

# THE GRANGE Road Gazette

Spring | 2017



## The dawn of a new era

The Newsletter of  
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

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## CLUB AND UNION OFFICERS

### CU RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

President	Mark Bailey (Corpus Christi)
Chairman	Nick Bennett (Fitzwilliam)
Executive Secretary	Nigel Pett (Magdalene)
Treasurer	Austin Jessop (Fitzwilliam)
Playing Committee Chair	Scott Annett (Clare)
Development Committee Chair	Jeremy Macklin (St John's)
Communications/Marketing Chair	Jeremy Macklin (St John's)

### CU RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

President	Mark Bailey (Corpus Christi)
Chairman	Dick Tyler (Fitzwilliam)
Secretary	Deborah Griffin (Homerton)
Treasurer	Austin Jessop (Fitzwilliam)
RFU Representative	Ian Metcalfe (St Catharine's)
College Rugby Administrator	Philip Oliver (St Catharine's)

## Tremendous Result – but one Swallow doth not a Summer make!

### The President reports on progress

December 8th 2016 was a deeply satisfying day for the Light Blue camp. As we now move forward into the next annual cycle, it is worth reflecting that the first Men's Varsity Match success of the decade was both tremendous and sorely needed, but in reality it is just that – the first win in 7 years! The Women's Match saw a narrow reversal and a 3-0 loss, which was only achieved by some amazing last ditch defence by Oxford in the last quarter. We are certain, however, that the women will bounce back strongly, starting with the Tigers v Panthers game on 4th March at Grange Road.



However, everything above is put very much into perspective by the desperate news from Australia of the death of Dan Vickerman, Cambridge captain the last time we lifted the Varsity Match Trophy in 2009. Others far better acquainted with Dan have

written in more depth about what a great player and individual he was. We know how much he enjoyed his time at Cambridge, returning to Australia with his appetite for international rugby renewed, and he went on to play for Australia in his third RWC tournament in 2011. He won 63 caps in total and was aged just 37.

Tony Rodgers rates Dan as the finest Cambridge lock that he coached over 30 plus years, which is the highest tribute to Dan. Our thoughts and sympathy at this dreadful time are with Dan's wife Sarah and his family, and we know that several CURUFC alumni who live in the Sydney area are in direct contact with the family. The news of this tragedy unfolded just as we were about to publish this edition of the Gazette, and the club will announce in due course how we plan to commemorate Dan's passing and celebrate his contribution to both CURUFC and indeed the wider world of Rugby.



Looking to the future, as most of you will now be aware, 2021 will mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Club, and we have been putting plans in place over the last 18 months to create a sustainable platform for the Club and for rugby in Cambridge University for the next 50 years.

It will be no surprise to you that the old model for running and financing Cambridge Rugby, which worked reasonably well up until 2008, is no longer viable. We have incurred operational losses in the last 3 financial years and this cannot continue, it is simply not sustainable from our reserves. We now have to look to new ways of securing our future, not least through the advancement of a long-term fundraising and development programme. This will be delivered via a five-year campaign which will be called "Red Lion 150". The success of this will depend very much on the support of our Alumni, and many of you have been very positive in your responses throughout the development phase.

As a Club, we remain committed to ensuring that talented rugby players, whether undergraduate or postgraduate, enter an environment that develops each individual's rugby abilities. The Club has put considerable effort into both its access work and coaching, and we saw the first fruits of that at Twickenham. 2017 sees the academy structure enter its second year, aimed firmly at nurturing the best undergraduate talent at Cambridge.

We have assembled a strong team of former players and other supporters to guide the Club through its current challenges. One of the central areas of our plans will be to create many more regular opportunities for alumni engagement with all club activities throughout the year, and this year will see two major events with the Hurlingham Club Dinner on 26th April 2017 and the 70th (incredible I know) staging of the Steele-Bodger Match in November – I urge you to support both.

Having stated all of the above, of one thing we are certain; none of this will happen unless we are able to inspire and energise a wide-cross section of our Alumni and friends to support Red Lion 150, and we have already engaged proactively with an initial core group of you. We hope that everyone will participate positively with the campaign over the coming years, and there are many more details of events and ways to support Red Lion 150 later in the Gazette, and also on-line.

Playing rugby and studying at Cambridge provided each of us with an unrivalled platform for future success in life. I had a wonderful time at Cambridge, in substantial part because the Rugby Club provided opportunities, experiences and friendships that have shaped my life. It is an honour to be President of this great Club, especially at a time when we stand on the threshold of a huge opportunity, and I very much hope that you will and support us in whatever way you can.

Hopefully you will receive this issue before the U20 and Tiger's varsity matches, which take place on Saturday 4th March at Grange Road, with the first game kicking off at 1pm. It would be great to have a strong support from Alumni and members to hopefully witness more Light Blue varsity success.

Professor Mark Bailey, President CURUFC

## Events Diary 2017

### LENT TERM 2017

**Saturday 4th Mar**

Grange Road – Varsity Games.  
U20 Men and CURUFC Tigers (Women's Reserve VM)

**Thursday 9th Mar**

CURUFC Club Dinner, Cambridge.

### EASTER TERM 2017

**Wednesday 26th April**

CURUFC Legends Dinner **RL 150**  
Hurlingham Club, Fulham, London.

**Thursday 27th April**

Cuppers Final – Grange Road.

**Thursday 15th –  
Saturday 17th June**

Summer Gathering in Cambridge **RL 150**  
Informal Golf on 15th.  
T20 Varsity Cricket at Fenners on 16th  
Final Day of May Bumps on 17th.

### MICHELMAS TERM

**Friday 22nd Sept -  
Sunday 24th Sept**

Cambridge University Alumni weekend **RL 150**  
Fri 22nd Alumni Golf Day – Gog Magog, Cambridge.  
Sat 23rd Women's Alumni game at Grange Road.  
Men's event to be announced.  
Sun 24th – Hawks Club drinks and lunch – details TBC.

**Sunday 8th Oct**

College Tournament – 2.30pm Grange Road.

**Oct/Nov TBC**

Blues v Trinity College Dublin - Dublin. **RL 150**  
Events around this to be announced.

**November TBC**

Blues v Richmond at Richmond, London **RL 150**

**Wednesday 22nd Nov**

70th M.R. Steele Bodger XV v CURUFC .  
Special Celebrations - **do not miss this!!**

**Wednesday 29th Nov**

LX Club v OU Greyhounds – Iffley Road, Oxford.

**Thursday 7th Dec**

The Varsity Matches - Twickenham.  
Women 11.30am  
Men 2.30pm  
New hospitality options a great success in 2016.  
Book early for 2017!



'This provided the team with a great opportunity to grow together on and off the pitch'



## A year to savour... and repeat

### CURUFC Men's captain Daniel Dass on his year as Captain

The 2016 season was one to remember, as months of hard work paid off with a victory in the Varsity Match on 8th December.

Preparations for this victory began last Easter with our S&C coach, James Owens, making sure that we were in the best possible condition come September when preseason commenced in Cambridge. A great deal of credit should go to James for the work that he has done over the past two years, making this year's team one of the fittest in which I have played. Special mention goes to Andrew Hunter and Michael Phillips, whose tireless work showed in the first week of training, with both achieving world-class standards in the RFU fitness tests.

For preseason the team spent two weeks in Cambridge before going to Browns in Portugal for a training camp. This provided

the team with a great opportunity to grow together on and off the pitch. The squad was made up of a number of new players, which in turn gave the season a fresh feeling. There was a buzz of excitement about the upcoming games, the Varsity Match, the whole Cambridge experience and all that was in store for the new players over the coming months.

Matches began in October with a number of tough fixtures. With losses to Loughborough, Richmond and Trinity College Dublin, as well as the start of term adding academic pressure to the players, this proved to be a difficult month. However, we stuck together as a team and supported one another. October ended with our heaviest defeat to Northampton Saints, but this was a very important turning point in the season.

Although out muscled and out classed it was our best game of the season, with every player showing the heart and desire that typifies the Cambridge Blue. From this point on we were full of confidence.

In November we won four matches in a row, ending with an exciting 10 try classic against the Steele-Bodgers XV in front of over 3000 supporters. This run of victories helped to develop a winning mentality, which was essential going into the Varsity Match. In the lead up to Twickenham, training took a step up. Everyone had an edge about them as we were no longer just building towards the Varsity, but rather what was finally in front of us.

During these two weeks we worked hard on staying together as a team and working together to get the win. Tom Stanley who throughout the season proved to be a great leader by driving standards on and off the pitch ensured that we stayed positive, lifting the boys when necessary. The senior players, including Will Briggs, Seb Tullie, Fraser Gillies and Richard

Bartholomew were all calming influences. These players had experienced the Varsity Match before and made sure that those coming to the game for the first time were as well prepared, focused and confident as possible.

I think the performances in the Varsity Match speak for themselves and are a credit to both the players and the coaching staff. However, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the CURUFC alumni, friends and players' families for their support throughout the course of the year. Without this support, we would not have been able to achieve either the performance, or victory, that came on the day.



'every player showing the heart and desire that typifies the Cambridge Blue'



# Disappointed, but moving forward

## Alice Middleton

Hello and happy 2017 from the Women's camp at CURUFC!

Our 2016-17 season has been a tough one, and we have a lot of lessons to take forward. Let's start with the build up to Varsity, which was an exciting time for us, as ever. Fantastic progress on the strength and conditioning side of preparation has carried through from last season, with team gym sessions and circuit training week in, week out. We had a lot of new talent in the squad, which had gelled together well in training and matches, plus we had recently beaten the other place 22-0 at Grange Road. The ingredients were all in place for a great day at Twickenham.



Alas, on the day it did not happen. We were forced to make some late changes due to injury, and on the day nerves got to us. Despite some positive attacking play,



handling errors cost us and left us on the wrong side of a disappointing 3-0 score line. Quite a different story from last year, and something I know I will always find hard to accept. However, from here we can move on, and we are of course making sure we make the most of this opportunity to look into our structures and preparation to ensure that we improve for next season.



The BUCS Premier league is quite a different challenge to Varsity, and matches as far afield as Cardiff have also been challenging. Nevertheless, we have been developing as a squad and using these fixtures to work on all aspects of our game, with particular emphasis on defence. You may recall that the Other Place never genuinely threatened our try line at Twickenham! Now that the season is coming to an end, we find ourselves in potential play-off position to remain in the Premier South league, which we will be fighting for with all of the Light Blue spirit at our disposal! Since Varsity these BUCS matches have allowed us to practice some creative attacking play,



and we've been working on our kicking game. Bring on Twickenham 2017! In addition to this, we are all looking forward to our second team Varsity Match on the 4th of March, where a lot of the new talent that we have in the squad can display their potential. The match is at Grange Road this year so all support would be happily received!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the coaches, Jack Baird, Ian Minto, Anna Stodter and Beth Price for all of their help and hard work throughout the season. Women's rugby in Cambridge continues to grow from strength to strength as our playing numbers increase. Without the support of the coaches, the necessary technical and skills improvements would not be possible. I would also like to thank the alumni for their support, which is very much appreciated and does make a huge difference to the players, and finally the players themselves. You can rest assured that we're all putting the hours in, both on and off the field, to ensure we come back with the right result this year!

'You may recall that the Other Place never genuinely threatened our try line at Twickenham!'



## Playing Committee

Scott Annett reviews.....

A huge amount of work has been undertaken over the last twelve months by all of those involved with the rugby programme at CURUFC, including committee members, alumni, coaches and of course the players themselves. It is undoubtedly a testament to this work that we can look back on a season in which progress has been made, whilst at the same time remaining determined to produce better performances, whether week-to-week in training, on match days or in the various Varsity Matches in which the players compete.

This balance between satisfaction and progress achieved and an acknowledgement of work still to be done is perhaps most obvious with regards to the women's 1st team. Everyone at the club was extremely disappointed to see the women lose their second Varsity Match at Twickenham (0-3), particularly given their dominant displays in the previous two outings and the fact that they had defeated the same Oxford team



(22-0) just over a month earlier in their BUCS fixture at Grange Road. The CURUFC women certainly made a huge effort, both in their preparations for the game and on the day itself, while Captain Alice Middleton (Lucy Cavendish) and Women's Manager Lara Gibson (Lucy Cavendish) were exemplary in their commitment to the club. However, a disjointed buildup caused by disruption

through injury and issues with player availability for regular BUCS fixtures meant that the team was not quite able to perform to its very best. On the day, there were several strong performances, including those from Emma Pierce (St Catharine's), Molly Byrne (Newnham) and Laura Suggitt (St Edmund's), but ultimately the CURUFC women could not find a way through the formidable and suffocating Dark Blue defence.

Both the players and coaches, including Jack Baird, Ian Minto and Anna Stodter, are all determined to turn this result around in December 2017 and the club will be doing everything it can to support these efforts. Indeed, in many respects that work has already commenced. The women have continued to train hard, both on the field and in the gym under the guidance of Milosz Wrobel, while several development days have also taken place to encourage new players to participate in rugby. Throughout Lent term, the women have competed regularly in the BUCS Premiership and at this stage look likely to be concluding their season with a play-off fixture against Hartpury College to avoid relegation.

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Moreover, alongside these efforts, the Tigers (women's 2nd XV) have been preparing for their Varsity Match at Grange Road on 4th March 2017, alongside the men's U20s. As with last year, the women's coaches have been able to introduce a number of new players to the club and will look forward to giving them their first taste of Varsity Match rugby. With this work in mind, and when surveying the state of women's rugby at the University of Cambridge as a whole, there are plenty of reasons for optimism and I have no doubt that the CURUFC women will continue to draw inspiration from the disappointments of 2016.

On the men's side, the 2016 Varsity Match resulted in a much-deserved victory (23-18) for Captain Daniel Dass (St Catharine's)



Mike Phillips scoring a try.

and Secretary Michael Phillips (Emmanuel), under the guidance of first team coach James Shanahan, who has recently committed to coach at CURUFC for the next two years. All three have worked tirelessly throughout the year and their examples have set standards for the players that transferred seamlessly to the field. New players such as Tom Stanley (Magdalene), Andrew Hunter (St Edmund's), and Charlie Amesbury (Queens') have been outstanding in supporting the Captain and providing both leadership and a fresh edge to the team's preparations, which was in turn complimented by the Varsity Match

experience of individuals such as Will Briggs (Magdalene), Fraser Gillies (Hughes Hall) and Seb Tullie (Emmanuel). In addition to this, backrow forward Brian du Toit (St Edmund's)



Tom Stanley

concluded a strong term with a fine performance in the Varsity Match that resulted in him winning the Alistair Hignell medal for Man of the Match, while it would be extremely remiss to ignore the considerable achievements of former men's Captain Will Briggs, who secured his first victory in six Varsity Match appearances, and who has now played over one hundred times for the 1st team, rendering him the most capped player in the club's history.

Below the 1st team, the club has been continuing to restructure with a commitment to nurturing the brightest and best young talent at the University. The CURUFC Academy has proved to be a crucial part of the club's development pathway, with a large number of academy members progressing from the U20s and LXs Club to the 1st team Varsity Match squad. In 2016, this included Michael Phillips (Emmanuel), Andrew Burnett (Jesus), Will Dean (St John's), George Griffiths (St John's), Demitri Moros (St John's), Lola Erogbogbo (Clare), Lare Erogbogbo (Jesus) and Henry King (St Catharine's). We will be expecting the same success in 2017, with the new academy members being provided with access to specialist skills coaching, mentoring and strength and conditioning expertise in order to fulfil their rugby potential.

The LXs Club continued to develop under the leadership of Jim Ashworth, supported now by a new coaching team including Tommy Dann, Liam St John and Paul Gethin. Unfortunately, following a very positive season, the Varsity Match was to end in disappointment. Despite starting very brightly, with the first points being scored by flyhalf Owen Perks (Gonville and Caius), and repeated waves of attack ultimately leading to a break by impressive inside centre Chris Cooper (Girton), who passed to freshman and fullback Ed Loftus (Queens') to score, the young LXs side were eventually out-muscled by an experienced Greyhounds team (49-8). Following the consecutive victories of 2013 and 2014, the club is under no illusions that this is an area requiring urgent attention, and everyone is committed to closing the gap as quickly as possible. Looking to the future, we will continue to support Jim and his coaching team, and we have also just appointed a LXs Secretary for the first time in a number of years. Tom Wilson (Girton) will be responsible for representing the LXs Club on the Playing Committee, as well as working with the men's Captain and Secretary to ensure that the club's players are fully integrated.

On that point, at the beginning of January the men elected Charlie Amesbury (Queens') to replace Daniel Dass as Captain, while Michael Phillips handed the Secretary role over to 1st team tighthead prop Jonathan Dixon (Downing). Charlie and Jonathan have already set about laying the foundations for another successful campaign, with Charlie drawing on his considerable experience in the professional game and also selecting some exciting young talent in the opening Lent term fixtures, including freshmen Chris Bell (Girton), Matt Watson (Corpus Christi) and Ed Loftus (Queens'). In January, a narrow defeat to the Army was followed

by an impressive and entertaining victory over the Penguins RFC, and these young players were particularly to the fore in both encounters, enjoying their 1st team opportunities whilst also preparing for the U20s Varsity Match at Grange Road in March. Indeed, this term the U20s have again enjoyed regular sessions with 1st team coaches James Shanahan and Rich Candlin, as well as the Academy Manager Jack Heald, and the club looks forward to a strong performance against the Other Place in March that will in turn provide a platform for next season.

Finally, and as in previous years, I would like to offer my thanks to the numerous alumni who have contributed throughout the course of the year. The men's Playing, Access and Bursary Committees, as well as the women's Playing Group, rely heavily on alumni to devote time, energy, financial resources and expertise to the club. Without that assistance, the progress made to date would have been impossible.

Scott Annett  
Playing Committee  
scott.annett@curufc.com)



Charlie



Jonny

## 70 year's young – and still going Strong!! M.R. Steele-Bodger XV v Cambridge University 22nd November 2017

Quite astonishingly, it was in 1948 that Micky, having sadly been injured badly enough to have to retire aged just 23 and having won 9 England caps, decided to being a star-studded side to Grange Road to provide the Blues with a stern test prior to Twickenham. And he hasn't missed a year since!



Now very much in partnership with his son Guy, they are still turning out excellent competitive teams every year to ensure a close matched game which is now watched by over 3,000 people...and growing! Nearly 1,000 people had lunch in 2 marquees at the ground last year, and many companies take over whole restaurants in town for the pre-match festivities. Curry houses and taxi drivers report very strong trade as well! Quite simply, always the biggest CURUFC home game of the year, and also the biggest annual "Sport meets Business" day in the wider Cambridge area.

The game is unique, the occasion is unique, and of course Micky himself is absolutely unique, and we intend to celebrate this amazing milestone as befits the occasion.

What does that mean / what do I need to do now??

- Save the date now – Wednesday 22nd November 2017
- We are inviting everyone who has ever played at any stage, for either the University or Micky's XV, to join us to celebrate with him.
- There will be pre-match lunches organised, by appropriate year groupings, in Colleges – we simply don't have the room at Grange Road for any more.
- There will be a pre-match celebration of the 70th anniversary prior to kick-off – we are keeping the details a secret for now – even from Micky!
- Post match tea and drinks in the marquees at Grange Road
- Dinner for the 2 sides and all previous Captains of both sides in Queens' college in the evening.

Detailed arrangements will be announced in May – but make sure you are able to be in Cambridge on 22nd November 2017 for this very special anniversary, and to celebrate with one of the truly great men of Cambridge, British and indeed World Rugby.



## College Rugby

John Naylor rounds up a full schedule of college matches

Inspired by the recent Olympics, which involved CURUFC alumni Ben Ryan (Blue 1995, 1996) and Juliano Fiori (Blue 2007), the College rugby season kicked off with a 7s tournament on the first weekend of Michaelmas term, involving 16 Colleges and a great deal of entertaining rugby. The finals were played under lights at Grange Road and there were some outstanding tries scored throughout the day. Ultimately, St John's defeated Girton in a very entertaining final, and the Red Boys enjoyed collecting the inaugural trophy from CURFU Chairman Dick Tyler. No doubt they will return to next year's competition and look to retain the silverware.



Despite such a good start, College rugby has faced many familiar challenges this season, with several sides in Divisions 1 and 2 cancelling fixtures because of low numbers or students not being able to commit to playing on weekday afternoons. In contrast Division 3 fixtures were scheduled to Saturday for the first time and has been flourishing, with matches being played with competitive scrums. Given the success of this change, and following feedback from the College Captains, who have stated clearly that they would prefer to play either at weekends or in the evenings, we are now looking to transfer the majority of College rugby to the weekends. This change is not without challenges, particularly around pitch availability and access to referees, but we are determined to put the needs of the players first and to support the Captains in their efforts to play regularly.

The College "Lions" XV played a handful of fixtures in Michaelmas term prior to their Varsity match against the Other Place. This team is comprised of the best College players at the University, and following defeat to Anglia Ruskin (0-18), victory over Shelford RFC (83-14) and an extremely close encounter with Guy's Hospital RFC (11-12), they approached the Varsity Match full of



confidence. Captained impressively by Luke Harries (St Catharine's), the "Lions" travelled to Iffley Road on a dark and miserable day and were unfortunate to lose 17-8. The match was extremely even, with the Light Blues pushing for victory throughout the second half and a run away try for the Other Place in the final minutes putting the game to bed. The result notwithstanding, this was an outstanding celebration of Oxbridge College rugby and the "Lions" made significant improvements on the previous season.

In terms of the College leagues, St John's are to be congratulated on winning Division 1 for the third year in a row, although they were pushed very close by a determined Robinson team, and it will certainly be interesting if the two sides come face to face in Cuppers this term. In Division 2, Caius was by far the best side with a number of teams struggling to commit to Tuesday afternoon fixtures. In Division 3, 8 teams were competing against each other and played each other once, followed by a couple of play-off games to determine the overall winner. The winner this season was the combined Hughes Hall/St Edmund's team, which beat CCK (Clare, Corpus and King's) in the final play-off 18-0.

The beginning of February saw the start of Cuppers, which generates considerable excitement every year and even inspires members of the 1st team to participate. Indeed, the reorganisation of the men's 1st team season to accommodate participation in the Cuppers competition is welcome and appreciated. The Cuppers Final will be held on 27th April 2017 at Grange Road (KO 7pm), which will bring the curtain down on competitive College rugby for another season.



College 7's



## INTRODUCING.....

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### ANNA STODTER

For the next in our feature articles introducing the CURUFC coaching staff, we spent some time catching up with women's coach, Dr Anna Stodter. Anna has won 8 caps for Scotland, playing primarily in the backrow, and she also turns out regularly for Saracens. In addition to this, and committing her time to supporting the women at CURUFC, she is also a Lecturer in Sport Coaching and Physical Education at Anglia Ruskin University.

Having completed her BSc in Psychology at the University of Edinburgh, Anna went to Loughborough University to complete her Masters and then PhD. It was during this time that she migrated from football to rugby. Anna recalls, "I grew up playing football and played in the Scottish first division. One day I was persuaded to make up the numbers for Loughborough University's women's rugby

team as I had a friend who played and I have never looked back!"

Reflecting upon her experiences playing for Saracens, she is well aware that "it is a privilege to play for such a famous club, while training and playing at Allianz Park is also fantastic." She feels that the women's game is only going to continue to grow, supported by a range of RFU initiatives and helped by the presence of the Varsity Match at Twickenham, which, outside the Six Nations internationals, is the highest profile women's fixture in the UK. She describes Saracens as a "forward thinking club" and emphasises that the women's side "is looking to become more and more professional in our approach with enhanced Strength and Conditioning, analysis, medical and sport science support." The introduction of professional contracts for women, coupled with the rise of women's 7s at the Olympics, mean that, "clubs will be determined to keep up with the pace of all of these developments." In other words, the future is very bright for women's rugby.

Turning our attention to coaching at CURUFC, Anna is keen to open doors for newer players. "I have been lucky enough to play international rugby, having had the opportunity to take up the sport relatively late. I've also met and connected with so many amazing people through rugby and it has definitely opened doors for me. I never imagined I would get to do these things and I think as a coach if I can help other people to achieve their potential in a similar way, be that internationally or being a great club or social player, then I'll be delighted!"

At the same time, she acknowledges that the CURUFC players are presented with some significant challenges throughout the course of the season. "The biggest challenge is without a doubt availability of players in a unique setting where training and playing needs to be balanced with very intense academic demands – these girls are studying to be the top academics, doctors, vets and engineers in the country, if not the world, and there are often timetable clashes." Yet this need not be a negative. "At the same time, this also relates to one of the things I love most about coaching at CURUFC. I love the unique conversations about all manner of topics, always fully debated and backed up with clear evidence!"

Both Anna and the women's team were well aware of the women's networking events that took place at last year's Varsity Match, and are very excited to see how this area will develop going forwards. She observes, "I think there is a glass ceiling when you look at the people in charge at many levels of sport, and I also sometimes feel that as a woman I have to work harder to prove myself professionally. Nevertheless, women's rugby is moving in the right directions to challenge this and if anyone can start to chip away at that ceiling, surely it's the amazing women of CURUFC."

I think as a coach if I can help other people to achieve their potential in a similar way, be that internationally or being a great club or social player, then I'll be delighted!"

On that note, everyone at CURUFC wishes the women's coaching team and players the very best as they begin their journey to overturn last year's disappointing result. In the meantime, the CURUFC women are certainly fortunate to have a role model like Anna to observe on a day-to-day basis. Moreover, the club will continue to do everything that it can to support its female players as they look to push through glass ceilings, whether on the field or in their academic and professional lives.



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## The Varsity Match Company Limited



Come and join us at Twickenham on  
7th December 2017

**The Varsity Match Company's new strategy gets off to a great start with more work to come.**

The Varsity Match company's (VMCL) plans for the 2016 games saw a new strategy come into play. Market experience told us that we needed to re-position the sponsorship approaches, to create a series of content-rich events on the fringe of the two matches, and to exploit the marketing opportunities for the 96 Executive Boxes at Twickenham. As we now look forward to the 2017 Varsity Match on 7 December, we also have plans

for serious Market Research to help us to increase the crowd numbers as well as to guide our thoughts for the date and day for the 2018 Varsity Match. All your help will be much appreciated as we turn around the course of the Varsity Match. Jeremy Macklin brings you this report:

**Sponsorship:** despite some very committed support from within a couple of corporates, we were blown off-course by Brexit in the search for a Title sponsor. We repositioned the packages and picked up some very useful partner sponsors to lighten partly the furrowed brow of our treasurer. This will build as we go into the preparations for the 2017 VM. If you think you might be able to help, please do contact Jeremy Macklin.

**Fringe events 2016:** we held two very successful meetings in 2016 which we used as proof of the concept that business seminars can be a great platform for money-raising for the VM. Thanks to the four great speakers, including CURUFC's own Deborah Griffin, and to the experienced chairing of Karena Vleck, we enthralled 100-odd paying guests over breakfast before kick-off of the Women's match. At lunch we had 230 guests for a dynamic presentation from that trusted tandem of Rob Andrew and Ian Robertson, ably chaired by Dick Tyler. Both these events provided great entertainment and helped to raise considerable funds for the Club and they also raised money for Leonard Cheshire.

For 2017 the VMCL team is now actively looking for corporates who would like to run a seminar with speakers hand-picked from our sporting alumni alongside some leading thinkers from the Judge Business School, choosing from a range of topics which are as applicable to rugby as to business. Please contact Jeremy Macklin if you might be interested.



Schools Focus: schools represent one of the main target audiences for the VM, and we set out to create a number of events which would create extra interest for school children. Working together with the University Admissions teams and a handful of College Outreach officers from each University, we launched the first Schools Information event at the Varsity Match, welcoming 500 children from Inner City London schools. Sixty undergraduates and Admissions staff from both Universities explained what life was really like as an undergraduate. The children and teachers were hugely appreciative and we have had fantastic feedback from all the schools.

We also initiated the concept of a training session at Twickenham for school teams. With the trusty help of the All Schools team (and a massive thank you to Chris Thomas from CBRE for his help) we were able to offer to 80 pupils drawn from 4 different schools a brief training session with Eddie Jones himself.



Eddie Jones

Varsity Match Schools Session



The VMCL will be planning to run these events again, and we hope to find corporate sponsors from the education sector.

**Executive Boxes:** we reached out to a number of teams from the 1970s and 1980s who responded brilliantly to the idea of taking an executive box for the reunion of their teams. Angus Stewart, Simon Cooke, Bill Biddell, John

Ellison and Trevor Borthwick all took up the challenge, and the feedback has been extremely positive. Other Alumni such as David Gunner and Ian Peck made sure that their companies made the most of the fabulous opportunity to bring staff and clients together in the special VM atmosphere at Twickenham. The VMCL will be talking to 5 and 10 year anniversary teams, starting in 1962 (for whom this will be the 55th anniversary) and 1967(50 years) going through to the 2012 squad. If you belong to those squads, please do plan to celebrate in style, and help the Club's finances at the same time. Please contact Jeremy Macklin before he contacts you..!

The wind of change that has brought good fortune to the Men's squad has also brought a new approach for the marketing of the Varsity Match. There is much work underway to reposition the day at Twickenham, and anything you might be able to do to help us would be much appreciated.

**'The children and teachers were hugely appreciative and we have had fantastic feedback from all the schools'**



## Strategy for Sport at Cambridge

Nick Brooking is the Director of Sport at the University of Cambridge

Was I surprised when, shortly after my appointment was made public but well before I started, the first welcome message I received was from CURUFC Chairman Nick Bennett? Not entirely because, in my experience, sport, and especially rugby, has a great culture of making people feel welcome.

Had Nick done his homework he could possibly have worked out that we had played against each other in student days – tho' he may of course have been concussed at the time! No HIA's in those days.

"So what do you think you can achieve in your job then?" is a reasonable (and polite) interpretation of the question (expressed in many different ways and tones) that has frequently been asked of me since starting as Director of Sport for Cambridge University just over a year ago.

"More sport"? There's already a huge amount going on across a great range of activity, at a great variety of levels and with different motivations and aspirations.

"Better sport?" What is "better"? Winning more? Playing at a higher level so maybe not winning as much? How do we judge improvement? What's important – apart from beating the other place of course.

"When are we getting a swimming pool.....?"

And so the conversations continue depending on the agenda (and there usually is one) of the enquirer.

What I would like to achieve is that more people recognise what many of us already know - that sport is an essential part of life for many people at Cambridge. Whether it's high level and high commitment sport or something less intense such as the non-swimming college water polo player I met at a college sports dinner recently – he played attack or defence depending on the shallow end. "Special camaraderie" and "the positive release with purpose from pressure of academic work" were the most cited benefits.

Is it a coincidence that many people who perform at a high level in sport also perform at a high level in the classroom and in business? I don't think so and we are trying to evidence this by methodical research as well as anecdotally.

I would also like more people to recognise the extraordinary efforts of extraordinary people who keep the show on the road for the clubs. Many are volunteers and they are not seeking anything for themselves but their driver is success for the club and the participants. Success will of course take many different forms – sometimes it's about winning sometimes it's about survival.



I would like sport at Cambridge to be more "joined up", to work in a more collaborative and effective way whilst retaining its individual character, and to share values that will stand us in good stead as we go out from the Cambridge bubble into the wider world to work or play. "Scholar athletes" should be great role models but let's also celebrate and promote the health and wellbeing of the college social player who will also have gained, and given, experience and friendships that will last a lifetime.

We also have to recognise that the global sporting environment has changed enormously over the last thirty years with commercialisation, litigation, TV and other media, and with outrageous money involved in some sports, yet with others as impoverished as ever. Readers of the GRG will know only too well that Rugby Union in particular has changed completely with the advent of professionalism, and this has had a radical effect on the playing resources that Oxbridge can attract. The task for us at the coal face, supported by the alumni and the University, is to ensure that we provide the best opportunities that we can in the current environment for individuals to achieve the highest level that their talent and ambition allows them to aspire to, in whatever sport they participate.

With input from many people we have written a Strategy for Sport for Cambridge. It's not especially complicated or clever and it's maybe a little introverted but we have to start somewhere to define what we want to be and what we want to achieve. There is a clear need for a fund raising plan for sport and now the University has recently approved the strategy for sport it has effectively committed to working on this. We know from the huge efforts made by the Boat Club that fund raising for sport requires unlimited energy and clear direction to engage in a professional and systematic way with all who understand and appreciate its value so we need the University to help resource this to support the clubs.

My ultimate aim? To be able to say with genuine confidence that sport at Cambridge doesn't just have a great history, it also has a great future.

**Nick Brooking**

<http://www.sport.cam.ac.uk/>

<http://www.sport.cam.ac.uk/news/strategy-sport-2017-2022>



## Red Lion 150 – Development Update

### Rob Heginbotham



Many people will have already talked about 8th December 2016, and it was obviously a momentous day in that we finally stopped the run of Dark Blue success in the Men's fixture.

Whilst, as Mark has pointed out, it is only one win, which hopefully will not stand in isolation, from a development perspective it was a crucial day.

Firstly, it was great to see and personally meet so many Cambridge alumni in the various Restaurants and Hospitality boxes around the stadium, all of whom were having a great time and were hugely positive, even before the 2.30pm kick-off, and despite the narrow loss in the Women's game. It was tremendous to be able to go back to the rest of the Cambridge management team and report (or probably more likely "slur slightly" after 16 different venues)... "Hey guys, this is really working, our people love the new arrangements and there is a real sense of them getting behind the club".

Of course the win helps enormously, I won't pretend that 2016 was an easy year from the development perspective, but we put in a lot of serious ground work and preparation for the whole campaign, and things are now really starting to move. In reality we certainly under-estimated the time it would take to get the word and underlying messages out into the Alumni network, and for key people to get comfortable with the strategy and overall direction of travel towards 2021.

However, what I think is equally important is that the 2016 vintage very definitely understood and appreciated that the hitherto rather somnambulant, and dare I say it rather amorphous (with a few notable exceptions!) regiment of Light Blue Alumni, has most definitely awakened and started to march in their support. Both Daniel and Alice have made reference to this in their notes herein, and several other players who have been around for a few years have expressed this to me directly.

Quite simply, each of us as individuals, and the alumni body collective, does make a serious difference and it makes a positive impact on the field, both via the obvious benefits of financial support allowing better coaching, bursaries, medical provision etc, but also by the rather more intangible notion that nearly 150 years of heritage is firmly behind the players and supporting them, and that this is being tangibly realised and delivered by the last 40 or 50 years of their forbears. One of the senior current players said something to me last Autumn which has stuck in my mind.... "it doesn't feel like we are alone out there anymore, it feels like good stuff is happening, and it helps".

So, we are off to a decent start, and the development group very much feel that the foundations are now firmly in place. 2017, the 146th year of the club, is when RL 150 will really take off and gather momentum as we move towards Twickenham in December. Whilst most of you will have received an e-newsletter in February which will give you an

overview of where we are currently, we have by necessity only directly engaged with a small section of our Alumni so far. That is about to change, and we will be launching initiatives via Captains and direct communications throughout the year. So what does that really mean?

First and foremost, **please get involved in whatever way you can, and play an active part in some way or other in 2017.** There is a list of key events on Page 5 of this Gazette, and we will obviously be promoting them actively as they draw closer. This is your club for life, but there is no point in even saying this unless you all believe in it, engage with it, and support it! The response in 2016 tells us that the majority of alumni agree with that.

The first major event is the **Cambridge University Rugby Legends Dinner on 26th April** (which hopefully you have all heard about by now) which is shaping up to be a magnificent evening and tables are selling well, but equally we have plenty of space (since 850 is maximum capacity at the Hurlingham club). We are very happy to take bookings for part tables, or even individuals, and you are welcome to bring friends, work colleagues etc. Details are on Page 35 of this Gazette. Please contact your CURUFC peers and make every effort to join us.

In addition to that, we are still looking to **secure additional "Founder Benefactors" for the Red Lion 150 Campaign.** We are very grateful to those individuals who have already stepped up to the plate in this regard, and we will be recognising their contribution in due course – without their initial support, we would not be able to run RL 150 and the club would be in a much less positive position than we find ourselves today. However, we need a few more key people to join the Founder Benefactor group before the end of April. If you would like to help or find out more, please contact me directly – you don't need to be a multi-millionaire either!!

As mentioned in the previous communication, we will be formally launching the "Name a Seat at Grange Road" initiative at the Legends dinner in April, but we are pleased to say that a few top men have already stepped forward and agreed to have their name immortalised. At whatever level you played for the University – a brand new seat and Light Blue immortality is just a pledge away!!

**Finally – 22nd November 2017. Don't miss it, Grange Road will be the centre of the Rugby Universe that day!! It is the 70th Steele-Bodger Match - see page 13.**

I hope that this brief missive, along with everything else in this edition will leave you feeling hugely positive about the future of our great club; those of us at the RL 150 coalface are certainly moving forward purposefully in that vein!

Looking forward to seeing hundreds (literally) of you on 26th April at the Hurlingham Club

GDBO!



## Rob Andrew

### Special places.....

Memories of special places keep coming back. As these recede further back in time, it seems that the memories grow greater.

Leaving Grange Road on the dreaded Doc Turner runs will be a memory that never leaves me. I am sure there will be many others paying tribute to Doc and the other special people we mourn in this newsletter. It is our duty to ensure they are never forgotten, no matter the pain inflicted upon us at Lammas Land!



24 I don't think I was ever fitter than in my time at Cambridge. We outran teams for the whole 3 years I was here, and all of that was down to Doc T. We had skill too, and A K Rodgers claims credit for that although I'm not so sure!

My sporting life has been dominated by incredible memories of special sporting places.

Grange Road is up there with the very best, along with Fenners in the summer. The feeling of arriving for training or especially a big match will never leave, and even now on the all too rare occasions I make it to Cambridge the feelings walking into Grange Road transport me back to those remarkable days in the early 80's.

Like many others I am sure, I had dreams of playing at Twickenham, Lords or even Wembley when I was in the yard on the farm growing up in North Yorkshire. I had never been to Twickenham or Lords, probably never even heard of Grange Road or Fenners, and yet within 9 months of coming up to St John's I had debuted at all 4 (albeit 12th man at Lords!)

Rugby grounds in the north east of England would dominate my early career - Gosforth, West Hartlepool and Acklam Park, Middlesbrough (for both rugby and cricket as an outground for Yorkshire in the days the counties played matches all over the county). Little would I know that a pre-season Cambridge tour to the north east would play such a significant part in my Cambridge career - I need to add Ashbrooke, Sunderland to the list as I played against Cambridge for an invitation side called Penguins. Even less could I have imagined how Gosforth and Newcastle would influence my life after my playing career ended and professionalism and Sir John Hall arrived on the scene!

In that first heady term at Cambridge, everything was a whirlwind. We played away at Richmond, Northampton, Gloucester, Leicester and Harlequins before finally arriving at Twickenham.

All those venues are special places in the rich history that is English rugby. Driving on the coach from Cambridge to Richmond to make my debut for the first team was a journey I will never forget. I had never been to the Athletic Ground and fortunately I had my experienced half back partner John Cullen (JC) to talk me through the game. We won and followed up with victory at Franklins Gardens.

Richmond Athletic Ground was to also be the scene of a remarkable 20-20 draw between Richmond and Newcastle Gosforth (no Falcons back then!) at the start of professionalism in front of 6000 for a then second division game. Fly halves Rob Andrew v Adrian Davies. Between the two clubs we spent over £1m on transfer fees alone to bring Tuigamala and Scott Quinnell back to union from Wigan!

I also spent many years playing at the Athletic Ground in the Estate Agents sevens...the Land Economy degree came in useful in more ways than one!

Back to Cambridge - the annual build up to Twickenham was always incredibly special and the Steele-Bodger match, one of the highlights at Grange Road always signalled the final countdown to that amazing day in early December. I shall certainly be back at Grange Road to celebrate the 70th anniversary of this amazing fixture in November, and to pay tribute to a truly unique (an often overused word, but not in this case) legend and servant of our great game.

All of our sporting memories are shaped not only by the performance and the result, but also the venue and the history which has delivered all those special memories.

I have been incredibly lucky for most of my life to have had special sporting places as a backdrop. I now find myself at Hove, the home of the oldest county cricket club in the world. Memories of three Indian princes, a certain Imran Khan and John Snow are still alive.

Grange Road is synonymous with great memories for all associated with Cambridge Rugby, and these memories, alongside the future, need to be safeguarded. I sincerely hope that, for generations to come, many others will have the opportunity to experience playing at Grange Road, and then go on to many other special places around the world. It will be a wonderful journey.

Well done to all this year's team, and creating the memories that will live with you forever. I am sure the 2017 vintage will be doing everything they can to prove that last year was not just a blip – but maybe even the start of a new era of Cambridge success!

GDBO

Rob Andrew



## OBITUARY | Daniel Joseph Vickerman

Those who knew Daniel Vickerman as a Cambridge man, an undergraduate, a teammate and a friend were shocked and saddened to hear of his passing. Over the past week I have gathered stories, collected anecdotes and shared memories of a wonderful man, to whom his contemporaries at CURUFC clearly owe an unfathomable debt of gratitude.



Dan was born in South Africa on 4th June 1979. He was educated at Bishops in Cape Town where his rugby talents were fostered. In 1999 he was selected to represent South Africa at U21 level. The following year Dan emigrated to Australia and it was here that his senior career would flourish with his newly adopted nation.

In 2001 Dan secured a contract with the ACT Brumbies making his debut in the Super 12 championship against the Natal Sharks. From here he progressed through the Wallabies ranks and subsequently made his International debut against France in Sydney on 29th June 2002.

Dan achieved the distinction of playing in three Rugby World Cups. In his first, in 2003, an injury sadly prevented him from playing in the final. In 2006 he underwent shoulder surgery but returned in time to be included in the 2007 World Cup Squad. During this campaign he earned his 50th cap against Wales, in Cardiff, a match that the Wallabies comfortably won 32-20. Having taken three years away from the international stage, to study at Cambridge, Dan then reclaimed his place in the Wallabies starting XV for the 2011 World Cup. He retired from rugby following the Wallabies semi-final defeat to New Zealand at Eden Park.

In 2008 he left Australia to take up a place at Hughes Hall to read Land Economy. It was here that he would make a dramatic impact on the lives of those fortunate enough to spend time with him. At Grange Road he set new standards of professionalism, and everyone benefited from the knowledge and insights that he brought to the Club. It is rumoured that even Tony Rodgers might have picked up a few tips on scrummaging.

Dan was selected for the 2008 Varsity Match, which unfortunately went the way of the Other Place. Nevertheless, as the team formed a huddle after the final whistle he expressed the poignant message that, "those of you returning next year, remember how this feels". It was clear that at that moment he had already started to focus on next year's Varsity Match. Dan was elected as Captain of the Blues in January and immediately set about making his mark. Under his watch everyone would now be accountable in order to claim the ultimate prize in December; from the players and coaches, to the medical staff and even the caterers. It was characteristic of Dan as a leader that he never asked anything of anyone that he wasn't willing to do himself. His teammates were always happy to respond to his demands, not least because the highest standards he set were for himself.

Dan was not known for mixing his words and he was comfortable expressing his opinions. When delivered by a man who fully filled his 6' 8" frame, it took a strong character not

to take on board his point of view. We all knew, though, that his forceful personality was shaped by a strong moral code and sense of fairness, and he inspired fierce loyalty and respect amongst everyone who knew him.

Dan had a way with words, and lineout practice on the back pitches of Grange Road were always memorable for everyone involved. On one occasion, after several poorly executed lineout throws, he complained to the hooker: "it's late, it's low and it's coming in like a drunk worm". Things improved markedly after that.

The intensity that Dan brought to the rugby pitch was offset by his sense of humour and the fact that he always saw the bigger picture. Following an evening function at the rugby club the Blues squad was summoned into the Steele-Bodger's room where Dan explained that he was deeply disappointed to learn that damage had been caused to the bar. Those responsible, he solemnly explained, would have to face the consequences. As the players timidly descended the staircase, expecting to be greeted by awaiting police officers, they were actually confronted by four dustbins full of beers and an impending court session.

Dan had pulled off a masterpiece. It was moments like these that cemented the very special bond we all shared in the 2009 squad, which was such a vital component in regaining the Varsity Cup.

Dan would be the first to admit that he probably excelled more on Cambridge's rugby pitches than in its lecture halls, but his strong competitive spirit enabled him to grasp his academic workload with both hands. Never too bold to seek advice from fellow undergraduates he once again accomplished all his goals.

Dan was above all kind and generous. The Granta pub will hold many happy memories for his friends where, over several pints of the black stuff, we got to know Dan for the man he truly was – droll, fun, selfless; willing to give absolutely everyone the time of day.

In all things, Dan led from the front and he led by his heart. Whether in rugby or in life, he played the game the way it is meant to be played. It speaks volumes about Dan that we all count ourselves fortunate that we never had to line up against him on the rugby pitch. That's not just because he was a tough opponent. It's because ultimately you always wanted Dan beside you, wherever you were – be it as a captain, teammate, colleague or friend.



Looking back at that special day when Dan held aloft the Cup at Twickenham, it is clear that he knew all along what we needed to do. He showed us the way. For those of us who had the privilege of knowing him, he continues to show us the way today – whether it's through the example he set, the values he instilled in us, or the simple belief that we must strive to be the best we possible can.

Dan is survived by his wife Sarah and two sons, Joseph (7) and Xavier (3). He will be dearly missed.

**Doug Rowe**  
(Secretary 2009)



## OBITUARY | Dr. Mike Turner

The Gazette is very sad to report the death of Dr Mike Turner, who passed away on 6th January 2017.

During a long and distinguished academic and sporting career Mike's outstanding ability to encourage others to give and achieve of their best was of great benefit to many people, particularly young people. He made an invaluable contribution to the Department of Land Economy and the Society over a period of some 40 years.

Mike was a graduate of Queens' College and his BA in 1962 was followed by an MA two years later and a PhD in 1966. During this time he was a Research Assistant with the Department, a University Assistant in Research and an Assistant Lecturer. In the early 1970s he was seconded to the University of Kumasi in Ghana under a Land Economy link arrangement financed by the Overseas Development Administration of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

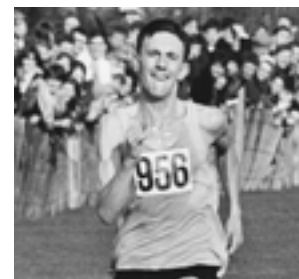
Following his election as Fellow of Peterhouse in 1989, Mike held the appointments of Senior Bursar, Domestic Bursar, Bursar Emeritus and Junior Bursar.

Mike was among the world's best cross-country runners. He was England's captain in a supreme era. Team-mates during his ten years at that level, 1961-70, included Basil Heatley (Olympic marathon silver), Bruce Tulloh (European 5000m champion), Ron Hill (European and Boston Marathon champion), Tim Johnston (8th Olympic marathon, 1968) and Roy Fowler (1st International XC, 3rd European 10,000m). Among such colossal heroes, Mike was liked, admired, and feared. He beat Hill for the British Universities title, and came literally within an inch of beating him for the England cross-country championship in 1966. Mike also made an invaluable contribution to National and International Athletics. He captained the England Cross Country Team and was the Manager of the British Track and Field Team whose members won 9 silver and 2 bronze medals at the Seoul Olympics in 1988.



For many of us at CURUFC in the 1980's the notorious "Doc.Turner run " was the moment of the week that we all dreaded. Congregating weekly at 7.30am on Lammas Land usually on a cold misty Monday morning he proceeded to run with us non-stop with subtle changes of pace that even the discerning front five could not fail to detect! The Doc commenced at the beginning in September with a fairly leisurely 20 minute run but building up over the term climaxing with an excruciating lung bursting 50 minute run just prior to the Varsity Match. As part of Tony Rodgers' cunning plan to build a fitter team than the team from the other place, Doc Turner was an inspirational man who led us all to higher levels of performance than we could have expected. In fact, during the 1980's when Dr.Turner was involved we won 7 out of 10 Varsity matches, several narrowly as underdogs, due largely to the fact that we were fitter than the "other place." Though he must have been at least forty, there was never any chance that anyone of us might overtake him.

At last his running shoes will be at peace.



## OBITUARY | Roddy Evans

William Roderick “Roddy” Evans who died in November 2016 aged 81, won a Blue in 1955 and went on to win 13 Caps for Wales and toured with the British Lions to Australia and New Zealand in 1959, a tour which featured 6 Cambridge men, the others being Ken Scotland, Roger Marques, JP Horrocks-Taylor, Gordon Waddell and Andrew Mulligan. There was thus a “Cambridge representative” from each of the home unions on the 1959 tour, the only time that we believe this has occurred.



Roddy Evans was born in Porthcawl in 1934 and lived nearly all his life in the seaside town. He attended Cowbridge Grammar School, where the headmaster was the former Wales back, Idwal Rees, who also taught Roddy Latin with some success, and he won a place at Christ’s College to study classics. He switched to law, having worked out that it would give him more time to play rugby!

He made his debut for Cardiff at the age of 18 in 1952, and he won his first Welsh cap in January 1958, and that season he was on the winning team against the Wallabies for club, country and the Barbarians! He then toured with the Barbarians in South Africa that summer. He did not play international rugby again for over 12 months because of his legal studies, but his previous performances left the 1959 Lions selectors in no doubt. Their faith was amply rewarded: he played in 18 of the 31 tour matches and became, according to The Sunday Times, “one of the side’s mainstays . . . a key man in the pack.” The Ireland prop Gordon Wood, christened him “Roddy the body”, in tribute to his 6ft 3in, 16-stone frame, and the athleticism which allowed him to play No 8 against Wellington.

He undertook the five-month tour just a fortnight after his wedding, and was allowed to telephone home twice a week (at a time when players were expected to pay for their own calls). After one such call to Sue, his young bride, he returned grim-faced to his hotel room, suffering, as many Welsh players have done, acute homesickness. Hugh McLeod, the Scotland prop, took him to the cinema to cheer him up, but the feature film moved both men so much that they began sobbing in their seats!

He played superbly in the second international with Australia, and in the first three against New Zealand, with another formidable Welsh lock, Rhys Williams. He helped to create a try for Peter Jackson in the infamous first international with New Zealand, when the Lions scored four tries but were beaten 18-17 by six penalty goals kicked by Don Clarke, the All Blacks full-back.

Roddy however was far from one-dimensional, and he had a great zest for a practical joke. This almost backfired on an Oxbridge tour to South America, when he rode a polo pony through a post-match dinner attended by the president of Chile and was informed by a visiting rugby dignitary from England: “Evans, unless you go home immediately, right now, I will see to it that you never play international rugby.” He found an old Dakota aeroplane that got him home in three days. Three decades later he met the same official by chance in a hotel. As Evans got up to shake his hand, his chair fell apart beneath him. “Still at it after 30 years, Evans,” the official smiled.

The demands of a growing practice and family persuaded him to retire from rugby at 28. He continued to watch Bridgend — where he later became club president — and to follow international rugby avidly. He also retired from the law early, aged 45, having built up a property development business and, in the centre of Porthcawl, a garage business, after inheriting his father’s love of cars.



In later life Roddy and Sue were confirmed as Christians at one of the gatherings of the American evangelist, Billy Graham. His second cousin was Ann Romney, whose husband Mitt, was the Republican presidential nominee in 2012. When the US TV show 60 Minutes came to the valleys to examine the roots of the Romney family, they visited Llangynod Church, where several of Ann Romney’s antecedents are buried, and found that Evans had laid on a full Welsh choir, whose singing left Ann in tears.

He is survived by his wife Sue and his sons, Neil (known as Bas), who is a wildlife artist, and Nigel, chairman of the property company established by his father.



## OBITUARY | John Gwilliam

John Gwilliam, who has died aged 93, was a former Blue and captained Wales to two Grand Slam victories in the 1950 and 1952 Five Nations Championships. He also played in the last Welsh team to beat the All Blacks in 1953. Some pundits regard him as Wales's greatest captain, presiding over what became known as the second golden era of Welsh rugby (the first being from 1908-11).

John was educated at Monmouth School where he won a Welsh schools boy cap during the war and went to Trinity College where he studied History from 1941-42 before being commissioned as an officer in the Royal Tank Regiment during WW2.

He returned to Cambridge in 1947 and played in the winning Light Blues side in the 1947 Varsity Match. He was back to complete his history degree the following year to earn a second 'Blue' in a 14-8 defeat. He also played against the 1947 Wallabies for Cambridge and went on to win the first of his 23 Welsh caps against the tourists in Cardiff on 20 December, 1947.



He spent three years teaching at Glenalmond (1949-52) after leaving Cambridge and then moved to Bromsgrove School (1952-56). He

was then Head of Lower School at Dulwich College (1956-63) before taking over as Headmaster of Birkenhead School in 1963, a role he kept until retirement in 1988. He was respected as a disciplinarian who insisted on good manners and appearance and sought to imbue the pupils with his own spiritual values.

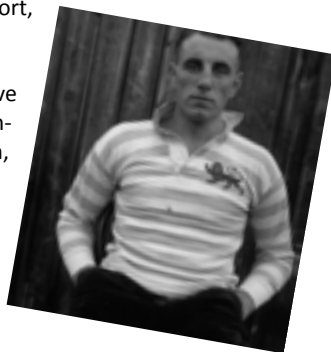
He would have undoubtedly have been chosen for the British Lions tour of Australia and New Zealand in 1950 and having led the Grand Slam winners, might even have been captain - but as a schoolmaster in Scotland he was not allowed to take several months off.

His big time rugby career came to an end in 1954, but not until he had enjoyed one more moment in the limelight by helping Wales to beat the 1953 All Blacks. That 13-8 win at Cardiff Arms Park was the last time a Welsh team beat New Zealand.

He played one more time for Wales after that, in the 9-6 defeat at Twickenham, and hung up his boots at the end of the 1953/54 season. He had played with distinction for Cambridge University, Edinburgh Wanderers, Gloucester, Newport, Llanelli, the Barbarians and Wales.

He married Pegi Lloyd George in 1949 and the couple had five children, David, who died in 2014 aged 61, Peter, Philip, Catherine and Rhiannon. He lived in retirement at Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd.

He was inducted into the Welsh Sports Hall of Fame in 2005, and was a distant relative of ex-Wales football international midfielder Jack Collison.



## PAST PLAYERS

### Paul Magee - Blue 2005

My wife Kirsten and I are delighted to welcome our son James John Robert Magee into the world on 18th November 2015 weighing 7lbs 7ozs. With two daughters Cora and Ella it was great to get James to even up the numbers in the family.



### Martin Green - Blue 1965/66/67

The 50-year re-union of the 1966 team took place at the 2016 Varsity Match.

The re-union took the form of a pre-match lunch in the ERIC room at Twickenham, followed by a thoroughly enjoyable viewing of the match. Eleven of the team returned, with Mac Corry travelling from South Africa for the event.

In clockwise order from bottom left Dennis Gethin; Nick Cosh; Billy Raybould; Mrs. Rees; Jeremy Philp (friend of Mac Corry); Mac Corry; Brian Rees; Mike Gibson; Mrs. Corry; Stu Onyett; Joe Berman; Mrs. Berman; Colin Duncan.



The second picture shows Mac Corry and Brian Rees enjoying the lighter side of life in the front row, whilst Nick Cosh and Billy Raybould take a much more serious approach to the role of the half backs in the third photo.



The day was made complete by that wonderful victory in the afternoon. A great day!

Keep up the good work.

### David Quinlan - Blue 2000

I'm delighted to say my wife Ciara and I had our second child (Julia Rose Quinlan) on 10 February 2017.



## CURUFC – Our Data Protection Values

We are proud of our alumni and friends and want to stay in touch.

CURUFC and The University (Cambridge University Development & Alumni Relations - CUDAR) have a shared interest in and co-ordinated approach to their alumni and supporters. This statement explains how CURUFC handles and uses data it collects about its alumni, its friends, and its current and future supporters. The University has its own database and access to CURUFC's database, and both institutions also maintain other electronic and paper records. The University has their own data protection procedures. CURUFC keeps in touch with all CURUFC alumni and supporters, provides information on social opportunities to them and nurtures relationships with potential and existing donors.

### Transparency

The records are used by CURUFC for alumni relations and fundraising purposes. These include publications, alumni surveys, appeals/campaigns and the marketing of alumni events. Communications may be sent by post, telephone or electronic means. Most records contain information on education, contact details, the constituents' career and other achievements. Contact and relationships with CURUFC since graduation and donations are also recorded. In some cases other data is added, such as data from external partners (see below); sensitive data you provide for a specific purpose (disability or lifestyle status for event management or updating of personal history for example); information about your family and other relationships; financial data; and information about your areas of interest and potential to support CURUFC and The University. We also use data from reputable public sources.

### Security and controlled data sharing with partners

All information is held and transmitted securely and (in addition to disclosure as permitted or required by law) may be shared on a considered and confidential basis only with:

- CURUFC trading as Cambridge University Rugby Union Football Club
- CURUFC associated subsidiaries (CURUFC Trading & CURUFC Sports & Social Club)
- CURUFC volunteers/Captains
- VMCL (Varsity Match Company Limited)
- CUDAR (Cambridge University Development and Alumni Relations)
- Colleges
- University clubs and societies
- Alumni societies and volunteers
- Cambridge in America (the University's affiliate office in the US)
- Associated bodies for example various Cambridge scholarship trusts, and wholly owned companies such as Cambridge Enterprise Ltd
- Selected companies who provide University-branded alumni programmes (merchandise, travel etc)
- The University and CURUFC also facilitates communication between individual alumni, but in doing so does not release personal contact details without prior permission.

### Control

You are in control. If you have any queries, wish to restrict data processing or sharing including use for marketing or do not want to be contacted by CURUFC, please inform us (minimal information is always retained to make sure you are not contacted again inadvertently: name, year of Blue, college, matriculation and graduation details and date of birth.) Otherwise we will maintain your record in support of your life-long relationship with CURUFC. You will also need to contact CUDAR and your college separately if you wish to restrict data processing, sharing, marketing or contact. We will publish any changes we make to this data protection statement and notify you where appropriate.

## Don't miss the CURUFC Legends on 26th April



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB PRESENTS:

### An evening with the "Cambridge Rugby Legends"

Gavin Hastings, Rob Andrew, Adrian Davies, Eddie Butler, Rob Wainwright, Eric Peters, Alun Lewis, Tony Underwood, Jamie Roberts, Ian Robertson, Ken Scotland, Paul Ackford, Bob Wilkinson, Alistair Hignell, Bill Raybould, Huw Davies and more to be announced.

Wednesday 26th April 2017

The Hurlingham Club, London SW6, 7.00 for 8.00pm

PLUS

Special Guests from the World of Rugby

Tickets £125 plus VAT (£150) – Tables of 10 £1,250 plus VAT

- 4 course themed Dinner, Coffee and Chocolates, Port
- Pre-Dinner Drinks Reception and Entertainment
- Q and A with the Legends, Guest Speaker and Auction

Carriages at 1.00am

For more information please visit  
[www.curufc.com/clubevents.aspx](http://www.curufc.com/clubevents.aspx)

To book tickets or for details of corporate tables and sponsorship options, please contact  
[nykki.webber@curufc.com](mailto:nykki.webber@curufc.com) or call 01223 354131

### An event staged as part of the Red Lion 150 Campaign



We would like to thank The Big Yellow Self Storage Company  
for their support as Club Sponsor for the 2016/17 Season



[www.bigyellow.co.uk](http://www.bigyellow.co.uk)

THE  
GRANGE Road  
Gazette

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Cambridge University Rugby Union Football Club  
University Football Ground, Grange Road, Cambridge, CB3 9BN, United Kingdom  
Telephone +44 (0)1223 354131 · [www.curufc.com](http://www.curufc.com)