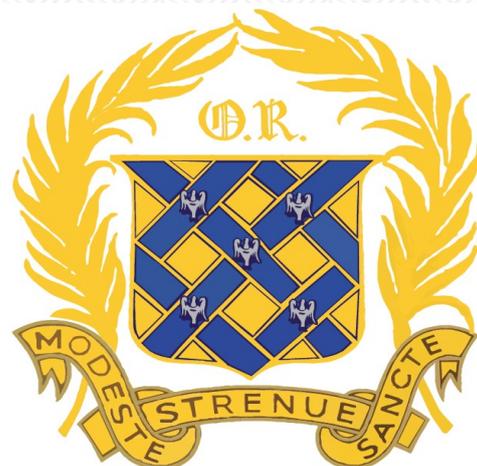


# ORA Orbit

## Newsletter

### February 2022



### Our President writes

After attending various meetings of the Trustees recently it has really been an eye opener how much work goes on behind the scenes to ensure the Old Rutlishians' Association continues to thrive. The members of the board have put in a huge amount of work in the last two years in very challenging circumstances and its good to know the club is in a good place.

Someone else who has also been working tirelessly recently is Gavin Lennard. Many of us are looking forward to the Annual Dinner on 5 March at AFC Wimbledon's Plough Lane stadium and Gavin has been responsible for organising it. Both Peter Day (who is jointly hosting the evening) and myself are very grateful for his efforts and I am sure that the night will be very enjoyable.

The other date coming up is 19 March. It is the day of the France v England Six Nations match and the day the whole tournament comes to its climax.

19 March is also the day the Rugby section will be hosting London French Rugby Football Club. We will be playing them in two games, one Vets match and one senior match before the international game and London French will be giving the day even more of a Gallic feel as they will be bringing French Chefs with them and a French band.

On the day we will be raising money for two great charities: the British Heart Foundation and Cardiac Risk in the Young.

It would be great if we can get a big crowd to Poplar Road for the event. It promises to be a lot of fun and we hope to raise a lot of money for the charities.

So, as usual there is a lot going on at the Old Ruts, we are lucky to all be members.

Cheers

*Gary Forge*  
*Old Ruts President*



### Old Ruts needs you!

Old Ruts has a number of exciting projects planned and we're looking for someone to help us raise funds for these crucial schemes.

If, therefore, you have any fundraising experience and are willing to lend a hand to help us improve our lovely club, please email [shunt2@uk.ey.com](mailto:shunt2@uk.ey.com) and [stuart.mills@stifel.com](mailto:stuart.mills@stifel.com).

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## Silver Youth Club

The Silver Youth Club is organised by Dons Local Action Group and held at the Old Ruts on Fridays, noon to 2pm, recently celebrated the Chinese New Year.

May Chee spoke about her childhood memories of Chinese New Year in San Francisco and how excited she was as a child to receive gifts of red envelopes with money. Her father was a restaurateur and belonged to a Chinese society that laid on a magnificent feast of many courses including Peking Duck and Bird's Nest Soup in a large Chinatown restaurant. The elders would make numerous speeches and knock back the Scotch after each. The more dumplings consumed the more prosperity you could look forward to; long noodles represent longevity. Just as in London's Soho there is a



Lion Dance but in San Francisco it is bigger and needs more martial arts puppeteers to carry it. When the Chinese decided to settle in America rather than return to mainland China they set about designing a Chinatown with beautiful arches and parks to make it a clean, attractive place to live rather than the existing slums. The local Chinese community runs

Mandarin lessons and Sunday schools to ensure Chinese culture and languages are continued.

May, an artist with the local Worple Arts Group, very kindly brought along hand-prepared Year of the Tiger greetings cards, which everyone appreciated. We also enjoyed Chinese canapés and fortune cookies.

Everyone is welcome to attend our free lunch club on a Friday, please do come along.

*Rosemary Lever*



## John Bowry (1950-57)

Ian Lambert has provided this shortened version of John Bowry's eulogy. There is an unabridged version in the Dropbox Archive with his funeral's Order of Service.

We are here to celebrate the life of John Clement Bowry, son, and only child of Clement and Winifred Bowry.

John was born on the 30th October 1939 in the Briarwood Nursing Home in Worcester Park. A few hours later another baby was born in the same nursing home. This one was called Terry Morrison and they stayed close friends for the whole of their lives.

As John grew up his lifelong passion for cricket revealed itself. Terry's father and uncle belonged to the cricket section and John's father was Club Secretary so the two families were close and often went on holiday together. John (with Terry) attended Blakesley High School, a private primary school but John didn't enjoy the experience and left to go to Cheam Common School, a State primary and junior school. There he met Mike Edgell, another life-long friend who lived close to John in the same road.

At this time John not only knew the names of all the international cricketers but he also knew the name of every county cricketer and which county they played for, a remarkable feat of memory.

In 1950 John passed his 11+ along with Terry and Mike and another friend called Andrew Buchanan and they all went to Rutlish School in Merton. They travelled, along with many other Rutlish schoolboys, to

school on the 127 bus which was a double-decker of special low design to get under Worcester Park railway bridge. The journey was usually very noisy!

In his early days at Rutlish John involved himself in amateur dramatics and had roles in *The Jackdaw of Rheims* and *St Patrick's Day* by Sheridan. Subsequently, he was a memorable MacDuff in the school production of *Macbeth* at Wimbledon Town Hall.

While at Rutlish he also joined the Combined Cadet Force which played at being soldiers on a Thursday afternoon.

Cricket again surfaced at school in that John invented a game played with two hexagonal-sided pencils. On one pencil were written the type of stroke played and the other had 'not out' plus various ways of being dismissed. He rolled the pencils in turn and if the second pencil showed 'not out' he then rolled a dice to ascertain how many runs were scored off the ball. The most amusing part of the game for onlookers was, again, John's continuous and very accurate John Arlott commentary and the fact he filled in a scorecard as the game progressed.

Unfortunately, John's cricketing ability never lived up to his dreams, especially his right hand spin bowling. As he delivered the ball his head went down as his bowling arm came over and the ball was often released prematurely, gaining considerable height and of indeterminate length and occasionally the ball didn't reach the

batsman.

Above all, when you hear the name John Bowry you automatically think of cricket. He became a member of Surrey CCC at the age of 16 and followed them all over England to watch them play their county matches. He went to every county ground and also to Guildford and Whitgift School in Croydon when they played there for a week in the summer. He was also a member of Sussex CCC but one of his proudest moments was when a presentation was made to him on the cricket square at the tea break by the Surrey Chairman and committee members in recognition of him being a Surrey member for 60 years. Further recognition has been made by Surrey CCC in their having agreed to scatter his ashes at the Oval.

He wrote his own eulogy:

As I do not have immediate family I wish to make my own eulogy.

"I hope this will not be regarded as self-indulgent or egotistical! Thank you for all my friends and family who have supported me throughout my life. I have endeavoured to reciprocate that support and hope I have gone some way to achieving that goal. Please remember me as someone who "Did It My Way".

## Dropbox Archive

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/Ofegv4a3mx5uh4s/AABg7HEIXe8YPH1DRO1UZT\\_Ya?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/Ofegv4a3mx5uh4s/AABg7HEIXe8YPH1DRO1UZT_Ya?dl=0)

## Sean McKenna (Crusaders, 1974-1979)

I don't think I was in any class with Sean at Rutlish, and we were in different houses, but we met when we joined the C.C.F. in the 4th Year, we hit it off, and remained friends for the next forty seven years. Sean joined the Royal Navy Section, and I spent the next five years laughing at his bell-bottomed uniform trousers, whilst being somewhat jealous of his trips round the Channel Islands on minesweepers, when I was crawling around in the mud on an Army Section camp. In typical Sean McKenna fashion, he rose to the top as a Navy cadet, became House Captain of Crusaders, and was made a Prefect.

Sean was a bit of an academic at school, achieving three sound A Levels, but he foreswore university by joining the Metropolitan Police, where he began a successful career in law enforcement. At some point, Sean got his degree the hard way (in my opinion) via the Open University. Having risen to the rank of Detective Chief Superintendent in the Met, Sean transferred to the Serious Organised Crime Agency, as a part of which he served in various roles, including overseas postings to the West Indies and Afghanistan, working in Kabul. For his services to law enforcement, Sean was made M.B.E., and I shall always remember how proud I was of my friend when he told me, and we celebrated with a thali. Towards the end of his career, Sean established a consultancy business, providing advisory services to foreign governments and the like.

In his private life, Sean married Katherine (known to all as Kate), with whom he had three children (all now adults). They lived in Hertfordshire, before retiring to County Kerry.

Latterly, Sean joined weekly Zoom calls with other Old Boys from our year, when the pandemic prevented us from meeting in person. He was referred to as 'The Timekeeper', because he always sat under a huge clock in his house, while he brought out interesting beers to sample from various Irish microbreweries.

Unfortunately, Sean's time ran out in November, and he is now at rest in Ballyduff, Eire.

*Simon Haste*



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## Tandem cycling at the Old Ruts



Merton Sports and Social Club for Visually Impaired People (MSSC) is an inclusive, integrated sports club with both sighted and visually impaired members of all ages and abilities from around London and beyond.

This year the club is celebrating its 40th Anniversary and we are delighted to welcome them to their new base in Poplar Road at Old Ruts!

The club's main activity is tandem riding with the purpose of spreading the joy of cycling, with all its physical, mental and social benefits. The club has a number of tandems and organises two events each month: one on the first Sunday and the next on the third Saturday of the month. At each event there are up to four rides of different lengths from 10 to more than 40 miles, along quiet roads, country lanes and traffic-free trails as much as possible. All rides include a refreshment stop at a café or a pub and now of course a welcome drink in the Old Ruts bar at the end of the ride.

Comprehensive training is provided so that all sighted pilots feel

comfortable and confident to ride with and support the visually impaired stokers. The club also welcomes solo cyclists on our rides both to share the fun and help out. (If any Old Ruts cyclist would like to help in any way just contact Dave Bull at [cycling@mssc.org.uk](mailto:cycling@mssc.org.uk))

Jane is one of the regular cyclists. Jane says, "I used to cycle with my family and loved the freedom of the outdoors and all the positive things that brings. However, as my sight deteriorated, I had to give this activity up and resigned my cycling days to the past. That was until I was introduced to MSSC's Tandem Section. I now regularly ride on the back of a tandem and the pure joy of being out on the open road again is beyond words. The opportunity to continue something I felt was no longer available to me has lifted my emotional and physical well-being."

The containers for the tandems will soon arrive in the car park and I know all Ruts members will give the "pilots" and the "stokers" a very warm welcome.

*Mike Stallard*

## Membership cards

Old Ruts membership cards for all our members will arrive imminently.

These personalised new cards will give a range of benefits for members, including bar discounts and reduced prices on hall bookings, with plans hatched to also procure discounts for our members from local businesses.

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## Dogs at Old Ruts

Please remember that although dogs are welcome at Old Ruts, they MUST be kept on a lead at all times on the premises - both inside and outside the clubhouse - and should be kept off the playing areas entirely.

This is a sports club not a park and, even if responsible dog-owners clear up after their dogs, there will still be residual droppings on the ground which we do NOT want our children rolling in while enjoying their sport. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

## Six Nations

The Six Nations is upon us and we'll be showing all the games on the numerous screens around our Poplar Road club house. We'll be opening up the outside and upstairs bars for the bigger games and offering HUGE discounts on our 4-pint jugs of lager.

All the remaining fixtures and kick-off times are listed below so come and join us!

### ROUND 3

**Saturday 26th February 2022**

Scotland v France Kick-off: 2:15pm

England v Wales Kick-off: 4:45pm

**Sunday 27th February 2022**

Ireland v Italy Kick-off: 3:00pm

### ROUND 4

**Friday 11th March 2022**

Wales v France Kick-off: 8:00pm

**Saturday 12th March 2022**

Italy v Scotland Kick-off: 2:15pm

England v Ireland Kick-off: 4:45pm

### ROUND 5

**Saturday 19th March 2022**

Wales v Italy Kick-off: 2:15pm

Ireland v Scotland Kick-off: 4:45pm

France v England Kick-off: 8:00pm

## RutsFest 2022

We're delighted to announce the return of Rutsfest, Old Ruts' very own fun for all the family music festival.

Taking place at our Poplar Road ground on

**Saturday 4 June**

we'll have live bands inside and outside the club, a variety of stalls, great food and lashings of beverages.

Ticket details coming soon.

# From the archives— 1923/24 ORA Yearbook

The 1923-24 ORA Yearbook includes much of interest.

The sections of that time comprised: Cricket, Football, Rugby, Tennis, Athletics, Dramatic and Employment.

There was also a proposal for a Swimming Section for Water Polo, Racing and aquatic sports generally.

However, as next year marks the centenary of the Association owning Poplar Road, we have decided to feature the details of its acquisition and purchase.

Galvin Lennard

## THE GROUND ACQUISITION AND WAR MEMORIAL PAVILION SCHEME.

It has been apparent for some years that the one great need of the Association has been a "home"; a club-house where we could meet in comfort and in which the Athletic sections could find proper dressing accommodation both for their opponents and themselves. In March last this problem became doubly pressing because a "Rugger" section was formed, which meant that on every alternate winter Saturday accommodation would need to be provided by us for some eighty players. A Sub-Committee was set up and a proposal to erect a pavilion on the school sports ground was examined. This eventually was found to be unwise because the school Governors could not give us security of tenure, and moreover, stated that there were certain proposals in the air which might mean that we could not use the school playing pitches much longer. And so, somewhat with reluctance, we turned away to seek new pastures and to devise a more embracing scheme.

Fortunately a field was found in Poplar Walk, quite near our old home, which proved to be not only the most suitable but also as cheap as any in the district. It measures approximately 650 feet by 400 feet and covers six and a half acres; it has a sand subsoil and is dry in winter. It has cost £4,175, the vendors allowing £2,875 to remain on mortgage. It provides room in the summer for eighteen tennis courts, ten of which are permanent, and a large cricket ground; in the winter a "Soccer" and a Rugby pitch; the cricket carpet will not be played over in the winter. The work of getting this field into the correct condition for a sports ground is proceeding apace and will cost approximately £600.

The financial side of this undertaking gives us cause for much satisfaction, for up to the end of December some £2,300 has been raised in loans and donations. This figure is in itself the most

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eloquent testimony of the real interest and enthusiasm that old Rutlishians shew in their Association, and also indicates the financial soundness of the scheme proposed. This £2,300 is made up as follows:—

Donations .. ..	£153
Loans .. ..	£1642
101 Life Memberships	£505

Of the above £1,631 has been subscribed by members of the Association, £359 by parents and relatives of members, and only £310 by those not previously connected with us. In all 160 persons have subscribed and are financially interested in the success of this undertaking, and it is this multitude of small subscribers which has pleased and encouraged your Committee. It cannot be too clearly stated that all loans bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum; you are not asked to give money away, but to *lend* it, on good security and interest. The Profit and Loss Account below gives details of the estimated Income and Expenditure in any one year.

£		£	
Capital Repayment ..	195	Association Grant ..	12
6% Mortgage Interest		Association Surplus ..	50
on £2,875 .. ..	172	Entertainments Rent ..	20
5% on Loans, £3,000 ..	150	Catering .. ..	210
Groundsmen .. ..	250	Ground Letting:—	
Materials .. ..	50	Tennis £550	
Lighting and Heating ..	15	Cricket 60	
Water, Rates, Repairs and		Football 100	
Tythe .. ..	55		£710
Balance .. ..	115		
	£1,002		£1,002

It will be seen from the above that after allowing for Interest on loans totalling £3,000 we have a net surplus of £115. This does not take into account net receipts of £100 per annum which should be obtained from the two Billiard Tables which your Committee intends to purchase if funds are forthcoming. All the items in the above account have been thoroughly investigated and many are based on actual experience gained in past years. The Tennis Courts are already well booked up.

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It remains, therefore, for the £2,300 figure to be brought up to £3,000, i.e., a further £700 to be raised. This is quite possible and in fact must be done because this money is needed for the Pavilion; the £2,300 has been all ear-marked for purchase, fencing, and re-conditioning of ground, and necessary capital expenditure. With the £700 the Committee intend to erect the permanent dressing rooms, washing and lavatory accommodation, also a permanent kitchen; these two brick buildings will be joined by a substantial wooden structure which will serve as a lounge and club-room; we also trust to erect a billiard room adjoining the lounge; a wide verandah will run the length and down one side of the pavilion, on which teas will be served in summer.

Your Committee feel that this extra £700 can be raised if members will put themselves out to work for this object. We know that a great number have given or loaned as far as prudence will allow and to such we say "thank you" and mean it. There are other ways in which you can now help:—

1. Let all O.R.'s you meet know of this scheme and explain it to them; sit down and think of your old school friends and write them about it enclosing particulars.
2. Assist among your office, &c. friends with the Watch Stopping Competition being organised to provide the capital for the Billiard Tables.
3. Back up your Committee in any schemes they organise for helping to raise this £700. An "Old English Fair" is being discussed; if it materialises get your friends and parents to work and help us.

Three months of good work now will set us on our feet, free from financial worry, with a good paying proposition, and the best private sports ground in the district; is it worth it? One last combined effort O.R.'s, and we will have our Club-house.

E.J.A.

# Le Crunch

19 March sees Le Crunch at Poplar Rd! 3 Six nations matches culminating in England v France at 8pm. The upstairs hall's huge screen will show rugby all day as well as the bar. But the most intriguing matches will be on Poplar Road's pitch at as we have invited London French RFC's Vets, Seniors

and minis over to play us.

Simon Hunt and his associates will be running the BBQ all day and for those who fancy something a soupçon more mouth-watering, London French are bringing a couple of chefs to serve a delicious Cassoulet in the Hall before the England game. Ooh la la!

If you would like a seat for dinner at 7 pm, please let Mike know on (rstallard@btinternet.com). Cost will be a bargain at around £15 each.

We will have a bouncy castle for the kids in the afternoon so why not make a day of it?

*Mike (l'ancien capitaine) Stallard*

**SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2022**

**FRANCE RUGBY**

**England Rugby**

**SIX NATIONS**

**OLD RUTLISHIANS' RFC**

**VS**

**LONDON FRENCH RFC**

**LE**

**CRUNCH**

**AT**

**OLD RUTLISHIANS' RFC**

**POPLAR ROAD - SW19 3JS**

**Old Ruts Vets vs London French Vets KO 1pm**

**Old Ruts 3rd XV vs London French 1st XV KO 2.15pm**

Mini Rugby matches • Bouncy Castles

All day BBQ from 11am • French cuisine & fine wines

**Six Nations grande finale match France vs England**

**KO 8pm on the Big Screen**



## Results Round Up Saturday 12 February 2022

The 1st XI's opposition forfeited the match scheduled for today .

The 2nd XI secured a decent 4 - 1 cup win against Kew Park Rangers Res FC at Poplar Road. Steve Berry put the OR's ahead before Kew Park Rangers levelled. In the second half the Ruts added further goals thanks to a brace from Kyle Miller and a close range Jake Searles header. Paul Tuckey was the Ruts' MOTM.

The 3rd XI's Manager Christian Cattie was frustrated at not securing all three points from this match, as his team drew 2 - 2 at Cheam VW FC and he reported as follows.

'We made a very solid start and were rewarded for our efforts when Richard Woolland volleyed home a Ciaran Moorehouse cross. We then created chance after chance, but only added to our tally with the final kick of the half, when Tony Furneaux crossed the ball for Dan Wallis to slot into the net from four yards out. The

## Old Ruts Super Saturdays

We're excited to announce the launch of a new Football for All initiative for youngsters at Old Ruts.

Aimed at boys and girls aged 4-7, **Ruts Super Saturday** will begin at our Poplar Road ground (SW19 3JS) on 5 March, running from 9.30-11am. Going forward it will run from September - May every year.

The course will be led by UEFA qualified coach, Alfie Rowlands-Rickelsford. Alfie is an old Rut who is already heavily involved in junior football coaching at the club and runs the hugely popular Futsal course across the borough.

Structured, on-site football without any travel commitments, **Ruts Super Saturday** will teach younger kids a range of footballing skills, while

making new friends and having heaps of fun. Our aim is to promote them into an Old Ruts football league team when they are old enough.

Parents are welcome to come along and watch their boys or girls enjoy their sport, while they enjoy a bacon roll and a coffee from the cover of our lovely outdoor canopy. Or if parents want to stay and lend a hand that would be great too.

The course costs just £29.99 a month plus an annual Old Ruts membership fee for at least one parent of £40 (unless you are an existing parent member).

To sign up please go to our subscription page - <https://webcollect.org.uk/oldruts/subscription> - then click on football subs and select Ruts Super Saturday.

second half was a completely different affair, as Cheam wanted the ball and pressed more as they simply worked harder than us. When a long throw in was punched clear by Mike Lowe it fell to the Cheam striker who fired home to reduce his team's deficit and from that point on it was all Cheam, who were then able to level from the spot after being awarded a hugely debatable penalty.'

Despite his clear disappointment, Cattie added 'the Ruts 3s will carry on their fight to avoid relegation and we will go again next week'. Richard Woolland was the Ruts' MOTM.

The 4th XI edged out Wanderers Reserves 3 - 2 .

*Gavin Lennard*

### Surrey South Eastern Combination Intermediate Division 2 2021-2022 Season

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Goal diff	Points
Richmond & Kew	13	8	3	2	53	16	+37	27
Chelsea Rovers	11	7	2	2	34	13	+21	23
Selhurst	9	7	1	1	21	7	+14	22
Old Plymouthians	10	6	1	3	24	13	+11	19
Ashtead	12	5	4	3	28	24	+4	19
Junction Elite	15	6	0	9	33	44	-11	18
<b>Old Rutlishians</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>14</b>
Woodmansterne Hyde	13	3	3	7	18	34	-16	12
Wanderers	14	2	4	8	19	34	-15	10
Claygate Royals	8	1	0	7	11	44	-33	3