

CLAPPER

On behalf of the Committee I would like to wish all the Association members and their families, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It has been a year of change in that, with the opening of the refurbished clubhouse there is now a focal point for the Association activities. Another change has been the retirement as Chairman of Alan Webber. I know I speak for everyone when I say that without his driving force in the past few years, the physical presence of the Association - Norbury - would not be what it is today. For that we are all very, very grateful (and the club is financially a healthier establishment.) Alan stays on as a committee member and the new line-up can be seen on the back page. Not that new really, perhaps next year you will find some time to devote to the Association.

All the best for Christmas.

John Mansi, Chairman.

Inside: Latest score from Down Under: Australia 1 - Sir Robert Armstrong 0.

Free anti-AIDS kit - see page 43

Big Ron's bid for plum Clapham Job. "It's early doors yet" says Atko.

Thatcher talks to the Clapper - exclusive.

(If you get fed up reading this crap how do you think I feel - I've got to write it. - Ed).



A NIGHT AT THE RACES

It was a typical end-of-the-season race meeting at Santa Anita, California and as usual, the Old Xaverians fairly swelled the crowd to capacity. The recently refurbished Clubhouse Stand was filled to the brim with some 130 odd punters of varying ages, size and sex, the ladies wearing their Ascot finery, hats excepted.

Early betting was brisk and business like; Tote Tarts Briony and Diane Webber taking huge bets, ably assisted by Lynn Leathem and Mick McLaughlin, among others. Ben "the Guvnor" Benedict kicked off an orgy of Champagne popping, courtesy of an early winner, and importer Mick Power was gratified to see his contaband two cases disappear in record time. (What have we here? Xuppies? Ed) Ben later fell through the Tote shop whilst extremely tired and emotional several hours later.

The spectacle of Race Night organisers Mick Powell and John Newman tic-tacking to Steward Leathem on Tote returns was reminiscent of the good natured salutes of Everton & Liverpool fans to each other and served only to confuse the hopeless Mad Boy who kept running over shouting "what?" before announcing the mega-buck returns to lucky punters. Most returns incidentally were between £2.50 and £3.50 for a 50p stake and regardless of the results throughout the evening, everybody had the face of a winner after each race. (Except perhaps Mick "the Punter" O'Flynn who sportingly had the biggest bet of the evening on his own horse "The Celt" - unplaced.)

The other Flynn boys Hamdan and Maktoum, owners of equally successful horses appeared with their entourage to be having "a bit of a party" in the Silver Ring up by the bar. Singing and dancing was interrupted only by the roar of "They're Off!" (Pause for smutty jokes).

Meanwhile the Powell/Newman Tote Accumulator was coming apart at the sides. Eleven punters in the first leg failed to find a winner between them in the second. A few moments tension while the stewards decreed that all should go forward to the 3rd place where Delia "Lucky" Leathem (the editors Mammy) collected the £30 spoils for a £1 stake and danced up to the bar with sons in tow.

The Tricast race was just as difficult but Mad Boy and Marie Longworth shared a £20 dividend, thank you very much! As the night wore on, the revellers got further into the spirit of the game and takings at Tote and Bar were a club record. Thanks are due to the many men who spared an hour to serve drinks or collect glasses. Royboy Hartnett was to be found around midnight in fear of that hour in case he turned into a pumpkin or something. "Cinders" had just been to the Ball where he played for the (victorious) 1st XI and then his horse won for him. John Wollard was a keen punter on the night and a most welcome senior racegoer (contemporaries please note), Projectionist Alan Webber showed all seven films without snapping any of them and Jim Thornton did sterling work on the door for the whole evening. Big thanks to those two.

Cont...

Reasons for leaving were tiredness, impatient (!)(?) wives, or sunrise. Everybody had a good night, regardless of whether they troubled the pay-out clerk or not, and a repeat next year is demanded and granted.

When the Cricket Section sent a note to Peter West, congratulating him on his career in Cricket Commentating and wishing him all the best in his retirement, they were gratified to receive this reply.

4.9.86

Dear Mr Myatt

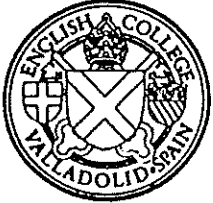
Bless you for your very kind and thoughtful letter. I have had something like 450 but none nicer than yours. It's a great struggle to answer each one personally but a comfort to know that I've had many friends 'lout there'.

Semi-retirement only: no free-lance gives up altogether if he can help it. Did I say semi? Have had offers from both TV channels in this (Glo'shire) neck of the woods and, to cap it all, an invitation to cover the tour of Australia for the D.Tel. Their cricket correspondent has resigned. Lifelong ambition fulfilled. On cloud nine. All my previous winters spent in water or ice on sundry rugby fields.

Hope you will be interested in my auto biog due out Sept 18. 'Flannelled Fool and Muddled Oaf'. My thanks to Mr Kipling. Not the worst title for a nut case on cricket and rugby???

I captained the Streatham CC Sunday side shortly after the war! Good luck to the COXCC opening bowler and my warmest thanks again.

Peter West



TELEF. 29 31 02

COLEGIO DE INGLESSES

46002 - VALLADOLID

SPAIN

25th September, 1986.

My dear Ted,

Excuse this unexpected letter from an 'Old Boy' of Clapham College, but I have just received the last number of the Clapper, and it brought back to my mind a question I have been longing to ask for a long time. Can you give me any information about two of those who studied with me in the College - Luis Pantelini and George Beard? We lost touch when I left the College to go the Seminary, and have never got in touch again since - but I always remember them with affection and prayers.

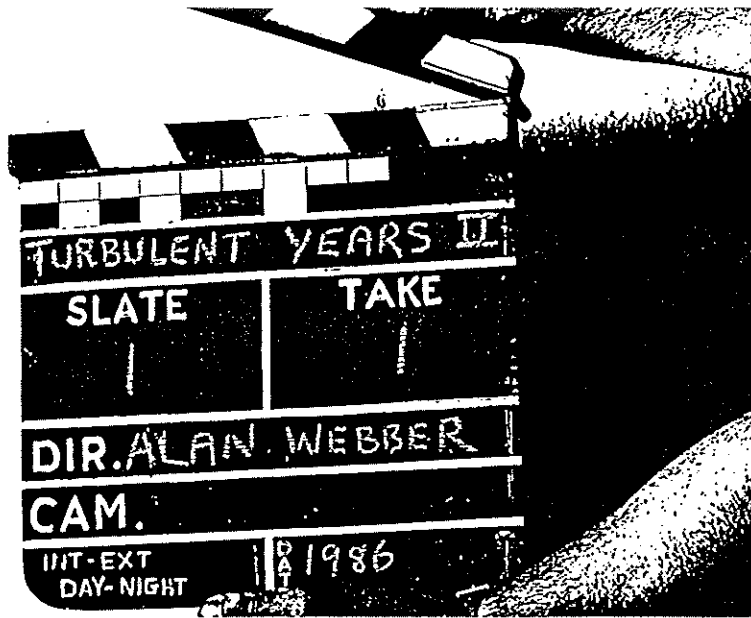
For myself, I am now 74 and have just celebrated my Golden Jubilee of the Priesthood and am feeling well, but unable to get to Britain again, owing to my heart and arthritis - but I still remember the College with great affection, especially Brother Dunstan, who awoke in me my love for science, which I have never entirely dropped. Now that I am retired I run a small practical Research Laboratory, destined to study the applications of biology to medicine and agriculture, which keeps me busy. Every time I handle a test tube I remember Br. Dunstan!

Please let me hear from you when you have a moment - the Clapper does a grand job of keeping us more or less in touch with a Place we all love!

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely in Dño.

David L. Greenstock. Prot. Ar.



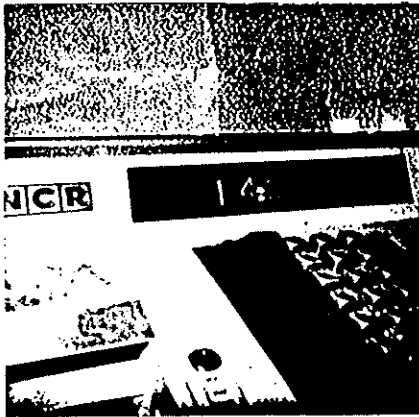
Clapper -
board (GEDDIT?)
Presents.....



OPENING SCENE

DATE CAPTION "OCT 1983"

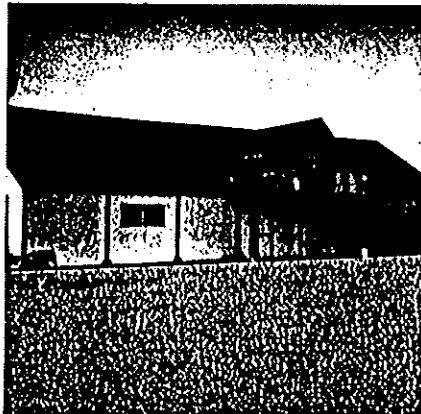
A SMALL DARK CLUBHOUSE
IN SOUTH LONDON.
CROWD SCENE OF WILD CHEERING
AS NEW CHAIRMAN IS ELECTED.



SCENE 2

DATE CAPTION "SEPT 1984"

CLOSE-UP OF TILL SHOWING
BAR PROFITS FOR YEAR. (£14.00)

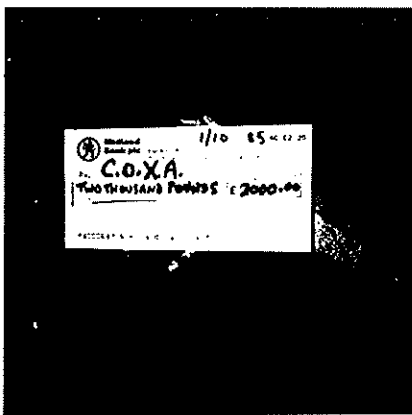


SCENE 3

DATE CAPTION "OCT 1984"

VIEW OF C.O.X.A. POLICE
TRAINING CENTRE AT NORBURY.

VOICE OVER "..... AND NEW
MANAGEMENT CONTROL SYSTEMS TO BE
SET IN MOTION BY CHAIRMAN....."



SCENE 4

DATE CAPTION "OCT 1985"

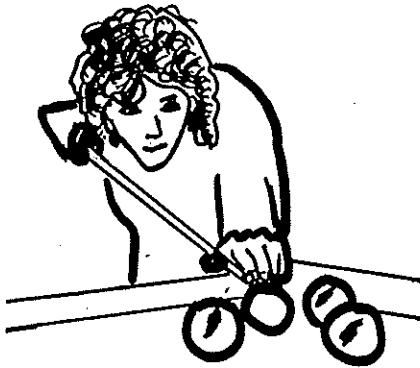
SCENE AT A.G.M.

VOICE OVER "..... AND BAR PROFITS
HIT ALL TIME HIGH OF £2000,
THUS PROVING OUR OWN POLICE
PROCEDURES WORK....."

SCENE 5

DATE CAPTION "SUMMER OF 1986"

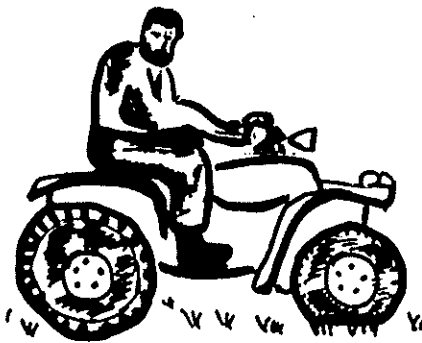
SHOT OF NEW, TWICE AS LARGE
REBUILT CLUBHOUSE, FEATURING
THE FIRST FEMALE MEMBER
PLAYING ON NEW POOL TABLE.



CLOSING SCENE

DATE CAPTION "OCT 1986"

CHAIRMAN RETIRES,
AND DRIVES OFF ON HIS TRACTOR
INTO SETTING SUN
(OR NORBURY RAIN).



CLOSING VOICE OVER TO FADE OUT "..... DURING CHAIRMAN'S REIGN FROM '83-'86, THE
CLUB HAD LOWEST BAR PROFIT EVER, THE HIGHEST BAR PROFIT EVER, A HIGH NUMBER
OF BREAK-INS, CHANGED THE CONSTITUTION TO INCLUDE FEMALE AND EXTENDED
MEMBERSHIP, SPENT A LOT OF MONEY ON GROUND MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT, SPENT
ALL THEIR MONEY ON REBUILDING CLUBHOUSE IN ORDER TO HOUSE THEIR OWN
FUNCTIONS, LOST THE USE OF CLAPHAM COLLEGE FOR SPORTS TRAINING; SO LET'S
HOPE THIS IS THE END OF THE TURBULENT YEARS"

150

Dear 150 Club Members,

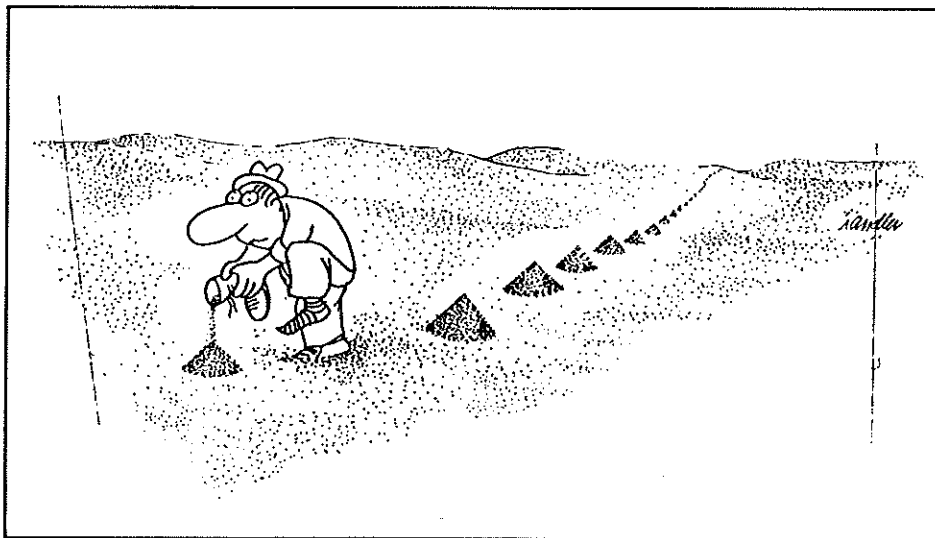
For the new 150 Club financial year Sept 86/Aug 87 I have changed the numbers, this is for ease of accounting and I apologise to those members who were attached to their numbers.

The 150 Club, last year, made £829 profit with prizes of over £1,100 (I am still chasing £100 in debts which could increase the profit to £930).

For "non members" I should like to outline the 1986/87 150 Club - at present we have had no draws - I have 181 tickets in force and the potential profit for the current year is over £1,000. The 181 tickets involve about 80 members and it would be nice to expand the membership.

If you are not on the list and would like to join please send £12.00 (for one ticket, or multiples for more than one) to Scotty at 70 The Drive, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 1EE, or fill in the enclosed standing order form.

PLEASE RESPOND TO THIS PLEA I HAVE YET TO COLLECT ONE NEW MEMBER VIA APPEALS IN CLAPPER OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS.



Standing Order Mandate(your account number)

Manager Bank (add address of your bank)

.....

.....

Commencing 1986 Please pay £..... at the start

of every month to C.O.X.A. (Account number 90232467) The

Midland Bank, 117 High Road, Balham, S.W.12.

.....

Please sign and return to me at Scotty MacDonald
70 The Drive
Beckenham
Kent
BR3 1EE

150 CLUB WINNERS 1985/86

SEPTEMBER

J. BURKE £ 35
A. MORRISON £ 10
J. MCCARTHY £ 5

NOVEMBER

S. MACDONALD £150
L. MCLOUGHLIN £ 20
M. BRIEN £ 10

JANUARY

J. GALLAGHER £ 35
R. PULLEN £ 10
M. COLLINS £ 5

MARCH

P. DONOGHUE £ 35
M. CARRUCAN £ 10
M. BRIEN £ 5

MAY

R. MURTAGH £150
E. TOPE £ 20
A. WEBBER £ 10

JULY

J. FLYNN £ 35
R. MURPHY £ 10
P. DORAN £ 5

OCTOBER

V. ROSZKOWSKI £ 35
J. MCELLIGOTT £ 10
P. BARETTA £ 5

DECEMBER

D. SANDERS £ 35
T. MOYNIHAN £ 10
S. BURKE £ 5

FEBRUARY

D. QUIN £150
T. PURCELL £ 20
J. DAVORN £ 10

APRIL

R. JAMES £ 35
M. GALTREY £ 10
F. JORDAN £ 5

JUNE

P. TEHAN £ 35
J. HOWARD £ 10
A. MORRISON £ 5

AUGUST

T. O'SHEA £150
M. GRACE £ 20
E. TOPE £ 10

AIDS UPDATE

13th December

Christmas Party at Norbury. Everybody welcome, nominal ticket price. Often, due to winter postponements, this is the last chance for a celebratory Christmas drink at the Clubhouse. Raffles, music, silly hats, live band as at opening night, back by public demand.

21st December

Childrens Christmas Party. Sunday afternoon before Christmas. Games, toys, Santa Claus and presents for all. A professional clown/entertainer will be there. Tickets from Leathem/Thornton. This is another good opportunity to broaden the scope of the Old Boys' Association.



Boxing Day

Inaugural running of the Wise Men Three, a three mile run from Norbury which will perhaps one day become known as the Turkey Trot. A serious race for all Old Boys with age group handicapping. Starting at 12 noon, we are hoping for a good turn-out regardless of the weather. Soccer players note that with a game the next day, this may just give us the edge over the opposition.



January/February

Reunion Buffet. See separate article.

February or April

COXA Casino. Following the success of the race night, our heads of vice are planning to fleece punters on the roulette and blackjack tables. Date to be finalised.

March 15th (Saturday)

St. Patrick's Night. The kind of night which, given the success of the past 3 years, I cannot believe we didn't think of before. All the family should attend, Celtic origins not obligatory, rebel nature a definite asset for one night only. Live Band and Hacksaw Haggerty and the Hen Stranglers (A.K.A. Eamon, Royboy and Mick Burke).



C.O.X.A.

KIDS XMAS PARTY.

SUN 21st DEC.

£ 2 each.

magician, games, presents,

food, maybe santa.

CONTACT ÷

John Mansi— 764·8282.

Scotty M^cDonald— 658·3188.

CLUB

SUBSIDISED

COXA OLD BOYS MASS

Two days before the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month we gathered to remember. To remember those of us who died fighting great wars, little wars and their own little wars, those of us who died whilst merely living.

In through the "back" gate where the cricket nets used to be; drive across the "paddock" between Br. Dunston's bowling green and Chris'1st year cricket square; back under the old tree just by the playground wall.

Two minutes to 11 no time to stop and stare, in through the most boring "main entrance" in the ILEA, out onto the path next to the lawn and memories of summer assemblies on the last day of term.

A quick glance and a smile at 2 Alpha; on past 1A, 1 Alpha and 2A. Through the door and over the mat, the "Plunkett Chapel"? I cannot take that seriously. Up the stairs towards 3 Alpha, into the Chapel and not a bad crowd.

Brian Sanders is serving, good, back to reality. Who is the priest? Try hard to push him back through 10 or 20 years, no good, no vibes at all, still don't know.

In the front pew on the left stands Captain Pocock, all bustling and alert with shiny shoes and hair. My God Cecil you just never change. The 1st Reading, Cecil moves up to the lectern and finds himself hiding from us behind a pillar. A quick movement to the right, oops, Cecil wrestles and then re-assembles the lectern. The Readings are read with perfection, good, back to reality.

The Homily, Fr. Stronger addresses us, he starts with a joke, he is one of us, a bit long but quite good, then stops - that's it. No mention of dead or who we remember. I think of Brian Baker and wonder who else, I think we should know, I think we should say, lest we all forget, lest we are all forgotten.

The collection, yes Father we do have a collection at this Mass, up steps young Garvey, back to reality. He's on his own but persuaded Cecil to help with a subtle piece of body movement; the bag's thrust into his hand. Row by row, person by person past the MacDonalds and Derek Rows's jacket, oops the bags got a built in anti-theft device, I don't believe it, now its gone onto K. Curtin and on up the row.

The offertry goes by, the consecration too. The Communion and we do remember them. Good Lord may they ALL Rest in Peace.

Afterwards, outside, the lawn again memories of Summer Fetes and Gymnastics displays. The Porch morning break, fresh coffee, "who's on duty?" ring the bell. "Hello Eric" back to reality.

Cont...

It's Bill Kidd and he hasn't changed either. We reminisced and Bill wondered at all its changes, "remember the staircase on the outside wall" we both said. We reminded each other that I was Form Master of 2 Alpha and he of 3A. 3A ALWAYS reminds me of Schwenk(s) and Rettner et al, there must have been others but that's the one I remember.

We stroll through the now SFX corridors and into the shiny plastic canteen. It is a good crowd, we drink coffee and chat. It was good to hear Maurice Gleeson and Dennis Quinn discussing the future and remembering the past, the Sixth Form College, the Grammar School, and the Comprehensive.

Of the many there that morning, John Mansi and I noted the following (with humble apologies for those left out) P. Ryan, H. Mellor, D. Mellor, E. Hayter, M. Ward, J. Paine, J. Cernuschi, D. Mulvihill, A. Morrish, R. Massara, D. Quinn, J. Egan, B. Schwenk, J. Cernuschi, B. Farrell, K. Keenan, W. Kidd, M. Gleeson, C. Garvey, S. Macdonald & Family, the Sanders, the Mansi's, C. Pocock, P. Brennan, E. O'Brien, B. Benedict, D. Rowe, K. Curtin, D. Slattery & Family.

Before I left I noticed Cecil and Ben making an early break for the Plunkett (that name again) Club.

We were there that morning and we remembered, lets all go back and remember next year.

E.T.

A REUNION?

There are many Old Boys in the Association who have, in recent years, played passive roles. They are (relatively) happy with the quarterly Clapper and (mildly) interested in occasional news snippets regarding contemporaries or teachers they have known. It is the intention of the Committee to hold an evening of beer and darts and conversation and cards and anything people fancy, by way of bringing those less active members into the clubhouse. We are not aiming specifically at our more senior members but make no bones about the fact that they are the people we would most like to see.

Please write, 'phone or send native with note in cleft stick if you are at all interested, young or old. State which day of the week you would prefer (even Saturday or Sunday lunchtime) and add your phone number. Ask, if you wish whether "old so-and-so" will be there because you haven't seen him for 5,10,20,30,50 years, and we will try to contact him if you cannot. Let us know if you have no means of transportation and we will pick you up around London or at a mainline station. Norbury was built many years ago by a group of Old Boys, some of whom are still around. It has recently been extensively refurbished by Alan Webber's Ninth XI and as the cultural, social, (spiritual? Ed) centre of this associaion, is the place to meet.

Write and tell me what you want to do. (No flippant requests).

THE OLD BOYS' REMEMBERENCE DAY MASS 1986

It was, by common consent, one of the best turn-outs of recent years at the Old Boys' Rememberence Day Mass at the College on November 9. We had heard in advance that several people were going to make a special effort to attend this year, and we were not disappointed. It was heartening to see the chapel full at 11 o'clock, when mass began with a minute's silence for the Dead of Two World Wars. Father Haden, a past pupil of St. Gerards School and Clapham College, and currently curate at West Wickham Parish, said the Mass. As usual, Brian Sanders served the mass and Cecil Pocock, after moving the lectern (!) did the readings. During the Bidding Prayers, we prayed for pupils, staff and Old Boys who had died in the past year, including Conor Patrick Fahy (aged 88), a near-contemporary of Nevin Payne (who was present at the Mass and looking as fit as ever).

Later, in the plush new Dining Room of the St. Francis Xavier College (the cook Mrs. Bailey, was at the Mass), and even later in the Plunkett Club, we met old friends and colleagues. Mr. Haden was deep in conversation with his former headmaster, Maurice Gleeson and with one of his parishers, John McGowan. Don Mulvihill and John Woollard were with Clapper columnist, Derrick Jones who had come from Cheltenham. Denis Hook was disappointed that Len Powell had not arrived, but Bernard Farrell (Hampshire) and Bernard Regan (Sussex) had made the long journey (the former is chief customs and excise officer at Hern Airport, the latter chief immigration officer at Gatwick). Tony and June Morrish had journeyed from Bedford (they missed last year!), but had to leave early for lunch with 'Flog' Hughes. Some of the dozens of Old Boys who had travelled shorter distances were John Noulton, Gerald Rowe, Rudolph Masara, Denis Quin, Harry Mellor, John Keenan, Maurice Ward and Bill Kidd.

The Old Boys' Mass is a serious occasion. However in some ways it is the central point of the Old Boys' social calendar. We hope that ever more Old Boys and families will make an effort to attend the Rememberence Day service in the College Chapel next November.

Garvey

(Two Mass reports this year, for which thanks to Eric Tope and Colin Garvey - Ed.)

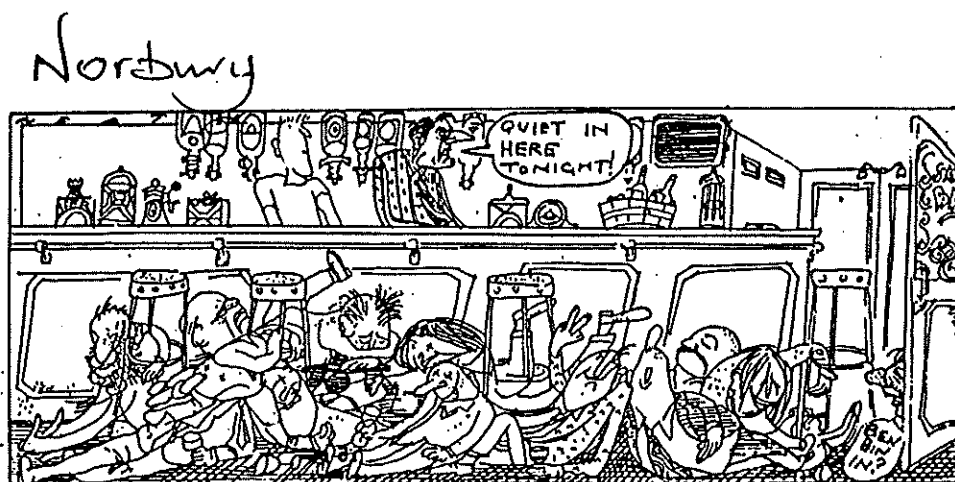
CLUBHOUSE FUN

Saturday 15th October saw a small, but quality crowd of contestants for Eamon Taggart's Quiz Evening. Despite your correspondent's ignorance of the true identity of Walker Smith * or the composer of the Unfinished Symphony *, eventual Champions John and Brendan Williams knew almost everything. The omniscient couple carried off first prize of a crate of Grolsch to the good natured slagging off from assembled losers.

Lawrence "I'm a lumberjack and I'm o.k." Mullane amazed the assembly with his vast knowledge of wood and woodworking. A shame that there were no questions on balsa or dove tail joints. His team mate Roy "Beergut 100" Hartnett helped out by knowing who directed "Once upon a time in the West" * (Cries of excitement from the back - settle down there; Ed).

Ben "Zoot-suit" Benedict would appreciate support from the readership in his claim that Glen Campbell was a founder member of the Beach Boys. Dave Leathem surprised himself with the knowledge about "The Teenagers'" lead singer * and almost everybody knew the athletes portrayed in the film "Chariots of Fire". *

The quiz was a lot of fun for all involved and a modest profit was raised in addition to the increased bar takings. The attendance of various wives/girlfriends was a welcome indication that our clubhouse has come a little way from the drinking den of old. Thanks are due to Eamon and he is still keen to run a "Mr. & Mrs." competition which will be very funny, I think. Your support please.



* Sugar Ray Robinson; Bertoz; Sergio Leone; Frankie Lyman; Harold Abrahams and Eric Liddle.



Purcellballs

1st Old Boy : Eamon Taggart likes a song doesn't he?

2nd Old Boy : If he likes them so much, why is he always murdering them?

"They shot the wrong Kennedy" - John the Scottish cab driver reminiscing about Scotland's 5-1 defeat at Wembley some years ago (Kennedy was in goal for Scotland).

"Last Orders at the bar" - Alan Webber at 8 o'clock Saturday 22nd November (Bar eventually closed 11.15 p.m.)

"There were two (-) on the pitch; the ref and Tom Purcell".
Fourth XL player following a match with a lady referee.

"THE O'FLYNN BOYS"



DICKIE TONY MICK.

"Blimey, you're right! They've got themselves some military advisers."

Sightings : Seen in the city.....

Noel Curran, now a manager at the Royal Bank of Canada sends regards to the boys at the bar. Noel's wife Toni presented him with a baby girl, Jamie on 23rd July, 1986. Congratulations.

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