



THE OLD TAUNTONIANS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Edition No: 2

November 2023

A letter from the Chairman

Dear Fellow Old Tauntonians.

Welcome to the second Newsletter. Since the first edition earlier this year, we have sadly lost three members of our committee. John (Johnny) Bathurst our President, who was also Secretary for many years, Jeff White our Vice Chairman who in his own quiet way did so much for the Association, and Tony Robinson, who took over from Johnny in the organisation of both the Golf Day and the Summer Lunch.

These losses mean that the committee is very low on numbers and really needs bolstering. We are not looking for someone to fill a particular role but to provide additional input and ideas to help secure the future of the OTA. CAN YOU HELP? If anyone would like to discuss, please feel free to contact me on 07802 656988.

This edition includes some inspiring articles about some remarkable OT's. We would be delighted to receive news of similar achievements for inclusion in future editions.

Finally, my thanks to all those who have helped us through a difficult period and special thanks to Annelise Miller (staff member from 1981 - 2017), who since she joined the committee after she retired has done so much to help in so many ways. I don't know what we would do without her!

Roger Parsons

Arthur Spencer - 102 years young!



Arthur Spencer (1932 - 1940) who is 102 years old has been in touch to say that his wife Eva joined him as a Centenarium on 1st May 2023. He said that they both received Royal Acknowledgement, as is customary, but from different Sovereigns! Could this possibly be a unique story?

This truly amazing couple recently decided that their four bedroomed house (at the top of a hill) was too large for them and therefore have now decided to move to a retirement apartment in Clevedon. Arthur also mentioned that he has just given up driving after 85 years, having passed his test whilst in the Lower Sixth at Taunton's!

Roger Parsons

Lord's Honours Father of Old Tauntonian

My beloved Dad known as 'Mike' or 'Barney' was a product of Portsmouth Grammar School (1945 - 1951). H.M. Barnard was a locally renowned all-round sportsman, perhaps even the last of those who made significant appearances in the top echelons of professional cricket and football.

Signing for the 'Old' First Division Champions of England in 1952 he nailed firmly his footballing allegiances to the 'Old Enemies' mast, where he had the honour of playing against some of the legendary names of the 1950s, Charlton, Edwards, Finney, Matthews, Lofthouse, Wright, Blanchflower, Mortenson, Milburn and a young fella called Greaves to name but a few.

He played cricket for Hampshire as a professional from 1952 - 1966 scoring 9314 runs and was an exceptional slip fielder taking 313 catches. In 1961 he played a crucial role in helping Hampshire win the County Championship for the first time. He played with and against some of the all time greats of the game.

However, even from school age, Dad's connection with Taunton's was always close; in-fact a recent article in the last News and Views shows an old photo from around 1950 where he played for the Hampshire Cricket Club and Ground against the School on the small but characterful enclosed walled ground behind and to the right of the imposing 1926 school edifice. The late great Derek Tulk and Dad's life-long friend helped me name almost all the faces which I sent to the Editor after Dad's passing.



Having become a Southampton resident in the 1960s Dad's intention was to play Southern League Cricket for the OT's after his professional career; unfortunately, a life altering road traffic accident in 1969 when he broke his neck left him permanently disabled. He was 36 years old, however, his athleticism and positive approach got him back on his feet to live a busy fulfilling life, although he never played cricket again.

Though nearly five years have passed since Dad's death, it seems not a month goes past without someone contacting me about his sporting life, so imagine my surprise when the MCC (Marylebone Cricket Club) got in touch about an exhibition they were launching on 21st June 2023 at Lord's to honour Jewish cricketers in



John, his sister Emma and Karl McDermott (Lord's Head Groundsman)

which they wanted to include my Dad. Off I went with my sister Emma (another OT) and we met near the ground with a friendly face - Karl McDermott (Lord's Head Groundsman) after which we strolled directly across the hallowed turf to be met by the likes of Sir Stephen Fry, Sir Tim Rice, Theresa May, David Gower and Mike Brearley to name but a few.

Thank you for taking an interest in this story, basically a name-dropping exercise, but Stuart Wilson thought it may be of interest to the Sporting Geeks in the Association, and it was certainly one of my proudest moments in recent times.

John Barnard

Cricket

Twenty-five years after their merger with Romsey Cricket Club, Old Tauntonians and Romsey as they are now known, will play cricket in Division 1 of the Southern League in 2024. A season that was always expected to be a successful one, culminated in promotion from Division 2, the club finishing second behind Waterlooville. The club, captained by Charlie King also reached the semi-final of the Southern League T-20 competition and also had the League's top bowler Matthew Bampton 29 wickets and top batsman Harry Tulk 561 runs.

The club runs three Saturday sides, two midweek sides, together with a flourishing Colts section which runs sides through the age groups from U9 to U15.

The midweek A side won the Border League midweek competition losing only one game. The club is now based in Romsey playing home matches at Romsey Sports Centre; all new playing members and supporters are welcome.

Stuart Tulk

Tony Baker (1951 - 1958)

On 5th September 2023 I was invited to attend The Ageas Bowl, home of Hampshire Cricket, for the unveiling of a memorial photograph of Tony Baker.

Tony had been honorary treasurer of Hampshire County Cricket Club from 1978 - 1986 and chief executive from 1986-2001. He had played a major part in the moving of the home of Hampshire Cricket from Northlands Road to the Ageas Bowl in West End. The photograph hangs in the Atrium of the main pavilion.

Among those present were Rod Bransgrove (Chairman of Hampshire Cricket Club), Paul Baker, Tony's son, Tim Tremlett (1972 - 1974) and John Barnard (1980 - 1982).

Brian Osman

Deaths

John Adams	(1944 - 1949)
Johnny Bathurst	(1941 - 1945)
Geoffrey Beauchamp	(1934 - 1939)
Dennis Bright	(1937 - 1940)
Robert Brookes	(1941 - 1946)
David Cox	(1957 - 1950)
Charles Grant	(1960 - 1965)
Hedley Edmonson	(1941 - 1946)
Charles Hayward	(ex staff)
Ray Holloway	(1944 - 1951)
Peter Hunt	(1939 - 1944)
Christopher Jewell	(1959 - 1964)
Ken Lane	(1938 - 1945)
Tony Robinson	(1957 - 1962)
Jeff White	(1942 - 1951)
Edwin Willis	(1945 - 1951)
Bill Wright	(1952 - 1959)

2023 Summer Reunion Lunch



The restructured Summer Lunch was held on July 12th at Ampfield Golf Club. Attended by almost 40 OT's, partners and friends, the lunch was a great success. For a number it was their first OT event and there were meetings with some who hadn't seen each other since leaving Taunton's many years ago!

The many items of Taunton's memorabilia on display were of great interest, in particular a photographic history put together by the College in 2010 to celebrate the 250th anniversary. The lunch was held in a lovely room, with views of the golf course and the club kitchen produced an excellent lunch. A note for the diary, next year's lunch will be on Thursday 18th of July at the same venue.

Roger Parsons

Jumping for Joy!



Thanks to the great start in life given to me by Taunton's, I've enjoyed a naval career over nearly 40 years, visited every continent and ocean, and absorbed the discipline needed for obedience to my instructor of the Red Devils (the army's parachute regiment display team) during a tandem jump from 13,000 feet. The first 45 seconds were in free fall, reaching 120 mph, until the chute opened and we floated down to terra firma as I sang a song for my wife: The Carpenters' 'I'm on the top of the world, looking down on creation.'

It was Jean's nine years of dementia that inspired me to raise money for Alzheimers Research UK. It is forecast that 50% of the population will be directly affected by dementia, either as victims or carers. Look around. That's nearly 38 million in the UK alone. If you want to help beat it, please visit JustGiving and search 'Charles Wylie.' Anything you can comfortably afford will help fight the battle.

Charles Wylie

Memorial Service for Johnny Bathurst



A memorial service was held at Highfield Church on Saturday 16th September for our President John (Johnny) Bathurst. The service conducted by OT Reverend David Heatley was well attended and included a number of OTs.

Emmie, Johnny's eldest Granddaughter, spoke lovingly of time spent with her Grandad. Nick, his eldest son, spoke with humour and respect of his Father and John Martin made an excellent speech on behalf of the Association.

The venue was most appropriate; the church nearest to the old school and where Johnny and his wife Cath were married. The adjacent junior school was where they met, and the Highfield Hall was where they attended dances when courting.

Following the service a most pleasant reception was held in the Hall.

Roger Parsons

The "100" Club

Recent Winners

January 2023	£20
<i>Dave Watson (1962 - 1965)</i>	
February 2023	£20
<i>John Russell (1955 - 1963)</i>	
March 2023	£20
<i>Aurthur Spencer (1932 - 1940)</i>	
April 2023	£20
<i>Eric Yates (1950 - 1962)</i>	
May 2023	£20
<i>Brendan Brophy (1957 - 1960)</i>	
June 2023	£20
<i>Norman Hardisty (1943 - 1949)</i>	
July 2023	£20
<i>Terry Hall (1961 - 1964)</i>	
August 2023	£20
<i>Brian Osman (1951 - 1958)</i>	
September 2023	£20
<i>Geoffrey Budd (1955 - 1962)</i>	
October 2023	£20
<i>Brian Osman (1951 - 1958)</i>	
November 2023	£250
<i>Tom Noyce (1944 - 1949)</i>	
November 2023	£100
<i>Tony Burbridge (1945 - 1952)</i>	
November 2023	£50
<i>Malcolm Howell (1958 - 1963)</i>	
December 2023	£20
<i>Jim Hallum (1951 - 1958)</i>	

Useful Contact Details

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