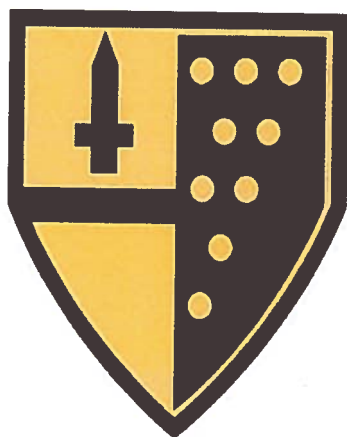

**LONDON CORNISH
R.F.C.**



**Old Gits Tur
Guernsey 2008**

LONDON CORNISH R.F.C.



A message from Julian Hocking L.C.R.F.C. President

I think it would be fair to say that the London Cornish Veterans or Old Gits as they are often called could not be in finer fettle as we embark on this historic occasion with our first tour to the Channel Islands. I understand our opposition, Guernsey Vets are looking forward to our arrival and have heard that although we have not played many games (6 in 58 years) we were victorious in our last match and are planning to match the ferocity of our forwards and speed and handling of our backs with the majority of their historic double winning side of 1999. It should be a good game.

We are all hoping and expecting that the Guernsey crowd will react with the same stunned shocked disbelief that greeted our last game against the Science Polytechnic of Paris over 50's. They really could not believe what they had seen. It was a truly extraordinary 'sporting' spectacle. Never to be forgotten by those who witnessed it.

Our last overseas tour to Prague was memorable in many ways (lap dancing dwarfs etc) but turning up on the wrong weekend for the tournament was a high point. So, if we turn up on the correct day and the right venue this year I feel the tour will be a massive success (even without the dancing dwarfs) whatever the outcome of the game.

It is wonderful to see such a great turnout from the London Cornish Hall of Fame and we all look forward to what will be, I am sure, a memorable trip.

Julian
President
LCRFC

Richardson-Evans Memorial Playing Fields, Roehampton Vale, London SW15 3PQ
www.lcrfc.co.uk

Hon Secretary: David Fletcher, The Folly, 1c Terrace Gardens, London SW13 0TD
Home 07771 663591 Office 020 8744 7130 Mobile 07771 663591 Fax 08701 336529 E-mail
david.fletcher@unitrans.eu.com

Itinerary- a loosely unconnected set of events that will possibly occur in no apparent or rational order

FRIDAY 25 JAN

18.00 (latest): meet zone F, Gatwick South (this is the terminal the Gatwick Express comes into) for check-in

18.15: reconvene in airside hostelry (TBD)

19.45: flight departs

20.40: arrive Guernsey and transfer to hotel

SATURDAY 26 JAN

06:15: fitness, tactics, lineout calls, backs moves (Mark Robinson's hotel room)

08.00-10.00: breakfast in hotel

11.00: meet in hotel bar for 5 minute walk to Guernsey RUFC (coach also provided)

12.00: LCRFC Veterans v GRUFC Veterans 12.01 match ends

14.00: watch LCRFC 1st XV v GRUFC 1st XV, London SW 3 league match)

20.30: following a messy afternoon at the rugby club we will reconvene in a bar (TBD)

SUNDAY 27 JAN

08.00-10.00: breakfast in hotel

Rest of morning: free / golf. There is a golf course attached to the hotel and all tourists are welcome to pointlessly smack a small ball around some fields for a few hours. Please note: fee is £17, clubs are available for hire £7, you **must bring your own golf shoes**. Informal arrangements will be made on the day. The Di O'Reagh golf trophy will not be played in Guernsey but will take place later in the year in the UK.

13.00: court (in hotel bar) followed by transfer to airport

15.00: flight departs

15.55: arrive Gatwick

3. Flight/accommodation details

Gatwick - Guernsey, depart 19.45 25/1/08, BE919

Guernsey - Gatwick, depart 15.00 27/1/08, BE912

St Pierre Park Hotel, St. Peter Port. Rooms will be pre-allocated.

4. Those travelling independently

If your flight gets in around the same time as ours and you want to meet at the airport, let me know in advance. Otherwise we will see you in the hotel bar at about 9.15 on Friday evening.

21st Century History of London Cornish Veterans – Old Gits

It all started with an exceptional tur to Italy, the tur party stayed in Chioggia (pronounced Todger) a small shit hole near Venice. The match against Rovigo Vets was of an unbelievable standard. Many of the locals had come to watch and could not believe their eyes. It was remarkable that they played the national anthems and videoed the match. On arriving at the ground the Old Gits discovered that the opposition were on average ten years a man older. Jon Newton was outpaced by a 57 year old which he has never forgotten. You can imagine just how proud the Old Gits were to stuff them when Simon Weale scored a last minute winning try. The two matches against Belsize park were both played in good spirit. The Under 45 match was far too competitive and I for one could not watch. The over 45 match saw Caron Evans-Evans (captain) score a brilliant individual try that involved only him and no one else at all. Simon Mallock duly converted and then the two of them spent the rest of the game congratulating themselves. The day finished off in the pub near the park neither name is recalled at the time of writing, followed by some hardy stalwarts moving on to another bar to play drinking games.

The Prague tur went a little wrong when the tur party turned up a week before the Veterans weekend. Not to be put out the Old Gits played against Old Tottonians who put out their weakest side with a few of their committee. In truth we got stuffed. However, further disappointment occurred when they allowed Jack Whillans to score in the second half. The tur party then made the unanimous decision not to play against Doncaster RFC. A particularly disastrous drinking game saw the tur party unable to count in roman numeral sequence up to 'IX', embarrassment occurred when the chairman instructed the game to number of in sequence to his left starting with one' – sadly 'nine again proved too much. Given that seven of the tur party were involved in finance this was a dismal affair.

Against Oxpo the Old Gits had an evenly contested match that was played in great spirit. Fletch hid in the car park but did finally get to play, Wittet organised the opposition and played for them. Some of the match is on video and is used for a government 'care in the community' promotion.

2001	v Rovigo Vets	Away	Won something like 25-20
2003?	v Belsize Park Under 45	Away	cant remember
2003?	v Belsize Park Over 45	Away	Won about 15-5
2006	v Old Tottonians Vets	Away	Lost 7-35 –probably a lot more
2007	v Oxpo	Away	Won around about 20-10

Caron Evans-Evans

(soon to be appointed official Old Gits historian)

GCSE A' Level History of Guernsey Module Two
1. Guernsey is situated: A near Cornwall, B near the Isle of Man, C in Germany
2. Guernsey is famous for: A people who don't pay taxes, B brown cows, C cheese
3. People from Guernsey are called: A rich, B very rich, C Germans
4. People who collaborated with the Germans in WW2 come from which country: A Guernsey, B France, C Cornwall
5. People from Guernsey spend Christmas: A counting their money, B eating cheese, C not paying taxes
6. People from Guernsey don't like people from Jersey because A they invented cows, B they are richer, C the Germans liked them more and they are jealous

LONDON CORNISH R.F.C.



January 2008

Dear Prince Charles

I should once again like to invite you on our rugby tour. Again as Duke of Cornwall you would be made to feel very welcome with the London Cornish R.F.C. Veterans - or Old Gits as we are sometimes called. We will be departing from London Gatwick on Friday 25th January and returning on the Sunday 27th January. If you are able to travel with us we would be honoured. However, I do understand if you wish to make your own travel arrangements as I believe you have access to a boat and a plane of your own.

If I may give a little advice and warning to your Royal Highness. Recently I watched a film about the USS Indianapolis, where lots of sailors were in the Pacific Ocean when their boat was blown up by the Japanese. Sadly many of the men were eaten by sharks. I should like to reassure your Highness that were our plane to crash in the water and we were to be left in the sea, we would let you use the life boat first as you are royalty. Also to be frank, some of the team can float on their own without assistance and a few of the others probably wouldn't fit into the life boats.

Anyway this probably won't happen. Again please wear an old suit and pair of shoes as it is likely to be a bit muddy and Fletch, Mad Dog, Westy and the others can be a bit rowdy and spill things.

Yours sincerely

Julian Hocking

Julian Hocking

Richardson-Evans Memorial Playing Fields, Roehampton Vale, London SW15
3PQ



**CLARENCE HOUSE
LONDON SW1A 1BA**

From: The Equerry to TRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall

5th January, 2008

Dear Mr Hocking

Thank you for your letter dated January 2008 in which you very kindly invite The Prince of Wales to join the London Cornish RFC tour to Guernsey on 25th January, 2008.

Very sadly, His Royal Highness's diary does not allow him to accompany you, but he has asked me to send his very best wishes for a most enjoyable and successful tour.

On a personal note, I should like to point out that I was a senior military commander and I now spend a good deal of my time responding to requests for His Royal Highness's time. Usually I reply to requests for His Royal Highness to attend Church fetes, School prize giving and other worthwhile causes. Your request is most unusual and is beyond belief. Do you not think that His Royal Highness has better things to do with his valuable time, furthermore why am I wasting my time replying to you and that other cretin who wrote two years ago. Do you not think that my job is not humiliating enough, I used to be a senior RAF officer now I spend my time writing pointless notes to religious old people and bastard children. As for you, what kind of morons are you people? Only utter twats would go on tour at your age, and I bet none of you wankers are any good at rugby. Now fuck off and don't bother me again.

Yours sincerely
Richard Pattle

Wing Commander Richard Pattle RAF

Mr Julian Hocking

The Guernsey Tourist Board

A heady mix of stunning scenery and the best of contemporary living, Guernsey is the perfect destination. Inspiring walks along the cliff paths, rambles through the rural interior or lazy days on the island's beautiful beaches, Guernsey has it all. St Peter Port, the island's capital, is a bustling harbour town, a tapestry of architectural styles that tell the story of the region's changing fortunes. Here bistros, restaurants and boutiques jostle for your attention, while in the harbour ferries are readied to take you to the sister islands. Ask anyone who's been here. Guernsey is a special place, a thriving community that welcomes its visitors with open arms and leaves a lasting impression on all who set foot on her soil.

About Guernsey: Although Guernsey is geographically much closer to Germany than the UK, it is loyal to the British crown (who as you know are Germans). This loyalty can be traced back to Norman times when the Channel Islands first became part of the English realm and forms the basis of the island's constitution.

Today the island is self-governing and enjoys the same level of independence it has had since first becoming associated with England. Well - except when the Germans invaded.

Guernsey's ability to look after its own fiscal affairs has meant that it has been able to foster a favourable tax climate. This has led to many offshore banks, fund managers and insurance companies establishing here. Their inability to pay any form of taxes has led to many criminal living here. Whilst the traditional industries of flower growing, fishing, collaborating, informing and dairy farming still play an important part, contributing both to the varied economy and to the island's character. There are also a number of high profile light industries based on the island, including Specsavers Optical Group, Healthspan, Healthy Direct, the Bundersbank, Lufthansa and the SS old boys association.

Guernsey also has its own stamps and currency, and while British pounds can be used on the island, Guernsey pounds cannot be used in the UK. Deutch Marks can no longer be used in either.

Follow the links below for further, in-depth information about the many different aspects of Guernsey's economy, constitution and political system.

www.kaiser/englishpigs.com

**London Cornish Vets
V Rovigo RFC 2001**





London Cornish Vets v Old Tottonians
Prague 2006



Above: v Old Tottonians in Prague. Our hotel in the background
Below: Fletch is last to fall down in another game of Humpty
Dumpy v Oxpo



London Cornish Vets v Oxpo
Wimbledon RFC March 2007





Name: Christopher Filor

Nick Name: Terry Tagalong

Occupation: Lawyer with a special interest in inappropriate behaviour in the workplace.

Playing Position: Back Row

Weight: 188 Kgs

Age: 12

Rugby History: London Cornish 1990 to 1997.

Reason for touring: Visit Bank Manager in Jersey.

Hobbies: Watching Giles Robinson making a fool of himself.



Name Damo

Nickname Damo

Occupation: I am only 12

Playing position: on the big slide and swings

Age: 12

Rugby History: who sent you this photo?

Hobbies: I hate Gordon



Name: Julian Hocking

Nick Name: Jules

Occupation: Printing

Playing Position: Wing/Fullback

Weight: 84kg

Age: 39

Rugby History: Truro School, LCRFC 1987-

Reason for touring: Family Holiday.....

Hobbies: Sport, food, weddings.....



Name: Richard Miles Thomas

Nick Name: Richie/ RT

Occupation: Fashion and Clothing Retail Professional

Playing Position: Alacadoo on this tour due to injury, otherwise a centre "with the ball handling skills of Bruce Grobelaar"

Weight: 15 stone. But new resolution to 'lose weight'...

Age: 36. Remarkably, only just qualified as a vet....

Rugby History: (most recent first) – Hong Kong Football Club (present), Harpenden (2005), London Cornish (1990's), New Brighton (1980's), The Henry Meoles School.

Reason for touring: A rare chance to catch up with all the lads I used to play with in the 1990's and the present squad all in one massive weekend! Hobbies: That's a hard one... Travel,

current affairs, youth rugby administration, watching sport and drinking beer. Does family count? That's about it!



Name: Coombs

Nick Name: take your pick Caron

Occupation: lord chief justice

Playing Position: centre/wing/fullback

Weight: 82kg still !!

Age: 46

Rugby History: nothing much to recall

Reason for touring: to see how age has caught with Robinson

Hobbies:



Name: Mark Robinson

Nick Name: Robbo

Occupation: Manager

Playing Position: In order of preference Openside

Flanker/Center/Fly Half

Weight: 14.5 stone, but decreasing.... honest.

Age: 42

Rugby History: Redruth & Cornwall Schools, Redruth &

Cornwall Colts, Redruth RFC and 15 years with LCRFC

Reason for touring: To once again play inside Luke Coombs, deliberately not pass him the ball and listen to him bitch about it for the rest of the weekend.

Hobbies: Not passing Luke the ball, skiing and golf.



Name: JOHN AMBROSE

Nick Name: JONNY

Occupation: ACCOUNTANT

Playing Position: FLY-HALF

Weight: 13 STONE

Age: 46

Rugby History: LCRFC AS LONG AS I CAN
REMEMBER!

Reason for touring: TO LISTEN TO GALLY'S UNIQUE
RAPPORT WITH REFEREES

Hobbies: GOLF & ALCOHOL



Name: Howard Frish

Nick Name: H

Occupation: Wine importer

Playing Position: Centre/Wing

Weight: 14 st - ish

Age: 21 x 2 + 1

Rugby History: LCRFC 2nd & 3rd XV. Prague 1992 veteran

Reason for touring: Last hurrah

Hobbies: Cricket, cycling, golf, wine, women and song.



Name: Matt Dunning

Nick Name:

Occupation: IT Consultant

Playing Position: Prop

Weight: 280lb

Age: 37

Rugby History: Bracknell - LCRFC

Reason for touring: you need a reason

Hobbies: Fishing, Rugby and Cage fighting



Name: Kevin Fox

Nick Name: Foxy

Occupation: British Rail Announcer

Playing Position: Prop/ Flanker

Weight: 14 stone

Age: 45

Rugby History: Bective Rangers R.F.C. Ireland, LCRFC

Reason for touring:

Hobbies: Talking very quickly



Name: David Whillans

Nick Name: Jack although most people ignore me

Occupation: Hen pecked husband/father/home maker and counter of Wife's beans

Playing Position: Where I'm to go – normally involves carrying a tray of drinks

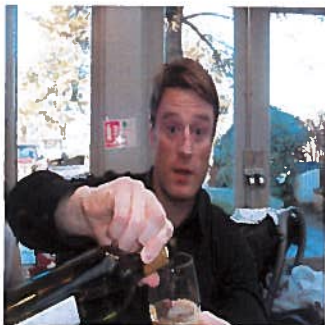
Weight: 88.7532 Kg Age: 6 ft on a stress free day

Rugby History: QE boys from 1970, OE's Barnet, Barnet, Saracens, Bath University, Sun Alliance, London Irish,

London Scottish, Twickenham, LCRFC, Farnham, Hamps/ Vagabonds

Reason for touring: Final Hurrah

Hobbies: Doing what my wife and daughters instruct me i.e. going away for long weekends without them so they can go shopping, organising holidays/tours for Simon Davenport



Name: Damian Stirrett

Nick Name: Damo, Stizza, Big nose

Occupation: IT Salesman

Playing Position: Centre

Weight: between 16.5 and 17 stone

Age: 36

Rugby History: New Brighton, Northumbria University, Northern, Ealing, Ruislip and L. Cornish

Reason for touring: Looking for an older and more mature of friends

Hobbies: Drinking heavily, Watching Sky Sports and eating pizza



Name: Gordon Banks

Nick Name: 'Banksey'

Occupation: Charity Director

Playing Position: Fly Half

Weight: 12 st

Age: 35 (almost!)

Rugby History: New Brighton RFC, Walsall RFC, England Universities, Esher RFC, London Cornish RF

Reason for touring: To enjoy one last game and to avoid the birth of my first child!

Hobbies: Not turning up for tours when previously committed and hop scotch



Name: Andrew Hey

Nick Name: Andy Hey

Occupation: Accountant

Playing Position: Wing

Weight: About right

Age: 37

Rugby History: Driffield, Leeds Uni, High Wycombe, LCRFC

Reason for touring: Unfortunately Tim Bowles didn't again in Prague so I am hoping to see this happen in opium dens of Guernsey. I want to see it and tell families of his many victims

Hobbies: Extreme fitness



Name: Steve Floyd

Nick Name: Floydy

Occupation: Development Director at Truro School in the best county in the World

Playing Position: Anywhere I'm asked to play, but usually in the backs

Weight: 11 stone 8 pounds

Age: 50

Rugby History: Truro School, Camborne then London Cornish for 11 fabulous years

Reason for touring: Forgotten what it was like

Hobbies: Staying alive and walking my dog



Name: Lance Sapsford

Nick Name: Chin it
Occupation: Genius
Playing Position: Crumpled up at the bottom of a ruck
Weight: Slim
Age: Young
Rugby History: A Level Grade C
Reason for touring: Mid Life Crisis
Hobbies: Being better than Julian Hocking

MR. McCANN

By Roger Hangreaves



More Handsome Than You @ b319

Name: Giles J. Robinson

Nick Name: Pith
Occupation: Chinese Gangmaster (Morcombe Bay Branch)
Playing Position: Post protector, or happy to stand behind P Man
Weight: Light
Age: 16, but everyone on MSN says I look older?!
Rugby History: St Columbas, Barnet, L. Welsh L. Scottish L. Cornish. Highlight was the clinging encounter with King Steelers (The only gay team in the land)
Reason for touring: Spend quality time with Gally. Hear th paedo laws are quite lax. Just love that Guernsey knitware. Chance again, to salivate at Rebecca Weales o loads.
Hobbies: Collecting Tsunami memorabilia. Making Whillar spend much more than his projected budget



Name: David Fletcher

Nick Name: Fletch
Occupation: Beanie
Playing Position: Second Row
Weight: Scale busting
Age: Not 50 and not in denial
Rugby History: London Cornish 1979 -date
Reason for touring: Another last ever tour
Hobbies: Disliking children and old people



Name: Tony Lander **Nick Name:** Crash **Occupation:** Chartered Surveyor **Playing Position:** Anywhere in the frontrow.
Weight: He can't remember the last time he was on the lighter side of 15 stone! **Age:** 40 **Rugby History:** Tony attended a non-rugby playing school and learnt his rugby under the tutelage of the famous coach, Ian Morton, at New Brighton Football Club (RU). Having played through all of their junior levels, Tony played for the 1st XV during the 1986/87 and 1987/88 seasons (he played two games in total!). Three seasons at Clifton Rugby Club (for the World famous 'Boot's Bandits') preceded his London Cornish playing career, which started in 1990/91, with his last 1st XV game during the 1996/7 season. Crash played rugby for The Bangkok British Club in Thailand during the 1994/5 season. Unsurprising to those who have played with Crash, he has not played any representative rugby.



Name: Caron Evans-Evans
Nickname: Vicar
Occupation: Teacher
Weight 17 ½ stone.
Position Prop
Age 47
Reason for touring: To play my last ever game of rugby (this will be my ninth last ever game)
Rugby History: Peterborough RFC, Old Hymierians Hull and London Cornish
Interests: I liked writing to important people inviting them on tur
Dislikes: rugby and other violent contact sports that hurt



Name: De'Ath
Nick Name: Mike Margaron
Occupation: Tube and gas-passer
Playing Position: Any not involving running or contact
Weight: Excessive
Age: Excessive, but not as old as you.
Rugby History: Cornwall under 18s and under 23s, England Medicals, London Cornish 3rds



Name: Jerry Rogers

Nick Name: "Budge" as in Budge Rogers a fellow Old Bedfordian who played for Bedford RFC and England in the 1960s

Occupation: Accountant

Playing Position: Wing 3/4

Weight: At 13 and ½ stone, 2 stone overweight

Age: 59

Rugby History: Bedford School and Newbury RFC 4ths

Reason for touring: To avoid painting the kitchen

Hobbies: Extreme canoe marathons, attempting to row the Atlantic, anything Cornish, stamp collecting



Name: Roger Jones

Nick Name: Fat Bastard

Occupation: Michelin Chef, Restaurateur and Wine Bro

Playing Position: Loose Head Prop

Weight: 13 stone 8lbs (from a previous 18stone 8lbs)

Age: 48

Rugby History: played for London Cornish for 6 years (the 1990's) including 2 years in the 1st XV, Toured Portugal (The first time), Belgium, Amsterdam & Cornwall (many times). Social Secretary for numerous years. Introduced art of post match Champagne drinking for the front row.

Reason for touring: In search of the missing Captain Vase

Hobbies: Spending vast amounts of money on fine wine (Jack be aware when it's your round).



Name: Tim Bowles

Nick Name: Westy (apparently this isn't fading with time)
Occupation: Last time we toured I put down "very little" am now doing slightly less.

Playing Position: flanker (and occasional international fly-half)

Weight: haven't weighed myself for years so I must still be 80Kg
Age: 12½

Rugby History: Feltham Young Offenders under 10's 2nd XV, 1970-2003

Reason for touring: part of my strategy for reclaiming a place in the 1s

Hobbies: Err, I'm still far too busy, not really doing anything, to have any hobbies