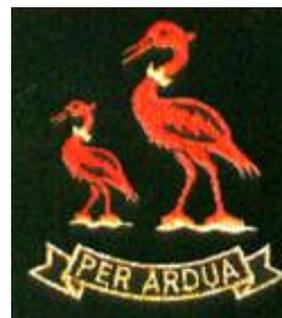


No 6. December 2005

TransDale Extra OUT TO LUNCH



YOUNG AND OLDER: (from left) Dave Cawthorn, Barry de Blocq, Mike Eddy and Nick Eyre



THE YOUNG ONES: Francis Kingston, David Brown, Steven Coleman and Chris Eyre



NOT SO OLD (from left) : Copper Tressider, Bobby Hains Peter Ibbotson and Chris Bull



NOT SO OLD: Dave Giese, Brian Solomons, John Kirkwood and Douglas Troxler

THE DAY KING CAME TO JOBURG

THIS is the sixth and final TransDale Extra bulletin of 2005. It highlights the Johannesburg Old Dalian Union's successful year-end lunch, attended by Dale College Headmaster Mike Eddy, ODU national president Dave Cawthorn and PRO Jack Rosenberg.

Old Dalians aged from their twenties to seventies, some not seen for years, enjoyed a convivial occasion. They were addressed by the headmaster, the president and Johannesburg Old Dalian chairman Mick Schuddin.

The guest speaker was Old Dalian rugby star Nicholas Eyre, who said he owed his success to Dale and his school friends.

Mike Eddy told of progress and problems at the school and said Paterson House had been sold. He reported that the situation regarding teachers had reached a critical stage. (See Page 2).

Johannesburg Old Dalian businessman David Ellwood gave a magnificent R50 000 donation to the ODU for school sports equipment. Thanks, Dave!

We missed seeing our oldest member, Harold Miller, nearing his 87th birthday but regrettably in poor health. It meant that we also missed the Dale War Cry, often led by him at previous gatherings.

Sadly, this bulletin records the passing of several Old Dalians ranging from 33-year-old 1990-91 rugby star Gavin Franken to Brian Crossman at 50, Ray Owen at 83, and Basil Elliott, close on 98.

The year has seen the retirement after nine years of Johannesburg chairman David Sephton-Poultney, who was master-of ceremonies at the lunch and is still busily involved as vice-chairman.

New chairman Mick Schuddin wishes Old Dalians a blessed and happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year. His chirp for 2006:

We look forward to an active year, including the welcome return of the Dale first rugby team to the St John's festival at Easter. A function for Old Dalians will be held over the weekend.

* Join us at our late afternoon get-togethers at the Pirates Bowls Club on the FIRST Thursday of each month. News about golf fixtures will follow.

(Mick's phone numbers: 011-467-2812 or 083 457 0253.

His e-mail: mick.schuddin@liblink.co.za)

*TransDale Extra welcomes comments about the college, the ODU and the quality of this publication. Are you receiving it well? How can we improve it?

- JOE SUTTON, Editor (sutton27@worldonline.co.za)

* Pictures on this page: KEVIN WHITEHEAD

TransDale Extra

TEACHERS: A CRITICAL STAGE

Mike Eddy talks of progress and problems in 'stop-start year

DALE COLLEGE is facing a critical teacher situation, says Headmaster Mike Eddy. Addressing Johannesburg Old Dalians at their year-end lunch, he looked back on a "stop-start year" and said:

"The situation regarding educators is going to reach a critical stage soon, if it is not there already.

"I believe the deputy headmaster post, vacant since April 2004, has attracted only four applicants and where does a school find another Carl Spilhaus (who is moving to Gauteng)? Attracting and keeping quality educators is a key element for Dale's future."

(Meanwhile, Dale Junior still has an acting head, Grant Williams, a year after the departure of Headmaster Mike Hosty. The vacancy was announced in a government department bulletin only in October.

It is understood that ten candidates, including Mr Williams, have applied. They are being interviewed by the Dale Junior Governing Body, which will recommend an appointment to the department.)

On other developments Mr Eddy reported:

* The Dale first rugby team has accepted invitations to three school festivals next year – Grey High, Port Elizabeth, in April, St John's, Johannesburg, over Easter and Durban High in July.

* A disciplinary hearing is being held following an assault of a woman teacher by a schoolboy, but it has been postponed.

* Presby has been sold to an undisclosed buyer and the deal is awaiting transfer.

* Dale sports teams have made 16 tours this year – rugby (four), cricket, hockey and squash (three each), water-polo (two) and cross-country (one). This total tops last year's 13 tours.

* Anda Tyali has been appointed headboy for 2006 – the first Xhosa-speaker to hold this post. Paul Kingston will be his deputy. (See Page 7.)



1940s VEI ERANS (from left): Quentin Coaker, Peter Collett and visiting PRO Jack Rosenberg



MIKE EDDY . . . 'attracting and keeping quality teachers is a key element for Dale's future'

* Sightscreens donated by the Dale PTA have been erected at the No 1 cricket field. The library has been upgraded and computer stations enlarged.

* Potential funders for a proposed rugby academy have visited Dale.

* An adult education project is on hold, as many tertiary facilities are offering distance education.

* **In a letter thanking Johannesburg Old Dalians for organising the lunch, the Headmaster challenged matric-year groups to return for the 2006 Reunion (May 5-6) and to donate matching funds to the school.**

E.g. 1956 class (50 years) to raise R50 000; 1966 (40 years): R40 000; 1976 (30 years): R30 000; 1986 (20 years): R20 000; 1996 (10 years): R10 000. Funds could be channeled through the ODU and linked to projects specified by the groups.



1950s OLD DALIANS Chris Wright, Ivan Venter and Les Labuschagne, MP

TransDale Extra

I OWE IT TO DALE AND MY FRIENDS

'Ordinary kid' Nick tells how he got his big rugby chance

SPRINGBOK Sevens, Cats and Lions scrumhalf Nick Eyre looked back on his schooldays at Dale and thanked the college and his friends for "where I am today."

As guest speaker, he told Johannesburg Old Dalians at their annual lunch: "I was just an ordinary kid at an extraordinary school and grabbed all the opportunities given to me. I don't think I would be the same person today if it hadn't been for Dale and my friends."

Nick said he got his chance in "big" rugby after the 1999 First XV beat Bishops in the Top 20 Schools tournament at Loftus Versfeld. "If it hadn't been for that side and our coming third in the SA rankings I would never have been seen by a big union."

Old Dalian Gcobani Bobo, then playing centre for the Lions Under 21 side, showed his coach a videotape of that game and "I soon got a call from Eugene Eloff and had a contract signed after my matric finals. If it wasn't for Dale and my team-mates it wouldn't have happened."

(In that 1999 side were Gareth Krause, the present Griquas eighth man and flanker, and Chumani Boo, now a Griquas wing whom Nick rates as "the best centre I have ever played with.")

In 2000, playing for Dale against Hoërskool Monument, Monde Zondeki, now concentrating on cricket, twice ran round present Springbok centre Jacque Fourie to score under the posts.)

"Your friends At Dale are your friends for life. Old Dalians help each other," said Nick, adding his thanks to older Old Dalians Dave Ellwood, Edwin Jay, Kim Copland and (his uncle) Brian Eyre.

"You guys have set a great example for the younger generation to follow. Thanks for showing us the way."

Dale taught Nick to make a plan. "I arrived as a newboy in Std 6 pretty clueless about life in general. Always getting into trouble," he said.

"My bottom arrived as a tender piece of rubber and left as a tough piece of leather.

"I learnt much from the older boys – how to duck and dive, bunk out and visit the girlfriend and suck up to the matron for extra food." By matric one of the girlfriends'



NICK EYRE on the way up . . . from Dale to the Lions' den (in the Under 19s)



grandmother was the matron "so extra food for me and my mates was sorted out."

"We ended up having a front door key so we could come and go as we pleased.

"Nothing ever came easy at Dale. If you wanted something you had to work for it. I pity some of the private school kids as if they want something, Mommy will get it for them."

Dale also taught Nick never to give up. Even after playing for the Cats he could only make RAU seconds, but at last he got to play for the firsts.

From there he went to the Lions, played in the Currie Cup and swapped places with (later Springbok scrumhalf) Rickie January.

Nick said he was in constant contact with his schoolmates and tried to spend New Year holidays with them. This year he'll be off to the Eastern Cape. "All of them are doing well," he said. "I'm really proud of them. We encourage each other all the time."

*** Nick is the son of Old Dalian David Eyre (matric 1976) of Cape Town. His uncle Brian (1976) of Sandton, and his younger brother Chris (2001) now of Joburg, attended the lunch. All played first team rugby for Dale.**

WHO EVER SAID BOWLS IS AN OLD MAN'S GAME?

YOUNG Old Dalians, led by Francis Kingston, with Old Selbornians, are organising a Dale-Selborne-Queen's bring-and-braai bowls day on December 10 at Pirates Bowls Club, Johannesburg. The time: 10.30 for 11 am. E-mail contact: francisk@lombardins.com. Welcoming the move, OD chairman Mick Schuddin appealed to younger Old Dalians to support Johannesburg functions. While the branch would help the school and the ODU financially its core purpose remained camaraderie. he told the annual lunch.

TransDale Extra

OUT TO LUNCH . . . Joburg Old Dalians



'72 TRIO (from left): Phillip Scheel, Colin ("Fred") Lawlor and Garth Harris



'75 TRIO Harry Voerman, Grant Turnbull and Willy Wales * Pictures: KEVIN WHITEHEAD

DALE COLLEGE is ahead of the pack and will remain so, says Dave Cawthorn, national president of the Old Dalian Union.

Addressing Johannesburg Old Dalians at their annual lunch, he urged them to attend next year's Reunion "to feel that typical Dale vibe . . . and to share with us the success that the college has enjoyed as a multi-racial school."

His message: "Promote Dale. Encourage Old Dalians and friends to send boys to Dale. We need to be educating more boys to be South Africans."

Describing Dale as a typically New South African school, Dave said: "We are seeing more and more black Old Dalians at each function and sports events along the coast.

"We see black Old Dalians getting involved in Port Elizabeth, Cape Town and in King, which augurs well for the future.

"We are producing more top sportsmen of colour than any other single school in the country. Provinces are poaching our boys in the name of development.

"We are head and shoulders ahead of the pack in transformation where we have embraced the new constitution of the land."

Dave said Dale was ahead of the pack in the late 1950s when a young Steve Tshwete and his fellow matrices from Grant Forbes High School in Zwelitsha had used the Dale science laboratories on Saturday mornings.

Leader of the pack

Dave Cawthorn talks of Dale's success as multi-racial school

In 1959 Tshwete had challenged the Dale First XV to play his first team (he was captain) on the Victoria Grounds. All was on track until politics interfered and the game plan was stopped.

(Later cabinet minister Tshwete sent a son and a nephew as boarders to Dale, the school he had always wanted to attend.)

The national president urged Old Dalians to help the two Dale schools to recruit quality boys, to help raise funds, to promote Dale's South African values and not "sit back and bemoan the changed colour spectrum that is Dale."

Six years away from the college's 150th anniversary celebrations, Dave appealed to Old Dalians to start a Jubilee Fund in South Africa and abroad to keep Dale "where it belongs – a top historical school of South Africa."

Today Old Dalians of all colours were achieving in the "big" world, he said.

The Old Dalian Union needed funds to maintain its office and to keep in touch with Old Dalians.

"Without contact the ODU is doomed."

After 25 years . . . Dave settles for a putter now worth R1 200

JOHANNESBURG Old Dalian businessman Dave Ellwood, who has donated R50 000 to Dale College for sports equipment, has also settled a 25-year-old debt to sports-shop owner Buster Farrer for a golf putter he "acquired" as a schoolboy.

The putter was then priced at about R60. Adding interest, Dave has sent a cheque for R1 200 to Buster, the Old Dalian double Springbok. "At least my conscience is clear," says Dave.

* Dale is using Dave's R50 000 gift to upgrade its gymnasium with training equipment which Headmaster Mike Eddy believes will be an added facility for the college's proposed rugby academy.

Farewell King . . . Hello Joburg!

Rugby coach Carl Spilhaus moves on to face a new challenge

DALE' loss is Gauteng's gain. After 11 years coaching rugby at Dale Junior and then the college, Carl Spilhaus is joining the staff of a private school just east of Johannesburg.

He will become director of rugby at St Benedict's College, Bedfordview, a "new mover" school, which he says is "working tremendously hard to create a sporting image."

Carl took charge of the Dale College First XV in 2002 after an outstanding record as coach of the Dale Junior Under 13As, who had been unbeaten for the last two years.

He had coached that team for five years and the Border Under 13As for three.

On taking over at the college one of his declared goals was to get Dale back in the Top 20 rugby-playing South African schools. Carl is known as a hard taskmaster and it was a long, hard road - but in 2004 the First XV was back - ranked 12th.

This year, plagued by injuries, lack of depth and other limitations (see next page), Dale slumped to 24th place.

What's the problem? Still a lack of depth, says Carl, as he has warned before. "Dale is competitive in the second, third and fourth etc. teams - we don't really lack players in these areas. However, we lack talented players who could PERFORM in the first team.

"To be competitive in the Top 20 competition we need players who can perform at this level. We have enough players but not enough quality players. The quality players are going to other schools."

A former provincial cricketer who coached cricket at Dale Junior and at Dale College, Carl will coach Under 15 cricketers at St Benedict's.

In the classroom, he says he will have a "very light teaching load. The main thrust of my appointment is to coach rugby."

He describes his appointment as "a tremendous challenge - but one that I am looking forward to. I have always wanted to spend more time coaching sport - especially rugby and now I have an opportunity to do that." Carl said he had always aimed to encourage players to express themselves and to enjoy playing rugby.

CARL
SPILHAUS
... peerless
coach



"My job as a coach was to equip them with the skills and techniques to accomplish this.

"We as a family have thoroughly enjoyed our association with Dale. They have been 11 very enjoyable years."

Carl thanked his assistant coach, Darryl Mauer for his "expertise and tireless commitment to the team, especially to the forwards," the Headmaster, Mike Eddy, for his support, all the coaches at Dale, and the Old Dalians and parents "whosesupport and involvement is the envy of other schools. Thank you for all the fond memories."

Go well, Carl, you will be sorely missed at Dale - as a dedicated coach and staff member.

*** Butch Wiggett has been appointed to succeed Carl Spilhaus as first team rugby coach. A teacher at Dale since the early 1980s, he has had long experience as head of rugby and coaching Dale rugby teams. Butch is a head of department and superintendent of College House.**

My most promising Dale rugby players - by Carl

WE asked Carl Spilhaus whom he considered the most promising players he had coached at Dale. He named these seven, who he said, "have the ability to become very good players:"

* Scrumhalf MANDILAKHE TILE (2003-2005), re-awarded honours this year and selected for the SASchools team. He is moving to St Alban's College, Pretoria, next year. "Unbelievable talent," said Carl.

* Fly-half GUY RANGER (2003-2005), top points-scorer in 2005, who will join the Natal Sharks Rugby Academy next year, where Carl believes his "obvious talent will bloom."

* Prop forward BANDISO MAKU (2002-2004), who captained the First XV "brilliantly" in 2004, and flyhalf and centre LUTHO NYEKA (2002-2004), a "quality performer" and "a real general in the backline."

* BJORN BASSON (2003-2005), leading try-scorer in 2005, "one of the most talented players I've coached."

* ROYDEN KENNEDY (2004-2005), "a very determined and gifted young man . . . an extremely balanced runner and his defence is awesome. We shall hear a lot more of him."

* Lock forward JARRYD GREYVENSTEIN (2004-2005), in line for selection for the SA Under 19 team to take part in the 2007 Youth World Cup. "As he matures he should develop into a very good lock."

TransDale Extra

INJURIES MAR RUGBY SEASON

IT was a season of mixed fortunes for the Dale first rugby team. Carl Spilhaus describes his last season as Dale rugby coach as “rather disappointing,” due to a “combination of complacency and injuries.”

The first team played 19 games, won 11 and lost eight. “Many players were not ‘hungry’ for success and a lack of depth in certain positions led to a few players becoming complacent,” reports Carl.

“An early loss to Bishop’s at the Graeme Rugby Festival was followed by satisfactory results at the St Andrew’s Festival over the Easter weekend. Dale beat Hilton College, Rondebosch and SACS. This, however, was the start of our injury problems.”

Dale took part in the Cape Schools’ Rugby Festival hosted by Wynberg Boys’ High in the June holidays. “Two difficult encounters against Paarl Gymnasium and Boland Agricultural School were followed by an easier game against Wynberg. We had our chances against Gym and Boland yet we let these games slip,” said the coach.

Dale won their Reunion game narrowly against Selborne and beat Queen’s at their Reunion, but lost both return games in the third term.

Mandilakhe Tile was re-awarded honours for the season. Full colours were awarded to Jarryd Greyvenstein and Shane Spring and half colours to Blake Krause, Dylan Pieterse, Murray Daniel, Sokhana Mkona, Alex Iumba, Gareth Mackenzie, Guy Ranger, Royden Kennedy, Nic van de Vyver, Maphelo Mpondo, Somila Seyibokwse, Bjorn Basson and Dewald Vermaak.

Scrumhalf Tile, lock forward Greyvenstein and loose-forward Spring, described as “a very gifted player with a tremendous physical presence,” were selected for the Border Craven Week team. Spring and Tile suffered many injuries, but although Tile could not achieve full fitness, he was chosen for the South African Schools Under 18 team against France.

Greyvenstein, who came into his own in towards the end of the season, was chosen for the SA Under 19 squad from which the team to take part in the 2007 Youth World Cup will be selected. Mkona, Pieterse and Basson were selected for the Border Under 19 team and Mpondo and Daniel for the Border B team.

Despite missing many games through serious injuries, flyhalf Guy Ranger was the season’s leading points-scorer and figured in the Sunday Times top ratings. “We have no doubt that Guy’s obvious talent will bloom in the Sharks Rugby Academy in 2006,” commented Carl. Basson, whom Carl described as “one of the most talented players I have ever coached” was the leading try -scorer.

2005 Dale cricket ends on a high note

THE DALE first cricket team has had an up-and-down first half of the season. After losing three out of ten games, they finished brilliantly by beating St. Andrew off the last ball, reports their coach Donovan Lentz.

The season began with a bang when the boys thrashed Cambridge by eight wickets. Dale bowled Cambridge out in 23 overs with Somila Seyibokwe taking five for 19 in eight overs.

The boys then moved to the Cape Schools Cricket Week and were brought down to earth when they lost to a powerful Wynberg side. They went on to beat Rondebosch (Seyibokwe five for 19 in 14 overs), SACS (Singata Geilitshana four for 27 in seven overs) and Bishops (Geilitshana 90 and Seyibokwe 64).

Back from the Cape, Dale beat Selborne by 54 runs due to a fantastic partnership of 138 runs by Ryan Dewey and Florian Genade, who both scored 63 not out. Their partnership included 12 extras. Genade then finished off an excellent all-round performance by taking four for 17 in eight overs.

Dale then beat Outeniqua but then lost to the next two games to Queen’s and Hudson Park. The game against Port Rex was washed out.

The last game saw an exciting win for Dale against St. Andrew’s. Chasing 215 to win on a slow pitch, Dale got off to a poor start but then started to get things back on track in the middle, thanks to Seyibokwe (29) and Guy Ranger (44), who got Dale pretty close to the score needed.

The real hero was Dewey, who was on strike when the last over began with Dale needing 14 to win. Dewey smashed 13 runs off the first five balls (ending up with 38 not out off 28 balls). This left Dale with one run to get off the last ball which Nic van de Vyver despatched to reach the winning total. The team finished the year with 20 games played, 15 wins, five losses, one washed out game and no draws.

** The Sunday Times rated Dale ninth in the Top 20 SA cricketing schools.*

TransDale Extra

Anda Tyali is Dale's first Xhosa headboy

FOR THE FIRST time Dale College will have an isiXhosa-speaking headboy next year. He is 17-year-old Anda Tyali, who joined the college from Dale Junior in 2002.

Anda's father, Monwabisi Tyali, is principal of Thembelani Senior School, Keiskammahoek, and his mother, Zoliswa, is a teacher in Debe Nek. They live in King Williams Town.

Academically, Anda was placed fourth in Grade 11 in September. A first-team cricketer, he has been selected for the Border U18A Coca-Cola Week team.

He is an orthodox left-arm spinner and a capable top-order right-hand batsman.

Anda played flyhalf for the second rugby team this year. He is described as a mature young man and an independent thinker and was an overwhelming choice among his peers for this position.

Paul Kingston, 17, deputy headboy for 2006, also came up from Dale Junior. He was regularly in the Top Ten of his class, on the Junior Town Council and an Interact member. He played squash for the Dale first team and for the third rugby team this year.



ANDA TYALI



PAUL KINGSTON

Paul's father, Terence Kingston, is treasurer of the Dale College Governing Body.

Terry has worked for the accounting firm, Price WaterhouseCoopers, in East London, for 20 years and has served on the Governing Body since being co-opted in 1999. Terry received a Per Ardua award in 2000 for his services to Dale.

His son Francis, of Johannesburg, who played first team rugby for Dale in 1978 says his dad loves taking pictures at e rugby games and travelled on tour with his team.

Paul's mother, Daisy, runs a family catering business. She is a member of the collage PTA and won a Per Ardua Award in 2003.

Old Dalian golfers make it 11 wins in a row

JOHANNESBURG Old Dalians have beaten Old Selbornians and Old Queenians at golf for the 11th successive year. Dale totalled 325 points, Selborne 313 and Queen's 166 in the tournament organised in September by Old Selbornians at Leeuwkop Golf Club.

Old Selbornian Richard Niblock-Stuart was the overall individual winner with 38 points. Twenty Old Dalians played in the tournament, the result being decided on the best ten scores by each school.

The leading Old Dalians were: Edwin Jay 36, Kevin Dollery 35, Alan Sutton 33, Sean Hemphill, Alan Davis, Paul Naylor and Andy Andrews, each 32, Bobby Hains, Garvin Ogden and Grant Rau, each 31.

Alan Sutton, in the last fourball home, was closest to the pin at the 18th hole, just edging out Richard Niblock-Stuart, closest till then.

Our thanks to Old Selbornian president Eugene "Bushy" Bester and stalwart past-president Dave McLeod and their treasurer, Ronnie Saacks, for organising this annual tournament. "The Fish" won the first in 1994 but have not achieved this since. "Highway robbery," commented Dave, when announcing Dale's victory this year,



AGAIN! Johannesburg Old Dalian chairman Mick Schuddin (right) receives the trophy from Old Selbornian president Eugene Bester

? Picture: JONTY ALEXANDER

* Andrew Kirkwood, non-Dalian son of our own John Kirkwood, was second in the overall individual contest, open also to visitors. He scored 36 points, shading Edwin Jay on a count-out. Old Selbornian Peter Fleming was the undisputed longest-day winner with four points!

TransDale Extra

BASIL ELLIOTT:

Oldest Old Dalian just misses 98th birthday

THE oldest-known Old Dalian, Basil Elliott, has died three weeks before his 98th birthday. Basil, who was at Dale College from 1916 to 1924, spent his last 14 years at Umdoni Retirement Village in Pennington, on the KwaZulu-Natal South Coast.

He was probably the only person still living this year who had witnessed the unveiling of the original Dale War Memorial in 1922.

Earlier this year Basil was donated a new wheelchair by the Scottburgh Rotary Club through another Old Dalian, David Hampton, a past-president of the club.

David presented the wheelchair to him and later told TransDale Extra: "Basil still enjoys good health and the wheelchair enables him and his wife Imogen to do a bit of gadding." They were married in February 1989 and enjoyed 16 happy years together.

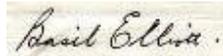
Basil was due to turn 98 on October 27. But sadly, after a short illness, he died on October 5 at Margate. His funeral at the Anglican Church, Scottburgh, was attended by his two daughters, Merrill Murray and Dianne Vousden of Sydney, who had flown in from Australia to visit him shortly before his death. Basil was a Freemason for nearly 60 years and fellow members were his pallbearers.

Even as an aged pensioner, Basil was a staunch financial supporter for many years of TransDale, the magazine sponsored for nearly 30 years by the TransDale Parents' Association.

Early in 1999, when Basil was 91, he sent TransDale a picture to show that he was "still around." The magazine reported: "He still walks for half an hour most days. In summer he does aerobics in a pool ('It's good for my legs,' he says)." He went to Lodge once a month and wrote to friends all over the globe.

Said Basil: "Dale means a lot to me. I have retained a great love for a very fine school."

Among his remarkable attributes, even in his later years, were his memory for the names of old schoolmates and teachers and his immaculate, copperplate handwriting (signature below)



In one of several letters to TransDale he recalled attending the unveiling of the 1914-18 War Memorial on May 26, 1922, in the quadrangle of the old Dale College building, now Dale Junior.

To view the ceremony "pupils had to climb ladders to the sloping roof of the building." At a rehearsal "the Rev Bob Sutton (the former Headmaster who led the service) was not satisfied with the arrangements and in a loud voice requested his son Tanner (Headmaster Frank Sutton) to bring the boys down and reassemble them to his satisfaction. This was done. The boys were duly impressed that the son had to accede to his father's request."

The War Memorial, updated with the names of the fallen in the Second World War and the Korean War, was moved to the Hallowed Courtyard when the "New Dale" was opened in 1961.

Basil Elliott was born in King William's Town on October 27, 1907. Recalling his years as a "day-pot" at Dale with his lifelong friend Eustace Peveritt, he said he had been caned by Headmasters Bob and Tanner Sutton and by "Crackaway" (woodwork master WS Galloway.)



BASIL ELLIOTT with Old Dalian friend DAVID HAMPTON . . . "a bit of gadding" around the village with his wife in his twilight times

* Picture: VFF HAMPTON

"Sadly we never distinguished ourselves in the real world," he wrote. Eustace became a bank clerk and Basil worked in Vereeniging for about 35 years in the office of a steelworks and for 11 years for a building society – "two very undistinguished fellows who nevertheless are very keen and loyal Old Boys."

In 1994, at 86, more than 60 years after he had left King William's Town, Basil travelled by car with Eustace from Natal to King to attend the annual Dale Reunion, stopping at various towns en-route. Basil complained to Eustace about his speeding.

* Eustace Peveritt, who lived at Pumula, near Port Shepstone, attended 16 Dale Reunions. He died in 1997 aged 90.

* David Hampton, who attended Basil's funeral service, was at Diocesan Hostel from 1959 to 1964. He retired to Scottburgh after 33 years' service, mainly in training and personnel, with Barclays (later First National) Bank. He is active in the Scottburgh Rotary Club and says he "plays a bad game of golf twice a week.."

TransDale Extra

BRIAN CROSSMAN:

Brave fight against cancer ends after 50th birthday

OLD DALIAN Brian Crossman died at his home in Bordeaux, Randburg, on September 17, a week after his family and friends gave him a surprise 50th birthday party. He had been fighting cancer for several months.

Brian, who grew up in the Eastern Cape and left Dale in 1973, played first team rugby and cricket and Border Schools rugby. He was also in the school athletics team. In his matric year he won a prize for the most versatile player in the First XV.

In the school magazine he was described as “undoubtedly one of the better flanks seen at Dale for many years with excellent anticipating ability.”

Brian spent 25 years - most of his career – with Michelin. Many Gauteng Old Dalians attended the funeral service at Christ Church, Blairgowrie. Others included his brothers, Tony from the Cape and Mike from Durban, and Gordon McCune of King William’s Town (who had also flown up the previous week for the birthday party).

Brian leaves his wife Cheryl, son Shaun, 16, daughter Leigh, 11, mother Felicity, brothers Tony and Mike and sister Tischia. Their father, the late Ken Crossman, was also an Old Dalian.

At the 2003 Dale Reunion Brian paid a return visit to his old school for a nostalgic get-together with fellow members of the matric class of 1973.

* In a moving tribute at the funeral service, Old Dalian Harry Voerman of Johannesburg told of his close, 30-year-friendship with Brian, “a special, special man whom you could not help but like.”

Here are edited extracts from his address:

A true, salt-of-the earth, no-nonsense guy

By HARRY VOERMAN

BRIAN CROSSMAN was my very best and dearest friend . . . a true salt-of-the-earth, no-nonsense guy, who despite that rugged, tough exterior was a gentle and compassionate man.

We went to school together at Dale College, shared the same “res” at Rhodes University and with Dave Chase I was the best man at his wedding.

Brian’s world would not accommodate false pretences. It was a world that loved animals, hated injustices and couldn’t care less whether you were the chairman of the board or the driver.

He didn’t suffer fools gladly, so you always knew there was a basic honesty about your relationship with him. You’ve got to be a special kind of person to be able to stand up in a pub and tell a group of guys enjoying a pint: “OK guys, I’m off – got to take my dogs for a walk.” He loved his animals.

Brian came from the old-school way of life - tough, dignified, proud and principled. That didn’t sit well with many people, but it earned him huge respect.

Not once in the last eight months did he complain about his illness. That was typical of him: Don’t let your problems become other people’s problems. Stick it out, be brave and proud and, above all, keep your dignity.

Sport figured prominently in Brian’s life: First team rugby and cricket and Border Schools rugby while at Dale, first team rugby at Rhodes, Border rugby Under 21 – a fearless flanker and eighth man.

Whether it was rugby, darts or bowls, Brian loved nothing more than playing a tough game and then enjoying a pint with his opposition and team-mates. He was a passionate (Western) Province supporter and with me being a Bulls supporter, great rivalry existed between us over the years.

When we spoke for the last time he was still coming to terms with how wonderful that night (of his 50th birthday party) had been for him. Brian fought his illness with determination and courage. We can all be proud of him. Thanks for all the great times, Croz.



BRIAN CROSSMAN
. . . tough yet gentle

TransDale Extra

RAY OWEN:

Devoted family man, he gave up all for his bedridden wife

RAY OWEN, who has died in Johannesburg six weeks after his 83rd birthday, was a loyal Old Dalian who attended functions regularly even when crippled by a fall and latterly in declining health.

Fellow Old Dalians and Freemasons were among those who attended his memorial service at Doves Park Chapel, Randburg on October 20. There he was described as a devoted husband and family man who gave up all outside interests for ten years to look after his seriously ill wife.

Ray spent 30 years researching his family tree going back to 1883 when his great-grandfather was reputedly an admiral in the Royal Navy. A “walking encyclopaedia, he had a fine memory for events, dates and birthdays and knew his way around the older parts of Joburg “like the back of his hand.” He donated his body to the Wits Medical School – for use by science.

Dalton Ray Owen (known to some as Taffy) was born in 1922 on his father’s farm at Chalumna River Mouth, near East London. He recalled being present, as a 16-year-old Dalian, on December 22, 1938, when a trawler brought ashore the first coelacanth caught off South Africa. This mysterious fish, believed extinct, became popularly known as “Old Fourlegs” and world famous as *Latimeria chalumnae*, named after the director of the East London Museum, Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer.

A boarder at Paterson House, Ray left Dale after Std 8 to join the South African Air Force early in the Second World War. After the war he settled in Robertsham, Johannesburg, working as a fitter and turner making toothpaste tubes and later as factory manager of Metal Box.

Ray and his wife Maud raised a family of two sons and a daughter. As an elegant couple, they were keen dancers, especially of the “Bop,” popular at the time. At Robertsham Primary School he started a little league soccer team and a baseball team and later helped found the Robertsham amateur soccer club.

After 1975 first Maud and then Ray were struck down with illness - she bedridden with rheumatoid arthritis and he with a pancreas problem, a heart attack and a stroke. In 1976 both Ray and Maud were in different hospitals at the same time.

After her death in 1986 he returned to bowls and to Freemasonry at Emrys Lodge in Parktown, Johannesburg, which he had joined in 1964 as a “young, dapper man.” His initiation was like a “baptism of fire” - his moustache caught alight when it brushed a candle at the senior warden’s pedestal.

Described as “a dedicated Freemason whether in good or in poor health,” Ray became a master in 1969-70. He was also a member of the District Grand Stewards Lodge.

Only ten days before his death he was dressed ready to be picked up for a Masonic installation meeting, despite having fallen twice that day. Unfortunately, being in a wheelchair he could not easily be moved and missed the ceremony.

Ray wore his Old Dalian blazer with pride at lunches and rugby festivals. In 1997, after falling through the roof of his garage and breaking his pelvis, he struggled gamely into a lunch on a “walker.”

At 80, he made his second trip alone to the United States to visit his younger son and family. On the way he spent two weeks in Britain, visiting family and friends and, assisted on wheelchairs, was “treated as a VIP” at airports.

Ray played bowls until early this year and occasionally still drove his car. He was taken to Lodge meetings till a few weeks before his death. He spent his last three years at Roslin Park Masonic Home, Forest Hill, and moved in September to Park Care, Parktown West, where he died on October 15.

Ray leaves his sons Cedric, of Kempton Park, Brian of Detroit, Michigan, a daughter Gillian Smith of Johannesburg, and six grandchildren. Cedric delivered the eulogy at Ray’s memorial service and Keith Marley spoke for Emrys Lodge Freemasons.

Brian will fly out from the US for Gill’s wedding in January to Pieter van der Merwe of Johannesburg. Ray will be missed by his family, Old Dalians and his many friends.



RAY OWEN ... loyal Old Dalian

TransDale Extra

GAVIN FRANKEN:

Dalian sports star lived as he died - in the fast lane

OLD DALIAN Gavin Franken has died at age 33 in a quad-bike accident, leaving a young wife and two sons, the second born only eight months ago.

Gavin was a member of the unbeaten 1990 Dale rugby team honoured at this year's Reunion. He did not join his team-mates but stayed home in Alberton to be with his wife Audrey when their baby was born on the Thursday of Reunion week.

In addition to Audrey, five-year-old Meyric and baby Blayde, Gavin leaves his parents Norman and Margie Franken, formerly of Bedfordview and now of Durban, and brothers Ian of Mount Edgecombe, KwaZulu-Natal, and Adrian of Johannesburg.

Six Old Dalians schoolmates attended the funeral service at the Methodist Church, Alberton. Michael Woudberg, another 1990 First XV member, flew from Cape Town, Carlo Tito from East London and Martin Moodie, a 1990-91 first-teamer, from Port Elizabeth.

Lawrence Wood, who had worked with Gavin, came from Ermelo and Clinton Penny and Ryan Benny from Johannesburg.

Gavin owned Pendale Foods, a food-processing factory in Randvaal, south of Johannesburg. He had worked there for 12 years, rising from a "Saturday casual" to a director before taking over after the death of his partner, Old Dalian Timothy Webb.

In a poignant newspaper notice, Norman Franken said of Gavin: "You lived the way you died, in the fast lane. . . Your effervescent presence will be missed."

A passionate quad-bike fan, Gavin was killed in a collision during a race at Naboomspruit in the Northern Province. It was the second untimely death to hit the business, both involving Old Dalians, in five years.

In August 2000, Tim, managing director of the company and son of the then owner, Cliff Webb, died in tragic circumstances in Pretoria with Gary Butcher, one of three Old Dalian brothers. After this loss Cliff handed over control of Pendale Foods to Gavin.

At Dale Gavin was awarded rugby colours in 1990 and honours in his matric year of 1991.



FAMILY MAN. . . Gavin with Audrey and Meyric

The college magazine reported: "Gavin Franken: Performed brilliantly for both the college and Border Schools – our top try-scorer for the season with 17 tries.

"He was also the top try-scorer in 1990 with 11 tries. A complete wing – fast, good swerve and brilliant on the cross-over."

Gavin won the Bob Curling Trophy for rugby and the Percy Davis Prize for cricket as an all-rounder in the first team.

Academically he distinguished himself by having a matric history essay published in the Dale Magazine. It covered Prime Minister JC Smuts's post-war mining labour problems leading to his election defeat in 1924.

At the funeral service Gavin's brothers paid tribute to "his larger-than-life personality and big-hearted generosity" and spoke of the "special bond" between them.

He was a hero to both brothers, younger and elder. "We grew up also as best friends," said Ian.

Said Adrian (Adi): "These traits stand out: His fearlessness and loyalty; his commitment; his generosity and enormous heart; his love of his family."

His fearlessness was shown at an early age while holidaying at Sheffield Beach, KwaZulu-Natal. His father was swimming beyond the breakers when he "turned around to see a three-year-old blonde head bobbing out behind him."

Describing Gavin's passion for quad-biking, Adi said he had achieved many race wins and a top South African honour.

Loyalty? In junior school, recalled Ian, Gavin took the rap for a few joint mischievous escapades - including blowing up a hi-fi with fireworks. ** To next page*

TransDale Extra

Gavin Franken: The young boss who led by example

** From previous page*

Of Gavin's work at Pendale Foods, Ian said: "As a youngster he was allergic to pork. Ironically processing pork became the biggest business success of his life.

"His work ethic was tremendous. He demanded 100 per cent from his staff but he expected 150 per cent from himself.

"Gavin led by example and would be seen physically loading the trucks or offloading up to four tons of pig carcasses himself.

"He never expected anyone to do anything he was not prepared to do himself.

Said Adi: "Loyalty went both ways between Gavin and his staff. When someone paid a

fortune to a lawyer for a house to be built and the lawyer disappeared with the money, Gavin tracked him down and drove to Soweto at 11 at night, knocked on the door and using his subtle negotiation skills, got the money back."

"Under that tattooed, tough exterior was a person with a heart of gold. His generosity was boundless and went beyond the workplace."

Said Ian: "Even with all the pressure at work, Gavin was still a kid at heart and always had time for a laugh and a prank."

Ian's final tribute: "He has achieved in his 33 years what most people would not achieve in a lifetime."