



Heath Old Boys' Association Newsletter Issue 2012

Website: www.heatholdboys.org.uk

NEWS

The New Head's Report

It is with great delight that I am able to speak to you as the newly appointed Head Teacher of the Crossley Heath School. I officially take up my post on 16 April but have already had several months as Acting Head, a period of time which has brought many rewards and challenges. It has provided a period of much valuable experience and certainly confirmed in my own mind that this is a wonderful job to hold. You will be reassured to know that the entire interview process, held over two days, was gruelling and certainly tested the mettle of every candidate. I hope I shall be able to prove in the years ahead that the governing body has made the right decision. Being a local girl, born and brought up in Brighouse, I have grown up in the Calderdale area and know it well. I attended Brighouse Grammar School for Girls and have a degree in English. Having acquired my first teaching post in Derby and settling there for a few years, I now live in the Brighouse area with my family.

Having been at the school for 10 years, I feel I have gained a good understanding of what Crossley Heath represents. I know that everyone associated with the school is passionate about the education and wider opportunities which are provided here for all our students and I intend to build on our considerable strengths and ensure a first class experience for everyone who attends the school. Crossley Heath is special; its traditions and heritage are unique in Calderdale and you will be pleased to know that the House system is as competitive and rewarding as it has ever been. Yet we are certainly a school of the 21st century, always looking for good ideas to improve our provision even more and working in partnerships with other schools in the area. When Ofsted visited the school in February 2011, the many outstanding features of the school were recognised. The following quote sums it up – "Achievement is excellent and students are provided with outstanding care, guidance and support, which gives a very secure foundation for their academic and personal development." – a glowing commendation, indeed.

What is it like to be a student at Crossley Heath in 2012? Each individual would probably give a slightly different answer but I think there would be general agreement that this is a school where everyone is encouraged to give of their best, where opportunities for personal development are outstanding and where support for students is second to none. Students nowadays contribute a huge amount to school life and are certainly not expected to be "seen and not heard". We still annually appoint a Head Boy and Girl, a team of Deputies and House Captains but now there are many other opportunities to get involved, including Student Voice Leaders and Digital Leaders. Student Voice Leaders work with teachers on planning schemes of work and giving feedback on the type of activities which help them to learn best. Digital Leaders are students who love computers and they help us to develop technology for the benefit of teaching and learning. If you ever get the opportunity to look at our VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) you will be very impressed by the amount of materials and information on there.

A typical day for a student in Year 9 (aged 13/14) in school would start with registration and tutorial time with form tutor in a vertical tutor group. This means that students of all ages are mixed together from Year 7 through to Year 13, with the aim of students developing friendships in different year groups and providing support for each other. (You may have your own thoughts about whether this is a good idea or not!) Then there would be a lesson, maybe Science, followed by break, during which breakfast is provided. At this time, there is always a long queue to manage, as some students have not eaten since they left home at 6.30am. There are then two more lessons, maybe English and Spanish, and then lunchtime. Most of our students have lunch in school and I can confirm that the quality is excellent. This is the time when there is a lot of activity going on, such as drama rehearsals, choir practice or rugby training, to name but a few. It is a good opportunity for students to unwind and foster good relationships with the members of staff involved. The afternoon consists of two more lessons, maybe History or Enterprise Education (a newly-introduced subject) and then home time.

Yet it is often their experiences outside of the classroom which provide lasting memories for students of all ages. We run a work experience programme for all our Year 11 students, which gives them insight

into the world of work and allows them to develop the type of skills and attributes which are necessary to employers. The government has cut the funding for this scheme now but we have been able to plan the programme for 2012, thanks to the kind generosity of the Crossley Heath Association, who are providing the money for us. Indeed, we are constantly looking for new links with businesses and companies to support our fantastic careers programme, something which readers of this magazine may be able to support us with! Students are also able to participate in a wide range of trips and visits, experiences which provide an educational benefit and a huge amount of fun. I am always grateful to staff who give unstintingly of their time to support such activities.

I am looking forward to meeting some of you at the annual reunion at Heath RUFC in the autumn. Such events are invaluable in fostering a sense of community and pride and provide wonderful opportunities for sharing stories and memories. I am sure I will have experienced many ups and downs – mostly ups, I hope – in my new position as Head Teacher and I shall look forward to meeting you all and hearing more about your experiences in this very special school.

WENDY MOFFAT

Heath Old Boys Association Reunion Dinner 2011

On the basis that Heath GS took its first pupils in 1600, then it could be surmised that by 1611 there were enough old boys to stage a gathering. Over a mess of pottage and a stoop of ale they would have met to catch up with each others' news; to reminisce about schoolboy escapades and the eccentricities of their masters and to enjoy each others' company.

"No change there, then," as the saying goes. On October 14 th some 50 Old Heathens gathered at the commodious headquarters of Heath RUFC at West Vale to do very much the same things as their predecessors may have done four centuries earlier.

As has become traditional, the evening began with what passes as the Annual General Meeting of the Association which involves officers and other interested parties attempting to conduct business on one side of the room while lesser mortals meet up and begin private conversations on the other side. Amidst this confusion it was established that: (i) the Association is in rude health with a comfortable cash balance and members kept in touch via the newsletter and the website (ii) useful charitable donations have been made in the past year (iii) Hamer and Hamer have again won the summer bowling competition and (iv) Michael Orlic has succeeded Michael Hynes as President.

After this, the feasting began, preceded, as ever, by Andrew Connell's immaculate recital of the Latin grace. This year, the fare was well up to the standard to which Heathens have become used, finished off with the usual generously stocked cheese board. Refreshment was followed by sport in the form of the again traditional "Heads and Tails Game". Once the Secretary had again gone through the complicated rule for the slower learners in the company, all present struck a series of unusual poses while a dubiously double-sided coin was tossed, managing to come down the same way five times in succession. A collection was then taken to boost the Association's charitable work and to form the basis for a later raffle.

The formal proceedings then started. Helen Gaunt, who had recently stepped down as Head of Crossley Heath, gave a resume of the past year at the school, once again being able to point to very pleasing academic and sporting achievements. Your correspondent then took a little time to say something about Albert Crosby, Head from 1971 to 1985, whose death had been announced in September.

The evening's main speaker, Mark Baxendale (1979-86) was then introduced and embarked on a highly entertaining memoir of his time at school, recalling staff and fellow pupils; events on the rugby field and athletics track and one or two more unconventional episodes on the Art Room stairs and elsewhere, including a dog-blighted rugby pitch on Manor Heath. All Mark's listeners were thoroughly entertained by what he had to say. The evening then broke up into more conversation within groups and general circulation of the room. Later, those with a love of fine choral music made their excuses and left while those remaining launched themselves into renditions of well known songs such as *Ilkka Moor* and *Jerusalem*.

Altogether it was another thoroughly enjoyable evening, well organised by our tireless Secretary Jon Hamer. To join in a convivial gathering of Old Heathens whose ages spanned a half-century from forty-somethings to ninety-somethings was heart-warming and great testimony to the affection in which Heath GS is held by so many.

J T Bunch

Selling Heath Grammar School site – 2012

Calderdale Council were looking at ways to fund the cost of building a new library.

How is this being paid for?

- The sale of the Northgate House / Halifax Central Library and Archive site will contribute to the total cost of the new library. If we kept the site, we would have to spend £16-18m to refurbish the buildings to be fit for purpose.
- The cost of running the ageing Northgate site is around £½m a year. Those costs will be avoided in the future if the Council disposes of the building and relocates staff and looks at different ways of working. Services for Northgate House and Central Library and Archive are shared and to sell Northgate and retain the library would cost around £830,000.
- With better use of existing resources, and better ways of working, the Council will be in a **position to sell the site at Heath**, which is situated within an area of significant demand for residential and food retail use. This will also contribute to the cost of the proposed new central library and archive.

Calderdale Council – due to pressure from local groups using the Heath Grammar School site (including HOBA) - are now reconsidering their proposal!!

Well done to all involved and watch for further developments on Calderdale Council website re our historic school.

HOBA Invitation Bowling Competition 2012

The Heath Old Boys Invitation Bowling Competition attracted a good number of participants with those attending proving to be fierce and worthy competitors. All pairs were guaranteed six matches and in the early exchanges last years winner Jon Hamer playing alongside 'uncle' David Hamer were looking strong, aiming to secure the magnificent winners trophy. Chris Gostridge and Tony Knowles were also looking useful along with John Robertshaw and Andrew Waite who were accurate from the off.

As the day progressed debutants Peter Greenwood and Alistair Baigent were growing in stature and confidence and becoming a serious threat in the competition. As the finals loomed the Hamer clan guaranteed themselves a place finishing unbeaten in the pool stages. The other potential finalists were locked in bowling combat with Grayham Smith / Barry Timms, Mick Hynes / John Hoggard and Robertshaw / Waite all battling hard for the other finalist spot. In the end it was Robertshaw / Waite v Hamer/Hamer in the final and what a final!

Robertshaw / Waite started strongly leaving nothing for the Hamers, with some superb bowling. The Hamers got back in the game levelling the scores at 3-3 with one end left to play. The Hamers were on for the win before a gentle ricochet from Waite's last bowl secured a Robertshaw / Waite victory 4-3.

With the absence of new HOBA Chairman Mike Orlic it was left to Grayham Smith to present the Russell Smith Memorial Cup to the worthy winners who will be keen to defend it at next year's event.

Competitors

Grayham Smith, Tony Knowles, Chris Gostridge, Mick Hynes, Jon Hamer, David Hamer, John Davey, Rod Eastwood, Barry Timms, John Hoggard, John Robertshaw, Andrew Waite, Peter Greenwood, Alistair Baigent, David North and David Wilson.

MEMORIES / LETTERS FROM OLD BOYS

Raymond Heron CBE [Heath 1930s]

Raymond Heron CBE, attended Heath in the 1930s before studying Physics at Queens College, Oxford. He retired in 1984 from the Ministry of Defence as Deputy Director of Propellants, Explosives and Rocket Motor Establishment. Raymond writes from his home in Aylesbury, Bucks: "It was the year in the thirties when George Nepia and Charlie Smith joined the Halifax RL club. The school staff still lined up behind the Head Master at morning assembly and you could judge by each facial expression the likely mood of the Masters. Mr AD Phoenix was clearly not to be trifled with that day. We started with chemistry and a boy called Spencer was missing. Mr Phoenix wanted to know why!

'Well he was at scouts last night taking his explorer's badge,' someone volunteered. At that moment Spencer appeared in the doorway and stood there white faced and still. He and Phoenix stared at each other for what seemed like an eternity. The silence was eventually broken with Spencer saying, 'Doctor Livingstone I presume.'

We were all too scared to laugh!" Raymond thanks the HOBA Committee for sending him the newsletter annually and sends best wishes to all Heath Old Boys home and abroad.

Graham Shaw [Heath 1952-59]

Graham Shaw writes from Lincolnshire after been contacted by his old school pal Grayham Smith.

He writes to say that he married Hazel Burch in 1962 and worked as a chartered electrical engineer with the CEBG and National Grid from 1959 to 1993.

Now retired he enjoys sailing and watching soccer.

ALAN BREARLEY [Heath 32-37]

A Few Memories

On arriving at Heath in 1932 the teaching staff numbered 12 full time male academics including the Headmaster Mr O.R.A.Byrde. Before I left 5 years later there had been ten replacements for staff who had either retired or left for appointments elsewhere.

In 1932 we were about 200 pupils in the senior school, including the 6th form of some 20 pupils. In the 1932 intake there were 53 divided into two forms IVB1 and IVB2. I was in the latter, and our form of 25 included 10 pupils who had "come up" from Transitus, the top form of the three-form senior school, which had 30 pupils. The fees for this junior school were 6 guineas per term and 7 guineas in the senior school (unless on a local scholarship); all the students had to pay 4 shillings games subscriptions per term!

Boys must not wear any headgear other than school caps-claret with an embroidered badge plus orange bands- or a straw hat with school ribbon, when in Halifax or district!

A few boys who lived at some distance away stayed for "school dinner", cooked by the resident caretaker's wife at a charge of 1 shilling.

The first year subjects were English, Latin, French, Geography, Mathematics, Science and Art. In our second year the "top half" of the form took Greek instead of Geography.

I rarely meet or hear of any of my contemporaries, apart from the occasional telephone conversation with Norman Sunderland who now lives in Battle (E.Sussex).

I trained in textile management, becoming a chartered textile technologist and after 14 years at a research association, I moved on to higher education-lecturing and research. I retired in 1979 as Vice Principal of a further education college after a very satisfying career. If some of my Heath contemporaries are still around I should like to hear from them. My details are in the Halifax telephone directory.

PS

Alan is secretary of Halifax Probus Club and is on the lookout for new members. The Club was formed in 1970 and its main aim is "to meet regularly for coffee, a talk and discussion, to be completely independent, non political and non-sectarian."

The Club meets every Thursday from 9.30am onwards at Halifax Bowling Club in Thrum Hall Lane. Other Heathens involved include Derek Bridge, David Horsfall, Roy Sykes and Richard Titley.

Alan invites you to come along as a guest on any Thursday, without obligation, to test the water!

Heath School Latin Grace

Any former scholars remember it?

Gratias maximas nos Tibi, Domine, propter haec et omnia Tua beneficia, agimus, qui, e favore Tuo, haec Tua dona iam sumpturi sumus. Hunc cibum oramus ut benedicas in usum nostrum, et nos in officium Tuum. Per Iesum Christum, Dominum(sarwetorum) nostrum.
Amen

Quartercentenary Rugby Match 1985

At the Annual Dinner in October, I found myself seated at the same table as John Charnock, Ian Baldwin and Bryn Town who all recalled their participation in the rugby match that was staged as part of the 400th anniversary celebrations in 1985.

It was agreed that, owing to adverse weather, the match was postponed from the original date of 17th February (the 400th anniversary itself being 15th February) and was played nearer Easter. Memories extended to recalling that medals were presented to the participants but became hazy over the precise result. The pre-1975 team was thought to have won but the details of the score have been lost in the mists of time.

I have dug out the programme for the event and this included pen-portraits of the participants. Where are they now? And does anyone remember the exact score or claim to be one of the scorers?

John Bunch

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HEATH GRAMMAR SCHOOL
1585-1985

QUATERCENTENARY
RUGBY MATCH

HEATH G.S. PRE-1975
v
HEATH G.S. POST-1975

AT HEATH RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB
WEST VALE
ON SUNDAY 17 FEBRUARY 1985
K.O. 11.00 am

Price 50p

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HEATH GRAMMAR SCHOOL RUGBY

No one knows what game the original Elizabethan schoolboys played or whether they had any energy left after a school-day that began at 6.00 am. However, it would certainly have been a handling and mauling game, akin to today's rugby.

Yet, when records of sport begin in the nineteenth century, they find the school playing soccer and many of the senior old boys contacted during the current celebrations can remember playing the round ball game, especially in the end of term six-a-sides for which handsome medals were awarded.

The School joined the Yorkshire RFU in 1924 and this changeover was completed by 1927. Since then, Heath's rugby-playing reputation had been established, in spite of the fact that it has never contained more than 400 pupils.

Several 'Golden Ages' could be identified but pride of place must go to the 1950s with the string of wins in the Ilkley 7s and similar competitions. Excellent seasons by the First XV include Calderdale Shield victories in 1977 and 1984.

Best 1st XV Seasons	P	W	D	L	For	Against
1950/51	12	11	1	0	184	34
1957/58	15	11	2	2	225	72
1973/74	21	16	2	3	384	260
1977/78	20	18	0	2	608	88
1983/84	16	14	0	2	380	126

Yorkshire Schoolboy Caps

D. Hollas 1946, J. P. Horrocks-Taylor 1952/3, T. Gamson 1952/3, J. Stoddart 1954, K. G. Hartley 1956 (Capt), W. M. Bussey 1959/60, G. P. Smith 1959, R. C. Broughton 1961/2, J. D. Broughton 1964, D. A. J. Littlefair 1965, G. D. Baggeley 1965, R. W. Dixon 1965, R. A. Jackson 1970, S. Halliday 1974, J. Scrimshaw 1984.

16 group P. J. Bates 1967, J. Race 1971, D. Shaw 1984.

North East Counties N. J. Barrett 1974.

England International Schoolboy Cap – W. M. Bussey 1960.

Twin Valley – Den-Roy Coaches

Industrial Garage, Sowerby Bridge
Tel 833358 & 833164

*Luxury Private Hire, Contract Hire
Small parties a speciality
British and Continental Travel*

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PRE-1975 XV

J. R. S. Littlefair (1961-68) Played for Heath RUFC while still at school, then went on to play for University College, Durham and Durham City RUFC. Returned to play for Heath, being Captain from 1976 to 1979. Since leaving Halifax, he has played for Hemel Hempstead RUFC and is currently with Withernsea RUFC.

K. T. Taylor (1967-74) Has completed nine years of playing with Heath RUFC and is currently second team Captain.

J. S. Robertshaw (1958-65) Has represented Barclays Bank but the majority of his rugby since leaving school has been played at Heath RUFC.

J. Race (1967-74) Much travelled since leaving school. He has played for Nottingham University, Halifax RUFC, Caithness RUFC and currently with Sheffield. Won a place in the Yorkshire XV in 1981-82.

M. J. Seery (1968-76) From school he went to play at Cheltenham College and is now playing for Percy Park RUFC.

D. Shackleton (1964-71) On leaving school, played for the Royal School of Mines (Imperial College). Since his return to Halifax, he has been a stalwart of Heath RUFC.

P. M. Wilby (1959-67) Started to play for Heath RUFC in 1963/4 season. He has remained loyal to the club since then apart from a spell 'down under' with Old Collegians of Adelaide 1969-72.

D. H. Broughton (1968-75) After leaving school, played for Newcastle Polytechnic before settling as a 'regular' for Heath RUFC.

K. Davies (1962-70) Played university rugby at Leicester before returning to Halifax and Heath RUFC, where he has remained apart from a spell with Halifax RUFC in the mid-seventies.

J. S. Bradley (1962-69) After a mild flirtation with the round ball at college, he returned to play for Heath RUFC.

M. Revill (1967-74) From leaving school, he has been a very speedy and mobile 'fixture' for Heath RUFC.

M. Brear (1968-75) Played for Nottingham University after leaving school, since when he has returned to Heath RUFC and has won representative honours for Calderdale.

D. Hughes (1960-67) Captained the School First XV before doing the same for Heath RUFC. He has also played for Halifax RUFC and is a single handicap golfer.

N. J. Barrett (1966-74) After school, when he played for N.E. Counties, he played for East Anglia University and Halifax RUFC.

P. Hughes (1959-66) Joined Heath RUFC from school but latterly has played for Old Brodleians RUFC.

J. Chamock (1963-70) Playing for local RUFC in Nottingham where he now lives.

M. Hiller (1955-60) Long-serving and faithful member of Heath RUFC since leaving school.

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POST-1975 XV

D. M. Sutcliffe (1972-79) A member of the 1977/78 School team and now a regular for Heath RUFC.

M. B. Hynes (1977-84) Captain of School 1st XV that won Calderdale Shield 1983 and now with Heath RUFC.

S. Taylforth (1973-78) Plays with Halifax RUFC, with several 1st XV appearances this season.

M. P. Ramsden (1975-82) Has played regularly for Heath RUFC since the sixth form at school.

M. J. Ennis (1973-79) Another regular for Heath RUFC since leaving school.

N. J. Tobin (1977-85) Current Head Boy and 1st XV Captain at school. Also plays for Halifax RUFC 1st XV.

B. J. Butterworth (1977-84) Another member of the strong 1983/84 School 1st XV. Has played for Heath RUFC and also Metropolitan Police under 21's and Chingford RUFC.

B. P. Town (1974-79) A player for Heath RUFC since his time at school.

I. A. Baldwin (1974-81) Currently with Heath RUFC 1st XV after being 2nd XV Captain last season.

J. R. Pickles (1975-82) Playing for Alsager College where he is currently studying. Played cricket for Yorkshire Schools.

J. Scrimshaw (1977-84) A Yorkshire Schools' player last season touring Zimbabwe. He has also played for Halifax RUFC 1st XV.

J. P. Windsor (1976-79) Since his time with the merchant navy he has played regularly for Heath RUFC.

M. L. Wade (1975-82) Currently at Leicester University where he has played for his Hall.

M. J. Baldwin (1970-78) Has played for Heath RUFC since his time at school, appearing for all three teams. He also played for the Yorkshire and Humberside regional side for the Civil Service.

R. J. Eames (1968-75) Played for Newcastle Polytechnic and is current 1st XV Captain at Heath RUFC.

G. Mason (1968-76) A regular fixture for Heath RUFC.

FORTHCOMING QUATERCENTENARY EVENTS AT HEATH SCHOOL



12 March An **ELIZABETHAN EVENING** at the School
Tickets £1.50 available from the School

11 May **OPEN DAY** at the School
Everyone welcome. Stalls, Displays etc

OBITUARIES

Albert CROSBY B.Sc., ARCS : 1927 - 2011

The death of Albert Crosby was announced in September. He had been appointed Headmaster of Heath School in September 1971 and served until April 1984.

He once wrote that when he took up the post he was told, "Reorganisation at Heath is imminent." Indeed, his recent previous experience in teaching had been in the supervision of school changes from selective to comprehensive systems. However, no change was to come in the period of 13 years that he served as Head.

Instead his task was to maintain morale and progress in the face of what might have been a form of "planning blight". One of his first tasks was to find replacements for a number of distinguished masters who had each served the school for a period of 30 years or more – Arthur Owen, Herbert Morris, George Littlefair, Harry Birchall and Frank Haigh. In the course of doing this he also had to adapt the curriculum which had been largely unchanged since 1945. All this had to be achieved at a time when the local authority did not see the school as justifying any major investment of resources.

He maintained Heath as a worthwhile and rewarding place in which to learn and to teach by a combination of shrewdness, humanity and openness. He allowed his colleagues to teach; he trusted their professional judgment and shielded them from the petty bureaucracy which has threatened to overtake good classroom teaching so often in the past decades. He showed the value that he placed on sound classroom practice by maintaining a solid teaching load himself. His classes were usually made up of the less able mathematicians in their GCE ordinary level years. They made progress under this tuition and appreciated the fact that the Head had chosen them as his pupils.

His study door was usually left slightly open unless he was engaged in an interview or other business and anyone thus had immediate access to the "man at the top" – something not always present in many organisations. He personally encouraged the school's continued involvement in sport, music, drama, foreign travel and other activities which offered pupils the richness of experience that has always characterised the school.

He was a very able mathematician – a gift that stood him in good stead in his favourite pastime of Bridge which he played to a high level. He was a serious music enthusiast and also greatly enjoyed foreign travel, especially to France. He was a devoted family man but suffered the grievous loss of his wife, Dorothy, not long after he had retired. In later years he was able to live near his son in Poole, Dorset and to enjoy the company of his grandchildren.

He was certainly someone of whom it could be said DIGNUS FAVORE FUIT.

James Stead BREARLEY : 19 September 1914 - 18 August 2011

Jim Brearley was born shortly after the outbreak of the Great War and was almost the last man standing of his generation in Halifax. He outlived his sister and brother and most of his friends like Frank Dixon, Frank Horrocks-Taylor, Geoffrey Morley, and Rod Parkin. He would have been the first to say that he had a good innings – cricketing metaphors were never far away. At the same time he certainly had not had enough of life; given the chance he'd have gladly had another ninety-six years.

Three things dominated his life – his family, his work and his love of sport. He was an enthusiastic and successful player of a number of games as well as being an informed spectator. But he'd much rather play than watch.

Jim was a pupil at Heath Grammar School in the late 1920s whilst Dr Byrde was headmaster. Later he was a governor during the Ron Swale years and both his sons are Heathens. His daughter, for obvious reasons, isn't. After school he qualified as a chartered accountant with Matthews Brooke Taylor & Co where he was a partner from the 1950s until the 1980s. Work for him was in many ways a pleasure. He worked hard but in that professional climate so different from today. He knew his clients well. He never let them down. He wasn't "in a meeting" if you wanted to speak to him. Whilst he never had twenty-eight days holiday a year, or whatever is the norm today, he went home for a cooked lunch, including pudding, virtually every day of his long working life.

He married Betty in 1946 and died days before their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary. Their children grew up happily during the 1950s and 1960s in a Halifax which had more in common with Enid Blyton than Waterloo Road. He loved socialising though he never dominated such occasions. He was generous without being ostentatious. He told his jokes quietly. He rarely complained. He got on with it. Old school.

At Heath he played rugby, cricket and fives. Blessed with natural talent, he excelled in all. He captained the Old Boys at fly-half in 1935, the year the team moved from Peat Pitts, Illingworth, to the current ground at West Vale. In 1938 and 1939 he and Geoff Morley won the North of England Fives Doubles Championship. He enjoyed a successful cricket career with Halifax Cricket Club, and later Halifax Nomads, both as a left arm spinner and competent batsman. At Queens Sports Club he won the Men's Singles Tennis Championship six times in a row in the 1950s, and then acted as president, treasurer, and auditor for a further 25 years. In middle age he turned to golf at West End Golf Club, where over the years he was able to enjoy many happy days on the fairways. To the extent that golfers do.

Jim Brearley never lost his interest in sport. When told during his last days that Alastair Cook had scored 294 against India, he said quietly: "Len Hutton got 364". He paused before continuing: "And that was against real opposition".

David Brearley

Philip Vernon ASHWORTH: October 1932 - 25 April 2012

Philip started at Heath in 1943, took his School Certificate in 1948 and he and I became the first year Maths sixth under Mr Hallows. He won a scholarship to St Catherine's College Cambridge (1951-1954). From 1954 -1956 he did National Service, mainly at Arberfield on a long Radar course.

Philip moved to Hull, joining Blackburn Aircraft, which became part of first Hawker Siddeley then British Aerospace. He became Head of Aircraft Systems before taking early retirement, after which he became a Consulting Engineer with John Kaye.

Philip married Mary Crossley in 1957 (I was Best Man). Mary had been at Crossley & Porter, along with Diana Bolton, Helen Streeter and others. The group of us often played Bridge in the early 50's. Mary died in 2007, six months after their Golden Wedding.

Philip had a very active social life - Chairman of the Hull Male Voice Choir, Secretary of Helping Hands, a Scottish Country Dancer, a member of Probus. When at school he was a keen cyclist. He made very complex Meccano models and this interest remained with him - from Lego Technics to Pocher kits with an enormous number of pieces.

YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman:	Mr Mike Orlic		
Vice Chairman:	Mr J Hamer. Email: rugby.hamer@virgin.net		
Treasurer:	Mr J D Turner 18 Newlands Road Norton Tower HALIFAX HX2 7RE	Tel: (01422) 355081	
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YOUR NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOU

Any memories of your Heath School Days? - Pals, teachers, achievements, highs, lows, onward progression into adult life?

Write them down for inclusion on the web and in our next newsletter – send them to your HOBA secretary Jon Hamer now (contact details above).