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Membership Fees

Membership Fees due by 1st September 2022 for season 2022/2023

Vice President £264

Life member £3000

Five year Vice President member £1296

Patron £132

Coach £100

Player £130

Student £85

additional Sibling £75

U6 £80

Touch Rugby £50

Parent of player £55

Social member £110

Please see the club website for further details about membership and pay your membership subscription as soon as possible.

Tributes to Former Players

Sadly, several former members of Harrogate Rugby Club have died recently and another former Harrogate player, Captain John Hamilton, is remembered, 40 years after his courageous act in the Falkland Islands. Below are tributes to Geoff Bowden, Oliver Grant and John Hamilton.

Geoff Bowden

Former Harrogate Rugby Club player, Geoff Bowden, died 25th May 2022 and his funeral was held at Harrogate Crematorium on Monday 13th June 2022 at 2.20 p.m.



Geoff played full back for Harrogate 1st XV in the 1963/1964 season and 1968/1969 season.

He also played for the Harrogate Georgians 1959/1960 (Below) and 1965/1966.

Back row left to right: ? , John Gascoyne, Joe Aspdin, Mike Thompson, ? , ? , David Gaunt, **Geoff Bowden**, Tim Tugman. Front row left to right: Peter Spencer, Mike Sharp, Norman Hesp, Andy Hynes (Captain), Peter Barrett, Malcolm Towns, ? , Martin Greener.

Harrogate All Stars 1st May 1971 (below)



As part of the club's Centenary celebrations an exhibition match was arranged at Claro Road between an All Star XV and an under 30s team on the 1st May 1971. **Geoff Bowden** played for the All Stars. Back row left to right: J.B. Witton, M.A. Hymas (Northumberland and Yorkshire), B.M. Towns, M. Newport, A.M. Edwards (Leicestershire), S.R. Higgs, (North of England and Yorkshire), D.R. Chappell, M.J.P. Dalton, J.G. Holmes, F. Armstrong (Northumberland). Middle row left to right: J.R. Gascoyne, J.E. Smith, K. Butler-Smith (Chairman), J. Young (British Isles, Wales and Yorkshire), H. Bradley (Groundsman), S.D. Wilkins (Western Australia), E.D. Saunders (Scottish Trials, Leicestershire, Coach). Front row left to right: I.R. Shackleton (England and Yorkshire), J. Crosby, R.R. Baldwin (Yorkshire), M. Rees (Welsh Trials, Cheshire and Yorkshire), **G.F. Bowden**, M.H. Mordy, D.R. Stubbs, Colin Moore (Referee).

Thomas Oliver Grant (5th September 1933 - June 2022)



Harrogate Rugby Club is sad to announce that former player Oliver Grant has died aged 88. We send our sincere condolences to his wife Sally and his family, daughters Vivian and Hannah and son Malcolm.

Thomas Oliver Grant was born in Hawick on 5 September 1933 and won six caps for Scotland, two in the second-row and four in the back-row, between 1960 and 1964. Educated at Hawick High School and employed as a production study manager, Grant made his debut for Hawick against Langholm in 1954 and went on to play more than 200 games for the Greens. He was also an exceptional sevens player.



After playing for the South of Scotland for two seasons and in Scotland trials, Grant made his debut against Ireland in Dublin in February 1960, having been called into the team on the eve of the match as lock Frans ten Bos had not sufficiently recovered from an ankle injury. Scotland won the game 6-5, courtesy of a Ronnie Thomson try and a drop-goal from Ken Scotland.

Grant then played against England at Murrayfield (England 21 - 12 Scotland) the next month and was part of the Scotland pack – by this stage in his customary No 8 berth – on the ground-breaking short tour to South Africa in April 1960. During this tour he adopted the technique where the No. 8 picks up the ball from the back of the scrum.

Grant had to wait until 1964 to return to Scotland duty. He put in an outstanding performance for the South in a 0-8 defeat against the touring New Zealand team, captained by Wilson Whineray.

He then played in the 10-0 Murrayfield victory against France and in the epic 0-0 draw against New Zealand (18th January 1964 - Photo below. Grant is seated right of photo)), before winning his final cap against Wales in Cardiff.

Work subsequently took him to Yorkshire where he won county honours while playing at the Harrogate club. He also represented the Barbarians, scoring a try in an 8-17 loss to Newport in 1962. Later, he became a coach, making an impact at Cambridge University and London Scottish. Work commitments took Oliver south to Yorkshire in 1965, and, on hearing he was resident in Knaresborough, the Harrogate committee got in touch to coax him out of semi-retirement as they targeted the Yorkshire Cup that season. He pulled on his boots again, and was part of a strong squad, also featuring Wales and British Lion hooker Jeff Young, which won their way to the final, where they defeated Wakefield 9-8 at Otley.



1964/1965 Harrogate RUFC 1st XV (above) Back row left to right: John Pawson (Devon), Martin Gaunt, Gerry Wood (Yorkshire), Derek Loud (RAF), Alan John (RAF), Steve Hipps (Yorkshire), **Oliver Grant** (Scotland), Chris Rotherham (Yorkshire). Front row left to right: Jeff Young (Wales), Mike Beilby, Steve Wilkins (Yorkshire), Mike Hymas (Captain, Northumberland), Charley Mitchell, Don Chappell (Yorkshire), Iain Reid (Army).

1964/1965 Oliver Grant played for the Barbarians.

Representative Honours

Steve Hipps and **Oliver Grant** played for Yorkshire on 6th November 1965. Grant also played for Yorkshire against Notts. Lincs. and Derby, South of Scotland, Ulster, Cumberland, Northumberland, Durham, Cheshire and Lancashire.

In the fixture against Headingley on Saturday 20th November 1965 a young Ian McGeechan was playing in the centre for Headingley.

Yorkshire v South of Scotland at Claro Road

On Tuesday 12th October 1965 Yorkshire played the first ever game against a South of Scotland team at Claro Road in a friendly fixture. Harrogate had three players in the Yorkshire side, second row Steve Hipps, hooker Jeff Young and **No.8 Oliver Grant** who joined Harrogate from Hawick in the previous season. Oliver's brother David of Hawick played opposite him in the South of Scotland team. The Scotland legend, Jim Telfer, also played in this game.

Yorkshire Cup Winning Team April 1965 (below)



Back row left to right: Bob Fall (Trainer), A.G.I.Wood(6), D.R.Chappell(4), S.R.Hipps(5), J.G.Cummings(15), N.D.C.Smith(11), D.J.Loud(12), M.Newport(7), **T.O.Grant(8)**. Front row left to right: J.M.Milburn(13), I.P.Reid(10), J.Young(2), Mike Hymas(3), C.E.Mitchell(1), S.D.Wilkins(14), C.L.Rotherham(9)

Harrogate 1st XV 1965/1966 (below)



Back row left to right: Ken Butler-Smith (Chairman of Selectors), N.D.C. Smith, J.F. Stephenson, M.D. Mordy, D.F. Chappell, J.F. Pawson, A.G.I. Wood, W.S. Robertson, K.J. Giddings, J.E. Smith, D.G. Roberts (Secretary), R.H. Fall. Front row left to right: J.M. Milburn, S.R. Hipps, S.D. Wilkins, **T.O. Grant (Vice Captain)**, J.G. Cummings (Captain), J. Young, C.E. Mitchell, M.A. Hymas, C.L. Rotherham. **Other 1st XV XV players during the 1965/1966 season:** M.W. Bielby, D.J. Loud, Mike Newport, Malcolm A.C. MacDonald, Bill Morgan, E.G. Acons, P. Hesford, J.W. Hartley, C.G. Shipley, **1st XV playing record 1965/1966:** won 28, drawn 1, lost 5, points for: 372, against 158.

Georgians playing record: won 19, lost 9, points for 401, against 220.

'A' XV playing record: won 12, drawn 2, lost 12.

Hamilton, John, Gavin (Captain).



Born in Harrogate on May 15th 1953, John played in the front row for Harrogate Colts in the 1970s and went on to play for the Georgians. He joined the army and became an officer in the Green Howards and was seconded to the SAS. He commanded the Mountain Troop of D Squadron of the SAS in the Falklands Expeditionary Force. His first action was to lead his group in what was an exceptionally hazardous and inevitably futile attempt to land on, and pass through, the notorious Fortuna Glacier on South Georgia. He and his men were finally rescued, but not before two helicopters had crashed in the attempt, such were the horrendous conditions. The pilot of the third helicopter attempt succeeded in

taking off 17 totally exhausted men in one go and received a DSO for his effort.

Described as a classic SAS officer, Captain Hamilton then saw action at Pebble Island and Mount Kent before leading a reconnaissance patrol into the hills above Port Howard where he and his signaller, moving forward to get a closer look at enemy positions, were trapped by an Argentine force sweeping down behind them. They shot it out until the former Colt was hit. "You carry on, I'll cover your back," he told the signaller and continued firing until he was killed. The signaller was eventually captured.

Captain John Hamilton aged 29 years, former Harrogate Colts rugby player was awarded a posthumous Military Cross. To mark this month's 40th anniversary of the end of the Falklands War, June 1982 – when Argentina surrendered – military historian Lord Ashcroft has written about the last hours and legacies of two heroic British service personnel. His interview was published in the Daily Mail, with the daughter of Sergeant Ian McKay, who was shot dead just two days before the conflict ended. The tribute to this brave man is available on the internet:

(<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10885075/LORD-ASHCROFT-recalls-day-Queen-paid-teary-eyed-tribute-Falklands-hero.html>)

