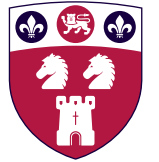


ONIA

OLD NOVOCASTRIANS ASSOCIATION **MAGAZINE**



RGS



ONA is the magazine for the
Old Novocastrians' Association

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include in the magazine, so send your
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by posting to the Development Office
at the school.

Please include relevant pictures if
possible. They will be returned as soon
as the magazine has been printed.

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WELCOME

BY **KATE HARMAN** (06-08)

ONA PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 106th issue of *ONA Magazine*, and an edition that is dedicated to the vast array of sporting endeavour and achievement of Old Novos.

I'll be honest, when I was at school, sport was not my forte. I was on the Women's Football Team, but that was because I was doing a favour for a friend, and I don't think we won a single match! During my two years at RGS, my sport of choice in weekly games lessons was trampolining, which did lead me to join my university's trampolining club, and in turn led me to earning my Sports Colours. So even I, with my limited sporting ability, can give thanks to RGS for starting me on my road to sporting achievement!

Unlike me, there are countless numbers of former students that are extremely talented in a wide variety of sports; just take a look at the Sporting Hall of Fame starting on *Page 20*. Stories in this edition of the magazine range from **Sarah McDonald's** (06-11) athletic career going from strength to strength, with our good wishes for her success at the World Athletics Championships in Doha; to **Erik Samuelson's** (59-67) founding of a football club; and **John Papadopoulos** (98-08) taking his passion for sport and using it to help other athletes as a trained

Physiotherapist; as well as much more. This magazine will also give you the chance to learn of the wonderful history of sport at the school. **David Goldwater** (51-62) has spent time investigating the origins of sport at the RGS, as well as finding out about the sporting curriculum from former staff. You might even be inspired to dig out your trainers and go for a run!

On a final note, I am looking forward to this year's annual ONA Dinner on **Friday 18 October**. My thanks to our Guest Speaker, Dr **Ian Appleby** (70-77), a friend and classmate of Old Novo and recently retired teacher **Jim Pollock** (67-77 & 02-19). As always, it promises to be a great evening. The dinner is always a lovely opportunity to reconnect with friends, staff members and colleagues.

If you wish to join me at the London ONA Dinner on Friday 6 March 2020. Please contact Jane Medcalf to book your place.

WELCOME

BY SUSAN BECK

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



I can't help but be inspired by the sporting successes of Old Novos, whether or not they made it into the coveted Sporting Hall of Fame."

As I read the pages of this fantastic new edition, I can't help but be inspired by the sporting successes of Old Novos, whether or not they made it into the coveted Sporting Hall of Fame. It has also prompted me to consider those who, quietly behind the scenes, have made ONs' participation in sports a possibility. I am thinking of the parents of ONs who have tirelessly taxed RGS students to sports fixtures and have – in rain, hail and shine – stood on the touchlines offering encouragement.

Of course there are also the sports teachers who, like the recently retired **Jim Pollock** (67-77 & 02-19) have for decades, gone 'above and beyond' to support the young sportsmen and women in their charge, as well as the support staff who, without fanfare, maintain RGS's sprawling sportsgrounds or provide after match refreshments.

In terms of other news from the school, if you haven't already seen them, I urge you to review our summer 2019 academic results; the school proudly continues to lead the way in the region. I was especially pleased to see that a number of our 100% bursary students achieved straight A*s in their A Levels, evidence that we are continuing to direct our finite bursary funds to the brightest boys and girls who demonstrate the greatest financial need.

This autumn, we were thrilled to open the school's brand new Library and Art Suite, built in the space once occupied by the old Swimming Pool and Lecture Theatre. The old Library is in the process of being transformed into an expanded Sixth Form

Centre, due to be completed later this year. ONs are super welcome to make an appointment to come back and see the new spaces and hopefully a few familiar faces.

We have also recently re-established an old tradition, a Founder's Service. At the event, which took place in Newcastle Cathedral, we honoured Thomas Horsley and welcomed all of our new Year 7 (11 year olds) to the 'RGS Family'. We very much hope to repeat the event in 2020 and extend the invitation to ONs who are interested in joining us.

Finally, I do hope that ONs enjoy the more 'thematic' approach to the *ONA Magazine*, please do let us have your feedback. In a future edition we are keen to feature ONs who have enjoyed a career or hobby in any creative art. We are also looking for ONs who might have collaborated with other ONs to build a business or launch an initiative, in part to demonstrate to our current students the value of the ONA network.

Please enjoy this magazine and do keep in touch!

BUILT ON SOLID FOUNDATIONS

BY DAVID GOLDWATER (51-62)

Sir Arthur Munro Sutherland (1878-1883), is so far, arguably the greatest benefactor in the history of the RGS. Though the school was to welcome his abundant generosity in later life, he was no academic and even stated that he, “Would have preferred to have left at 15 rather than at 16”.



Ultimately, as a steamship owner and coal exporter, his business acumen manifested itself in the various fleets within the three companies he owned and controlled. The companies were consolidated into **BJ Sutherland & Co. Ltd.**, which continued until his death in 1953.

Pupils at the RGS in Eskdale Terrace soon became aware of the extraordinary role Sutherland had played in the development of the school's campus. With World War I raging and an Army Training Corps flourishing at the RGS, he gifted a rifle range and armoury (1915), which ONs may remember was situated on the south side of the school field next to the old Geography and Woodwork block, near the new sports facilities and Swimming Pool of today. Lord Mayor of Newcastle (1918-19), Sutherland became a School Governor in 1919. Sir Arthur, knighted in 1920, served as ONA President (24-36), became Deputy Chairman of Governors in 1930 and Chairman from 1935 until his death. In 1930, at a cost of £20,000 (2017 equivalent of £1.15 million), he gifted the Swimming (Sutherland) Baths on the site of the new Library and replaced by the ultra-modern

Above: Old Swimming Baths
Below: Gymnasium Plaque in
Caretakers' Yard, Lambton Road



facility across the school field. In its day, an amazing pool, used for many years by ‘un-clad’ boys – another age! The following year, he provided the cost of the school crest through the College of Heralds. He funded a large gymnasium (1937), which will be remembered by those who either excelled in strenuous exercise including boxing or, alternatively, suffered the tensions of the examinations regularly held there. Sutherland Park in Benton, home of Novos RFC, was eventually purchased by the school with the help of an earlier, very low interest loan from his company. The Sutherlands also gifted the iconic JJ Binns organ (so much an integral part of the school's Main Hall to this day) commemorating 138 Old Novocastrians who fell in World War I and later those who fell in World War II.

After a long and fulfilling life, Sir Arthur died peacefully in his sleep in March 1953 and was buried in Jesmond Old Cemetery, not far from his school and family home.

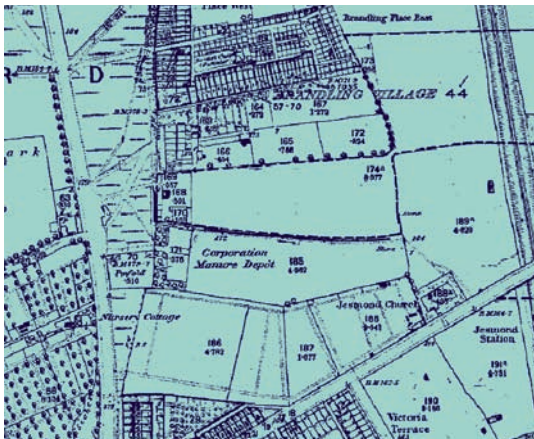
A fuller piece on Sir Arthur Munro Sutherland can be found in ONA Magazine Issue 100 <https://bit.ly/2kTSIYG>

A HISTORY OF THE RGS IN ITS SPORT

BY DAVID GOLDWATER (51-62)

Sport in its many guises is a strong feature of most modern schools, RGS providing a particularly brilliant example. But it was not always so.

David Goldwater investigates the origins of sport at RGS.



Above: 1825 map showing the future RGS site. Opposite (clockwise): JR McManus in the pole vault; WW Kreshmarr (Achilles and German javelin champion) RGS, 1965; RGS Groundsman Bob Telford; Rye Hill School; RGS Sports Day in the 50s; RGS water polo team, 1947

Some traditional schools had developed adapted versions of existing sports, notably Eton, Winchester and Rugby, or invented their own, as at Rugby School, which acquired an eponymous sport when William Webb Ellis (allegedly) picked up the ball and ran with it in 1823. Generally, however, traditional sport was under attack from all sides; factory owners wanted a regular working week; property owners feared the damage caused by large crowds and churches criticised idleness, drunkenness and slack morality.

By Victorian times, however, sport became linked to a moral code defined by the middle classes and it was accepted that sport could develop character and morality. By the turn of the 20th Century, organised sporting involvement expanded rapidly across all classes. However, the different classes played their sport separately and public school athleticism still dominated sport. Between the wars (1918-1939), football (in all its



A major turning point across the entire school sector was when physical education was established in the 1944 Education Act for its educational value.”

versions) continued to increase in popularity and by the 1930s, was the most popular sporting activity. There was little government involvement in sport, apart from Physical Education (PE) in schools, which was, however, becoming a more creative discipline.

A major turning point across the entire school sector was when Physical Education was established in the 1944 Education Act for its educational value. Physical Education moved away from educational values towards physical recreation and more recently towards health-related fitness.

Today, various academic qualifications in Physical Education have stimulated scrutiny of the subject (for example, BEd, CSE, GCSE, A Level). Nowadays, Physical Education is firmly established in the national curriculum as a foundation subject whilst there has been an increasing influence of market forces on schools, Physical Education, sports facilities and sport.

It was at the RGS Rye Hill site (1870-1906), pictured above (bottom right), that sport became established as a regular RGS activity, but there were limited facilities for sport there; a gymnasium was built on the site only after 20 years. There was an ‘Eton Court’ for playing Eton Fives and rugby was played on nearby grounds. Playing fields were already sited in Jesmond, along the Great North Road, although the building of the Fleming Memorial Hospital in 1888 resulted in the loss of the school’s then rented ground.

Numbers were, at last, growing and by 1895 the governors were considering a move, ‘to the best site in the City’. Negotiations with the City Council to acquire land in Eskdale Terrace, Jesmond, began in 1896, the land acquired in 1903 and the new school buildings, more or less as we know them today, were opened in 1906.

**See also ONA Magazine Issue 97
Samuel Logan, Headmaster (1883-1912)
<https://bit.ly/2kTSIYG>**



“

I train with a great group of girls and my coach, David Harmer and I have worked so well together and I have come up the ranks to cement myself as a world-class middle distance runner with his help.”



STAYING THE DISTANCE

BY SARAH MCDONALD (06-11)

Since my last article in 2016, things have been pretty crazy. Elite sport is very much a rollercoaster which I've learnt over the past three years.

2017 brought my first British title in the 1,500m, my first World Championships (which were hosted in London), my first European medal and a new set of personal bests (PB) over all the distances. In April 2017, I made a bold decision to change coaches and my training set up. Although this was a risky move, it was one I was prepared to take with the World Championships on the horizon and now I couldn't be happier. I train with a great group of girls and my coach, David Harmer and I have worked so well together. As a result, I have come up the ranks to cement myself as a world-class middle distance runner with his help.

Going to the World Championships was a pivotal point in my career, running in front of a home crowd of 65,000 in the Olympic Stadium led me to make the decision to put my medical studies on hold and focus on my athletics dream.

2018 got off to a rocky start. With a hamstring injury causing me to miss the World Indoor Championships, I put all my focus on the Commonwealth Games in Australia, where I finished eighth. After returning from the Gold Coast, I raced round the European circuit gaining PBs in the 800m, 1,500m and mile. I came short of my own goal of making the GB team having finished third at the trials, however, this certainly added some fuel to the fire...

I'm writing this having won the British Championships only two days ago to secure my spot on the World Championships team for Doha! This summer has been amazing so far. I broke the big two minute barrier in the 800m running a PB of 1.59.91 recently and I ran 4.00.46 in the 1,500m which ranks me at No.6 on the British all-time list. I'm in the shape of my life and I'm ready for what Doha throws at me – watch this space.

NOVOS RFC UPDATE

BY **GRAHAM WARD** (74-81)

PRESIDENT OF NOVOCASTRIANS RFC



There is a long, proud history of connection between the school, the ONA and Novocastrians RFC, stretching back to the 19th Century. Over the next few years, we will be celebrating three significant milestones. In 2024, it will be our 125th anniversary, and in 2028 Novos will celebrate the centenary of our clubhouse and grounds, Sutherland Park in Benton, named of course after Sir Arthur Munro Sutherland (1878-1883), the school's most generous benefactor, who later bequeathed the ground to the school.

First however, the 2019-20 season sees the 50th anniversary of Novos becoming an 'open' club. From its formation in 1899, Old Novocastrians had to be either an old boy or Master of the school. The club was strong and successful locally, particularly in the 30s and early 60s. However, by 1969 the club was at a low ebb, and it was decided to open the club to members with no RGS association. The name also changed, dropping the 'Old' and we became Novocastrians RFC. Club Captain that season was **Vic S Crew** (58-64) and the President was the late **W 'Eric' Reeve** (36-45).

Over the last half century, the decision has proved to be the correct one, and the club has developed and grown in all respects, now having hundreds of playing members, male and female, boys and girls. The welcome received, and friendships made has helped hundreds of formers students choose to remain in the city. We still regularly turn out four mens senior sides, and an occasional veterans team. This comes against a backdrop where some local clubs now struggle to get two teams out. The 1st XV plays in Durham & Northumberland 1, and this season will play league games against local clubs including Northern, Medicals, Rockliff, North Shields, Westoe and Gateshead.

In 1992, we started a ladies team which over the next decade or so included seven full international players. The 1st XV play in the second tier of national competition, and a 2nd XV entered the league structure last season. There are few local fixtures for our ladies though, and Harrogate will be the nearest away game for the 1st XV this season. Of the England Ladies World Cup winning team of 2014, captain Sarah Hunter, Katy McLean and Tamara Taylor had all played for Novos early in their careers, and the team was managed by Janette Shaw, former player and current club Secretary.

The club has a vibrant mini and youth section, with hundreds of boys and girls playing and training every Sunday. There are still plenty of RGS boys playing at the club and increasingly, RGS girls. Girls (and women's) rugby is growing quickly, and Novos provide an unmatched opportunity in the area. When will we have our first female ON representing Novos Ladies?

After becoming an open club, ONs living in the Newcastle area still joined Novos, and that continued to be the case until the early 90s, when numbers slowed down. League rugby provided opportunities to play in higher leagues than Novos, impacting on recruitment from ONs. This is reflected by there only being two ONs serving as Captains since 1991; **Peter Fay** (79-89) in 1999-00 and **Mike Barker** (84-94) in 2003-04. The same is true of club Presidents, and since **Richard Deas** (57-67) was President in 2003, only two have been ONs; **John Dias** (71-73) in 2011-12 and me. The next President is also an ON, **Colin Chater** (75-83).

This trend has been reversed though, and recent leavers playing for Novos 1st XV include **Lewis Chater** (05-15), **Jonno Wilkes** (05-15), **Bruno Smith** (05-15), **Dan Whitaker** (05-15), **Gus Antons** (07-14), **Tommy Bilclough** (06-17), **Isaac Robinson** (06-17), **Henry Wilson** (06-16), **Tom Brown** (08-13), **George Waterhouse** (11-19) and most recently, **Jamie Lishman** (07-18).

Links continue between the school and Novos, and ONs will always receive a warm welcome at the club, including of course at the John Elders Memorial match. As we look to celebrate our three anniversaries, Novocastrians RFC would be delighted if ONs from any era were able to lend or donate to the club, any club memorabilia which they might still have, perhaps hiding in the loft! Please contact Jane Medcalf.

LEAVING ON A HIGH

COMPILED BY **DAVID GOLDWATER** (51-62)

After 17 years of nurturing youngsters on and off the rugby pitch, **'Lucky Jim' Pollock** (67-77 & RGS Sports Teacher 02-19) retired from the RGS in July 2019. As a former Scottish international rugby union player and an Old Novo, however, Jim's ties with the school go much further back.



Jim Pollock (L) in action against Alastair Tindle (62-72), 1978



He has given so much to the school and is the greatest ambassador of schoolboy rugby, it won't be the same without him next year."

Wallsend-born Jim attended the RGS between 1967 and 1977 and was introduced to rugby by John Elders (57-82 & 92-96), the Head of RGS Sport at the time. "That was when I first got into sport," Jim said.

"It was a bit of a rugby school so that was probably my first love..." After his graduation from the school, Jim taught PE at Kenton School while playing for Gosforth Football Club, later to become the Newcastle Falcons. In the early 80s, Jim was Scotland Rugby's talisman. Dubbed 'Lucky Jim', he scored on his debut against Wales in 1982 at Cardiff Arms Park, where Scotland hadn't won in 20 years. He is perhaps best remembered for the last-gasp try that secured a draw against the mighty New Zealand in 1983.

Jim left Kenton to pursue a career with Northumbria Police, but when a position became available for a Junior School Teacher at RGS in 2002, he knew it would

combine his love of rugby, teaching and RGS. Nearly two decades later, Jim is again preparing to say farewell to his beloved RGS, this time leaving behind him a legacy which extends much further than on the rugby field. "Jim has been with us in the Junior School for 17 years; he is simply RGS through and through," said Deputy Junior School Headmaster, James Miller, "Charismatic, energetic and a raconteur supreme, he is much loved by students of all ages, parents and colleagues alike. He has inspired generations of sports men and women, specialising in rugby, but offering words of wisdom across the range of sports."

During his time at RGS Jim has enjoyed a number of achievements as the 1st XV Team Coach, including taking the side to Twickenham for the 2010 final of the NatWest Schools Cup and winning this year's Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens competition for the first time. His last season of coaching has been his most successful; in October 2018 Jim led the

1st XV to an historic victory at the St Joseph's College National Schools' Rugby Festival. Speaking about his coach and mentor, Phil Brantingham (U6), RGS 1st XV Captain for the 2019-20 season and England U18s, said: "Mr Pollock has been a huge inspiration for not only me, but the whole of the RGS rugby community.

"He has given so much to the school and is the greatest ambassador of schoolboy rugby, it won't be the same without him next year." Jim's influence on athletes of other sporting disciplines has not gone unnoticed. "Mr Pollock has been a great help throughout my RGS career," said GB Basketball U18 player, **Tosan Evbuomwan** (01-19). "A lot of this goes unnoticed, but something that has really stood out to me is his constant support and belief, irrespective of the particular sport I'm playing."

Adapted from an article in the *The Newcastle Evening Chronicle*, July 2019.

Below: Jim and the victorious rugby 7s at Rosslyn Park; and Jim with Andy Watt, Sports Teacher in Charge of Rugby



GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT

BY **ANGELA PONTON**
DIRECTOR OF SPORT



Photograph by Chris Owens/North East Times Magazine

I joined RGS in September 2016 as Head of Girls' Games and PE. Headmaster **James Miller** (94-08) had made the bold decision along with the Governors to make the school fully co-educational.

The Astro Turf had been finished earlier in April 2016 and the old tennis courts behind the new Performing Arts Centre had just been resurfaced, housing four tennis courts and two full-sized netball courts. Girls came in at what continue to be the main entry points, Year 3, Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12 and made up a fraction of their year groups. But they fully bought into the sport that was on offer, and they did it well.

The sporting landscape has changed considerably over recent years in independent schools and at RGS. The importance of diversification in sport has been widely recognised as important to develop all round sportsmen and women alongside elite level performers in all sports. Introducing girls into the school made it easy to shape a diverse sports' programme that allowed girls to compete at more than one team sport throughout the year. It was harder to restructure the boys' programme as tradition and change at times can be hard to accept and understand. The boys at school now have the opportunity to play more than one team sport throughout the winter and spring terms, with rugby being the main team sport in the winter term, hockey and rugby 7s in the spring term and football being played across all year groups and both terms.

Trying to get the balance right between participation and excellence is complex and is something we are constantly striving to achieve. Students need opportunities to take part and represent their school in a variety of sports, at a level that is going to challenge and make it enjoyable for them, so they come back the following week because they want to. We have to constantly look at opponents to make sure the opposition is right for our students which sometimes means tradition has to be taken out the equation. We regularly enter 'B' teams in local leagues and tournaments to ensure more participation, but also that the standard is right. As I write, this weekend we have teams from UI0s to UI8 out playing rugby and hockey



The sporting landscape has changed considerably over recent years in independent schools and at RGS."



against Cundall Manor in North Yorkshire, Sedbergh in Cumbria and Fettes in Scotland as well as hosting a festival at RGS. Our students regularly spend their Saturdays traveling the length and breadth of the North of England, and in recent years Scotland, in order to get good competition. They become good at self-organisation often doing homework on bus journeys and making their own food to bring with them. On the pitch they work together and they take a lead in their development and to make decisions about tactics, training and strategies.

It became apparent that the school was struggling with lack of indoor facilities for curriculum PE and swimming lessons. The pool, as fantastic as it was, was becoming difficult to maintain. RGS started looking at how they could improve the facilities not just in sport and came up with a grand plan to update and build more classrooms including the sports' facilities – Project XL. In April 2013, work started on Project XL which resulted in a second sports hall, a brand new six-lane 25m swimming pool, three fitness studios, an amazing climbing wall, a medical room and ample changing rooms to house every situation. Our students are lucky, and it has enabled the

department to plan a curriculum that very rarely gets disrupted.

Last year saw our rugby team become the first northern team for 20 years win the St Joseph's rugby festival and win the Bowl 7s competition at Rosslyn Park, a fantastic achievement from a group of boys who had performed consistently well during their whole time at school. Last year also saw our football team be crowned Newcastle City Champions for the third year in a row, no mean feat in such a football hotbed area. Our hockey girls reached the quarter finals of the National Cup and we also had a netball team reach national finals. The senior girls and boys tennis teams made the national finals, an amazing achievement and our UI3 hockey girls made the Independent National finals. We had a host of individual and team success in school swimming, running, fencing and gymnastics competitions and many students competing on a national and international stage, all alongside their academic commitments. The department also measures itself on participation. Last year 98% of our Year 7 students competed for the school, something we are hugely proud of and now need to work hard to ensure they stay engaged with sport throughout their RGS careers.

Last year also saw the introduction of a whole senior school sports' awards evening, which honoured individual and team successes across all sports. It was held on the school grounds and it was great to see so much support for our students and even better to have some of our Old Novos back to present the awards. The introduction of this sports' awards event is an example of how sports doesn't stand still at RGS; we need to constantly work at what we are providing to make sure our students are getting the best possible school sports' experience, which isn't easy at times. But thanks to the hardworking staff in the PE department and staff in academic departments who give their time generously: we ensure that we are always moving forward and continue to be a leading force in the North of England for school sport.

A NOVO'S REFUGE

BY SPENSER GRAY (04-11)

Some of my ON peers will know bits of my story, most will not. In amongst the smorgasbord of less than desirable parenting which my mother displayed while I was aged between six and 15, she did two things of real benefit to my future; applied for me to go to RGS on a bursary, and persuaded me to join the Combined Cadet Force (CCF).

It is difficult to sugarcoat but my home life was quite turbulent with my mother often a passive witness to her boyfriend's abusive behaviour towards me. If anyone were to ask English Teacher, Chris Goulding his opinion of me when I was in his form in Year 8 I feel that, "Oik" would be the first word to be used. I lost count of how many yellow slips I received. In short I was bringing problems from my home life to school with me and I had a chip on my shoulder about the fact that everyone around me seemed to have loving and affluent parents who acted in the interests of their children.

At the start of Year 9, my mother persuaded me to join the CCF. I rapidly realised that it was a way for me to avoid spending weekends at home, escaping an unhappy situation. As such, I embraced my time in the CCF with gusto, attending every combat weekend, Self Reliance weekend and summer camp which I was able to (unfortunately money at home was too tight to attend Easter Camp as well).

Through this I became friends with many of the people whom I had previously had a chip on my shoulder about as, at the end of the day, when you're lying down in a ditch at 1am in the rain you will accept a chocolate bar from almost anyone. I had a great many adventures with these people throughout my time in CCF,





notably **David MacFarlane** (04-11), **Matthew Deakin** (04-11), **Richard Oliver** (03-10), **Eliot Dayan** (04-11), **Sam Bates** (01-11), **Christopher ‘Tiff’ Heasman** (06-11), **Jamie Robson** (01-11) and **Matthew Walton** (04-11) as well as various peers from Newcastle Central High School, most notably Lucy Davidson. She gave me the courage to speak to former Psychology Teacher **Catherine Stewart** (04-09) about what was happening at home, which enabled me to end the abuse and move in with my dad.

The other main benefit of my time in CCF was that it sparked a love for the hills and mountains, both those in Northumberland and further afield, along with an interest in radio communications which secured me a pre-university placement with Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, however that is another story.

When I arrived at Loughborough University I promptly joined the University Mountaineering Club there and on my first meet we ventured up to Pavey Ark to do a scramble called Jack’s Rake in torrential rain. My only previous knowledge of this crag was Teacher David Greenhalgh telling us not to get our navigation wrong on the way past Pavey



“Without my bursary I would likely never have joined the CCF, ... I would not have been equipped with the basic skills necessary to safely enjoy the mountains in an independent fashion.”

Ark as “that is climber’s territory and if you find yourself up there you will die”. This all lent a great sense of novelty to the adventure, my boots had puddles in them and I doubt there was a dry stitch on my body despite wearing a full set of waterproofs, but I was hooked!

Since then my passion for this absurd hobby has also taken me all over the UK, Europe and even to Australia and Morocco! Many of these adventures have been facilitated by several mountaineering clubs (notably the Oread Mountaineering Club, The Northumbrian Mountaineering Club and The Climbers’ Club) where I have made some of the best friends I could possibly wish for, learned a huge amount about myself and fed my desire to explore the wild places which our beautiful country, continent and planet have to offer.

Without my bursary I would likely never have joined the CCF, without joining the CCF and doing Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, I would not have been equipped with the basic skills necessary to safely enjoy the mountains in an independent fashion and therefore would not have introduced so many other people to the beauty of the mountains. I know more than most that the mountains can be a threatening and dangerous place, having witnessed two horrific accidents, found the results of a third and been rescued by helicopter once, but they are also a refuge from my memories of the horrors I experienced early in my life and I feel that I ought to thank a good number of current and former staff for this priceless gift: Rob O’Hagan, John Camm, Emma Malcolm (CCF volunteer), **Phil Barlow** (81-91), **Mike Barlow** (53-64 & 79-95), David Greenhalgh, Jo Greenhalgh, Ned Rispin and Gareth Dunn. Not least the donors who funded my bursary. The irony that it was the kindest of strangers, that led me to leave an unhappy home life and enter a world of opportunities at RGS, does not escape me.



USA FOOTBALL TOUR

COMPILED BY **MAX KILBURN (L6)**,
LEWIS LANT (U6) & ANDREW SCOTT (U6)

An unearthly early hour of departure from Newcastle Airport was the preparation for a transatlantic flight to JFK in New York.

With 28 students in tow, all looking the part in their tour shirts kindly sponsored by **Squires Barnett Architects**, the USA Football Tour was finally underway.

Our first few days were spent in The Big Apple doing the touristy bits from our hotel base overlooking Central Park. An open top bus tour of Manhattan, a boat tour around the island of Manhattan taking in the Statue of Liberty, visiting Washington Square and Greenwich Village, walking over Brooklyn Bridge from Brooklyn to Manhattan at sunset, seeing the 9/11 Memorial, and viewing the city at night from the Top of the Rock were amongst the highlights of the New York experience. Many thanks to Wuliang and **Peter Walker (52-60)** for hosting an evening of drinks and eats in their apartment looking down 5th Avenue. It was great to catch up with them there, along with two ONs, **Adam Cogan (98-08)**, **James Prince (99-06)** and their wives.

Next, pick up three, 12-seater vans and drive them out of New York on a Saturday and

head north for many hours to New Hampshire when the football started. Piece of cake! Almost as easy as playing football in lots of heat and high humidity.

Having seen all New York had to offer, we set off on the short six hour journey to Manchester, where the football would finally begin. The First Team kicked off the tour against GPS whilst the Second Team got underway against Bedford HS. These games proved to be two tough tests, with the biggest test, adapting to the scorching temperatures. It wasn't long before we had our first win of the tour with the Second Team coming out on top against Oyster River JV. However, it wasn't until we arrived in Cape Cod before the First Team finally got off the mark, despite some excellent performances, in a very competitive encounter against Barnstable. The win provided the team a platform to build on at the Bourne HS Jamboree, where both sides came away with two well deserved victories apiece. The highlight of the tour came the following day against state champions Naucet, despite falling to a 2-1 defeat the

First Team competed from the first minute to the last. They narrowly missed out on clinching a deserved draw when they hit the post in the last minute from a long throw in. As we began to near the end of the tour, tiredness began to creep into the squad, which was evident in the following game against Winchester, who were arguably the toughest test of the tour for both sides. We concluded our time in the US with four fixtures at the Groton High Jamboree, in which the whole squad was involved despite many suffering from exhaustion and fatigue from the prior 16 games played throughout the trip.

Being hosted by the American families was very much a memorable event for all the squad. From group barbecues to paintballing to bridge-jumping, our generous hosts offered us a variety of activities to give our team the best possible experience of the US, something which we are all very grateful for. Whilst in America, the RGS was kindly treated to three 'cook-outs' by Monomoy, Amesbury and Groton – all of which delivered up to the high standards our coaches had set for them from the previous trips. The Groton cook-out came at the end of our tour – at the finale of the jamboree. A great experience with four other separate schools joining us for our ultimate feast into American culture, accompanied by our last hosts and opposition players, who did everything to make our time in Groton a memorable one.

Many thanks to Wuliang and Peter Walker and to **Mark Squires (73-83)** and Squires Barnett Architects for their sponsorship. For more details on sponsorship opportunities, please contact development@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk

**Squires
Barnett Architects**



ONA FOOTBALL

BY JAMIE HANSELL (92-02)

‘Novos’ continue to go from strength to strength and we are hopeful of adding team silverware to our individual achievements soon!



Oli Young (L) and Phil Miller

Last year we reached a cup semi-final and for the first time, on the day, 13 of the 14-man squad were ONs. I've asked Captain Phil Miller (91-98) and former league top goal scorer Oli Young (07-14), the youngest and oldest members of the team, to share some of their RGS memories.

Who or what first got you into football whilst at RGS?

Phil: Playing football every day in the yard before school, at break and at lunch. It was always a race to the yard to get the best pitch until the Sixth Form came on and kicked us off!

Organised football did not happen until my L6 year when Peter Shelley, Economics Teacher joined the school who is a legend in my eyes. Apparently, he told Headmaster James Miller (94-08) that he would not come to the school if he could not run a football team.

Oli: Football was always my favourite sport and we had a decent team at our age group with Luke Balmer (07-14) and Tom Heardman (07-11) who encouraged me to play football rather than rugby. My older brother's age group were an excellent team and I really enjoyed playing with them. Andy Snedden, Maths Teacher was instrumental for football at RGS and was great to play under.

What is your favourite footballing memory from your time at school?

Phil: Header keepy-ups with Peter Shelley on the concrete outside the old Physics block with him declaring, "Two good players should get over 100 of these together" ...we came close. Also, playing football with the best player I think I have ever played with, Mark Simpson (90-97) used to run the yard!



Oli: The USA School Trip was an unbelievable experience, along with the Germany Football Tour.

How did you become involved with Novos?

Phil: I used to play with Andy Snedden for a pub team. When he attended school and got involved with Novos, he invited me along.

Oli: In Sixth Form I played for the school against Novos. When I finished school they were looking for some new players and hoping to improve on their current league position with a crop of younger players.

What does the RGS mean to you?

Phil: Great friends, great times and great memories, but hard work. RGS really gave me the start in life I needed to allow me to be where I am today!

Oli: Sporting memories from trips to Barbados, South Africa and America and friends who I'll be in contact with for life.



HIGH FLYING PERFORMER

BY TOSAN EVBUOMWAN (01-19)

It has been an incredible 12 months for ON, **Tosan Evbuomwan**, who achieved straight As in his A Level results, while being selected for the second successive summer for the U18 British Basketball team.

The 18-year-old's achievements have been admirable both on and off the court, resulting in him receiving a college place at the prestigious 'Ivy League' Princeton University. Joining the Tigers, Tosan will play in the top college tier of NCAA Division 1, competing against some of the best young basketball prospects in the world; a challenge we are sure he will relish.

Having worked his way through the ranks of the Newcastle Eagles Academy, Tosan led their U19 Academy squad through their first season in Basketball England's Elite Academy Basketball League (EABL). During the competition, he averaged an impressive 16 points and 9.5 rebounds per game, making it clear why he is considered one of England's hottest young prospects. This came after his first summer playing with Great Britain's U18 squad, where they finished seventh at the 2018 European Championships in Latvia.

At this summer's FIBA U18 Men's European Championships, Tosan demonstrated how he had made the transition from a young talent with huge potential, to a developed and mature player with a significant role to play in the team. The squad made it to the quarter-finals and enjoyed victory over reigning champions Serbia in the last 16. Tosan finished as the second-top-scorer in this game, with his performances in the competition giving followers of the sport a taste of what is to come from the greatly talented player.

Speaking about his bright future, Tosan, said: "I'm really looking forward to the next four years. This is something I never



“*Until less than a year ago, I had no plans to play in the NCAA or even study abroad, but now everything is happening so quickly.*”

imagined would happen. Until less than a year ago, I had no plans to play in the NCAA or even study abroad, but now everything is happening so quickly.

“My coach, Ian Macleod, reached out to Princeton as I had identified it as a school where I am able to play basketball at such a high level while continuing my education at a prestigious institution.

“There were other schools that Coach and I were in contact with, although after my visit to Princeton, I knew it was the right one for me.”

Tosan's accomplishments extend off the basketball court, as he has also thrived academically, achieving As in Chemistry, Economics and Maths at A Level.

Speaking about his ability to achieve success both in sports and at school, his coach, Ian Mcleod, said: “Tosan's always been good at time management and getting his life balance right. He's a very laid back character and never lets anything get on top of him.”

Tosan emphasised this commitment to both his sport and his academics stating: “My plan to major in Economics and academics are absolutely as important as basketball. I'm not entirely sure what I would like to do after graduating, although I would like to be in a position where I have the option to play professionally, as well as the option to work in the financial sector.”

Regardless of which path Tosan chooses to take, with his work ethic and levelheaded nature, we can be sure he will succeed.



PLOUGHING ON

BY **ERIK SAMUELSON** (59-67)

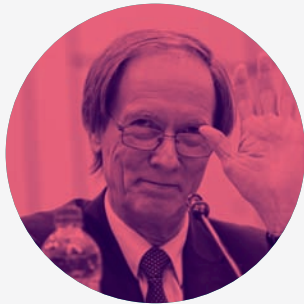
Erik Samuelson reflects on his unexpected journey from being an RGS Direct Grant boy, through accountancy and eventually to the heart of founding AFC Wimbledon, and leading the club's phenomenal ascent.

Above: Erik pictured with the EFL League 2 Play-off trophy prior to AFC Wimbledon's match-winning performance, 2016.

Born in Sunderland, the long daily commute to RGS eventually became a welcome habit. I supported Sunderland faithfully, but when I relocated, our elder son returned from Junior School and announced that he wanted to support Wimbledon FC (WFC), our local Premier League club, that was fine by me.

Within months we saw WFC beat Liverpool in one of the great FA Cup upsets of all time. Soon we were going to every game. My wife Eileen loves football too, so it was a great shared family activity. One day we played Sunderland and my boys asked why I wasn't cheering 'The Lads'. I'd committed a football heresy and switched clubs.

Fast forward a few years and the WFC ground in Plough Lane couldn't meet the all-seater requirements the report that followed the Hillsborough disaster proposed, so we were playing at Crystal Palace. Plans surfaced to move the club to Dublin and believing these plans to be a done deal, two Norwegian businessmen bought WFC. But the idea fell apart and they were left with a loss-making club with no stadium.



“

From having no stadium, no manager, no players, nothing, we moved quickly, including a PR stroke of genius by holding open player trials on Wimbledon Common.”

Above: BBC Match of the Day coverage of AFC Wimbledon versus Liverpool, FA Cup third round, 2015; AFC Wimbledon lifting the EFL League 2 Play-off trophy, 2016

Meanwhile another businessman felt that Milton Keynes needed a football club befitting its status and, unwilling to start at the bottom of the football pyramid, he asked several clubs to relocate. This suited WFC's owners and a deal was agreed.

Despite valiant protests from WFC fans, who passionately believe that a club belongs in its local community, the decision was referred to an FA Commission in 2002. They concluded that the move could happen. So our beloved club moved to Milton Keynes, to what is now Milton Keynes Dons. The FA advised fans not to create a new club, a 'Wimbledon Town', as it "would not be in the wider interests of football".

Undeterred, we immediately decided to re-form our club as AFC Wimbledon. I say 'we' because by then I was heavily involved. I'd become known for publishing critical analysis of WFC's financial proclamations and had drafted a plan for taking over the club if, as threatened, it went into administration. When the move was allowed I rewrote the plan for our new club.

From having no stadium, no manager, no players, nothing, we moved quickly, including a PR stroke of genius by holding open player trials on Wimbledon Common. Six weeks later we played a friendly match at Sutton United with a crowd of 4,657.

I then did something that changed my life. Sensing a chance to do something fulfilling, I went out of character and told the leaders of the new club that I should be their Finance Director. To my astonishment they agreed instantly. Eighteen months later I retired from a partnership at PwC and went full time at the club.

We started at the ninth tier of the football pyramid, where crowds average 60, while ours were 3,000. We soon realised that economically unsustainable spending on a football team existed even at that level and despite getting 111 points that season, we came third and weren't promoted. The following season is the only one where we've been the top spenders, winning promotion with 42 wins and four draws from 46 games!

In 2006, the AFC Wimbledon CEO resigned and until early 2019 I held that position. Insisting that the proposed annual salary of £1 didn't sound posh enough, I was paid 'a guinea a year'.

During my 17 years at the club we've won six promotions, regaining the Football League place that was taken from us by the business equivalent of football hooliganism. We bought the stadium which we first rented and two years ago we sold it to Chelsea Women to help fund a new stadium, ironically in Plough Lane, only 100 metres from the old one, now occupied by housing. That new stadium will open in 2020. We have a football academy from where our 'home grown and hungry' boys progress to the First Team; we've maintained a strong community presence via the AFC Wimbledon Foundation which I chair; we have thriving ladies' and girls' teams, walking football for people my age, and a girls' Down Syndrome team – and we've done it all without a sugar daddy.

I have been privileged to be at the heart of this club for the last 17 years and I, my wife, our two sons and two granddaughters continue to support AFC Wimbledon, a club which has confounded the view that it, 'would not be in the wider interests of football'.

RGS HALL OF FAME

All credit and thanks to **Jim Pollock** (67-77 and 02-19) for the school's Hall of Fame – a wonderful idea to publically inspire and honour all students, current and ONs who have represented their country in their particular sport. All of the students listed below have provided either their photo or a piece of sports' kit memorabilia, which has been framed and now hang in the school's entrances to the Dining Hall. Many thanks to all the students who have donated so far. The Hall of Fame will grow over time – will you be our next sports person to appear in the corridors of RGS?



ACROBATICS

Michael Gill (09-16)
Great Britain

Hannah Pilling (15-20)
– Great Britain Junior Acrobatic
Gymnastics, 12-18 World Age
Group, Bronze Medal
– Great Britain Acrobatic
Gymnastics, Las Vegas 2019



AMERICAN FOOTBALL

William Davis (01-11)
Great Britain Lions Juniors,
Newcastle Raiders

Paul Gregson (97-04)
Great Britain Bulldogs American
Football Team

Ed Morgan (91-01)
Great Britain



ATHLETICS

Ian Chipchase (63-70)
Great Briatain Athletics,
Commonwealth Games 1974
Christchurch, New Zealand

David A Conway (73-82)
England Schools' Long Jump
Champion

Jonny Currie (07-14)
Scottish U20, 800m Champion
2015

Peter Eyre (82-92)
England Schools

Kieran Flannery (96-05)
England U20

Niall Flannery (00-09)
– Great Britain U20 , World
Championships Beijing 2015
– Commonwealth Games 2014
– British Champion 2014
– European Champion 2014

Sarah McDonald (06-11)
Great Britain Athletics

Jim R McManus (45-55)
England & Great Britain

David Miles (74-84)
England Junior Cross Country
& England Junior

Chris Purdon (69-80)
World Master Athletics
Championships, Lyon 2015



BASKETBALL

Alex Corbett (10-17)
Great Briatin Select U16

Tosan Evbuomwan (01-19)
England U18

Jamie C Younger (91-98)
England U16 & U18



BRITISH AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Mohammed Ramadan (05-12)
Gateshead Senators



CLIMBING

Finn Gavin (09-20)
World Arco Cup, Geneva 2019
World Championships



CRICKET

Richard G Coughtrie (02-07)
Gloucestershire County Cricket
Club

Iain Nairn (88-98)
England Physically Disabled
Cricket XI

Nicky Peng (94-00)
England U19 Captain, Durham
& Glamorgan

Richard Smalley (88-97)
England U14 & U15 Cricket Team



CROSS COUNTRY

Kate Waugh (10-17)
England Junior U15



EQUESTRIAN

Libby Chrisp (13-21)
England, Pony Club Polocrosse



Jim R McManus (45-55)



Chris Purdon (69-80)



Sarah McDonald (06-11)

James Davidson (96-06)
United Kingdom Open Squad

Emily Scott (10-21)
British National Show Jumping Championships, National Schools Equestrian Championships

Angus Smales (95-05)
England & Great Britain



FENCING

Toby Aberdeen (23-23)
British Youth Championship U10

Michael Crow (90-00)
England

Thomas Dickson (09-16)
Great Britain U17

Andrew Dixon (99-11)
Great Britain U17 Squad

Robert Evans (90-96)
England Junior & Great Britain

William Germany (06-13)
Great Britain U17

Eve Golden (15-22)
Great Britain & England U17

Matt Henderson (03-10)
Great Britain U17 & U20

Ian D Henry (93-00)
England

Mo Mansoori (91-96)
England U18

Jospeh May (09-16)
Great Britain U17

Sam Ridley (10-12)
England U15 squad, Great Britain U17 European & World Championships, Great Britain U20 Squad

Millie Robson (09-20)
– Scottish National U13, Epee Champion 2015
– Scotland & Great Britain U17



FOOTBALL

Martin Bagnell (03-10)
England Boys' Clubs

Luke Balmer (07-14)
England Independent School U16, U18, England U18 Final Trial

Patrick Collins (93-01)
England Schoolboys U17 & U19, England U19 & U20, Sheffield Wednesday FC

Fraser Forster (96-06)
England World Cup 2014, Newcastle Utd FC, Norwich City FC, Celtic FC & Southampton FC

Andrew Grainger (91-01)
England Schoolboys U18

Oscar Jones (08-15)
England Independent Schls U16

Harry Lawson (05-12)
England Independent Schls U16

James Prince (98-05)
England Independent Schools Football Association 2003-2005

Jamie Rutt (98-05)
England Independent Schools Football Association 2003-2005

Mark Simpson (90-97)
England U18 Schoolboys

Matthew Smith (92-99)
England U18



GYMNASTICS

Isak Cornelissen (12-22)
U13 Trampoline

Oliver Herring (12-19)
Great British U12 Tumbling Gymnastics World Cup 2012 Bronze Medal

Kenneth J Reid (54-64)
British Universities Gymnastics, Moscow 1959



HOCKEY

Alice Cheesbrough (10-15)
England U17 UK Schl Games 2014

Megan Cottee (10-21)
– North of England U16
– England U16

Luke Hudson (12-17)
England U17

Maddy Woodburn (08-17)
North of England U18 2016

Anthony Weatherell (11-18)
England U19

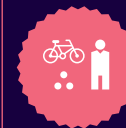


MARTIAL ARTS

Sami Arjum (03-10)
England U21

Boda Gallon (81-89)
England Commonwealth Judo Champion, Great Britain Barcelona Olympics

Ciaran McGovern (12-19)
British National Champion 2017 Junior 68kg



MULTISPORT

Toby Anderson (13-23)
Modern Triathlete World Championships Egypt 2018 U13 Mixed Relay, Bronze Medal

Stephen Atkinson (94-01)
British U13

Oliver Redpath (96-98)
Scotland & Great Britain



Fraser Forster (96-06)



Kate Waugh (10-17)



Paul Gustard (84-94)



MULTISPORT

Freya Murphy (09-18)
Great Britain Triathlete,
European Age Group Triathlon
Championships Dusseldorf 2017

Eleni Papadopoulou (08-10)
Paratriathlon, Tri3 British
Champion, Tri3 World
Championships 2013 Silver
Medalist

Fergus Robinson (06-16)
Great Britain U20, European
Championships 2014

Kate Waugh (10-17)
– European Triathlon 2014
– British Youth Triathlon
Champion 2011, 2013, 2014

Izzy Winter (15-22)
U15 Champion 2018



PARACHUTING

Paul Gurteen (81-87)
Great Britain



ROWING

Richard McElroy (86-96)
England U16

Rob Sanders (87-97)
England U16



RUGBY LEAGUE

Mohammed Ramadan (05-12)
Great Britain Junior Lions,
Gateshead Senators



RUGBY UNION

Fraser Balmain (05-10)
England Select v Barbarians
Gloucester, Leicester Tigers

James Blackett (11-20)
England Independent Schls U11

Phil Brantingham (13-20)
England U16, U18

Fred Burdon (01-08)
England U16

Dylan Cave (23-20)
England Independent Schls U13

David A Conway (73-82)
England Schls U19

Steve Douglas (79-89)
England Colts & U21,
England B International

Michael Dungait (82-92)
Scotland U18, U19 & U21

Nigel Envoldson (62-72)
England Schoolboys U19

T 'Peter' Envoldson (65-75)
England U15 & England U19
Schoolboys

Harvey Gurthrie (10-21)
England Independent Schls U11

Paul Gustard (84-94)
England, Barbarian, England A,
England U21, England Colts,
Saracens, London Irish,
Leicester Tigers

Joel Hodgson (00-10)
England U18

Jim 'Henry' Hudson (47-54)
English Schools

Michael Johnson (96-06)
England U18 Schoolboys

Tom Jokelson (98-05)
England U16 & England U18
Schoolboys

Richard Milbank (73-83)
England U18

Chidera Obonna (08-19)
England U16

Ben Parker (06-16)
English Independent Schls XV

Toby Peach (13-20)
England Independent Schls U13

Tom Penny (03-13)
England Clubs & Schools U18

Jack Peter (12-19)
Scotland U16

Duncan Pollock (96-06)
Hong Kong International

Jim Pollock (67-77)
Scottish International,
Barbarians

David Rees (91-93)
England

Nick Richardson (23-13)
England Independent Schls XV

Ben Simpson (93-03)
England Schools U16

Richard Smart (71-78)
England U16, U18 & U23

Michael Smith (75-82)
England Schools U18

Matthew Thompson (91-01)
England U18 & England U21,
England Saxons, Newcastle
Falcons

Alastair Tindle (62-72)
British Universities 1974,
England B 1980

Jonathan Webb (74-81)
England

William Welch (95-08)
England U18, U19, U20,
Newcastle Falcons

Charlie Wilson (06-17)
England U17



Jim Pollock (67-77)



Jonathan Webb (74-81)



Eleni Papadopoulou (08-10)



SAILING

Tatiana Dickinson (16-21)
Great Britain, RS Tera Sport
Sailing, World Championships
2015

Konrad Weaver (00-10)
Bronze Medallist Open World
Championship 2009, Scottish
National Squad, Great Britain



SHOOTING

Toby Anderson (13-23)
England Academy



SWIMMING

Lola Davidson (14-21)
British Summer Championships
2018, British Champion 400 and
800m Freestyle

Eleni Papadopoulou (08-10)
Great Britain Class Squad,
European Record Holder 200m
Butterfly

Leo Vinogradov (15-22)
U13



TABLE TENNIS

Martin Schapira (75-83)
England



TENNIS

Tim Matthewson (98-09)
Independent Schools Tennis VI

John Thompson (05-12)
Independent Schools Tennis VI



WEIGHT LIFTING

Christopher Kelly (17-24)
U15 Champion

TEAMS



ACROBATICS

Christopher Beale (11-21)
Fin Gavin (09-20)
Harry Jopling (12-21)
Freddy Nelson (15-22)
Ariz Zaman (11-21)
U14 Floor & Vault British
Champions

Finn Gavin (09-20)
Michael Gill (09-16)
– Great Britain Junior Acrobatics
World Championships 2013
– Great Britain Junior Acrobatics
World Championships 2014
– Great Britain 12-18 Men's
Group Acrobatics, European
Games 2015
– World Age Group
Championships Silver Medal
2016



GYMNASTICS

Fin Gavin (09-20)
Michael Gill (09-16)
Great Britain 12-18 Men's Group
European Games 2015

Isak Cornelissen (12-22)
William Forster (13-23)
Eddie Mackay (13-23)
British Schools Gymnastics
Team Champions 2016

Angus Robson (15-26)
Tanish Kadarapura (17-27)
Brandon Leung (16-27)
Nomin Udawatte (15-26)
Danny Beale (15-26)
Tim Xie (18-27)
British Champions 2019 U11
Floor & Vault

Tom Huntley (08-19)
Finn Gavin (09-20)
Marcus Laws (10-22)
British School Gymnastics U19
Floor, Vault & Trio Champions
2018

Eddie Mackay (13-23)
Isak Cornelissen (12-22)
Ariz Zaman (11-21)
British Schools Gymnastics
Floor & Vault & Trio Champions

Nomin Udawatte (15-26)
Patrick Magill (11-24)
Danny Beale (12-25)
Rishi Matala (11-24)
Angus Robson (12-25)
Tanish Kadarapura (17-27)
British Champions U11
Floor & Vault

Please do let us know via development@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk if you have represented your country in sport and would also like to be featured.

TRACK AND FIELD

THE EARLY YEARS

BY **DAVID GOLDWATER** (51-62)

I recently received a letter from my tutor and friend, the iconic **W 'Bill' G Elliott** (52-88). The letter describes his appointment (initially to take charge of Woodwork) by the then Headmaster, **OW Mitchell** (48-60) to introduce a full range of field events to the sporting curriculum at RGS – replacing the sack race as the main sporting activity!



After his father was appointed Works Manager at Joseph Lucas, Bill and family moved over from Manchester to Newcastle in 1926. At Gosforth Grammar School, disliking the raw vegetables served at school lunch, he opted each day to sprint home to Forest Hall for lunch and back, thus beginning his love affair with the running track. Loughborough came next (44-46) where Bill captained cross country (holding the cross country record for five years) and ran for the Universities' Athletics Union team.

Lured by the 1948 Olympics and the contact with top athletes, after two years he returned to Loughborough to study for his Diploma of Loughborough College qualification. His appointment at Blyth Grammar School in 1949 brought Bill back to the North East. Here, he was in charge of Woodwork and shared responsibility for PE.

After three years, an appointment in the Woodwork department came up at the RGS and Bill applied.

At that time, school sports were primitive, including the sack race and throwing the cricket ball! Fortunately, he was given every encouragement to utilise his experience and a standards' system was introduced whereby every pupil was able to contribute towards House points. Many ONs will remember being able to take pride in winning even one point.

After the innovation of a pole vaulting pit and this entirely new sport at the school, **JR McManus** (45-54) achieved a Cambridge Blue and the indoor British record in the sport."



“*After the innovation of a pole vaulting pit and this entirely new sport at the school, JR McManus (45-54) achieved a Cambridge Blue and the indoor British record in the sport.*”

This reflected great credit on the RGS and Bill still glows with pride as he recalls the visit by the combined Oxford and Cambridge Athletics Team (Achilles) for a day in 1955, coaching in the morning and competing on a handicap basis in the afternoon.

It was a constant battle at school with the cricket 'high-ups' (as he still calls them) concerning the overlap of his elliptical running track with that of the circular cricket boundary. The Athletics Team competed regularly with distinction at numerous championships around the UK. The Running Club gave many present-day ONs their life-long interest in the sport. In 1966, Loughborough College became a University and, Bill, together with **John Elders** (57-82 and 92-96) and **Paul Ponton** (71-09), were recalled and awarded degrees.

In 1984, Bill was approached by then Headmaster **Alister Cox** (72-94) who invited Bill to consider launching a Clay Pigeon Shooting Club which proved to be extremely popular, winning several Public Schools Championships and trophies.

Bill retired in 1988 and has remained busy writing and publishing several books on local history on his local area. A remarkable man, a great personality, a loyal ON teacher who continues to take a keen interest in all matters RGS.

A fuller version of this article can be found online in *ONA Magazine No. 96*: <https://bit.ly/2o2mNAZ>

Above: Bill Elliott in 2019, pictured with the school dining tables he designed back in 1963



WORKING IN SPORT

BY **JOHN PAPADOPOULOS** (98-08)

Whilst studying at RGS, I was a competitive swimmer, for both school and my local team. My main achievements for the school were representing the school in the English Schools' Swimming Association (ESSA) relay national finals, the John Parry relays (Northern HMC), the Bath Cup and Otter Medley (London) along with my teammates **Andrew Barrett** (98-08), **Stephen Addison** (01-08), **Remus Winn** (97-07), and **Chris Dixon** (99-09).

John (far left), with Team USA Select Basketball team



I have always thoroughly enjoyed taking part in competitive sport, the thrill of beating my personal best times making it all the more enjoyable. Even as a spectator, watching others perform to their best was an incentive to train and compete at a higher level (even to push myself with my studies – I always had a competitive drive to attain the highest possible grades).

Since leaving RGS, I have graduated with a Masters Degree in Physiotherapy, worked primarily within Newcastle for both the NHS and private sector, including recently starting my own private physiotherapy clinic just off Clayton Road. Outside of my private clinic, I am the First Team Physiotherapist for Blaydon Rugby Club. I work with some of the players who have previously studied at RGS: **Alex Clark** (98-05), **Chidera Obonna** (08-19) who plays for both Blaydon and Newcastle Falcons Senior Academy, **Tom Penny** (03-13) who currently coaches at Blaydon and plays for the Newcastle Falcons. I have also worked with **Matt Thompson** (91-01) who was formerly the Director of Rugby at Blaydon, and previously played at the Newcastle Falcons. Blaydon are in the fifth division (North Premiership), and are aiming for promotion back into National League 2.

Since qualifying, my love for sport enticed me to work alongside many local teams. Starting with a local swimming club, and rugby club, to more recently with Northumbria University's Netball Super League team (the top flight netball league in the UK), to working full time in the



Physiotherapist for Team USA Select Basketball since 2014, primarily when they take on one of the UK's most successful basketball teams – Newcastle Eagles. The Americans beat the Eagles in an exciting down-to-the-wire win by one point on 3 September 2019, with less than a second to spare.

Thankfully pitch side first aid has moved on since the 'sponge and cold water' era, however you find that sometimes you are essentially in at the deep end, being the only person during a game or sporting event with any training in traumatic injury management. For example, training includes relocating fractured limbs to ensuring safe management of a player from the time of injury through until they reach hospital.

I feel as though RGS has definitely helped me improve my confidence to communicate clearly whilst in a high-pressured environment. Including improving my confidence when networking, resulting in me setting up physiotherapy links with Team USA Select Basketball. The school also helped me improve other essential life skills such as discipline, being autonomous and working effectively in a team, including acting in a more professional manner. All of which have definitely had a profound effect on my ability to work as a clinical and pitch side Physiotherapist, ensuring I am confident and competent in performing quick, yet thorough injury assessments, including relaying appropriate injury management information to the Director of Sport or Coach as needed. I am grateful for the skills that I have learned from my time at RGS.



I feel as though RGS has definitely helped me improve my confidence to communicate clearly whilst in a high-pressured environment."

Performance Sports Department at Northumbria University. During my time working for Northumbria University, I was the Physiotherapist at the England Invitational Rugby Union 7s tournament, Lead Physiotherapist for Northumbria University's men's basketball team, men's and women's football teams, and the men's rugby union team (when they finished second in the British Universities and Colleges BUCS Super Rugby 2017-18).

Working in sport has its highs and lows, as to be expected. Some of the more memorable ones include:

Working as the pitch side Physiotherapist for Northumbria University against Hartpury University. We were behind and managed to pull back an unexpected away win, in what was pretty dire conditions after a few of the players had picked up some major soft tissue injuries, made worse by the thick fog that covered the pitch, making it extremely difficult to see the players from the touchline during the game.



SECONDS OUT... BOXING AT RGS IN THE 50S

BY CHRIS FRASER OBE (51-58)



Boxing at RGS in the late 50s was a voluntary sport, unlike rugby, while training and fights took place in the school gym under the eagle eye of Donald 'Spitty' Meaken (24-65), the Geography Teacher who doubled as Head Coach, assisted by Bill Cuthbertson (28-35) and another teacher.

The boxing team had an excellent inter-schools reputation and had matches with other schools all over England. As a Light Middle Weight (11 stone/70kg) I recall visiting Ampleforth in Yorkshire, Welbeck College, the then school for army candidates in Nottinghamshire and St Pauls in London. I think it was at Welbeck where we were served grapefruit for lunch after the fights, much to the discomfort of those boxers who had cut lips! Strange what sticks in the mind rather than the result of the fight!

In those days we did not wear head guards and during training in the ring in the gym, 'Spitty' would limit punishment being dished out between opponents while sparring with his famous cry of, "Stop!", followed in due course by "Box on!"

The late **John H Nixon** (47-57) was Captain of the RGS boxing team in my day and John was an outstanding boxer with a string of

“*Spitty' would limit punishment being dished out between opponents while sparring with his famous cry of, "Stop!", followed in due course by "Box on!"*

victories to his name. Sadly at least two other members of that team have passed on but I know that one of them described my boxing style some time ago as 'a counterpuncher'. Obviously though, a counterpunch at a match at St Pauls was successful in that I knocked out my opponent who approached me afterwards claiming that it was a lucky punch without which he would have won the fight!

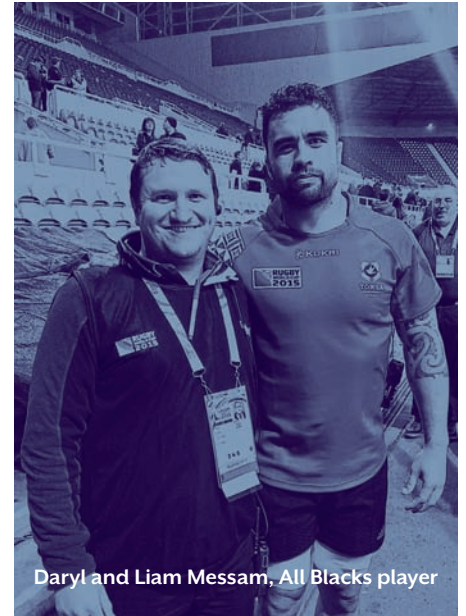
According to the media, boxing has not been taught in most schools as part of the PE regime since 1962 but there are now some calls to reintroduce the sport.

I continued my boxing 'career' during National Service in Malta when I boxed for 40 Commando against 45 Commando and also after joining the Hong Kong Police Force in 61-62. Boxing for the then colony of Hong Kong against a Malayan army opponent, brought an end to my ambitions when I was knocked out in the first round by my opponent and received a trophy for my efforts labelled 'Hong Kong versus Malayan Armed Services. Runner-up'. A bit like the TV programme *Bargain Hunt* where there are no losers, only runners-up!

Main image. Chris (R) in action for RGS. Donald 'Spitty' Meaken (24-65).



Daryl and Table Mountain, South Africa



Daryl and Liam Messam, All Blacks player

JUST DO IT!

BY **DARYL BAKER**

END USER SPECIALIST, IT DEPARTMENT

10 years ago this summer I joined the RGS Support Staff IT team having previously worked in various businesses. The school environment is a very different habitat!

As with any new job, comes a steep learning curve, not only to understand your new role, to find your way around the buildings along with creating working relationships (and remembering their names) with new found colleagues.

I distinctly remember sitting in what was the old IT office when Mr Andrew Watt, Sports' Teacher in Charge of Rugby, came thundering into the office with some sort of IT issues, probably related to his love of Apple Mac products. Out of pure coincidence I was wearing a British Lions rugby shirt, it was the summer holidays and not required to wear our usual office attire.

"Into Rugby are ya?" without an introduction, "I am, yes" I replied, "You fancy helping out with a little bit of coaching?" "Yes, I would be interested in doing that, but I haven't got any experience". "That's fine" he said and

from that moment forward I was given the coaching role over what has now become the legendary RGS Spartans 3rd XV.

Over time I've been involved in all the senior teams in some capacity, the last couple of years running the UI6s. In the beginning, the first few training sessions where quite daunting not being used to talking to groups, let alone being responsible for them. But I soon settled into to the role. The boys have always been very welcoming along with the support of some great and highly experienced coaches which RGS has a wealth of that I owe the majority of my coaching knowledge to.

Being RGS Support Staff, and a Coach, brings some added experiences. The students understand that I am ultimately responsible for them and respect me as staff, but they are also more open to talk about personal issues, which I refer to the Pastoral Team.



The students understand that I am ultimately responsible for them and respect me as staff, but they are also more open to talk about personal issues."

Coaching at RGS has given me the opportunity to go on some of the fantastic tours such as Italy, Belfast, Romania and of course the big one, South Africa. Even visiting these places on holiday would not give the same experiences you get as you go on tour. Hopefully there are many more years to come and many more players to coach.

It is amazing to see boys joining UI6s senior rugby to when they reach Upper Sixth and then playing for their relative teams: Spartans, 2nds and 1st XV, how much they grow and mature over three short years.

What is really nice is that every once in a while, one of the old boys will drop by the school or send me a message. It's great to hear how well they are doing beyond their time at RGS and to have in some way, been part of that memory.



RUGBY STILL MEANS THE WORLD

BY JEFFREY BALL (95-02)

From a career ending injury, to switching rugby codes, to Head Coach of the Cramlington Rockets – it has been an incredible journey since leaving RGS.



Like many Old Novos, Jeff Ball (95-02) left the school well and truly bitten by the rugby bug. “The late Neil Goldie (89-03) (former Head of Chemistry) lit the fire of interest in Newcastle Falcons with some free tickets,” says Ball, who has now been a season ticket holder for 18 years.

“Having Jonny Wilkinson visit the school along with Inga Tuigamala is a stand out memory, meaning that like most teenagers, seeing him kick us to World Cup glory a year later really struck a chord”.

Since then, his journey has seen him cross codes and, in his own way, help Newcastle reach the pinnacle of the game. It started close to home. With “enthusiasm outweighing skill”, Ball found himself running out for the Northern, the Gosforth-based club while studying Classics at Newcastle University for three seasons.

“I can still remember the snap” says Ball, remembering the moment it all changed. “He came illegally at the side of a ruck, hit my knee and that was me done. It took a while to realise what had actually happened but the long and short of it was knee reconstruction surgery and the end to an admittedly barely burgeoning rugby career.”

After a period “subconsciously sulking” away from the game, it was down to the fortunate throw away invitation from a touch rugby teammate that Ball found himself coaching at rugby league club, Cramlington Rockets.



“

I had no idea what I was doing but I know I loved it. I was 23 years old and even just standing holding a tackle shield brought all the old feelings rushing back.”

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Starting with assisting the clubs U9s, where there is a high crossover between union and league skills, Ball progressed to Head Coach, leading the U15s to a North East treble.

“The Chairman and Founder had been in post for 15 years and wanted to take a step back. I’d been involved for six years by then and to become Chairman seemed to be a logical if daunting next step.”

Ball had clearly found his niche. The success on the field coupled with a burgeoning community programme in local schools overseen by Ball was recognised by his peers and he was named RFL National Volunteer of the Year in 2015.

Ask him though, and the bigger achievement followed two years later when, with the club bursting at the seams from tots to adults and the schools programme now in over 30 North East schools, Cramlington Rockets was named RFL National Club of the Year.

“That was a very special day. We took a bus load of volunteers to the Super League Grand Final at Old Trafford for the awards dinner and it was great to see the shocked and delighted faces of so many people who had been involved for years and done so much for the hundreds of kids who have passed through our doors.”

When addressing the room of community game dignitaries to accept the award, Ball spoke of more to come from the North East. And he was not wrong.

In recent years, those involved in rugby in both codes have realised Newcastle is a perfect rugby city. Super League’s touring Magic Weekend pitched up in Newcastle for four years on the trot, either side of Rugby Union World Cup fixtures in 2015 and the European Rugby Finals Weekend in 2019 to tremendous acclaim.

Alongside the growth in the community game in the North East by clubs like Cramlington stretching from Alnwick to North Yorkshire, participation at grassroots level has increased by over 30% in the last five years. An impressive stat for any team sport, never mind one based so far from the sport’s ‘heartlands’ of Lancashire and Yorkshire.

Ball’s involvement behind the scenes of the North East game led to him being invited to be part of the Newcastle Host City bid team, bidding to bring the Rugby League World Cup to Tyneside in 2021.

“I was at the sold out World Cup final in 2013 and it was a tremendous experience. To me, I was just an enthusiastic volunteer, so to be working with the great and the good of Newcastle’s city and sporting landscape to bring a World Cup home was an incredibly exciting venture to be involved in.”

Compering the bid launch event, Ball and the team clearly made a very good impression. When the venues were revealed live on the BBC in January 2019, it was confirmed that not only would Newcastle United’s St James’ Park host the opening fixture, featuring England, but the city would host the Opening Ceremony too. Cramlington Rockets were even being named checked by the World Cup CEO when explaining their choice.

“That was an emotional day. Realistically I was never going to play for Newcastle or my country so to play a part in bringing a World Cup to my home city really did mean the world.”

With still two years to go, Ball will be involved in the build-up, particularly helping steer the community legacy programme aiming to engage more new supporters and groups, and set up a new club in the west of the city.

“It’s fascinating to be a part of and crazy to think how the journey from playing rugby at RGS has led to this. We’ve also recently had three more World Cup games allocated to Kingston Park stadium in Newcastle meaning that come October 2021, Newcastle will once again prove itself to be the ultimate rugby city. I can’t wait.”





CRICKET AT RGS

BY **BRYAN STEVENS** (44-49)

Cricket was arguably the first sport to be taken up at the school, the earliest recorded match being played in 1861, against a local private school at a time when the school, then in Charlotte Square, possessed no playing fields and in any case, as with most schools, there was no provision in the curriculum for sport.

Above: RGS Cricket Team, 1936;
Opposite clockwise: RGS Cricket
Team, 1961; RGS Cricket Team, 1981;
Tom Graveny (34-36), RGS's only Test
player to date

The boys had to arrange the fixtures, find a ground, supply their own equipment, and even pay a professional Coach. All this was organised by the Athletics Club (which also covered rugby) to which the boys subscribed, an arrangement which lasted until the 1890s. When the school moved to Rye Hill in 1870, a playing field was available, but it was too small for decent cricket and grounds had to be hired until the move to Eskdale Terrace in 1906.

Records are patchy prior to 1885, when *The Novocastrian* was founded, but by then there were two teams and the standard was improving. Most of the games were against clubs, since few local schools could supply decent opposition, though we first played Barnard Castle in 1894. In matches against adults, Masters and occasionally ONs played for the school, a common practice at the time. School Colours were first awarded in 1893.

Standards improved greatly after 1906, when we had our own playing field and in 1912 Sir Alfred Palmer, Chairman of Governors, presented a pavilion to the school which remained in use for over 70 years. Before and during World War I, we fielded some very strong sides, notably in 1915 (12 games out of 14 won) and 1917 (13 wins out of 17). ONs were becoming increasingly prominent in club and Minor Counties cricket, although as early as 1885,



“School cricket is always a story of peaks and troughs according to the available talent.”

AA Woodhouse (1875-85) played for Northumberland while still at school. School cricket is always a story of peaks and troughs according to the available talent and the standard rose and fell during the 1920s, but the decade closed on a high note, with 10 wins out of 13 games, but in 1934, a young and inexperienced team could manage only two out of 16. The teams of the late 30s, however, were strong, including **Nigel Wood** (32-39), Captain in 1938 and 1939, who set a record of 206 not out in 1937. He was supported by **DV Salkeld** (30-38), a most successful bowler. The bowling was generally stronger than the batting, which continued to be the case for some seasons after the war. During the 30s, some of our best came through, **HF Fletcher** (25-31), **FI Herbert** (25-33), a stalwart of Durham County and **AW Willis** (25-36), the only bowler to have taken 100 wickets in a season. All three captained the side.

In 1930, the XI had undertaken its first Cambridge Tour during Race Week (later at the end of term) winning two matches against schools and drawing the other and these tours continued (apart from the war years) until the 80s, against varying opposition. In 1939, the 2nd XI also went on tour, winning all their matches.

For many years, cricket was ably organised by **LT Taylor** (24-37), but he left in 1937 to become a Headmaster elsewhere and **Donald Meaken** (24-65), who had been involved during the previous decade, took over, remaining until 1965, during which school cricket and boxing benefitted enormously from his devoted and dedicated care. It was in this late pre-war period that **Tom Graveney** (34-36), (Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and England) RGS's solitary Test player, along with this elder brother **Ken Graveney** (34-36), (also a county cricketer) spent a few terms in the Junior School before the family moved away.

The evacuation to Penrith (39-44) created obvious difficulties for most aspects of school life, but under Mr Meaken a somewhat reduced fixture list was honoured (with new opponents in Rossall, for example, and Mill Hill School, evacuated to St Bees). Results after the war continued to be undistinguished, but the standard gradually improved into the early 60s.

JN Watson (46-53) was a formidable fast bowler and **PD Brodrick** (48-56) later achieved the first RGS cricket Blue at Cambridge. Later came **GK Knox** (48-55)

of Northumberland and Lancashire and **Stuart Wilkinson** (54-61), the most successful paceman in our history and a key member of Durham's most successful spell as a Minor County.

The teams did fairly well during the 70s, usually winning more games than they lost, the best seasons being generally those in which the bowling was strong, though no bowler since 1963 has taken 50 wickets in a season. The 80s were by and large an undistinguished period. The Cambridge tours came to an end, being replaced by the annual RGS Cricket Festivals, which still continue. Results were much better in the 90s, the best being in 1992 (12 wins out of 16). The Captain, **LJ Crosier** (85-92), an all-rounder, has enjoyed a very successful career in league cricket and for Northumberland. In 1995, **BA Jones-Lee** (88-95) compiled a record total of 787 runs and 1996 saw the debut of **Nicky Peng** (94-00), who was playing for England U13. He was Captain in 1999, but was seldom available because of representation commitments. He went from the school to the Durham County staff, making 98 in a sensational debut, aged 17, against Surrey, but he was unable to maintain that form and gave up First Class cricket in 2007.

Some time ago, the school, took a lease of the Northumberland County Ground in Osborne Avenue, Jesmond and 1st XI games are now played on its excellent wickets, although this does mean that the cricket is no longer at the heart of the school, with a consequent sense of detachment with the pavilion being the HQ of Newcastle Cricket Club. However, cricket is in good heart and recent years have seen tours to Barbados, Sri Lanka and India. The omens are good.

RGS CRICKET FESTIVAL

BY **OLIVER EDWARDS**

HISTORY TEACHER AND OXBRIDGE COORDINATOR

A revered former Master of Cricket at RGS Colchester always said, “It never rains in Festival Week” and he was nearly right. It almost never does.





Above clockwise: RGS cricket First XI, 2019; U15s at Durham, 2015; James Carding (01-08); Festival winning team, 2016

The annual RGS Cricket Festival is both a well established and unique event in our sporting calendar with a clear *raison d'être* and identity.

Our schools have a common lineage: we share 16th Century foundation dates and the royal charter. Ours is also one of the few cricket festivals to include both independent and maintained schools: three of our opponents are state grammar schools. One of the reasons for the longevity and success of our festival has been its capacity to evolve. It now comprises six schools and since 2003 – at our initiative – it has been a competition with a cup awarded to the winner. The trophy was donated by us and had been formerly awarded for school boxing. We are proud to have twice been winners in 2007 and 2016.

There are some notable traditions at our festival: a staff meal on the Wednesday, a barbecue for students and staff on

Thursday and informal post-barbecue football matches which seem to be as fiercely contested as the cricket, especially when Colchester take on Newcastle. The quality of cricket is also high and in the last 25 years at least four festival cricketers have gone on to play the professional game. Great feats have also occurred. I have painful memories of one opposing batsman scoring a blistering double hundred in 2014. Most important of all, a festival is a good thing in itself: to gather in one place to play and watch five games of cricket, to allow staff and students past and present and parents to meet past acquaintances and to renew old friendships is a thoroughly civilised and enjoyable way to pass the final week of the summer term. It is always a pleasure to compete against schools who take cricket seriously and in the company of staff so obviously committed to the game. We are hugely looking forward to hosting the festival in 2020. May the sun shine!



As you would expect, school sport is an ever-evolving beast. Bowling machines, external coaches, overseas tours, matching kit and strength and conditioning to name just a few things that the current cohort 'enjoy' (apart from the S and C!), and benefit from.

However, one constant for us and the five other RGS schools is the annual Cricket Festival. It remains as competitive, tiring and fun as it ever was! Dave Smith (80-11) and Geoff 'The Good Doctor' Swinden (69-98) school legends and past Cricket Masters, always used to say to us that Festival week was the one that mattered – usually just before we got hammered! In the last week of June/first week of July 2020, it's our turn to host and planning is well underway. We have secured Blagdon CC thanks to the generosity of the Ridley family and hope to use NEPL grounds including South North and of course, Jesmond. We look forward to seeing some familiar faces supporting the team during the week as we bid for our first home Festival win – I think we've got a very good chance. You are hereby warmly invited!

Details will be available @RGS_cricket where you can follow the progress of all our cricket.

By Michael Smalley (85-95)
Economics Teacher and Head of Cricket

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

For more information about RGS Cricket Festival related sponsorship opportunities, please contact development@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk

SURGICAL SIMULATION

In some non-sporting news **BEN TALKS** (07-14) writes about unusual work experience in Melbourne.



Above: 3D printed temporal bone
Opposite: Ben working on his surgical skills on the University of Melbourne Temporal Bone Simulator

Over the summer I spent three months in the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Melbourne based in the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital. Behind the hospital lies 'Bionic Ear Lane', a reminder of the illustrious past of the department, which invented the cochlear implant and carried out the first human cochlear implant operation in 1978.

Cochlear implants (otherwise known as bionic ears) have since revolutionised the management of hearing loss worldwide, with 1,504 implants taking place last year in the UK alone.

The department remains a centre of innovation, more recently developing the University of Melbourne Virtual Reality Temporal Bone Simulator as a risk free teaching modality for surgical trainees to learn ear surgery. It is one of five such devices to have been developed worldwide and was the focus of my placement.

Virtual reality is a computer generated environment that uses a range of sensory stimuli to immerse the user in the experience, including visual, haptic (touch), and auditory cues. It is increasingly being used to prepare employees for a range of jobs from Walmart supermarket assistants, to astronauts, to pilots, to surgeons. The simulator presents a 3D image of a temporal bone (the skull bone in which the delicate structures of the ear are located), which users

can 'feel' and interact with using a virtual drill provided by a haptic arm. Each of the nine 'patients' on the simulator were created from radiographic images of human cadaveric temporal bones. Further, the simulator can provide instruction on how to carry out several operations through procedural guidance, where each step of the operation is sequentially highlighted in green, and artificial intelligence generated verbal feedback on drilling technique.

The 10,000-hour rule, popularised by Malcom Gladwell's book *Outliers*, describes the length of time engaged in practice required to become a world expert in a field. Surgical training has traditionally been based upon the apprenticeship model, where trainees are supervised by an expert surgeon according to the mantra of "see one, do one, teach one". However, as job roles evolve and the working hours of surgical trainees reduce, currently limited to 48 hours per week in the UK as part of the wider European Union working hours directive, it is hard for trainees to gain sufficient operative experience.

Cadaveric dissection is one of the oldest forms of surgical training and remains the gold-standard teaching technique for surgical trainees. However, cadaveric temporal bones are in short supply and are not without their own disadvantages, including the risk of blood borne viruses and accompanying need for restrictive laboratory conditions. Learning surgical skills directly through practice on patients presents obvious risks to the patients being operated on by inexperienced practitioners. Virtual reality surgical simulation intuitively presents an opportunity for surgical trainees to gain far greater operative experience than possible by traditional teaching methods in a risk free environment. Would you rather be operated on



by a trainee who had performed a single cortical mastoidectomy on a cadaveric temporal bone, or one who had performed the procedure a thousand times in virtual reality?

Before the widespread adoption of virtual reality simulation into surgical training, high quality evidence is needed demonstrating adequate skill transfer from the virtual environment to physical media. In other words, if you can successfully complete an operation in virtual reality can you also perform the procedure in the operating theatre? To investigate this I carried out a study recruiting university students to learn to carry out a cortical mastoidectomy (a relatively simple and very common ear operation) on the University of Melbourne Temporal Bone Simulator, and then carry out two operations on 3D printed temporal bones using a real drill.

An obvious additional benefit of this placement was the opportunity it gave me to travel to Australia. Having got hooked on rock climbing during my time at RGS I've never looked back and took every chance to check out the local rock climbing. Fortunately for me, Victoria is home to some world class rock climbing destinations, namely the Grampians National Park and Mount Arapiles National Park. In these national parks, the towering sandstone faces of prehistoric sea cliffs offer a lifetime's worth of adventure, with the added bonus of a plethora of unusual Australasian wildlife including kangaroos, 'stumpy' lizards, and of course snakes.



Cochlear implants (otherwise known as bionic ears) have since revolutionised the management of hearing loss worldwide, with 1,504 implants taking place last year in the UK alone."



PENRITH REMEMBERED 70 YEARS ON

BY **GRAHAM LITTLE** (44-45)

Scotsman Graham 'Fergie' Little (40-45), arrived in Penrith on 4 January 1940. As a new boy from Yorkshire, he remained in Penrith, mostly in school hostels, until the school returned to Eskdale Terrace. He then enjoyed a final third year in Sixth Form at RGS.

We commemorated by climbing Beacon Hill and noted *en passant* school hostels Beacon Bank, Sandath House, Roundthorn and Lynwood. The latter was notable for a first term, 1940, under **Robert Wilson Thom** (35-49) before he took a sports car load of us to climb Crossfell prior to his call up. Then two terms under **Bill Tunstall** (37-78), when a noble gesture in anticipation of adding to our diet led to Bill's breakfast-time appeal for help in chasing the piglets back up the drive. At Christmas, Bill also joined RAF Roundthorn, now a country hotel, which had its own matron and was supervised by a rota of members of staff, including Headmaster **ER 'Ebb' Thomas** (22-48). **Tucker Anderson** (24-60) arranged and likely paid for a bicycle shed. **Maurice Robinson** (34-72) took a group out one sunset to listen for a Nightjar in a nearby felled woodland and **JM Rowell** (35-44) dropped a broad hint to a young pianist by offering him simpler music to practise. Such incidents exemplify the varied contributions made by staff to our welfare in wartime conditions. Our diet was simple but adequate when supplemented by extras from home.

We noted major alterations to the premises behind Wordsworth Street Methodist Church which served Ebb and his Secretary as offices, the church itself being used for tutor groups at morning assembly. The Friends' Meeting House was used by Ebb for Sixth Form RE lessons in the morning, typical of the various resorts in town – Gas Show Room for Chemistry, Toc H room for small Sixth Form groups, church halls for many – where we had morning lessons, whilst Penrith Grammar School had the use of

Two Old Novos arranged to meet in Penrith for the weekend 6-8 September 2019 to commemorate the school's evacuation there between 1 September 1939 to July 1944, after which RGS was released after serving as HQ for the NE Regional Commissioner. **Bryan Stevens** (44-49) joined the school at this stage, when his contemporaries had plenty to relate about their experiences in Penrith.

“*Penrith library was widely used by RGS Sixth Formers for free periods, when Sammy Middlebrook (18-58) urged us to read Time and Tide, New Statesman, Spectator or Punch.*”

its own buildings; we took these over from 1.30 till 5.30pm, a Ribble bus bringing the Roundthorn contingent. Penrith library was widely used by RGS Sixth Formers for free periods, when **Sammy Middlebrook** (18-58) urged us to read *Time and Tide, New Statesman, Spectator or Punch*. Then there was always the war news from the *Manchester Guardian* or the *Times*, but the war was not in the forefront of most minds, it was the shady backdrop.

We recalled the pleasure of Saturdays – after Corps if you were Fourth Form upwards – and Sundays, when cycles took us to Haweswater or Helvellyn, Sedberg or St. Bees if we were in teams and had

transport or Cowrake Quarry under supervision by Maurice Robinson if we were Scouts. Occasionally Ebb would declare a half holiday for skating at Edenhall or swimming in the Eamont. The Lake District gave many of us a love of the fresh air and mountains that we have never lost. Our recent weekend celebrated this aspect of evacuation by sailing on Derwentwater (from a very crowded Keswick) and driving down Ullswater from Pooley Bridge (thanks to a temporary structure while the damage done by the 2015 storm is rectified) to the splendid Lakeland stone of Glenridding's Inn on the Lake.

Music was not overlooked and some of us enjoyed the Music Club in Christ Church Parish Rooms (now a Masonic Hall) or recall **Arthur Milner's** (26-48) *Messiah* with a young, almost local, Kathleen Ferrier as one soloist. Our conversations with local people now did not chance on any whose parents took in evacuees or even knew of the RGS connection, but we guess the majority of us were taken into private homes under the benevolently watchful eye of Tucker, ready to intervene if things got out of hand. We did convey to those we met in Penrith the ongoing appreciation of many who took part in more formal reunions in past years that showed how important a part Penrith played in our formative years.

TOM TAKES HEART

BY DR SIMON BARKER

HEAD OF ENGLISH

Tom Machell (01-08) left the RGS in 2008, moving on to an English and Theatre degree at Queen Mary and Westfield, University of London (during which time he spent two years training at the New York Film Academy). Unlike many an aspiring actor, he has managed to make a subsequent success of a film, television and theatre career.

His new play, *Ticker*, has recently been at the Edinburgh Fringe. Its starting point was the death of his contemporary from the RGS Sixth Form, **Steph McLean** (06-08). It is not 'about' Steph. But as he says in the published text: 'In June 2013 I lost someone who had been a big part of my life to a condition I had never heard of. *Ticker* is not a play about her but dedicated to one of the best people I have ever known'.

The performances were raising money for CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young): astoundingly, 12 young people a week die from this undiagnosed disease. (It is something close to my own heart because one of the brightest and loveliest RGS students I have ever taught, **Tim Douglas** (99-04), ran home on a February afternoon in the Upper Sixth of 2004 and died on his own doorstep.)

All of which sounds like the play might be a bit solemn. It absolutely is not! It is a 60 minute monologue, which is a risk: Tom brings it off tremendously by inhabiting a variety of roles. The minimalist staging works powerfully and very cleverly. There's a very beautiful plot development (no spoilers) with that character Scott. Yes, it's about grief: 'The pleasure you get from punching a cheery one-eyed colourful unicorn in a hospital dining room is

something that should be advertised more. It's better than therapy...' (It was such a pleasure to see it punched!) 'They say the worst type of grief is a death that didn't need to happen... With this death, if she had done a test, she'd still be here and that's not okay'.

I asked Tom how much of the play was autobiographical. '70% not.' Brilliant additional reply: 'the anger is autobiographical'. The master playwright Samuel Beckett says that 'all that matters is the laugh and the tear'. *Ticker* does both.

It is very, very funny and very, very moving (warning: a bit filthy too. Beckett would like all of that). It is performed terrifically. It made me cry to see **Jeremy Thomas** (77-05), my predecessor as Head of English (79-95), and subsequently Head of Drama, acknowledged in the text as one of the 'very few special people who didn't let me give up'. Why? We both recalled the most exacting of directors. 'I just thought he was the best.' Cheering to hear that flame kept alive.

Greatest of news that the production is coming to Newcastle, 19-23 November, at the Alphabetti Theatre:
www.alphabettitheatre.co.uk



NEWS & CONGRATULATIONS



Mike Barlow with his presentation from the contingent

MIKE RETIRES AFTER 40 YEARS CCF SERVICE

Captain **Michael 'Mike' R Barlow** (53-64 & 79-95) joined the Newcastle Royal Grammar School Combined Cadet Force as a Cadet Force Adult Force Volunteer in January 1979. He retired from CCF service after completing over 40 years in July 2019.

During this time he has seen several hundred cadets through their training, attended countless weekends, 35 adventure training camps and 30 summer camps. As a qualified Mountain Leader he has always focused on teaching the cadets map reading, instructing and leadership skills as he felt these were the most important parts of the development of the young person that was offered by the cadet programme.

He successfully ran the Army Section for the Contingent on numerous occasions but was always willing to step aside to allow the younger adults coming through to learn. All of these staff have benefitted from his knowledge and experience.

When the roll out of Westminster (management information system) came for the CCF, he volunteered

to become the brigade trainer and played a key role in ensuring that the schools learnt about this system. He went out to provide one-to-one training and also acted as a brigade helpline to help relieve the pressure on the national one during this time.

Without his efforts, the use of Westminster within the brigade area would not have been anywhere near where it is today.

He leaves behind a contingent that has been greatly influenced by his efforts and what he has done for us will linger on for years to come. We thank him for all he has done.

Everyone involved in the school's @CCFcadets would like to say a big thank you for all the hard work Mike has done to make them one of the best contingents in the country.

Phil Barlow (81-91),
CCF Contingent Commander



Joseph Fisher MBE (30-36)

JOSEPH'S FOND MEMORIES OF RGS

Joseph Fisher MBE (30-36) writes: I am about to celebrate my 97th birthday and have fond memories of my days at RGS. My house was Horsley (blue). All the Jewish boys were herded during morning prayers into **AW 'Buggy' Little's** (02-33) room in the South West corner of the Hall, only to be released in time for Assembly. It was segregation of the worst kind. Would we all have collapsed if we had heard the word Christ? **Mr Herdman** (22-66), whose room (21) was on the first floor most easterly corner, informed me that I spoke French with an Osborne Road

accent! Running around the perimeter of the school playing field on a cold and wet winter afternoon... was this PE or punishment? And then of course there was **Ebenezer Thomas** (22-48).

Editor's note. Joseph, at the age of 97 is one of the most senior of many thousands of ONs. He may be 'top of the list'! Does any reader know of ONs born before him? If so, please let the ONA Office know at development@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk



PETER WALKER HOSTS USA FOOTBALL TOUR

Our thanks go to **Peter Walker** (42-60) and his wife Wuliang who hosted the RGS football team during their recent tour of the USA. Peter was also very kind in sponsoring the team bags for the tour. For full details of the tour, see page 14.

A LETTER FROM PARADISE

I live in Rousillon, the part of France that adjoins the Pyrenees and the Mediterranean. For the locals, it is Catalunya del Norte (North Catalonia), because it was part of Catalonia until it was ceded to France, as part of a political stitch-up, in the Treaty of the Pyrenees – known locally as the Treachery of the Pyrenees – in 1659.

There is a local story that when God created Rousillon he made it perfect – so perfect that the peoples of the other parts of the world complained that it was unfair for one region to be so perfect. God saw that they were right, and so he sent the Tramontane to Rousillon. This is a north-westerly wind which is often horrendous. The locals say that when it blows, it blows for three, six or nine days. A nine-day Tramontane leaves most people very strained, being battered by the wind every time that they go out, and being unable to sleep at night because of the noise.

But otherwise this is indeed paradise. Wonderful scenery, rain confined mostly to spring and autumn, and otherwise normally wall-to-wall sunshine. Winter nights are cold, because of the clear sky, but the days are very agreeable (as long as the Tramontane is not blowing). As normal

in a Mediterranean climate, the winters are short, the springs long and cool and the summers are hot, particularly in July and August, which is also when the area is overrun by tourists.

Life here is much the same as England, except for the climate, driving on the right, using the Euro, the price of wine, and the need to greet everyone in the room, on arriving and again on leaving. Handshake for the men and a kiss on both cheeks for the ladies. You rapidly learn to incline the head to make it clear which cheek you are going to kiss first. Don't worry if a local man gives you a bear hug and kisses you on each cheek: it just means that you are well accepted into the local community.

The local language is French (thank you, **Jimmy Herdman** (22-66), although many of the locals have Catalan as their first language. The Catalan culture is very prized here. There are many Catalan cultural events, and the Sardana is danced everywhere and at every opportunity: performed in a circle holding hands, and accompanied by a Catalan musical group known as a Coblà, which has a very distinctive sound. It is a celebration of Catalan identity, and it is very moving to see.

Ian Gatenby (50-61)



ORGAN RESTORATION

Thank you to all those who contributed to the restoration of the organ. All the work culminated in a re-dedication of the School War Memorial during the Remembrance Service held in school on Sunday 11 November 2018. Work originally started when **James Miller** (92-07), former Headmaster asked if there was any chance of doing enough to make it playable by RGS most accomplished organist **Katy Silverman** née McDermott (06-08). **Les Brunton** (57-64) and myself took it upon ourselves to clean the dust of years from the inside, and a local organ builder – Lightbown and Sons – gave a quote for both the minimum required and a full rebuild. At this stage the minimum was done. More has been done over the years with the backing of the CCF and the ONA, and many others have contributed, not least the school. As it is an unaltered example of JJ Binns' work at the completion of the work the organ was given listed status by the British Institute of Organ Studies.

Mike R Barlow (53-64 & 79-95)

- Sub Lt **Christian Mannsaker** (01-10) made a brief and rare visit back to Newcastle on HMS Tyne, as part of the Royal Navy's Fishery Protection Squadron.



STAY CONNECTED



There are plenty of Old Novos social media groups around, but we have our own groups. Please join us by becoming a fan of the Old Novocastrians Association Facebook page and LinkedIn Group - Old Novocastrians' Association (RGS Newcastle).



OBITUARIES

JOHN 'CHRISTOPHER' EMMERSON (36-47)

BORN 25 SEPTEMBER 1928, DIED 14 MARCH 2019, AGED 90



John Christopher Emmerson was born at The Gables Maternity Home, Elswick Road, Newcastle to Emily Florence Minnie Emmerson formerly Harle known as Myn Emmerson.

Chris was an only child and attended Fenham High School from 1934 to 1936 and then the Newcastle Royal Grammar School from 1936 to 1947. RGS was evacuated to Penrith in September 1939. Some 600 boys aged from eight to 18 were evacuated, all setting off with gas masks and packs of food. The boys, usually in pairs, were billeted to local residents, who with a range of keenness and responsibility looked after them during term time. The evacuation intended to avoid the expected constant bombing that Newcastle would face because of its ship building and armament factories. Yet, the Luftwaffe bombed Newcastle on only a handful of occasions, although German planes could be seen flying over on their way over to bomb Belfast, Liverpool and Glasgow.

At RGS, Chris was the Honorary Secretary of the Headmaster's Debating Society. Debaters included **Michael Ryle** (36-40), **Peter Taylor** (38-49), **Brian Redhead** (40-48), **George Gayle** (39-46), **Derek Williams** (39-48), **Noel Wood** (39-46) and **Geoff Tiplady** (36-46). Chris was also a member of the History Society and an active member of the Junior Players. He played Curtis in *The Taming of the Shrew* at the Penrith Playhouse on 8 and 9 June 1943

along with **Rodney Turner** (36-46), **JW 'Sandy' Osselton** (36-46), Noel Wood, **David Middlebrook** (36-47), **Jimmy Atkinson** (36-47) and Katharine was performed by a versatile Michael Ryle. He was a Senior Prefect. Chris never troubled the academic or sporting boards at RGS.

After RGS, Chris served his National Service with the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers from 1947-49. He was released from service after obtaining the rank of Corporal on 29 August 1949.

He went to Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge in October 1949 to read History. At Cambridge Chris wanted to become a journalist and there developed his love of theatre and music. He joined the Cambridge University Footlights Dramatic Club and in 1949 he became the Editor of the *Varsity* newspaper for an interregnum following a scandal with the previous Editor.

A routine check with his GP whilst at Cambridge University revealed a shadow on his lung and TB was diagnosed. He was sent to the Barrasford Sanatorium near Hexham from March to August 1951 where he met Dorothy Sturgeon, who he would fall in love with for the rest of his life. He returned to Cambridge to complete his degree but married Dorothy on 2 June 1955 at the Parish Church Jesmond, Newcastle and they remained very happily married until Dorothy's death on 30 July 2018.

Chris was always keen to keep in contact with the school and his RGS colleagues. His good friend, Sandy Osselton, had the idea of bringing together those school boys who had been evacuated from Newcastle to Penrith during World War II. Such reunions were a great success and, in some years, well over 100 people attended. The reunions were sometimes in Newcastle, but more often in Penrith. Those attending included Michael Ryle who became Clerk in the House of

Commons and wrote many books on the history of Parliament procedure; George Gayle, a famous journalist and radio and TV presenter. Brian Redhead, a broadcaster, particularly noted for presenting the *Today* programme on BBC Radio 4 for many years. Peter Taylor, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, famous for the Taylor Report on the Hillsborough disaster and becoming Lord Chief Justice.

The first reunion loosely headed 'Fifty Years On' from those of the class of 1944 was held at Newcastle University's Leazes Hall and a special guest was **MG Robinson** (34-72) who was Head of English during the war years. Reunions followed every five years and became more and more successful, but sadly as the 21st Century arrived numbers began slowly depleting as school chums died. For many years he was active in the Old Novos Society (**Max Hill QC** (72-82), now the Director of Public Prosecutions, remembers Chris welcoming him to the society some 25 years ago).

Chris chose a career in industry rather than an academic or journalistic career and joined Henry Hildesley's in 1953 as a northern Sales Director. His lifetime work was in the print trade and principally the greeting card industry.

Chris died peacefully in his sleep at home on the 14 March 2019 with his two sons with him. The previous week he had been out for lunch with friends on two occasions and that was how he liked to enjoy his life.

He is survived by two children, John David Emmerson and Nicholas Richard Emmerson, their wives Con McCartney and Terry Emmerson and four grandchildren Anna Betty Emmerson McCartney, Jack Roy Emmerson McCartney, Molly Rose Emmerson, and Emily May Emmerson.

David Emmerson

MARTIN MORAN (66-73)

BORN 19 FEBRUARY 1955, DIED MAY 2019, AGED 64



Martin Moran died in May 2019. He was leading a group of climbers attempting an unclimbed, unnamed summit, 'peak 6,477m' in the Nanda Devi region of the Himalayas. The eight climbers were struck by an avalanche and Martin's body was the only one not recovered.

Martin attended RGS in the somewhat heady rebellious days of the late 60s and early 70s. He was an acute observer of the trends but a man who very much ploughed his own distinctive furrow. He had a fine, very dry sense of humour with just the right dash of anarchic cynicism and is universally remembered by his peers as being a 'good bloke'.

He was always keen on the outdoors as his scouting, school camping and cross country running illustrated but his three main passions by the Sixth Form were Newcastle United, climbing and geography. He was a regular at St James' Park, first with his father in the old West Stand before graduating to the more edgy delights of the old Leazes End. The greatest delight was attending all the Fairs Cup games in 1969 – sadly the last time United won any major trophy.

He climbed at every chance he got – weekends in the Cheviots, Lakes or along Hadrian's wall in those early days. He is also much remembered for his traverses around the Sixth Form Common Room via lockers

and picture rails, not ever touching the floor. His academic standards were very high – he was determined, meticulous, neat to a fault and awesomely hardworking. His maps and diagrams for homework were perhaps better than the text books and his A Level field work, an annotated NW-SE cross section of Northumberland, was a beautiful wonder to behold. In 1974 he was one of five geographers dispatched to Cambridge under the tutelage of **David Rhodes** (67-94), winning a scholarship to St Catharine's College.

Martin met his wife, Joy when they were both 18 and she was working in LD Mountain Centre in Newcastle. She understood his ultimate passion and was key to his success throughout. After graduation, they lived in Sheffield where he worked as a Chartered Accountant. Before long, Martin's mountaineering exploits grew. His early climbs included solo ascents on the Piz Badile North East face, the North face of the Eiger and the first ascent of the West ridge of Bhagirathi in the Himalayas.

In 1984-85 Martin made the first completion of the Munros in a single winter season with the support and companionship of Joy. This was a remarkable feat of dedicated mountaineering and effective teamwork through the storms, snows and avalanches of an epic winter in the Scottish Highlands. Martin's book recounting the adventure, *The Munros in Winter*, is a classic of Scottish mountain books. Another book, another feat: in *Alps 4,000* he describes the first (and only) traverse of all the 4,000 metre summits of the Alps (75 peaks in 52 days) in 1993. This was done with fellow climber Simon Jenkins – and they cycled between their starting points rather than use motorised transport!

In 1985 the passions and pleasures of mountaineering also became a business as Martin and Joy moved to Lochcarron in North West Scotland to set up a climbing

school. This became Moran Mountaineering with their children Hazel and Alex eventually joining their parents in the work. The organisation offered a vast range of mountain adventures and training in Scotland, Norway, regular summer events based in Evolene, Switzerland and trekking, mountaineering and pioneering in the Himalayas.

In addition to his exceptional skills and talents, Martin added a real human touch to all he did. He took time to understand the people he worked with and tailored the tasks according to their abilities. His humanity and humour were a constant. He was an inspiration to many through his writings, courses and lectures. He was a member of the Torridon Mountain Rescue Team. A team member described him well: 'Martin has a heart of gold and all he wants to do is to make sure people get off the mountain safely.'

And as another fellow guide wrote of Martin on social media: 'He simply embraced the path less trodden and explored the deep unknown more than most, and as a result, he lived more than most.'

Dave Merritt (63-73), School Counsellor and former Geography Teacher and Head of Psychology

CORRECTIONS

Issue 105, page 35. The obituary of **IM Ward** (44-46) should have read Professor IM Ward FRS.

Page 12. **Dave Merritt's** (63-73) joining year was incorrectly stated as 1973.

Page 23. **Cristina Chui's** (07-18) leaving year was incorrectly stated as 2013.

Page 35. **J 'Chris' Emmerson** (36-47) died on 14 March 2019, not 13 March.

OBITUARIES

ALASTAIR C LUMSDEN (49-56)

BORN 1 NOVEMBER 1937, DIED 22 JULY 2019, AGED 81



At school, Alastair was renowned for his sporting prowess, particularly on the rugby field.

He was a Chartered Engineer, Chartered Geologist and Fellow of the Geological Society of London.

Alastair was one of the finest engineering geologists of his generation. He graduated from Kings College Durham University in 1961, following which he moved to Australia to work for the Geological Survey of Queensland in Brisbane, where he conducted some of the pioneering hydrogeological studies of the Condomine River Aquifer. From 1968 to 1970 he worked as a Senior Hydrogeologist and Resident Engineer for groundwater investigation for the Lar Dam project in Iran. He returned to the UK to teach; firstly, at Trent Polytechnic, concurrently at the Open University, and subsequently at Leeds University, where he developed the Engineering Geology MSc course, which he ran for 25 years. Under Alastair's guidance, the course flourished, soon competing with established

courses at Imperial College, Durham and Newcastle Universities for highly prized Natural Environment Research Council studentships. He strove to ensure the best possible outcomes for his students on the course by ensuring that it always remained highly relevant to the professional practice of Engineering Geology. It is testament to the foundations that Alastair laid that the course remains strong to this day. Alastair's PhD students included the late Stavros Bandis who was awarded the Manuel Rocha prize for his work on scale effects of rock joint shear strength. This work resulted in the publication of a classic scientific work *Fundamentals of Rock Joint Deformation* by Bandis, Lumsden and Barton – which has received over 1,700 research citations.

Alastair was definitely a no-nonsense fellow with an acerbic wit, but a protective arm around his students. The strength of the Leeds MSc course and the contacts he provided into industry has launched hundreds of successful careers, which remain his legacy.

Alastair retired in 2000, although he continued to work until he was 80 as the Editorial Manager of *Journal of Petrology*, assisting his wife Marjorie Wilson, Emeritus Professor of Igneous Petrogenesis at Leeds.

Alastair is survived by his wife, Marjorie, by the three children of his first marriage, Michael, Karen and Iain, and by his older brother Iain.

W 'Iain' Lumsden (45-52)

DR PETER D SMART (42-49)

BORN 8 DECEMBER 1941,
DIED 7 FEBRUARY 2019, AGED 87

During his time at RGS, Peter played the violin in the First Orchestra and made something of a reputation as an actor in the XXI Club plays. Going up to Newcastle Medical School, he graduated MB, BS in 1954 and always took an interest in the Graduate Society.

He enjoyed his National Service in the RAMC and learned much from the experience. His career was spent in General Practice in North Shields and Tynemouth. A fine baritone voice made him a prominent and valued member of Tynemouth, Wallsend and Gosforth Gilbert and Sullivan Societies.

He passed a happy retirement with Pat (Senior Registered Nurse, State Certified Midwife) at Ellington, only latterly suffering a decline in health. He was the father of **Duncan Smart (74-84)**, an international translator, now living in Thailand.

Bryan Stevens (44-49)

RONALD BAMBOROUGH (38-43)

BORN 1927, DIED 15 JULY 2019, AGED 92

JAMES C COULSON (42-49)

BORN 1932, DIED 27 JUNE 2019, AGED 87

ROBERT C GIBSON (36-43)

BORN 1925, DIED 18 FEBRUARY 2019,
AGED 93

KEITH F MOULD (50-60)

BORN 1942, DIED 1 APRIL 2019, AGED 77

DEREK NOEL OAKE (41-46)

BORN 1928, DIED 19 JULY 2019, AGED 90

EDWARD M REES (52-53)

BORN 1938, DIED 1 APRIL 2019, AGED 81

WILLIAM ROSS (33-41)

BORN 1924, DIED 9 APRIL 2019, AGED 94

RONALD H RYLE (63-68)

BORN 1951, DIED 9 AUGUST 2019,
AGED 67

ROBERT WILKINSON (70-75)

BORN 1958, DIED 16 AUGUST 2019,
AGED 60

We do hope that ONs have enjoyed the new look and feel of the *ONA Magazine*, we would welcome any feedback. Continuing the trend of a more thematic approach to the magazine, we are hoping to focus the next edition on **creative arts**. If any ONs would like to share stories, recollections, experiences reflecting on any aspect of the creative arts whilst at school or in their careers then we would like to hear from you. Please contact us at development@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk or on 0191 212 8909.

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DIARY DATES



JOHN ELDERS MEMORIAL MATCH

Saturday 28 December 2019

Kick-off 2pm, bar open from 12 noon – 11pm

Novos RFC v ONA, Sutherland Park

Please come along to support the teams and enjoy what is sure to be an enjoyable festive afternoon's entertainment.



SENIOR SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE

Tuesday 10 December 2019

7pm

St George's Church, Jesmond

All students, staff, parents, ONs and friends are warmly invited to this candle-lit Carol Service, accompanied by our Junior Chamber Choir, Senior Choir, RGS Community Choir, Brass Ensemble and the Symphony Orchestra.
Tickets not required



RGS GARDEN PARTY

Saturday 27 June 2020

7pm

RGS, Newcastle upon Tyne

LONDON ONA DINNER

Friday 6 March 2020

The Lansdowne Club, London

PERSONAL DETAILS AND DATA PROTECTION

The school has a very special relationship with its former students and we very much wish to continue to keep in touch with you. To do this we would like your consent to keep basic details of your time at school, what you have doing since leaving school and your contact details.

A copy of the letter and consent form can be found at <https://bit.ly/2OAWpXB>

Please complete the consent form so that we can continue to keep in contact.

ONA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 14 November 2019

5.15pm

RGS, Newcastle upon Tyne

All ONs are welcome to attend.