

# ORA Orbit

## Newsletter

### September 2022



## A big HELLO from the *new* President



It is with much pleasure that I take on the role of President for our great Club and my first job is to say a huge "thank you" to my immediate predecessor Gary Forge who has done a superb job in his year. I would also like to pay tribute to all my predecessors, a long list of some of the ORA's finest volunteers.

It is indeed a tribute to them that in 2023 the Club will celebrate the Centenary of Poplar Road as its base. One hundred years is a significant milestone and the fact that we are approaching it with the Club in robust health across all three sports sections is a fantastic endorsement of all the work and effort put in over the years.

It also gives me a great opportunity to launch a Centenary Appeal to make sure that the Club is still here in another hundred years' time and to make sure that we remain the very best place for adults and kids to play sport in Merton. I aim to launch this in October 2022 and run it through to March 2024, 18 months for us to raise the funds to give the Club the flexibility to put in place capital projects that will enhance the playing experience for all of us whether that is improved floodlighting, an irrigation system, proper fencing and hedging around the perimeters, upgraded changing rooms or anything else which makes a difference!

Please look out for more news on that in the coming weeks and I know many of you will have fund raising ideas of your own that we can borrow and repurpose....

Old Ruts is a special place to many of us and I hope in my time as President I get to meet as many of you as possible and hear from you just what makes it so special.

Cheers for now

Mike  
*Mike Stallard,*  
*President*

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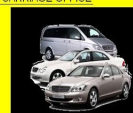
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## Charles Cooper 22/12/1930 - 17/07/2022

The passing of Charles, aged 91, ends the last remaining link with post war ORs club cricket.

Charles, never Charlie to his friends, was the epitome of that era, immaculately turned out in club colours, no questioning the umpire's decision, no frantic appealing. With no leagues all games were friendlies.

Playing for the club until he was 80 he amassed 50 fifties accrued over 50 years or a pedestrian one a year. Excruciatingly slow but invaluable to teams prone to sudden collapse!

The Association Jubilee year book 1956 says it all 'and of course Chas Cooper who one might almost call a fanatic'.

Charles was at war-torn Rutlish School 1942-47 - no cricket coaching due to the call-up of masters. He excelled in the school's Junior Training Corps, preparing him for his two year National Service during which he was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the Rifle Brigade with service in Egypt.

Tallish, affable, with a military bearing and Savile Row tailored, exploiting his knowledge of Art learned from his time at the Wimbledon School of Art, he became a highly successful London advertising executive.



Charles at the 2014 Cricket Dinner with Graham Mills

Charles's main interests were in classical music, opera- going, and military history, and in later life for some twenty years holidaying in remote parts of Turkey .

Somewhat surprisingly, in his thirties Charles took up rugby refereeing. Meticulous in all that he did, he climbed the referees' ladder and for two years was on the Top List of the prestigious London Society of Rugby Union Referees. Only in Ted Cathie before him, had a club member attained such heights.

Married to Barbara for 63 years they lived in the same charming house for 60 years in Claygate, Surrey.

Charles had a serene view on life, seeing the best in his fellow beings at all times. Charles leaves his wife Barbara, son Jeremy and one grand daughter.

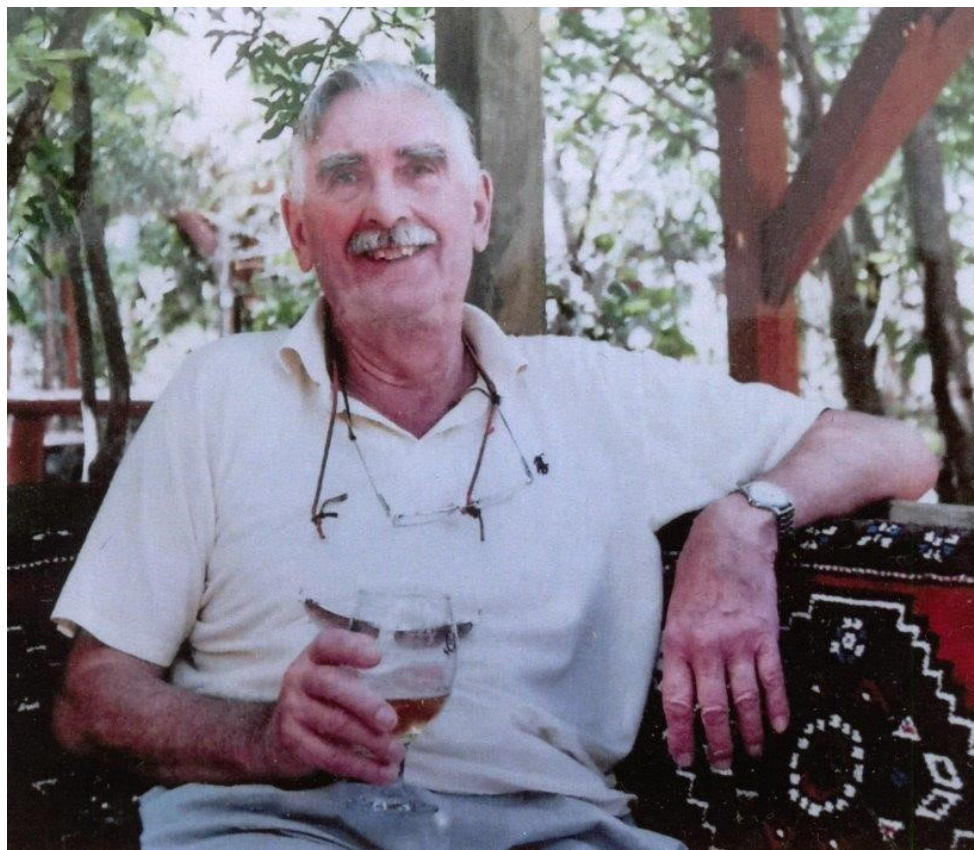
*Don Hamilton  
Rutlish 1941-1948*

You can find Charles' speech at the 2018 Cricket Dinner in the ORA dropbox archive at [2018 Dinner - Dropbox](#)

[I had the pleasure to play with Charles for the friendly fourths. A joy we shared was when I borrowed his bat and hit a six with it.

In all senses he was the most stylish of cricketers.

Ed]





# Old Ruts needs YOU

**The ORA Trustee Board is on the hunt for new trustees to help us run our fantastic Club.**

## **Who do we need?**

Enthusiastic individuals with the skills and experience to be part of the team that runs the Club, sets its strategic direction, and does everything necessary to keep us running smoothly.

## **What skills and experience are needed?**

We are looking for a range of skills, including:

- project management;
- fund-raising;
- safeguarding, compliance & governance;
- grounds management;
- software and data management;
- marketing & advertising;
- engineering/architecture/commercial property experience.

This list is not exhaustive - what's important is having a can-do attitude and getting resourceful people on board who are willing to roll up their sleeves and get stuck into whatever needs doing, with the good of the Club in mind.

## **What next?**

Candidates should submit a CV (including details of key achievements and responsibilities) along with a covering letter which addresses the competencies outlined in the role description and person specification.

Please send all applications to: [kevin.wilde@mitchambellecoaches.co.uk](mailto:kevin.wilde@mitchambellecoaches.co.uk) and [lucytrevelyan@hotmail.com](mailto:lucytrevelyan@hotmail.com).

## **What else?**

If you don't feel you can commit to becoming a trustee but still want to help the club do please get in touch. This is a volunteer-run club and there's always so much work to be done and only so many people doing it, so new volunteers are always welcomed with open arms.

Whatever your skills - admin, finance, social media, fund-raising, IT, maintenance, electrics, plumbing,



building, general handywork, Charity Commission experience, coaching helpers - please step up and help us improve our Club.

**The closing date for applications is 19 September 2022.**

The ORA recognises the value of diversity in all its forms at all levels of the organisation, including at Board level. We celebrate its role in the creation of an inclusive workplace culture and thrive on the range of experience and insight diversity brings to our organisation.

# Let there be light!

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/paul-trevelyan>

I'm the junior football chair of Old Ruts, a registered charity which provides much-needed sport to local kids.

The club desperately needs new flood-lights so we can provide more sport, to more children, more of the time.

I was hoping that if I don a load of lycra and cycle 55 miles on the 2022 London to Brighton Cycle, you would sponsor my madness.

Please? It's a great cause and bringing new floodlights to the club would more than make up for a calloused butt.

*Paul Trevelyan*





## Advert for Walking Football



Old Ruts' new Walking Football advertising banner, modelled by Kevin Wilde

## London to Paris

I just wanted to say a huge thank you to all of you that have supported and sponsored our charity bike ride from London to Paris that we started a week ago today and completed on Saturday (23 July).

The whole team did a great job coping with the hot weather and the hilly landscape and made it to the Eiffel Tower in one piece.

We have raised so far, almost £18,000 and are very close to our target of £20,000, which would be an amazing achievement, so if you have not been able to sponsor us yet or would like to add to the pot please do by using the link below, Chestnut Tree House would be extremely grateful.

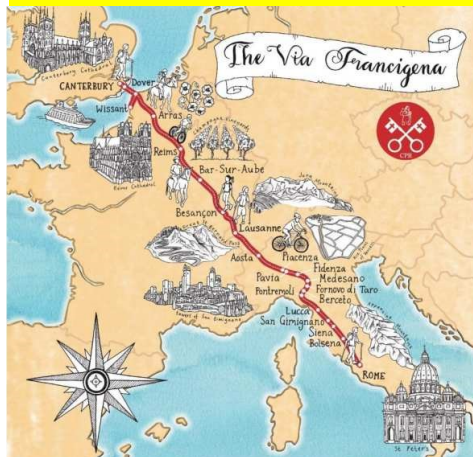
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/benchmark12p>

*Martin Humphreys  
Director,  
Goodfellows Estate Agents*





## Old Rust's Road to Rome part II



On 12 June, Archbishop of Canterbury, Larger Drummer Boy, Popular Music Buff, Richly Moustachioed Bloke and Old Rust continued their ride from Canterbury to Rome. The 88 miles from Aosta was fiercely hot and despite being nearly all downhill, it turned out to be too much for some pilgrims as 'corso chiuso', punctures, delays and lakeside gelati split the bunch. However, showers, beer and pizza delivery revived our spirits.



Keep left!

The 60 miles from Vercelli to Pavia looked great on paper (and online). However, too much of the riding surface had turned to dust as fine as talcum powder, resulting in traction only for the heavyweight riders and leaving the more slender figures to slide around. A fabulous lunch at Il Cassericio in Mortara gee'd Old Rust up and he began to commemorate the ride in song to the tune of *La Donna e Mobile* as the pilgrims neared Verdi's birthplace. That evening in the old university town of Pavia they found a novel expression of support for Ukraine.



The next day was again long and flat, exposed to the sun and wind. The tracks weren't so dusty, but still rutted and bumpy. We arrived at our nice, clean, modern Fidenza Village hotel and sat, sweaty and dusty in the bar, refreshing ourselves. On hearing our story, Nilo the owner of the hotel (and it seemed the surrounding retail park) plied us with beer and snacks while he enthused about the quality of food in his part of Emilia Romagna, recommended a fabulous restaurant a few metres away and invited us to a party the next evening on the roof terrace.



Day 13 was the one some pilgrims were dreading—83 miles over three peaks in the Appenines in relentless Italian sun. It turned out to be fantastic: glorious scenery, interesting old towns, hard riding, decent lunch, super gelato. These and the twelve mile descent meant it was, of course, all cheesy grins on the Passo della Cisa.



After a short ride to the coast, we had a brief glimpse of the Med, then mile after mile of 'resorts'. We took in two climbs, one in the heat and one in a heavy shower. It was so warm, Old Rust didn't think it was worth putting rain gear on (and didn't think quickly enough anyway). After passing through the beautiful walled city of Lucca, we made it to our country house hotel in Fuceccio.



The cover of *The Pilgrims'* next LP

From Fuceccio the pilgrims rode along Tuscany's stradi bianchi, whose hard going and loose surfaces were eased by the beautiful surroundings. We steadily climbed to over 1200 feet to reach our the fabulous city of Sienna to lots of fuss in the main square.

After a beer and a swim the pilgrims were successful in their search for food and wine and did spectacularly well in finding gelati.



Also in Sienna was Le Nostre Palle who had been saving his legs for the previous 15 days. Che palle!



## Old Rust's Road to Rome part II

Online, Sunday 19 June looked easy. On the rough tracks with steep climbs and descents, gravel and dust to take away your grip and traction, all underpinned by a washboard surface in the blistering heat it was not. However, when Old Rust did manage to lift his eyes from the track ahead, the scenery was spectacular and inspiring. The pilgrims finished the day in the hilltop town of San Quirico d'Orcia, where medieval festivities were going on. The views and sunset from the terrace restaurant formed a stunning backdrop to the delicious food.



Monday morning brought the most hazardous descent of the whole trip. One of the five pilgrims had a tumble and LNP horrified another by shooting past saying he had no brakes! Che palle!

The pilgrims regrouped and met a graduate, Leonardo Non Lavoro, who was also following the route. This bright, intelligent and resourceful young man engaged eloquently with us all, before patiently accompanying LNP up the hills and shepherding him to the pilgrims at lunch in the hilltop town of Radicofani. Leonardo clearly has the wit, intelligence and application to succeed in the world.

The pilgrims had entered Lazio, the last region on the way to Rome. That evening the six stayed with football mad host, Pino, who commented that the pilgrims had brought a goalkeeper.



The pilgrims' penultimate day was another hot and humid fifty miles. From San Lorenzo Nuovo they descended to Lake Bolsena then up again to Monteviascone with its stunning views over the lake.

The day was notable for several other things: a fine lunch with the best bread in Italy in the unpromising town of Viterbo, a road of giant smooth and slippery cobbles that looked like the work of Finn McCool and the lovely old town of Sutri.

In Sutri, the pilgrims dined in an old family restaurant with no list of vini rossi, instead they showed you the fine collection of local wines they had in an antique sideboard. They were so proud of their fabulous service they insisted there was no need for a tip as it was all included.



And so to Rome.

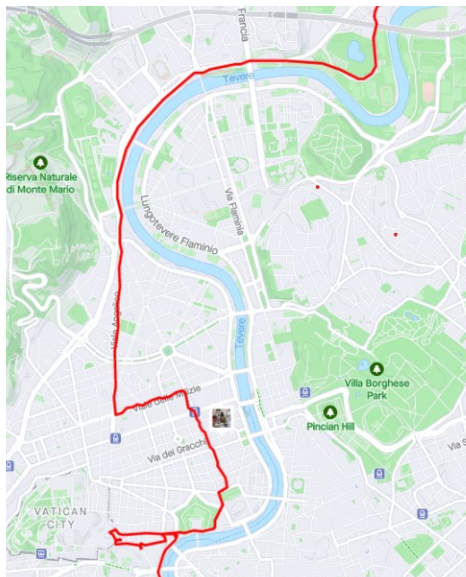
The ride from Sutri to Rome was short at 45 miles, but not uneventful with a shocking climb of one and a half miles which rose to a 20% gradient as we got to the hilltop village of Capagone di Roma. All the pilgrims achieved this without walking, though Old Rust did have to stop to take in the view.



The pilgrims' final road to Rome was a quiet cycle path following the Tiber between trees and bushes into the bustle of the city up through Lepanto, Via Cicerone, round Piazza Cavour, Piazza Adriana and up to St Peter's Square and the Vatican.

In St Peter's Square the pilgrims joyfully took photos like the tourists all around them. They then gathered to commemorate their long journey in music in front of bemused onlookers. They then went in search of a bar that was close enough, but not too close.

Thirst slaked, the five pilgrims went back to the Vatican to collect their testimoniums, before heading to the final hotel in Trastevere. Who should they meet on the way, but Leonardo, smiling and looking for friends to have a beer with!







# Football

## Football Round up -

**3rd to 5th September 2022**

The first XI opened their league campaign with a disappointing 1-2 defeat to Chiswick FC at Poplar Road.

The Ruts deservedly took the lead shortly after the break, courtesy of a decent strike from Billy Liffen. However, the Ruts failed to increase their tally despite having enough possession to do so.

The visitors levelled midway through the half and despite the game then seemingly heading for a draw, Chiswick pounced again late on.

Young Billy Whitthread nearly levelled for the Ruts with virtually the last kick of the match. Alas, his delightful long-range effort was denied by the crossbar!

A mixed thirds and fourths Club XI travelled to Purley Old Boys and came away with a 4-5 friendly win.

The Ruts' goals came courtesy of three from Alex Blenkinsop, plus strikes from Kevin Foster and Steve

Berry. Erol Yilmaz awarded Steve Berry the MOTM award.

The Ruts Sunday XI opened their league campaign at Wandsworth Common with a fine 2-3 victory over Tyne & Thames FC. The scorers were Sam Barton with two and Leo Veshta.

On Monday 5 September the Walking Football team secured a 3 - 1 against Tooting & Mitcham thanks to a brace from Paul Cook and a further strike by Graham Clayton. John Walker was the Ruts' MOTM.

*Gavin Lennard*



Old Ruts' Walking Football team

