Old Citizens' cricketers. The Dramatic Club has been officially wound up; Norman O'Blath's history will arouse many memories.

What does this mean for the Club? As we have said often, it was the A.A. and D.C. which provided the Club Committee with many of its most active members—a look at the list of Presidents and the members of the present committee will testify to this. So now it is more than ever essential for members to support the functions which are arranged. The Dinner at Mercers' Hall has always been well attended—now it must be a “sell-out” each year as the principal opportunity for Old Mercers to get together. In June this year we are holding a Dinner/Dance at the Zoo Restaurant—taking over the date normally reserved for the Lodge's Ladies' Festival, which is not being held this year. The footballers have already had a “reunion”—they propose to hold others; and plans are afoot for a very special Reception in 1976.

As will be seen from the minutes of the A.G.M., the meeting passed a resolution to increase the annual subscription to £1. This has to be confirmed by a two-thirds majority at a General Meeting later in 1975, but, judging by its reception, this will be a formality. Indeed, some members expressed surprise that the proposed increase was so small. The Treasurer would be happy to hear from any Life Members who feel that, in these inflationary days, they might care to supplement the meagre income from their invested life sub. Several members in fact did so last year.

As costs continue to rise, it is miraculous that the Treasurer has managed yet again to show a small surplus; he would be the first to acknowledge his debt to the Mercers' Company for its continued generosity. Those members who have noticed the astronomical rise in the cost of stationery, printing and newsprint over the past year will not be surprised to learn that the cost of printing the magazine has risen considerably. The Editor has persuaded the Committee that it is right to maintain the quality of the production though, reluctantly, we have omitted the pictures this year. With no constituent clubs, he will find copy difficult to come by next year; so why not help out by writing something—NOW?

We are an ageing club. Once again this year we are sad to record the passing of some eminent names from the list of members. Tribute is paid elsewhere to D. E. Oliver and J. K. Tabert. Men like these made our club; we who remain must strive to keep alive the name of Mercers' School as we support the club whose name it bears.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

---

THURSDAY, MAY 8th  
ANNUAL DINNER AT MERCERS' HALL

---

SATURDAY, JUNE 7th  
DINNER/DANCE AT THE ZOO RESTAURANT

---

OCTOBER  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING — MERCERS' HALL

---

*Make a note of these dates—NOW*

---

### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

We really are very fortunate in having such a large and active membership which still numbers over seven hundred, despite the fact that the School closed 16 years ago. I was particularly struck to learn that another Old Boys' Club, where the School is still going strong with six hundred pupils, has a smaller membership than the Old Mercers' Club, and it has always been obvious that we obtain far higher attendances at our functions than do other Old Boys' organisations.

This situation is, I think, a great tribute to our original education at Mercers' School, the spirit which was obviously implanted in us by the excellent staff over all the years, and, dare I say it, the boys they selected. One finds fantastic friendship in the Club, the like of which I have never experienced elsewhere, and it is the very real enjoyment of one another's company which brings us together so often through the various functions held by the Club itself, the Civic Guild, Honor Deo Lodge and the old Athletic Association.

Of course we are all sorry that the School had to close—we would be strange people if we agreed with that decision—but it is always easy to criticise decisions when one does not have to make them oneself. It was certainly a better way to go than to suffer the current uncertainties facing independent schools, which have now become such a political football; whilst we would undoubtedly have welcomed the

girls, I do not believe we would have the spirit in the Club today if we had finished up as a Sixth Form College.

So, please, let us not hark back except to remember the excellent education and times we all, and so many others, enjoyed as a result of the generosity of the Mercers' Company over the centuries. That generosity continues today and results in Old Mercers being able to get together more frequently and less expensively than would otherwise be possible.

This year we have arranged a Dinner/Dance which I know you will all enjoy, so I hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend. May I end this message with a big thank you for the considerable friendship which I have enjoyed from Old Mercers for thirty years.

N.S.F.

## THE PRESIDENT

The first time I ever saw Norman Fosh was in the Hall at the School, on the day on which we both joined in October, 1940, perturbed and shy in our swanky new blazers. We both watched fascinated as K. B. Rowsell sat negligently on the backrest of one of the hall benches, swinging his legs gently and telling us what we should be doing. I don't remember a word of what he said, but we were all relieved that he didn't tip over. I particularly remember Norman that day because he was the one who looked as scared as I felt (not about Rowsell so much as about the whole business of coming to the school). It didn't last very long, him looking or me feeling scared, but it was a bond, and we began with about a dozen others that peculiar wartime existence: school from ten until one, home before the sirens went, cyclostyled worksheets, the daily adventure of travel. There was a complete absence of knowledge about "Horsham", followed in 1942 by a sense of intrusion when "they" came back. It was an exciting time to be at the School, and on the whole an enjoyable time too. There were a lot of things to do, and Norman did most of them pretty well. He was bright, clever, cheerful: a good footballer and not a bad cricketer; so there were occasions when I felt I didn't like him very much! But I was sorry when he left in 1945.

Like most of us at that time, he did not immediately take much part in Old Mercer activities; there was National Service and the business of getting settled in a career. But by the early 1950s he was playing football and treading the boards for the O.M.D.C. with commendable regularity for a chap who was raising a family and putting together a solid professional career all at the same time. Of course, there wasn't much in the way of television in those primitive days and the O.M.D.C. provided a regular occasion for good quality entertainment. For a long time, it was Norman's principal club

*Continued on page 15*

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER, 1974

[illegible]

# OLD MERCERS' CLUB

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER, 1974

1973	LIABILITIES	1974	1973	ASSETS	1974
£		£	£		£
11	General Fund 1.10.73	49.55	271	Cash at Bank and in Hand	396.81
39	Donation from Dramatic Club	69.64	345	Nationwide Building Society	378.38
	Plus Surplus	5.84	62	Sundry and Stocks of Ties	33.02
50				INVESTMENTS (held by Trustees)	
	INVESTMENT FUND	125.03	1,075	£1,069 7½% Cardiff Corp. 1977	1,075.18
4,171	Life Subscriptions 1.10.64		2,014	£3,992 3% Brit. Trans. 1978/88	2,014.11
	Capital losses less reinvested income and invested gifts from Life Members	4,171.27	3,089	Adjustment to Market Value	3,089.29
1,082			300		549.29
3,089	Adjustment to Market Value	3,089.29	2,789		
300			1	Other Club Property	2,540.00
					1.00
2,789					
260	Uninvested Life Funds (Rule 48)	2,540.00			
18	Subscriptions in advance	345.10			
351	Provisions	19.08			
		320.00			
£3,468		£3,349.21	£3,468		£3,349.21

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, F.C.A.A., *Hon. Auditor.*

**Minutes of the  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
of the Old Mercers' Club held at Mercers' Hall  
on Tuesday, 22nd October, 1974, at 6.30 p.m.**

*In the Chair:* T. H. Hollings.

*Attendance:* 32 members were present.

*Apologies for absence:* P. Nailor, Rev. R. G. Cole, Donald Fowler, John Wiseman, L. Clifton Crick, Canon W. M. Atkins, F. B. Angier.

1. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on October 23rd, 1973, were read, confirmed and signed.

2. *Treasurer's Report*

Allen explained the Balance Sheet and Accounts, copies of which had been distributed, and pointed out that once more we had just managed to scrape through with a surplus. As ever, we were indebted to the Mercers' Company for the grant they give us.

It continued to be necessary to remove some members under Rule 3, the ever increasing cost of postage making this almost obligatory; copies of the "History of Mercers' School" were still being sold; on the expenditure side the cost of the Magazine had not gone down, the previous year's figure had covered the cost of both the Magazine and the Handbook, whereas this year's figure was for the Magazine alone; the contribution to the O.M.F.C. Dinner had been agreed by the General Committee, and was in fact less than anticipated; overall a surplus of just under £6 had been achieved.

In the Balance Sheet the entry "Provisions" in fact covered three items which were: Reception £150, next Handbook £150 and £20 towards postage.

F. J. Robinson proposed that the Accounts be adopted, seconded by G. C. Ives and passed unanimously.

3. *Report of the General Secretary*

Trigg reported that the Officers of the Mercers' Company for 1974-75 were:

*Master:* Dr. Roger Lane.

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

*House Warden:* Lieutenant Colonel Sir James Scott, Bt.

*Renter Warden:* Air Vice Marshal Cresswell Montagu Clementi, C.B., C.B.E., M.A.

The total membership of the Club was now 709, being made up of 544 Life Members, 159 Annual Members and 6 Honorary Members. Six names had been removed under Rule 3 this year, one Member had

resigned and the Secretary reported, with regret, the death of the following 9 Members :

J. B. Proper (1906-11)	Life Member 167
N. W. Williams (1902-10)	Life Member 805
J. K. Tabert	Life Member 851
S. S. Chapman (1897-1901)	Life Member 203
E. H. Day (1927-32)	Life Member 574
L. J. Tattersall (1941-45)	Life Member 705
J. R. Green (1906)	Life Member 105
D. E. Oliver (1905-12)	Life Member 185
F. M. Strong (1913-19)	Life Member 310

Trigg continued : "Four new Life Members have been elected during this year and one of these, M. H. Kirk, deserves special congratulations when we note that he was at School from 1910-14. The Spirit of Mercers' School indeed burns bright as ever!

The Annual Dinner, held as usual at Mercers' Hall on Thursday, 16th May, was attended by 116 Members and their guests, and again proved to be a most enjoyable occasion. Once again we were honoured to receive a number of Masters of the School as guests of the Club.

A function which it has become our pleasure to present towards the end of the year is the Reception, and there may be those who have wondered why it was not held this year. Your Committee gave serious consideration to this subject earlier on, but as two extra functions had been arranged this year to draw Old Mercers together, i.e. the Last Football Match and the Final Football Supper, it seemed sensible to conserve funds and omit the Reception.

As reported last year, the decision had been taken to wind up the Dramatic Club. Its members had found great difficulty in finding a regular venue for their productions since the Chanticleer Theatre had been closed to amateur companies, and added to this was the ever diminishing number of O.M.s actively taking part. Your Committee felt that this matter should be dealt with without undue delay and as a result a Special General Meeting was held on Wednesday, 22nd May, this year and the proposal carried that the Old Mercers' Dramatic Club be formally wound up.

In yet one more way this year has been a sad one for the Old Mercers' Club. As you all know, on Saturday, 16th March, those stalwarts of the Athletic Association—the Football Club—played their last game at Grove Park. The decision to make this the final season of Old Mercer football was not taken lightly, but rather with due regard to the increasing difficulty of fielding eleven strong men and true each week to do justice to the teams fielded by our opponents. That we were able to do so in good measure, right up to the last match, was in every way due to the enthusiasm and ability of the cap-

tain, David Griffin, and every one of his stalwart band. We should not so much think of it as sad that the Football Club no longer plays, but rather remember with pride that the Old Mercers' were able to field a competitive side in Old Boy Football for nearly fifteen years after the School had been closed.

Now it would be easy to say that henceforth there will be but one, or possibly two, occasions a year at which Old Mercers can foregather—but this is nonsense. The Civic Guild of Old Mercers and Honor Deo Lodge are both thriving and provide many opportunities for Old Mercers to get together. Nor should it be beyond the wit of man, or of Old Mercers, to find some good excuse for a regular chat and a pint (or two . . .) among friends.

One date at least is fixed for next year. On Thursday, 8th May, 1975, the Annual Dinner will take place here at Mercers' Hall."

In conclusion, the Secretary expressed his sincere thanks to the Committee, and in particular, the President, for their help and encouragement throughout the past year.

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

Dean reported that at an Annual General Meeting held on 3rd October, 1974, the proposal had been carried to wind up the Old Mercers' Football Club. The Athletic Association had also been wound up.

The results for the last season were :

Played 26, Won 17, Drawn 4, Lost 5

It had been one of our most successful seasons but the decision had been made that it should be our last. In fact all members had made terrific efforts to ensure that there was a full side each week.

The last game at Grove Park on March 16th was blessed with one of the sunniest days of the year so far and nearly 100 Old Mercers and friends turned up to watch the game. It took nearly two hours under the watchful eye of referee Tommy Hollings, and with the help of five substitutes, to beat our old friends the Old Brentwoods 4—2. Almost as a postscript, another game was in fact played at the Bank of England against a representative side of O.M. Opponents on 6th April which the Old Mercers won 3—1.

The Final Football Supper at "The City Yacht" on Friday, 29th March, had been a great success which nearly 120 had attended. Among these were representatives of 20 Clubs as official guests, while strong contingents from Old Brentwoods and Old Cholmeleians, to name but two, came of their own accord. It was hoped that it would be possible to arrange an Athletic Association Reunion Supper for some time to come.

## 5. *Election of Officers*

The President now rose to propose the election of Norman Fosh as President for 1974-75. He stressed the enthusiastic support given by Norman to the Club over many years, his interest in the Dramatic Club and, in particular, his shrewd guidance of the Club's finances during his term as Treasurer. The proposal was carried by all with acclamation and Fosh took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

As his first duty the new President believed it his privilege to propose a candidate for the new Vice-President. It was with great pleasure, therefore, that he put forward the name of Len Allen, a member of that vintage 6th Form of 1944/45 and Treasurer of the Club since 1971. Many, no doubt, would like to second this proposal, but he would particularly like to ask F. J. Robinson to perform this duty. Fred Robinson accepted with pleasure and, warming to his task, outlined Len's many virtues. L. T. Allen was elected unanimously.

The remaining Officers were re-elected as follows: General Secretary, D. T. Trigg; Treasurer, L. T. Allen; Auditor, G. H. Searle; Records' Secretary, R. J. C. Davey; Entertainments' Secretary, R. G. Corfield; Magazine Secretary, R. G. Dawson.

Past Presidents H. M. Eade, C. D. Archibald, G. C. Ives and F. J. Robinson were willing to be re-elected, but R. H. Cousens had expressed his wish to retire from active duty. H. G. Andrew proposed T. H. Hollings as the 5th Past President and that all five be elected. This was seconded by all and carried with acclaim.

R. J. C. Davey proposed that K. F. Holmes, C. D. Fidge, N. J. Watson and D. J. Griffin be re-elected as Members of the General Committee and this was seconded by G. Milne. For the two remaining elected Members, J. Gransbury was proposed by Griffin, seconded by Allen, and P. G. Wainwright was proposed by Archibald and seconded by Dawson; all six were elected unanimously.

6. Allen rose to propose, seconded by Robinson, that with effect from 1st October, 1975, Rule 2 of the Club Rules should read as follows :

That the Annual Subscription to the Club be One Pound due on 1st October. A payment of Ten Pounds in lieu of Annual Subscription shall entitle to Life Membership.

T. W. Parker enquired what difference this change would make to our income, to which the Treasurer replied about £80 per annum. B. L. Jacobs wondered if further thought had been given to the suggestion made at the 1973 A.G.M. that Life Members might offer voluntary contributions. The President informed him that it was the Committee's intention to note in the Magazine that contributions from Life Members would be welcomed and noted that in fact three such donations had already been made. G. Tims expressed surprise that an even higher rate of subscription had not been proposed, but the

President pointed out that the continuing generosity of the Mercers' Company, for which we were extremely grateful, largely accounted for this. The motion was then carried unanimously.

H. M. Eade asked if it would not be reasonable to encourage more Annual Members to transfer to Life Membership, maintaining that an even higher proportion of Life Members was an ideal for which to aim. Allen appreciated that this would seem to preserve the continuity of the Club for as long as possible but pointed out, and the President concurred, that many of the Annual Members were our most enthusiastic supporters. F. J. Robinson suggested that a notice in the Magazine might remind Annual Members that they have the option to transfer to Life Membership. The Treasurer pointed out that this might also be made part of the notice which would have to be sent out later in the year to change existing Bankers Orders. The President noted that this matter would be carefully considered by the Committee.

7. L. Clifton Crick has resigned as a Trustee; the Meeting expressed its thanks to him for all the work he had done in the past. H. G. Andrew proposed and T. H. Hollings seconded that L. T. Gardner be elected as a Trustee. This was carried unanimously.

8. R. G. Dawson wished to propose the Motion that Mr. Geoffrey Logsdon be invited to become an Honorary Life Member of the Old Mercers' Club, pointing out that Mr. Logsdon had been one of our best friends within the Mercers' Company. G. Milne, in seconding, wholeheartedly agreed, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

9. The President now proposed a cordial vote of thanks to T. H. Hollings for his very valuable services in the office of President for the Club year 1973-74 and added that we should not forget his work for the Club over very many years. This was carried with acclamation.

The immediate Past President then rose to express his thanks to the Committee Members for their help throughout the year and in particular to the Secretary, the Treasurer and to Bob Corfield, the Entertainments' Secretary, for his quiet, efficient manner in organising all functions.

#### 10 *Any Other Business*

H. M. Eade proposed a vote of thanks to the Mercers' Company for the use of the Hall, which was carried unanimously.

The General Secretary pointed out that, with the winding up of the Athletic Association, we were in danger of losing the benefit of the wisdom and erudite comment of their delegate to the General Committee, R. S. (Dixie) Dean. Admittedly, the President had already offered him an open invitation to attend future meetings, but Trigg would prefer a more official basis to be offered, and proposed that Dean be co-opted to the General Committee as the Past Athletic

Association Representative. This was seconded by all and passed unanimously.

G. Tims enquired of the possibility of a Reception next year, and the President replied that we were planning to hold one at the Mansion House if this could be arranged. Further discussions had yet to take place before a final decision was reached.

Finally, with a vote of thanks to both Chairmen for their conduct of the Meeting, and a promise of "Grub at The Plough" for those who required it, the Meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.

#### THE PRESIDENT (continued from page 7)

interest, as performer and as organiser. He also sat on the General Committee, and eventually was persuaded to take office when Geoff Parker retired from the treasurership. Almost at the same time he was called on to make several extensive trips to Canada for his company. He still managed to cope, and still remained cheerful.

I anticipate that he always will. As President he brings to the office enormous competence, both professionally and in that wider sense concerning the affairs of men: a capacity for hard work and straight thinking, which do not always go together, and a record of service and achievement which he probably doesn't think of as remarkable in any way. But if we had been able to foresee it that day in October, 1940, Rowsell would have fallen off his hall bench in astonishment!

P.N.

## ANNUAL DINNER, 1974

The 58th Annual Dinner took place at Mercers' Hall on Thursday, May 16th, when some 120 attended to honour our old friend, Tommy Hollings, in his Presidential Year.

A roast beef dinner, a luxury nowadays, was much enjoyed, and the wines from the Mercers' Company cellars added the usual piquancy.

The meal over, we settled down for the speeches. The President proposed the toast of the Worshipful Company of Mercers and extracts from his speech are printed below. In his reply, the Master, J. G. Barker, Esq., T.D., spoke of the "wind of change" which had now become a gale. The result of penal taxation had meant, ironically, that many of the Company's charitable undertakings had had to be cut back—new Alms Houses in Stepney were the latest casualty.

Proposing the toast of Our Guests, B. L. Jacobs, having spoken of his experiences in Africa, welcomed the guests from other Clubs, and the former Masters of the School, mentioning particularly our friend, George Andrew. Replying, Mr. W. F. Poll enlarged on the presidential reference to the education of daughters. More seriously, he stressed his belief in the importance of independent education.

So to the final speeches. Fred Robinson, the immediate Past President, enlarged on the President's athletic prowess and alleged that in the days of evacuation in Horsham, Tom had earned some "notoriety". In his reply, the President spoke sadly of the end of the Football and Dramatic Clubs, and exhorted all the erstwhile members of these Clubs to support the Dinner in the years to come.

"Would you now like to adjourn to the room across the corridor?" said the President. Nearly everybody did, and a pleasant hour passed in reminiscence over a glass of beer.

### *The President's Speech :*

Master, Wardens, Old Mercers and gentlemen, this toast is to be to the Mercers' Company, but having been preceded by so many eminent presidential speakers who have covered the workings of the Company and all its charitable involvements, and having two years ago been given a very revealing history of the Company from our friend Dick Cousens, what is there left for me to say? I am put very much in mind of an occasion when attending a university graduation ceremony in Edinburgh when the Dean was giving his final talk to the students then leaving. He was telling them that they should not believe that having left school and university they were then completely finished with examinations. He went on to explain that throughout their lives they would be under examination—by their fellow men. In pointing out that fact I don't think even the Dean could have imagined quite so exacting an examination as the one with which I am faced, here, this evening!

It is difficult enough to make an after dinner speech without, in addition, being "examined" by one's old school friends and masters—(an audience which has remained almost unchanged since the closure of the school)—*and*, trying to deal with a subject which has been covered by so many previous speakers is a formidable task indeed! To cap it all, due to the activities (or should I say *non-activities*?) of our mining friends earlier this year, I have been denied the opportunity of "cribbing" some ideas from other speeches as most of the City functions had to be cancelled during that period

However, success in speech-making, as in everything else, is judged by relativity—a fact which perhaps I can best illustrate with a story (one, I may add, which will be most understood by those of you with teenage daughters). It concerns just such a young lady who was at boarding school, and one day her parents received from her a letter which went something like this :

"Dear Mummy,

Sorry for the long delay in writing to you but since I last wrote several unfortunate happenings have occurred. Some months ago, when the rest of the girls in my dorm. were out for the evening, I was trying to smoke some 'pot' in the dormitory. In so doing I unfortunately set fire to the place, and destroyed all my belongings. The fire prevented me reaching the door, and I was the only person in the dorm., so to save myself I had to jump out of the window. I landed on the lawn outside, but badly hurt my leg and I lay there for several hours until the assistant janitor found me and took me to the hospital. He is *such* a kind boy, and visited me a lot in hospital, during which time we formed a relationship. I am now out of hospital and two months pregnant! We want to get married! Hope we can have your blessing!

Your loving daughter,  
Sally.

P.S.—I failed my 'A' level exams.

P.P.S.—The first part of this letter is not true, and I hope your relief will be so great that you will not be too disturbed by the exam. results!"

For my own examination, I have done a little bit of prep and trust it will be sufficient to obtain a pass on this occasion!

What then, gentlemen, is a Company? A name registered in the Office Registry? A name people think of in association with certain products or matters? A name the tax authorities unfailingly chase and usually catch? A body which the government of the day hammers unceasingly and squeezes; "like pips" is I believe the current expression? On the face of things, no more than a name. But what is behind the name? A man, or group of men? (The fair sex does become involved occasionally! Fortunately none are present here to-night otherwise I would doubtless be heckled with cries of "Male Chauvinist Etc.") The man, or group of men, use their knowledge

and expertise to achieve certain objectives which are, of course, generally financial but very often charitable as well. Throughout its several hundred years of history, the Mercers' Company has been built by such men. All have contributed in their various ways to give the Company its place in the City today, and to establish the high esteem in which it is held.

In my days at school we were never quite sure of the Mercers' Company activities outside its interest in the several schools with which it was associated. Vaguely one thought of silk, but in view of the names which continually appeared on the list of governors, the more general assumption was that the main interests were beer and biscuits, and it used to seem very much a "closed shop" arrangement. As I discovered only recently it virtually *was* a closed shop, because it would appear that the only way one was able, at one time, to become a member of the Mercers' Company was by patrimony. This being so I cannot think how the last few Masters, none of whom are named Watney or Palmer, came to be members! I won't even hazard a guess at that, and will leave you to work out your own possible solutions.

Still today the Company is merely a symbol of the men behind it, carrying on the old traditions and creating new ones. The principal man, of course, is the Master. This year, Mr. John Graham Barker—by profession a solicitor, and senior partner in one of the world's largest professional firms in the City. With the amount of "soliciting" going on in society today it is perhaps hardly surprising that Mr. Barker has a thoroughly thriving practice!

Mr. Barker's interests outside his principal business include, I believe, the Chairmanship of two public companies, membership of a hospital management committee and Chairmanship of three hospitals. A remarkable achievement in these days of ever-increasing complexities in business and all other spheres! Yet he still finds time to be Master of the Company!

Not only that, but he also finds time to participate in that time-consuming game (as some people call it) called golf! I would venture to think that Mr. Barker could be described as one who *plays golf*, as opposed to myself, and many others, who play *at* it. As his speciality is litigation I pity any opponent who might be rash enough to query the rules in a game!

With all this energy and attributes it is hardly surprising to learn that Mr. Barker originally hailed from the north of the country—perhaps you gentlemen from south of Manchester do not know that all the best people come from north of that line! I believe Mr. Barker has a particular affinity for the Isle of Man—I have never been there, but if the sea crossing is anything like that to Ireland then I can only think that his interests may not be entirely pleasure orientated—perhaps he specialises in tax law as well as litigation.

I am sure he will wish me to remind you that he is not the only

officer of the Company, and that he is more than ably assisted by his Upper, House and Renter Wardens, and other officers.

I would just like to say, on my own behalf, how very grateful I have been to their predecessors for the opportunity created by them for me to have the benefit of a first-class education which has stood me in very good stead throughout my career—I am pretty certain that most Mercers would say “those are my sentiments too!” I am only sorry that such good fortune has been denied to other youngsters, resulting from the closure of the school.

The old traditions of the Company having been maintained so successfully, despite the necessity to keep pace with an ever-changing world, I know I speak for you all in expressing the hope that they will continue, unchallenged, for ever.

All of us here are deeply grateful to have been allowed to use this magnificent hall for our Dinner and having been afforded the privilege, once again, of sampling your most excellent wine cellar.

Now gentlemen, I must not go on longer, otherwise your time for chatting with old acquaintances will be curtailed. On this note I should like to close with a little tale about a speaker at a dinner, who went on, and on, and on, interminably, late in the evening, so that everyone was sufficiently well imbibed to engage in some barracking when the speech dragged on so. Eventually, one man who had had rather *too* much, picked up a bottle from his table, staggered round to the top table behind the speaker, lifted the bottle intending to crash it down upon the speaker's head but, being somewhat unsteady, missed, hitting instead the Chairman who was sitting alongside! The Chairman slumped from his seat, and the striker, sobering immediately, proffered his assistance and profuse apologies to the Chairman, whereupon that august gentleman, coming round rather quickly, retorted “You damned idiot—you didn't hit me hard enough. I can still hear that fellow talking!!”

Not wishing to endanger the Master in such a fashion, gentlemen will you please be upstanding and drink with me the Toast of the Mercers' Company coupled with the name of its Master, Mr. John Barker.

## **OLD MERCERS' ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL SECTION, SEASON 1973/74**

What was inevitable when the School closed has now come about—Old Mercer football has finished. How many of us in 1959 thought that we would still be fielding a team in 1974 in our familiar surroundings at Grove Park? It is worth mentioning here that the team throughout this last season was composed entirely of Old Mercers, unlike the previous season when we had to rely on guest players on many occasions.

That our football continued for so long after the closure of the School is due to the City of London Corporation who made pitches available to us at Grove Park, and to the many captains, vice-captains and secretaries who spent many hours in behind-the-scenes administration. As this is the last report of its kind, perhaps this is the time to pay tribute to all those in whatever capacity, who helped to keep Old Mercer football running, not just in the last fifteen years, but ever since the Old Mercers' Football Club was formed in 1904. Not least among those to whom we owe a great debt are the groundsmen, the latest being Charlie Parker who, together with his wife Pat, served us well for our last years. Old Mercer footballers have been fortunate also in that, over the years, there was always a ready supply of those who were willing to referee a game. Certainly it must be many years ago, if ever, that a game at Grove Park was played without a referee.

Perhaps at this point it should be recalled that this report is designed to reflect the happenings of the last season and is not meant to be a pocket-size history of the football club. It is to be hoped that various pens will be put to paper and that some anecdotal memories and tributes will appear elsewhere in future Magazines which will be of interest to all Old Mercers.

The results for the season were as follows :

Played 25, Won 16, Drawn 4, Lost 5.

The figures reflect the keenness and determination of the players which must have been re-awakened by the knowledge that "this was the last chance". Indeed, one must go back to 1961/62 to find a season where any team even equalled this number of wins.

The goal tally for the season reached seventy-six, which was nearly double that of the previous year. Mike Cato was our leading scorer with fourteen goals which was an even more remarkable performance when it is remembered that he suffered a leg injury in January and missed the last seven matches. Mike has subsequently been advised to give up football for good in order to help repair his leg. We wish him a complete recovery. His goals included a hat-trick against Old Colfeians, a game we won 7—1. This was a truly remarkable result when one remembers many hard battles with these near neighbours of ours when we were delighted to earn as much as a draw.

Dave Griffin was again a prolific scorer this season and included in his twelve goals was a four goal spree against Old Foresters. We won this game 6—0. John Holder, John Marchant and Dixie Dean also found the net very successfully. A slimmer John Holder has not played a better season and John Marchant remains indefatigable.

Due to a lingering injury sustained two years ago, we were again without the services, for most of the season, of Neville Watson. Mick Manning played in goal when available, but in his absence George Niblett and Colin Fidge deputised very ably. It should not be omitted

from the record that George played a remarkable game in goal against Old Brentwoods where we won 2—1. In one incident a Brentwood goal seemed certain as the ball travelled towards the top corner of the net but George somehow, from an unlikely position, managed to punch the ball over. He did not put a hand wrong during the whole of the game and any regular goalkeeper would have been pleased to have matched this performance.

The spirit of the team throughout the season was quite extraordinary. As matches were being won more often than not, the thought uppermost in our minds was "Why should **anyone** beat us?" Being a goal down at any stage of the game was no longer the beginning of the end for us. Only one team, H.A.C., beat us twice. Each game ended 3—1 in their favour. Our disappointment was tempered, however, when at the end of the second game at Armoury House, our opponents brought champagne to the dressing room where we drank to one another's health. This was one of many incidents which occurred during the season which reminded us of the many friends we have made over the years.

A result which gave us particular pleasure was the 4—0 win over Old Actonians. In recent years we had not been very successful in our efforts against these opponents and we had already suffered defeat at their hands earlier in the season. Ted Richardson and John Holder shared the goals in this match. We proved no match for Catford Strollers again this season and we lost our only game against them 5—0.

It was only by chance, but none the less fitting, that, in our last season, we played against our hosts, Old Citizens. Old Malvernians were suddenly not able to produce a team over the Christmas holiday and at the last minute Old Citizens filled the gap. After leading 4—0 we were fortunate to survive 4—3 and this augurs well for our hosts, for whom this was the first season in which they had fielded a soccer team.

So to our last match, which was against Old Brentwoods at Grove Park. The weather was unbelievably kind with warm sunshine the whole day. The pitch had been immaculately prepared by Charlie. What a contrast to the previous week when in bitter winds and sleet we had battled on the bumpy and energy sapping morass at Totteridge! Of course, every player wanted to participate in the final game, and to enable this to happen names were drawn from a hat to choose a handful of players to play a full game, the rest playing for one half only. Peter Wainwright and Fred Robinson ran the lines and Tom Hollings graced the referee's whistle for the last time—by happy chance in his year of Presidency of the Old Mercers' Club.

Many old friends turned up to watch, some of whom had played Old Mercer football in the past and a few who had not set foot on the Grove Park turf since schooldays. What a tonic to see some masters on the touchline!

Just before the kick-off, and after a brief speech from the Brentwoods' captain, we were each presented by our opponents with an inscribed statuette commemorating the occasion. The cameras which were produced to record this unexpected event were still clicking away when the whistle went and the match began.

This is not the place for a pass-by-pass commentary on the game, in any case it takes an expert to do verbal justice to football. Let it suffice to say that it was a hard-fought game played in the spirit one would have expected on such an occasion and it was enjoyed by players and spectators alike. Although it lasted for two hours the final whistle was still premature from a Mercer viewpoint. Considering Brentwoods had only one substitute, they lasted magnificently. Incidentally Mercers won 4—2.

After champagne in the dressing rooms, initiated by our captain, we sampled for the last time one of Charlie's famous teas—Saturdays will never be the same without them! Later in the evening, after some liquid refreshment, all present (and very few had left) were treated to a magnificent spread organised and prepared by long suffering Mercer wives. During the evening a sherry decanter was presented to Pat and Charlie to mark the occasion and tributes were paid to them by Dave Griffin and H.G.A. It was much later than usual that everyone left for home; it was the end of an era.

For the record and for the particular interest of past and present players the full results and statistics of the season were as follows :

1973			Res.	For	Agt.
September	29	O. Cholmeleians Ramblers	H	Won	5 1
October	6	O. Foresters Veterans	H	Won	6 0
	13	Bank of England Strollers	A	Lost	3 4
	20	O. Actonians Veterans	H	Lost	2 4
	27	O. Brentwoods Veterans	A	Won	2 1
November	3	H.A.C. II	H	Lost	1 3
	10	Norsemen Nomads	A	Won	3 2
	17	Ibis Veterans	A	Won	3 2
	24	Stock Exchange Veterans	H	Draw	1 1
December	1	O. Colfeians Veterans	A	Won	7 1
	8	O. Libertians Veterans	H	Draw	0 0
	15	Witan VII	H	Draw	3 3
	22	O. Foresters Veterans	A	Won	4 3
	29	O. Citizens	H	Won	4 3

1974

January	5	Catford Strollers	H	Lost	0	5
	12	O. Tiffinians Strollers	H	Won	1	0
	19	Norsemen Nomads	H	Draw	2	2
	26	Bank of England Strollers	H	Won	2	1
February	2	O. Colfeians Veterans	H	Won	4	3
	9	H.A.C. II	A	Lost	1	3
	16	Ibis VI	H	Won	6	3
	23	O. Actonians Veterans	A	Won	4	0
March	2	Witan VII	A	Won	3	1
	9	O. Cholmeleians Ramblers	A	Won	5	2
	16	O. Brentwoods Veterans	H	Won	4	2
Total					76	50

#### Goalscorers

Mike Cato	14	Ted Richardson	5
Dave Griffin	12	Mike Lee	3
John Holder	10	Peter Crawford	2
John Marchant	9	Colin Fidge	2
Dixie Dean	8	Chris Garrett	2
George Niblett	6	Own Goals	3

Players (apart from the above) : Neville Watson, Mick Manning, John Gransbury, Reg. Vanhegan, Bob Corfield, Robin Whiteland, Graham Hargrave-Smith.

All that is left to report is the final supper which was held at The City Yacht two weeks after the last match. There were official guests representing all our current opponents and a few past opponents. Many clubs sent additional paying guests who were determined not to miss the occasion. The evening was a great success and our thanks are due for this to the small band of players that organised the function so well. A list of all those who attended follows this report.

For this report to be wholly accurate in recording events, it should include reference to a further match which was played in April between Old Mercers and a team representing several clubs against whom we normally play. This game was spontaneously organised by the Bank of England quite unbeknown to us and was played at Roehampton. We won 3—1.

So it has all come to an end—we have negotiated the Quaggy for the last time to retrieve our ball; Vanhegan will no longer question the amount of “kitty” required every week, although the amount has not changed for years; Dean’s vernacular will not be heard (on the football field at least); Watson will not again call for a back-pass from his forwards in the centre circle; Gransbury will not give Watson one of his (in)fallible back-passes; Fidge will be unable to squirt his shampoo over all and sundry in the changing room, and so on. All these things will be missed but not forgotten. Valeté.

J.G.

*Old Mercers attending the Football Club for Final Supper  
29th March, 1974*

L. T. ALLEN	G. W. EVANS	G. MILNE
H. G. ANDREW	C. D. FIDGE	J. MORGAN
F. B. ANGLIER	G. A. FINCH	G. NIBLETT
C. D. ARCHIBALD	N. S. FOSH	C. L. NUNN
J. G. BAILEY	D. FRENCH	R. J. OSBORN
B. D. BEGGS	L. T. GARDNER	A. S. PARKER
J. H. G. BENDER	C. P. GARRETT	T. W. PARKER
G. BEST	J. GRANSBURY	I. C. PEARSON
F. E. J. G.	J. F. GRAY	E. RICHARDSON
J. BRACKENBURY	D. J. GRIFFIN	ROBERTS
J. K. BUNNER	K. R. GRIFFIN	F. J. ROBINSON
Rev. J. A. BURLEY	G. HARGRAVE-	B. A. ROLLINSON
H. T. CAMPBELL	SMITH	H. E. A. ROLT
H. G. L. CARTER	B. J. HARPHAM	J. R. SARGENT
M. J. CATO	J. E. K. HOLDER	M. A. SPRY
T. C. CATO	T. H. HOLLINGS	D. T. TRIGG
M. J. COOPER	M. J. HORNE	A. H. URQUHART
G. C. COPELAND	J. C. HORSLEY	R. F. VANHEGAN
G. B. CORFIELD	G. C. IVES	T. P. VEITCH
R. G. CORFIELD	B. L. JACOBS	D. N. VERMONT
R. H. COUSENS	K. E. JONES	P. G. WAINWRIGHT
R. G. DAWSON	M. E. LEE	N. J. WATSON
R. S. DEAN	R. V. LORD	F. E. WELLS
J. D. DOIG	M. J. MANNING	R. W. R. WHITELAND
A. J. DOWNES	W. P. MANNING	R. G. WILLIAMS
H. M. EADE	J. D. MARCHANT	F. W. WITHALL
C. P. ELLIS	C. F. P. MAZINKE	
E. R. EMERTON	P. M. MAZINKE	

Old Mercers 80 — Official Guests 22 — Personal Guests 33

## OLD MERCERS' FOOTBALL CLUB REUNION SUPPER

On the 22nd November, 1974, at The George and Vulture in the City, we held the first of what we hope will become a regular supper fixture for past members of the Old Mercers' Football Club. The evening was designed to keep up contact, however tenuous, between players and others connected in recent years with Old Mercer football.

The venue was the recommendation of Neville Watson, whose knowledge of London's eating spots is not to be sniffed at. The George and Vulture is reputed to be the oldest tavern in the world, dating back to the 12th century. It is found, after searching down narrow alleys and under brick archways, somewhere between Lombard Street and Cornhill. We fear that Colin Fidge who was known to be on his way to attend the supper but who never appeared, is still lost in the maze!

The Dickensian atmosphere of the old inn, which is the present headquarters of the Pickwick Club, admirably suited the occasion and a good time was had by all. The proceedings were quite informal and without speeches apart from a word of thanks to Neville for arranging the meal—steak, kidney and oyster pudding (can you be more informal?) and ice cream which, as rumour had it, had fallen off the back of a lorry! One or two got to their feet (just) to make a joke and then suddenly the evening was over.

Those present were as follows :

L. T. ALLEN	G. HARGRAVE-	E. RICHARDSON
C. D. ARCHIBALD	SMITH	F. J. ROBINSON
R. S. DEAN	J. E. K. HOLDER	D. T. TRIGG
N. S. FOSH	T. H. HOLLINGS	R. F. VANHEGAN
L. T. GARDNER	M. E. LEE	P. G. WAINWRIGHT
C. P. GARRETT	M. J. MANNING	N. J. WATSON
J. GRANSBURY	G. NIBLETT	R. W. R. WHITELAND
D. J. GRIFFIN	T. W. PARKER	A. BERRY
		(Old Cholmeleians)

### A FOOTBALLING FAREWELL

The sun shone brightly; where were the trees by the Quaggy? For that matter, where was the Quaggy? It seemed to have disappeared. Had any O.M. match ever attracted so many spectators, all highly complimentary on the condition of the ground? There seemed to be about sixteen O.M.s changed and ready to play football—most of them carrying a little more weight than of yore. There were familiar faces among the opposition too—surely I played against some of these Old Brentwoods fifteen, twenty years ago? Many of the spectators had itchy feet as this, the last O.M. game of football, began.

Fairly soon the former House Master of Gresham was making adverse comment on the quality of football; a light ball, the familiar wind blowing “down the hill” made ball control difficult. The “up and under” method of attack seemed to be popular—but no goals came for some time. Our memories were stirred. Reg. Vanhegan’s positional sense seemed as good as ever; Bob Corfield’s tackling was as uncompromising as ever. John Gransbury covered miles; Robin Whiteland (Dean’s “midfield destroyer”) seemed to have lost a little pace so that destruction was now averted; Johnny Holder, at centre forward, laid off some neat passes; Graham “Oblique”-Smith, at outside left, George Niblett on the other wing, found the way round the outside was no longer on, and came inside. David Griffin moved about intelligently, and at half-time the O.M.s were behind 2—1, Johnny Holder being the scorer.

It is useful to substitute some five men at half-time; so Mick Manning replaced Neville Watson in goal, which brought back many memories to many people. Soon the reconstructed O.M. side were attacking. Bob Corfield’s sturdy left boot caused the bar to shudder, Chris Garrett, now at right half, also cracked in a fine shot. Ted Richardson was now buzzing in midfield, and who was this familiar figure at outside left—of course, the one and only Dean—that foul throw he’s perpetrated for years proved it; and the distinguished looking inside left? None other than John Marchant, still thinking football as he always did.

Now this was a real game of football, as both sides suddenly found cohesion. Chris Garrett equalised and John Marchant scored twice in quick succession to give the O.M.s a 4—2 victory—as befitted the final game in the history of a Football Club spanning over 50 years.

The sun was going down as we wended our way, a little sadly, to the old pavilion for tea, dispensed as ever by Pat and Charlie Parker. What a deal of reminiscence was there! J. G. Bender proudly announcing his 70+ years and his memories of Dr. Scott, Taffy Williams, the architect of the 4th XI, Bunny Angier who kept the flag flying in the early days of the war, Percy Veitch, Bill Parker, Jim Farbairn, Bill Scott, H.G.A. (what a pleasure to see these old friends); and countless others who have played their part in the Football Club over many a year. There was almost a competition among the "oldies" to chase the ball which had gone out of play, to have one final kick at Grove Park. It was indeed a nostalgic occasion.

It would be wrong to end this picture of a unique occasion without mentioning the Old Brentwoods, who provided the opposition for this final chapter in the O.M.F.C. story. It was only right that they should be there—and what sterling and sporting opposition they provided—it's a bit hard to have to play sixteen or seventeen blokes, even if they are on the elderly side; and the second half lasted an hour!

And finally to the officials. Had we been asked to say who has given most to the Football Club since the war, the answer would probably be Tommy Hollings. How fitting that, in his year as President of the Club, Tom should be in charge of this match; and, just as appropriately, that Fred Robinson and Peter Wainwright should be his linesmen. As we moved to the Old Citizens' bar (exclusively ours for the evening), there was much to talk about and remember. It had been a great day—one which those of us privileged to be there would always remember.

#### *The Players :*

N. Watson; M. Manning; R. Vanhegan; R. Corfield; J. Gransbury; P. Crawford; R. Whiteland; C. Garrett; E. Richardson; G. Niblett; M. Lee; J. Holder; D. Griffin; G. Hargrave-Smith; J. Marchant; R. Dean; M. Cato (who kicked off but then retired due to an old injury).

#### **O.M.D.C. 1921—1973**

To put pen to paper to describe the activities of the Old Mercers' Dramatic Club over a span of some 50 years is to say the least a tall order. Even if one's memory were reliable, and mine is not, it would take a considerable time to record all that has happened in the annals of the Club over that period; so, in the knowledge that the Editor has "twisted my arm", I will content myself by picking out what I think are the salient points and highlights for the gratification or otherwise of Old Mercers.

From the School Magazine of December, 1921, we learn that "the O.M.D.C." was properly constituted and organised at a meeting on November 10th, 1921. Subscription for the season 2s. 6d. Expenses of 1921-22 productions to be borne by the players and other enthu-

siasts. The first productions of the Club, namely "The Pavement Artist" and "The Fourth Man" had taken place on October 28th at the school following a supper, and the casts included Malcolm Stamp, Bernard Hunt, David Oliver, Vernon Hammer and R. F. Stevens.

From these small beginnings in very difficult conditions in 1921 progress was made to the Cripplegate Theatre, where, apart from the war, for the next 35 years two plays a year were produced. I would think that about a third of these were the "thriller" or "detective" type of play, but there were also comedies, meaty dramas and farces. Each and every one of them must, I think, have given some entertainment to our audiences and I, for one, would not care to pick out which were the best. It is sufficient to say that the actors, actresses and producers, all did their best to put on a good show and had a lot of fun doing it.

In the cast list of the first production, "The Fourth Man", the names of Malcolm Stamp, Bernard Hunt, David Oliver, Vernon Hammer and R. F. Stevens appear; Malcolm (or Max) Stamp was the producer and he was still producing for the Club when I joined in early 1928. I am indebted to Norman Atkins for the information regarding these early plays, among which we find "French Leave", "Three Wise Fools", "Loyalties", "Tons of Money", "Rust", "Interference", "The Bat", "Case of the Frightened Lady", and the leading parts were taken by Bernard Hunt, Bernard Ordish, David Oliver, George Stedman, Norman Atkins, "Daisy" Searls, Charles Pargeter, "Bunny" Clarke, and many others. We have always been fortunate in our choice of ladies to take part in the plays, and the most prominent name that springs to mind in the early period is Kathleen Howat, who I believe first appeared in "Three Wise Fools".

As I have already mentioned, Malcolm Stamp produced for a number of years, and then I believe Bernard Hunt took over the job. David Oliver was subsequently responsible for quite a few productions with the occasional one being done by George Thomas; my "scrap book" seems to have a few programmes missing around 1933 so I am a little uncertain of the year in which David Oliver handed over the reins to someone else. However, I find that the production in November, 1934, was given for two nights in aid of the Old Mercers' Benevolent Fund, and this saw the introduction to the Club for the first time of a professional producer in the person of T. Hervey Noble. This play, "Eight Bells", was the first of many produced by "Nobby", as he was popularly known, for the O.M.D.C., and amongst the cast we see the names of "Apples" Bill Aikman, Laurence Kyle, Norman Atkins, "Jacky" Watts, Bill Bailey, B. L. Jacobs, "Bunny" Clarke, Sidney Brunning and myself. One lady, Mary MacGregor Jack, was the sole representative of the fair sex. "Jacky" Watts appeared on the scene as producer in 1937 and carried on until the spring of 1939, which was the last pre-war production—"House-master".

For the first post-war play, "French Without Tears", "Nobby" was again in charge and the cast included for the first time some of

the then younger O.M.s, Arthur Cutting, "Jackie" Seear, John Cottet, Eric Wilkins and David Orman. In April, 1948, we were fortunate to have the services of Evelyn Watts as our professional producer, and she continued to assist us with great success until our 50th production, of "You Can't Take It With You" in March, 1953. Another professional producer appeared on the scene for the next few years in the person of Bob Williams, and he held sway until Old Mercers again took up the production side in the era of Ron Parrott, Brian Pearcy and Eric Wilkins.

It would be almost impossible to mention all the O.M.s who have appeared on the stage for the Club as the total figure must be in the region of 100, so, apart from those already mentioned, I will restrict myself to recalling a few from each era. Firstly, George Thomas, Alex Robertson and George Finch; then Jimmy Lyons, Norman Fosh, and Alan Woodburn; and in the final phase Len Gardner, Ron Parrott and Brian Pearcy; my apologies to the many I have left out. In a similar way I recall the names of Mimi Cottet, Dorothy Turner, and Hilda Stutter; then Doreen Harvey, Ursula Hicks and Joan Whitham; and finally Eveline Milgrom, Jacqueline Evans and Lesley West.

Several theatres have been the venues for Old Mercer productions, the principal one being, of course, the Cripplegate, where for either one or two evenings twice a year our plays were performed. I remember vividly the resident stage manager there, Jim Dennis, the little man who was the electrician, the sets of scenery we hired there, and the dress rehearsals we held in the afternoon of the first performance. In later years we went to the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, City Churches, the School Hall, and the Chanticleer Theatre in Kensington; for the final production of "Oh What a Lovely War" we returned once again to Cripplegate with practically a "full house".

Rehearsals in the early years were held in Barnards Inn, and my earliest recollection of these was of the sausage and mash and beer produced by the school porter, Springett, for our supper in the kitchen. Sunday rehearsals were held at the Ben Greet Academy of Acting, just off the Strand, and afterwards we were entertained to a sumptuous tea at "Tommy's" flat in South Molton Street. Subsequently, we rehearsed in various public houses, one of which, in Cloth Fair, West Smithfield, we used for a number of years and whose name escapes me for the moment, and another, "The Brown Bear" in High Holborn, where the Old Mercers' Club had its weekly Club Room. A room at the Cripplegate Institute was also used in later years, and I remember that we had some Sunday rehearsals at "The Victoria" at Kings Cross, which was far from salubrious.

On the social side we had an annual Dinner and Dance at the Mecca Café in Blomfield Street, where members' wives and daughters joined with O.M.s and the ladies in the cast to enjoy a very festive evening. Perhaps also under the heading of "social activities" we could mention the various "outside" performances that we put on, mostly in aid of some charity, and I remember with great pleasure those at

the Sutton Hard Court Club which often served as a good dress rehearsal for us and where we were entertained right royally. There were performances at Twickenham for the British Legion, at Upper Clapton for the Scouts, at Southgate for St. John Ambulance Brigade, and we were once honoured by being chosen to do one of the Cripplegate Institute's course shows with our production of "Yes and No".

No potted history of the O.M.D.C. would be complete without reference to the many Old Mercers and ladies who made up the various backstage teams, on whom so much of the success of a production depends. I served my apprenticeship in this direction, and I remember my first contact with the various buttons on the sound effects board at Cripplegate and the horrifying thought of what would happen if I pressed the wrong button! The names of Cyril Wright and Bernard Harvey come to mind and also Evelyn Watts and Eve Shirley amongst the ladies. On the administrative side of the Club, too, we were well served, the names of whom are too numerous to mention, but their hard work over the years must have contributed much towards the success of the O.M.D.C.

Our audiences were made up of non-acting members of the Dramatic Club, patrons—who were relations and friends of Old Mercers—members of the Old Mercers' Club, and of course anybody to whom the cast could sell tickets. In this latter connection I remember the famous "Wilkins" plan, which referred to the methods by which Eric Wilkins, in the course of his normal visits to his business clients, press-ganged them into buying tickets for the plays. The hardware market was literally flooded with tickets! Our audiences were very loyal and kindly disposed towards our efforts, and the numbers varied from time to time. Sometimes we had only one night and sometimes two at Cripplegate, and occasionally we had the "house full" boards out. This meant sales of over 500 seats for each performance, which was very encouraging, but it was only when we performed at a smaller theatre during the last years of the Club's existence that we were able to run for three nights.

Well, Mr. Editor, you asked me for some "memories" of Cripplegate, but it seems to have developed into a potted history of the Club. I hope that it has shown that what I said earlier was true, namely, "we did our best to put on a good show and had a lot of fun doing it". What a pity it had to end.

Norman O'Blath.

## **LATIN LESSON, 1975**

### **55 B.C. ET OMNE ILLUD**

(With apologies to a famous History Book.)

CAESAR, a large number of warships and ablative absolutes having been gathered together, having obtained suitable weather as quickly as possible, two legions having been left behind to keep an eye on the Niscupotes, whose leader, Carialodobrix, had obtained the

kingletship in his own state, after murdering his father, Bemax, who had sent for help to the S.P.Q.R. (R.S.V.P.), set sail about the third watch. As he was about to set sail, the spring equinox being now at hand, a soothsayer rushed on to the quay and warned him to beware the tides of March. Ignoring this warning, Caesar continued to set sail at about the third watch, and his ships all ran aground off Newhaven at about the fourth hour. After Caesar had issued several indirect commands, the C.S.M. of the Eagle Squadron addressed our men in direct speech: "Jump down—fellow soldiers", he said, "unless you wish to betray your — eagle to the — enemy". Greatly moved by these words, our men jumped down as quickly as possible. They were opposed by large numbers of the Domus Custodes (Tertia Sussex Battalio). Both sides fought keenly till about the tenth hour. Our men were greatly disturbed by the uncivilized methods of fighting of the barbarians, who not only drove their chariots on the wrong side of the road but also fixed razor blades on the wheels.

Caesar was not able to conquer the whole island, as he had to get back to Italy in time to cross the Odeon, keep a return fixture with Pompey (away)—winners to play Antony and Cleopatra in the semi-final—and be murdered by 44 B.C. All he had time to do was to cross the Thames at Brentford<sup>1</sup>, collect some ostriches, found St. Albans, re-cross the Thames at Brentford<sup>2</sup>, and set sail for the continent as quickly as possible at about the third watch. He brought back with him one kinglet, two princelings, four druids, a tube of woad, and five hundred ostriches<sup>3</sup>. "O si sic omnes!" as Spurius Postremus Ridiculus remarked on landing. He then placed the first, second, third, fourth and sixth legions in winter quarters<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> See Erasmus' illuminating monograph entitled "Caesarne transiit Thamesim Brentfordii an per tunnellum Blackwallianum?"

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Some inferior MSS. read "hostages". One disreputable MS. (Codex Mercerensis) reads "sausages".

<sup>4</sup> See my book, "Where was the fifth legion in 55 B.C.?"

Duns Scotus.

No prizes for guessing the author!—Ed.

## OBITUARY

### D. E. OLIVER, M.A. Barrister-at-Law

Club Secretary (1919-1924)

President (1929-1930)

David Oliver ("Olives") died on 6th April, 1974, aged 80. The Club has suffered the loss of one of its best loved and most distinguished members. Some measure of "Olives'" capacity and popularity is indicated by the wide range of the offices he had filled; amongst others he had been President of the O.M.A.A., President of the O.M.D.C. and W.Master of Honor Deo Lodge. Such honours, however, afford only a faint reflection of his influence and inspiration of Old Mercers. "Nullum quod tetigit non ornavit".

"Olives" left the school before the 1914-18 war and went up to Cambridge where his abilities were duly recognised and he finally became President of the Cambridge Union. At the outbreak of war he volunteered for military service but was rejected on medical grounds and served throughout the war in the Consular Service in Norway. After the war he was called to the Bar and was for a time Political Secretary to Sir Alfred Mond (later Lord Melchett), then one of the leaders of the Liberal Party. Later he took up a legal appointment under the National Insurance Board and became a Civil Servant when the Board's functions were taken over as a departmental responsibility.

As the first post-war Secretary of the Club, he played a prominent part with George Thomas, Cecil Mason, Edward Hill, Appleyard and others in building up the Club and extending its activities, including a series of Club Suppers in Barnard Inn, often hilarious and still remembered by the survivors. Although his health precluded him from active participation in sport, he helped in the formation of the Athletic Association; he acted as scorer for the Cricket Club and was a frequent spectator at football fixtures. He was one of the founders of the Dramatic Club and appeared with distinction in most of their productions between the two wars. He was initiated into Freemasonry in Honor Deo Lodge in 1921 and was a member of Honor Deo Chapter, becoming First Principal in 1947.

As an after dinner speaker he was unsurpassed; his wit and eloquence, just occasionally enlivened by a Welsh inflection, have held many an Old Mercer gathering spellbound and his shafts of wit frequently carried a shrewd point. As a companion he was a delight, whether as one of the crew of the "British Queen", that curious vessel on which various Old Mercers sailed on the Norfolk Broads, or as one of a group dining together after a committee meeting or rehearsal, his conversation was exhilarating, his comments unique and sometimes outrageous.

He was invariably courteous, kind and helpful. He was endowed with personality, intellect, wit and eloquence. All these he used freely in the service of others and none more than Old Mercers.

After the death of his sister, David chose to live by himself in the house at Ruislip in which they had lived happily for fifty years, and where the neighbours remember the daily walks, with his faithful dog of "that kindly gentleman with his old world courtesy".

To the end of his days "Olives" maintained the keenest interest in all our activities.

May the Club be worthy of his example.

After his death his nephew wrote, "O.M. circles provided him with a limitless source of goodwill and friendship upon which he drew with the greatest relish and which he returned with the utmost affection and gratitude".

K.L.S.

## JAMES KEIR TABERT

In 1930 a new headmaster decided that our standards could be improved by starting our own preparatory form. He advertised for a trained and experienced primary-school teacher to take charge of it. The Mercers' Company concurred in the appointment of J. K. Tabert, on the condition that he took a London degree as an additional qualification.

Thus came to Mercers' a remarkable schoolmaster and a very determined man. He took a science degree at Birkbeck, moulded our new First Form, started the school scouts, played in our orchestra and gave increasingly to all our activities.

He was a gifted player of all games and, as a young cricketer, was invited to join the Somerset County Club. After training at St. Luke's College, Exeter, he came to teach in London and played football both for Dulwich Hamlet and for Woking. But on his appointment to Mercers', he gave up his own games' prospects and devoted his talents to improving the school games. He did, however, play for, and later captain, the Old Mercers' Football Club and had much to do with their success in the Old Boys' Cup.

In all he did his standards were of the highest. His meticulous black-board work, painstaking teaching and methodical thinking were reflected in the success of our preparatory form; a success which rapidly filtered up through the school. He expected from his pupils, and even from his friends, the same standards which he set himself. Some found him a hard task-master but there are very many Old Mercers who recognise the debt they owe to him for instilling a discipline from which they know they will always benefit.

If he did not suffer fools gladly he could deal with them with sympathy, but anything slovenly, careless or sub-standard he could not abide; and could deal with this too!

Following the appointment of Gordon Allen as second-master, J.K.T. took over the games and raised the standard still higher. As a coach he made the same demands he made in the classroom—nothing but the best. He had a rare eye for faults and five minutes of any game would tell him all he wanted to know.

"Tab" had always wanted to teach. If "to hear the bugle and not to doubt" defines greatness, here was a great schoolmaster. To Muriel, friend of so many of us, who nursed him with such loyalty during his last long illness, and to his Old Mercer sons Jim and Peter, we offer a deep sympathy. To Keir, our thanks.

H.G.A.

### *J. K. Tabert—Memories of 1934-43—and later*

Prep. formroom, top floor, turn left, the end room on the left opposite 3A. It is the last day of term, and twenty-five small boys

each with his duster and bottle of furniture polish, are busily rubbing their old-fashioned solid wood combined desks and seats. No ingrained inkspots or carvings were tolerated in J. K. Tabert's room in those days. The insides of the desks were clean and tidy, too: files stacked on one side, text-books on the other, all with the spines uppermost so you could see which was which, all carefully protected with brown paper, a technique which has stood me in good stead in more recent years when my own children wanted their school books covered in clear plastic.

The little blackboard behind the teacher's desk, with a list of words on it every Friday, spellings to be learnt for the regular test the next Monday morning. I wonder if he was taught that drill at St. Luke's, where he trained? Certainly they turned out in Tab. a superb teacher; and if, from my present professional position, I can recognise that the methods seem in memory to be largely chalk and talk, teach and test and teach again, they had all the virtues and none of the vices of traditional approaches. They included, too, a fair share of the more informal "playways" and "activity methods": tests round the desk; personal projects; drills in the form of games. He was, of course, in those early days of his career, essentially a class teacher: I seem to recall that we had Boon for Scripture, and GG for History, but in memory at least, Tab. took everything else. Later, he specialised more in Maths. We did not know that he was reading for an external London degree, and it was many years later, after the war in one of those "après soccer" sessions in a convenient hostelry, that he recalled for me the day when he went along to the Senate House to stare at those rows and rows of results, unable to find his name and fearing that he had failed, until the person he was with (was it George?) showed him his name among the pass lists.

But I suppose it was the Tab. of the sports fields that stands out in most of our memories. A quick fifty, or even a hundred; six over the hospital wall or into the pavilion; four off the back foot, the ball gliding over the grass down the hill towards the 1st XI pitch; and then, a couple of hours later, tormenting the other side with a sustained spell of bowling with the seam, interspersed with some more cunning slow stuff. Or in the winter: hard into the tackle, away with the ball, a pass slid with mathematical accuracy inside the opposing half-back, a quick dash up the middle to the edge of the box, ready to lash in the return, with either foot, or to jump his own height to head it goalwards. It was Tab. who convinced me that I could kick a ball with my left foot as easily as with my right; it was Tab. who put me—the smallest thing he had ever seen, so he said—I was under 5 ft. until I was 16—on the right wing at the age of 10 in that under XV side which went on (without me as a regular member) to become the best soccer side of its generation, and the backbone of post-war O.M. sides. And those O.M. sides were the stronger, and the happier, when Tab. himself would play in them, showing that skill and fitness rather than age is what keeps you going.

Inevitably, as the years passed and people moved away, they saw

less of him. Sadly, too, in recent years, he was seen less by those O.M.s of the thirties and forties who were still in London. But he was never far from our thoughts. It was Tab., along with his colleagues like GG, George, Jim and the rest, who taught us that it is men, not measures, that matter. "Clear Thinking" did not stop in the Head's study; it permeated the staff-room and it lived in the likes of Keir Tabert. Through him, we too are able, if we will, to "walk tall" as he did.

Leon Boucher.

## **CIVIC GUILD OF OLD MERCERS**

The following constitute the Court of the Guild for 1974-75:—

*Guild Master*—A. H. Hall.

*Guild Renter Warden*—M. J. Herniman.

*Guild Junior Warden*—W. R. Lewis.

*Guild Assistants*—All Past Guild Masters, N. Watson, A. D. Saward, B. G. Hazell.

*Honorary Clerk*—K. H. Neville.

*Apprentice Warden*—M. J. Herniman.

At the 30th June, 1974, the membership of the Guild stood at 102, of whom 22 were liverymen and 80 freemen. During the year the following were elected Guildmen : O.M. E. J. Vernon (Staff 1951), O.M. G. C. Willis (1932-37), O.M. H. Winsley-Stolz (1941-42), O.M. H. R. Taylor (1917-20), Old Collyerian H. C. Ford (C1926-32), A. J. Symonds (son of Old Mercer and Guildman D. Symonds), and G. M. Edwards (grandson of O.M. and Past Guild Master Howard Crane). There were three resignations.

On the 19th October, 1973, the Guildmaster (B. A. Brewer) entertained Guildmen and their friends at an informal reception held in Tallow Chandlers' Hall. After refreshments, a talk was given by Mr. R. H. Monier-Williams, Clerk of the Tallow Chandlers' Company, on the history of the Company. This was followed by a perambulation of the Hall under the expert guidance of Mr. Monier-Williams. Then the company returned to the Main Hall and were entertained with a musical concert given by students from the London College of Music.

In March, 1974, the Guild Master arranged for a party of Guildmen and their friends to visit the Post Office Railway. After the visit the party went to the Courthouse of St. Andrew's, Holborn, for refreshments during which the Vicar, the Venerable G. B. Timms, gave the party some account of the history of the Courthouse and its beautiful Hall.

The Annual Installation Dinner took place in Tallow Chandlers' Hall on 14th June, 1974, with the newly installed Guild Master, Arthur Hall, in the Chair. The Dinner was attended by seventy-five persons including Guildmen and their guests. The Guild had the pleasure of welcoming as their official guests the Chief Commoner,

Mr. John T. Yates, M.B.E., the Master-Elect of the Tallow Chandlers' Company, Mr. Peter Davey, M.A., the Presidents of the Old Mercers' Club and Old Collyerians' Association, and the Headmaster of Collyer's School. The toast to the Guests was proposed by Guild Assistant Neville Watson, to which the Chief Commoner replied. Immediate Past Guild Master Brewer proposed the toast to the Guild and the Guild Master replied. During the Dinner the company was entertained with music played by the Langham String Quartet, the members of which are students of the London College of Music whose Director is Dr. Lloyd Webber, a member of the Guild.

The Court again brings the Guild to the attention of Old Mercers, their sons and grandsons in the hope that they will join, if they are interested in the objects of the Guild, which are, primarily, to uphold the customs and traditions of the City of London and encourage Old Mercers and others to become freemen or liverymen. The Court would be very pleased to arrange sponsors for anyone wishing to take up his freedom and to assist him, as far as it lies within its power, to become a liveryman. In the first place write to the Honorary Clerk, K. H. Neville, 4 Highbury Close, West Wickham, Kent.

### **HONOR DEO LODGE, No. 3562**

The installation on 7th November last, as Worshipful Master of the Lodge, of Bro. Commander B. J. J. P. Robinson, R.N. (following his serious illness over the past two years) was a source of great joy to all the brethren. Bro. Bernard was initiated into the Lodge in 1932 by W.Bro. William Paterson, having been proposed into it by W.Bro. Jimmy Grant.

W.Bro. H. J. Goldner was invested as Treasurer in succession to W.Bro. K. M. Scott, L.G.R., who had occupied that office over the past sixteen years. The brethren expressed their warm appreciation of Kenneth's able administration of the Lodge finances over so long a period.

The Lodge has suffered the loss of two of its senior members : W.Bro. E. H. Day on 11th December, 1973, and W.Bro. D. E. Oliver, L.G.R., on 6th April, 1974. David Oliver was a former Director of Ceremonies and also Chaplain to the Lodge. Both brethren will be sadly missed.

On 29th October last, W.Bros. G. H. Searle and R. G. Williams were honoured by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master with London Grand Rank.

There will not be the customary Ladies' Festival (a dinner and dance usually held in June) this year.

R. G. Williams, *Lodge Secretary.*

## **HONOR DEO CHAPTER, No. 3562**

A most enjoyable year has been concluded with E.Comp. Arthur Cutting as First Principal and E.Comps. B. A. Rollinson (Rolly) and George Milne as Second and Third Principals respectively. During the year E.Comp. K. A. Williams has been honoured by the First Grand Principal with the rank of P.Asst.G.Soj and E.Comp. R. G. Williams appointed to London Grand Chapter rank.

The Chapter suffered losses in the deaths of E.Comp. D. E. Oliver and Comps. N. W. Williams and F. G. Wormald.

The following were elected for the year 1974-75 :—

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

E.Comp. G. Milne—Second Principal.

Comp. H. J. Goldner—Third Principal.

Old Mercers, who are already Freemasons and who would like information concerning the Chapter, should contact E.Comp. F. W. Yardley, L.G.C.R., Scribe E, at 5 Gloucester Road, Hampton on Thames, Middx. (Tel. 01-979 1454).

## **OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE DINNER**

Thanks once again to the good offices of David Dyer, a company of some 25 O.M.s gathered at St. Catherine's College, Oxford, on Saturday the 23rd of November. As ever, they had come from far and wide, as ever they provided a reunion of former staff and pupils of the School.

Thanks to a most excellent map provided by Leslie Johnson, the Convener of these occasions, everybody arrived without getting lost and, having enjoyed the pre-prandial sherry, sat down to a meal which said much for the high standards of one of Oxford's newest Colleges. It was an informal meal, and afterwards we circulated to meet old and new friends. A list of those present is given below and for those unfortunate enough not to be there, I can only quote the last line of Leslie Johnson's letter to those who were invited :

"If you cannot make it, head for Cambridge and we will look out for you next year."

Thank you again, David and Leslie—here's one man who was there and will take the Cambridge trail in November '75.

The following O.M.s were present :

George Andrew; Bill Blease; Derek Chandler; Roger Coles; Richard Cousens; Harold Daniels; Dicky Dawson; David Dyer; Stanley Epps, his guest, Jim Fairbairn; Norman Fosh (the President of the O.M. Club); Kenneth Gray; Michael Harman; Graham Ives; Michael Jepson; Leslie Johnson; Alan McMurtrie; Jack Morgan; Stuart Moss; John Murrell; Michael Nash; Fred Robinson; Peter Stevens; Harold Whate; Tony Williams; Michael Groser.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Autumn 1974

Dear Dicky Dawson,

Twenty years ago I joined the C.C.F. at Mercers'; so did R.S.M. R. L. Stannard, M.M.

On Monday, 29th April, 1974, I went to the City of London School, where Lt. Col. Campbell presented him with a cheque on behalf of the Officers of that C.C.F. contingent and some Old Citizens, including Brian Ash and myself. This was to mark his retirement at the age of 65.

Ron Stannard joined the 3rd Battalion Coldstream Guards in 1927, the beginning of a distinguished army career. He remembers with justifiable pride being selected N.C.O. i/c G.O.C. Middle East, General Haining's personal guard, in 1938. By 1939 he had gravitated into the rôle he was to follow for most of his working life, that of W.O. Instructor. Appointed R.S.M. in 1941, he saw the war in the Western Desert, Palestine, Egypt and in Libya, where he won the Military Medal in 1944. The H.Q. School of Infantry, Warminster, was the last regular military establishment to benefit from R.S.M. Stannard's influence. He continued to sort and make men from boys by joining the C.C.F. as a School Staff Instructor, coming first to Mercers'.

As I was issued with trousers, B.D., pairs one, my 36 inch share of an unbelievable roll of ties, neck khaki, and a pair of dull, unpolishable cast-iron boots, my immediate impression of him was coloured by awe and terror. But I hope many O.M.s will remember that kindly, fatherly, erect figure, standing characteristically with his thumbs under his B.D. breast buttons, smoking a pipe outside an army tent in the gathering dusk. He towered above the clouds of midges that bugged the rest of us, a huge man with a huge heart.

After a brief spell at Westminster, he apparently continued to be a mixture of soldier, schoolmaster, parent and nursemaid to some further two thousand cadets at C.L.S., while experiencing the demise of militarism and the fresh accent on adventure training. (I actually sat and heard the C.L.S. C.O. asking cadets to compromise over long hair, and at least to clean their boots. Although I must admit that if the R.S.M. stood behind us now and asked if he were hurting me, I would have to answer yes!) When he arrived at C.L.S. he was greeted with words of praise from the officers for the Old Mercers cadets, his protégés, who had preceded him.

Within seconds of seeing me at C.L.S., he asked me if I could still do a Right Turn. On the wall in the Contingent Office were the armorial bearings of the H.A.C., of which he is still a member. The plaque had on the back the signatures of several Old Mercers: Graham Parsons, Willy Geers, Tony Blackley, Tim Bell, Paul Whittaker, Graham Hunt, John Murrell, David Walton, among many of us who presented him with this when the School closed.

I was a little surprised at the detail with which he recalled names and events at Mercers' and I was delighted to discover that he appreciated so much the Headmaster's belief in the value of cadet force training. Despite my affection for Messrs. Andrews, Bullen and Fairbairn and their attempts to teach me the finer universal elements, I believe Haden and Stannard did more for me in my career. Or perhaps they just scared me into believing in the significance of the Aeneid and saluting-to-the-front-by-numbers in the making of TV programmes!

Clearly Ron enjoyed those four years at Mercers' and would like even now to hear from anyone who knew him there. By the way, he was not aware that the Old Mercers' Magazine existed. Perhaps you would be kind enough to send him a copy of the next edition.

As his last C.O. said of him: "he doesn't give up". Ron Stannard is now starting on a new career as an oil painter with vague dreams of living permanently in the villages of the French Pyrennees where he takes his annual holiday and which he loves. On behalf of my contemporaries I wished him and his wife Caroline a long and happy retirement. They may be contacted at his home at 9 Senrab Street, Tower Hamlets, London, E1 0QE.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Robinson (1952-58)

3/68 Ireland Road,  
Panmure, Auckland,  
New Zealand.  
27th June, 1974.

Dear Editor,

Thanks for sending me the notice about the "Final Whistle". As you see I am now in New Zealand, having left Barbados in November last year. Perhaps you would be good enough to see that my change of address is passed on to the Club Secretary.

It is strange how some things work out as sometime in the late 1940s my wife and I seriously considered coming to New Zealand and it has taken us all this time to actually make it here. And this largely by force of circumstance.

We both had teaching contracts in Barbados, arranged by us with the government there, but on seeking to renew them, we were told that the new immigration laws had come into effect and that we had to be regarded as newcomers—this meant going through rigorous medicals and having our finger-prints filed with the police. We flatly refused to do the latter and so were unable to renew our contracts, leaving work-plans unfinished. You see the Education Department had no tie-up with the Immigration Department. So, despite having made serious plans for a further period and building a house there, we were obliged to leave at very short notice. As it happens, had we

stayed on in Barbados, we would not have been able to get into New Zealand, where we have joined up with our son who came here from Sydney; the laws here have changed too, recently, as you may have heard. Stories are also getting about that "Pommies" are baited: in our experience we have not seen it or suffered it. Perhaps some of this goes on in the factories and in the taverns, but in getting about the shops and locality in general we have found nothing but friendliness.

Here in Auckland we are enjoying good weather and only get slight frosts, giving place to sunny weather by day. Rain is heavy at times and is in fact urgently needed to fill the lakes supplying hydro-electric power. With the increase in demand for power and some spells of dry weather, the situation is more than ever critical now.

As far as the work-force is concerned, there is no doubt that more "workers" are required as most industrial concerns are under-staffed. More teachers are needed, but maybe the Government are not yet ready to pay for sufficient number of teachers to bring the ratio of pupil/teacher down to the desired level: I think the present ratio would be about 1 : 35. We all love it here and are very glad we came. Kind regards to you all in London.

John Pincott.

B. W. A. Ordish (1904-1911) writes from Australia :

I am writing to let all know that I am still perfectly happy, and very lively still over here in this glorious country.

My daughter, Hilary, saw an advertisement which said that this room was vacant. As they had been Druids for years, they had a nice "pull", and I moved in at the end of October. I am so very comfortable and happy here. It is a very well planned place, all the flats and quarters set in gardens with large lawns (which I help to keep in order). The families here have spoiled me completely, and so my room, with most of my old "lares et penates" round me, is a nice place to be in.

I wonder if you would be good enough to let the O.M.C. know my new address? "Archer Wing, Druids Grove, 588 Lower Northeast Road, Campbelltown, SO. Australia, 5074". I do get notices of their events now and again—all seem terribly expensive in these times.

There was some talk of my possibly returning to U.K. but Hilary and all said it would be silly, as I was so happy here and becoming so well fitted to become a good Aussie. Then my dear old sister, Dolly, in Brightwalton still, and bright as a button at 92, said I should hate going back there now as things had altered such a lot. So here I am thoroughly enjoying life. The other seven blokes in this "bachelor" wing are a very good lot of old boys, and there is hardly ever a hard word among us. I am lucky to have a room on this side of the wing and, as I sit here at my old desk, with my window wide open—except for the inevitable flyscreen—I look out across to the Adelaide Hills

which are always interesting and delightful to look at. Just now they are dim in a mist of rain which came suddenly this morning after some days of heat and sunshine. Temperature yesterday was 96°F., but now has dropped to 47°F.—pleasant as a change, and the rain saves my legs from going out to change lawn-sprinklers all day. I have a long flower border to resuscitate, and that gives me some pleasant evening hours weeding and thinning out seedlings. Altogether I am enjoying being a fully-fledged pensioner!

Brother F. (F. J. Ordish (1904-1911)), and his two daughters seem to have a good life in Warwickshire. He is still very active in his garden, and Pamela, the surgeon, has a very busy life.

Matron, Mrs. Finch, and I are buddies, as she knows every place I was ever in, having trained, etc., in various hospitals round U.K., and she is particularly interested in Sussex and Hampshire. Michael sends me "West Sussex Gazettes" every week or two, also the "Hants Magazine", and then she and I have a good "yak" together.

This week the place will be busy celebrating Christmas. Tonight one of the Lodges is entertaining us with song and refreshment, etc., and the womenfolk of the staff are now busy decorating the Hall, a spacious air-conditioned room where we have our meals.

During my varied life the good training I received in committee work with O.M.C. has paid off very well . . . Oh, the memories that brings . . . such wonderful evenings and such lovely visits to various "waterholes" as we term them here. They were good days.

Dear Dick,

One or two additions to the interesting information contained in the O.M. Magazine for 1973 occur to me.

To the obituary notice of W. G. Bailey on page 16 by D. E. O. (O.M. Oliver?) perhaps should be added a reference to his elder son, John, who lost his life in the war. John was a fine runner and at one time held the school mile record. This was eventually lowered by M. J. Holden in 1954 to 4 mins. 40 secs., a good time for a schoolboy on the grass track at Grove Park. W. G. Bailey graciously presented a cup on that occasion to mark the breaking of his son's record.

The photograph on page 22, and the accompanying article by David Vermont, remind me that Titchen (Colet) not only became an officer in the Navy, but took up rugger with much success. He gained a number of caps for the Navy, which he once showed to me, as his former housemaster, with proper pride.

Welford, besides his other skills mentioned there, played the trumpet very well and performed at least one solo at a school concert. As I remember, his father was also an expert player, and no doubt taught his son.

The picture of Harvey Williams, with the account of his musical success at Cambridge, reminds me that I once gave him some coach-

ing, after he had left school, in the enlightened days when some knowledge of Latin was required for entrance to that University.

Yours sincerely,  
W.L.S.

90 London Road,  
Bromley, Kent, BR1 3RL.  
13th May, 1974

Dear O.M. Editor,

As an elder Old Mercer, I was delighted to be at the "Final Football Supper"—it was a magnificent "Banquet"! The three cheers for me so kindly proposed by O.M. Marchant continue to ring in my ears!

I "kicked-off" at 18.30, leaving after midnight, and am grateful to Tommy Hollings for the drive home, still *compos mentis*!

Incidentally, on my walk from Cannon Street Station, I popped into one of my favourite City haunts, the very ancient Jamaica Inn (St. Michaels Alley), and then along London Wall (Old and New) to the very modern City Jacket.

I am also proud of the fact that there were five Mazinkes at Grove Park, namely this Octogenarian, O.M. Paul who captained the 2nd Eleven and played for the 1st, his wife Gwen, who used to join in the hostelry revelries, O.M. Richard and his son, Robin Nigel, who sadly cannot become an O.M.

Yours sincerely,  
C. Mazinke (1905-07)

Lane End Cottage, Humbly Grove,  
South Warnborough,  
Basingstoke, Hampshire.  
(Long Sutton 226)  
2nd November, 1974

Dear Mr. President,

I was delighted to receive your letter of 29th October inviting me to become an Honorary Life Member of the Old Mercers' Club.

It would give me the greatest possible pleasure to accept this signal honour and I would like to express my very warm appreciation of this very kind and gracious gesture. I should be grateful if you would be good enough to convey my sincere thanks to Dick Dawson and George Milne for their sponsorship.

Your kind good wishes on my retirement are very gratifying and I am so pleased to be able to meet all my Old Mercer friends in the years to come.

Yours sincerely,  
Geoffrey Logsdon.

## NEWS OF OTHER OLD MERCERS

*John Wearing* has seen *W. G. Worth* (1953-58) and *S. M. Pocklington* (1953-58) during the past two years. Life in Cornwall sounds idyllic—"The big city holds no charms for me now. I'm an inveterate provincial really".

*John Squirrell* (1934-38) is settled in Australia. He makes no comment on the Test series just ended but one feels that, as a batsman, he would be no friend of Denis Lillee.

*Harold Caffyn* (1910-15) wrote from New York asking for a "History of the School"—his cheque for five dollars was gratefully received by the Treasurer. "I hope the value of the 'mighty dollar' will not have deteriorated too much before you are able to effect collection" was Caffyn's comment.

A telegram from *Douglas Beggs* from Montreal regretting his absence from the Last Football Supper. "I am currently establishing O.M. soccer tradition through coaching so all is not lost. Regret you blokes are ageing so quickly".

Our Treasurer met *Freddie* and *Mrs. Elliott* in Guildford recently and reported that Freddie seemed to have made a good recovery from his serious illness early in 1974.

## MISSING MEMBERS

A. C. Bishop	1913-21	319	A. G. Kennard	1897-1903	
A. R. Blackman	1942-49	873	J. A. D. Kerr	1932-35	467
E. G. Bloor	1903-07	361	J. King	1914-17	555
E. N. Brailsford	1930-35	606	The Rev.		
B. Braithwaite	1938-42		H. J. Kingston	1906-11	
G. P. Brown	1900-02	123	P. R. Likeman	1952-58	876
W. W. Brown	1932-37	489	J. P. Norman	1931-38	599
K. L. Cameron	1942-47	665	D. H. Orman	1943-49	690
B. J. Chapple	1948-53		G. A. Pannell	1957-58	
S. R. Chester		369	R. W. Paynter	1939-43	
K. G. Chisholm	1948-55		J. E. Piggott	1898-1903	277
B. Y. H. Christmas	1905-13	86	S. M. Pocklington	1953-58	
M. J. Cumergen	1947-55	820	E. J. Purdie	1945-55	785
R. Davie	1882-91	242	R. J. Radford	1945-55	780
P. E. Dawson	1929-34		E. H. Riches	1898-1902	215
Lt. Col. D. S. Doig	1908-13	602	D. E. Rigby	1942-49	689
J. S. Duncan	1943-50		K. J. D. Rush	1957-58	823
D. J. Farrar	1937-43		D. M. Smith	1924-28	683
Capt. I. R. Ferguson	1905-07		J. A. Soar	1913-16	
A. L. Ford	1926-33	541	W. B. Spencer	1928-33	420
D. J. A. Fowler	1944-48	686	P. A. Stables	1932-36	476
M. R. Fowler	1943-48		W. F. Stevens		864
M. Fraser	1943-47	666	A. J. Stitson	1950-54	772
Dr. C. E. Fenton	1909-16	459	F. M. Strachan	1911-16	531
G. A. Goodeve	1945-52		A. P. Stringer	1950-52	749
R. A. Green	1918-24		D. Thompson	1951-56	
P. F. Green	1936-43	578	C. R. Tucker	1938-43	575
D. M. Harry	1950-56	809	M. J. D. Webb	1948-53	888
N. W. J. Hooper	1948-55		D. J. Wigglesworth	1950-55	795
D. A. F. Hulls	1943-47		S. Willey	1934-37	595
N. H. Jennings	1926-29	360	M. H. Woods	1951-58	903

## CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- C. D. Archibald, Esq.  
Briarwood, 7 Chichester Drive, Sevenoaks, Kent. 1931/36 (663).
- F. W. Bates, Esq.  
13 Greenbury Close, Chorleywood, Herts WD3 5QT. 1917/22 (343).
- B. D. Beggs, Esq.  
18 Winterdyne Mews, Andover, Hants. 1946/54 (920).
- The Rev. T. A. Bold  
21 Woodlea Road, Worthing, Sussex BN13 1BP. 1907/09 (95).
- G C. Budd, Esq.  
2308 Barrington Drive, Toledo, Ohio 43606, U.S.A. 1947/52.
- A. W. L. Clarke, Esq.  
2 Cotswold Close, Malvern Park, Ashford, Kent. 1913/18.
- L. R. Clayton, Esq.  
58 Buttermere Court, London, NW8 6NS. 1952/57 (922).
- P. R. Cornick, Esq.  
121 Dowason Road, Hyde, Cheshire SK14 5HJ. 1955/58 (832).
- K. J. Davies, Esq.  
14 Harecombe Rise, Crowborough, Sussex. 1956/59.
- E. R. Doubleday, Esq.  
12 Rowan Close, Sway, Lymington, Hants SO4 0BA. 1952/58.
- D. A. J. Dyer, Esq.  
28 Union Street, Oxford OX4 1JP. 1955/58 (916).
- D. M. Fowler, Esq.  
45 Suffolk Road, North Harrow, Middx. 1943/47.
- G. J. Fox, Esq.  
Brooklands, Harbeck Drive, Harden, Bingley, Yorks. (874).
- M. J. Givans, Esq.  
2A, 92 Stanley Maise Street, Stanley, Hong Kong.
- J. Gransbury, Esq.  
White Cottage, 20 The Gateway, Woodham, Woking, Surrey. 1945/51 (921).
- J. M. Hayton, Esq.  
Flat 6, Ridgwood, Knoll Hill, Sneyd Park, Bristol. 1945/52.
- B. G. Hazell, Esq.  
282A Woodham Lane, New Haw, Weybridge, Surrey KT15 3NT. 1949/56.
- S. A. Heylin, Esq.  
The Corner House, Brook Lane, Alderley Edge, Cheshire. 1945/49 (919).
- L. C. Huddleston, Esq.  
Coach House, West Drive, Pittville, Cheltenham, Glos. 1933/42 (596).
- D. A. F. Hulls, Esq.  
P.O. Box 150, Dacca, Bangladesh. 1943/47.
- W. F. L. Johnson, Esq.  
29 Grand Court West, Grand Drive, Leigh on Sea, Essex.
- The Rev. M. H. Kirk  
Fosbrooke House, Lytham, Lancs FY8 5RE. 1910/14 (924).
- R. L. Kittle, Esq.  
21 Plough Lane, Sudbury, Suffolk. 1955/58.
- I. T. Lawman, Esq.  
Hambleton, 16 Chalk Lane, Cockfosters, Herts. 1933/38 (515).
- G. Logsdon, Esq.  
Lane End Cottage, Humbly Grove, South Warnborough, Nr. Basingtoke, Hants.
- D. J. Moys, Esq.  
5 Winchester Park, Bromley, Kent. 1953/58 (854).
- D. Munds, Esq.  
"The Flat", 68 St. Ann Street, Salisbury, Wilts. 1949/56 (918).
- J. Murrell, Esq.  
17 Harrow Court, Stevenage, Herts. 1952-58.

- L. A. Paxon, Esq.  
 "Ten Tee", Ellerslie Lane, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex TN39 4LJ. 1921/28  
 (661)
- B. D. Percy, Esq.  
 17 Forestdale, Southgate, London N14 7DY. 1949/51.
- M. W. Powell, Esq.  
 8 Harrington Road, Brighton, Sussex. 1943/46.
- R. H. Ramsden, Esq.  
 Hethersett Old Hall School, Norwich NOR 42X, Norfolk. 1944/51  
 (717).
- A. A. Redmond, Esq.  
 Bank House, High Street, Odiham, Basingstoke, Hants.
- Professor J. G. Scadding, M.D., F.R.C.P.  
 5 Astor Close, Kingston Hill, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT2 7LT.  
 1918/25 (460)
- J. N. Shine, Esq., F.I.A.  
 10 Pound Crescent, Marlow, Bucks SL7 2BG. 1899/1906 (328).
- G. C. E. Snowling, Esq.  
 White Cottage, Lucas Way, Haywards Heath, Sussex RH16 1JR.  
 1944/53.
- C. H. H. Spencer, Esq.  
 The Pent House, Oakfield, Pampisford Road, South Croydon. 1922/29.
- I. W. Spink, Esq.  
 Bridge House, Trumps Green Road, Virginia Water, Surrey. 1943/49  
 (706).
- C. F. Spooner, Esq.  
 215 Chichester Road, Cleethorpes, Humberside DN35 0JP. 1944/51  
 (716)
- J. R. Spry, Esq.  
 16, 2nd Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex. 1921/26 (691).
- Sir George F. Stedman, K.B.E., C.B., B.A., M.C.  
 Fosters, Main Street, Oxtou, Southwell, Notts NG25 0SD. 1906/13 (75).
- P. A. Stevens, Esq.  
 Greenholm, Burnt Hill Way, Boundstone, Farnham, Surrey. 1947/57  
 (875).
- J. B. Storey, Esq.  
 34 Pix Road, Letchworth, Herts. 1955/58.
- J. E. K. Tabert, Esq., M.B., B.S.  
 10 Winton Close, Luton, Bedfordshire. 1946/55.
- P. W. J. Tabert, Esq., B.Sc.(Eng.), M.I.C.E.  
 10 Rogerson Road, Booragoon, Perth, Western Australia 6154. 1951/58.
- C. J. Tattersall, Esq.  
 53 Gorselands. Andover Road, Newbury, Berks. 1942/49.
- R. F. Tong, Esq.  
 18 The Avenue, West Wickham, Kent. 1947/54 (760).
- Sqdn. Ldr. E. B. Townend-Dyson  
 13 Mediterranean Court, Tigni Sea Front, Sliema, Malta G.C. 1920-27  
 (582)
- R. F. Vanhegan, Esq.  
 Flat 6, 104 Bulwer Road, New Barnet, Herts. 1935/41.
- D. J. Walton, Esq.  
 c/o 23 High Street, Sevenoaks, Kent. 1954/58.
- R. W. R. Whiteland, Esq.  
 10 Pettits Close, Fulbawn, Cambridge, CB1 5BJ. 1950/54 (896).
- H. Windsley-Stolz, Esq.  
 1 Askew Road, London, W.12. (872).
- P. J. Wolff, Esq.  
 83 The Chine, Winchmore Hill, London, N21. 1936/41.