

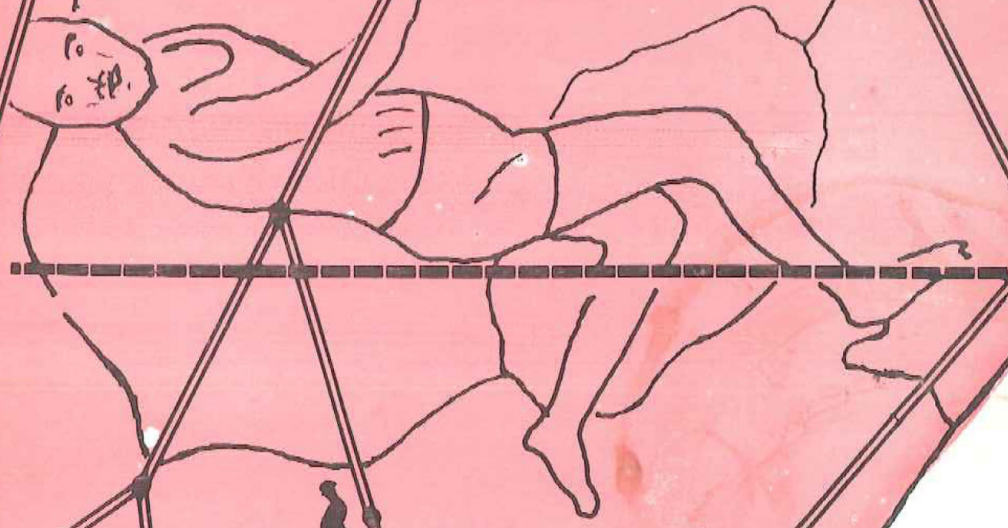
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TRANS-DALE



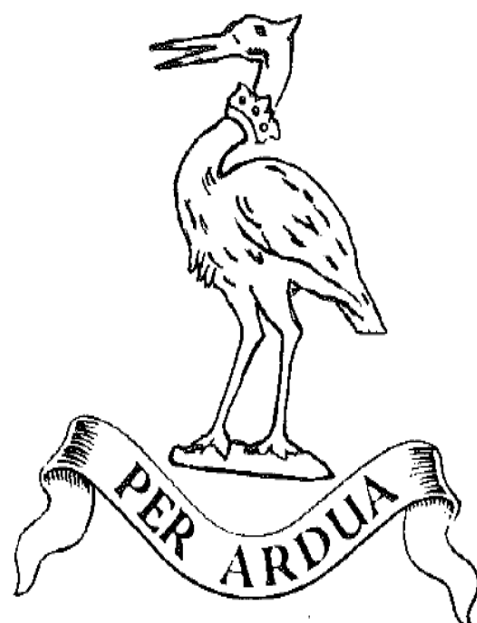
PER ARDUA



TRANS-DALE

NEWSLETTER OF
THE TRANSVAAL
PARENTS
ASSOCIATION OF
DALE COLLEGE

No 12
January 1981



Dale's future in the Ciskei

PARENTS of Dalians enter 1981 in an atmosphere of uncertainty about the long-term future of the school.

The Van der Walt Commission has recommended that King William's Town be incorporated into an independent Ciskei. The move is being fiercely resisted by whites in the town, but it seems inevitable that it will eventually happen — as part of the independence package deal negotiated by the Ciskei's Chief Minister, Chief Lennox Sebe, and the South African Government.

The prospect of a Dale College outside South Africa's borders is a matter of deep concern to parents, teachers, Old Dalians and other friends of the school. Questions being asked include: Who will control Dale if King goes black? Will Dale become multi-racial?

The immediate response of the school authorities and the Old Dalian leadership has been reassuring and confident. Even in an independent Ciskei, it is maintained, Dale can continue to be run by the Cape Education Department. Umtata High School is apparently run in this way four years after Transkei's independence.

Chief Sebe has given an assurance that selected white schools in King will be able to remain under Cape control "for the foreseeable future." The Ciskei would, however, establish its own multi-racial school in the town as soon as possible after independence.

In a letter to parents the chairman of the Dale College school committee, Mr Neville Woolgar, writes:

“Dale College has for 119 years afforded an outstanding all-round education and we have been assured that Dale College will continue to provide these facilities.

This undertaking has been given by the Director of Education of the Cape Province under whose control Dale College falls.

The Director has furthermore assured us that Dale College would, in an independent Ciskei, be accorded the position almost of a private school, falling under the Cape Education Department, and that no attempt to enforce integration in any manner would be made.

The present situation with all leading private schools in the Republic is that they are permitted to enrol non-white pupils, but this is very strictly controlled on academic merit. The merit criteria is also presently applied in white schools for white pupils, and is clearly a pre-requisite if any form of integrated education were to be introduced.

We at Dale College do not foresee any change in the extremely high standards we have consistently maintained. The School Committee, as well as the teaching staff, has been greatly encouraged by the positive comments which have been made by parents, Old Dalians and leaders in education, who share our conviction that Dale College will continue to maintain its prominent place in South African education.

Let us therefore move into the year 1981 certain of our past and confident of our future.

These are encouraging words, although it is unlikely that the anomaly of a Cape-run Dale in an independent Ciskei could be maintained indefinitely.

However, the prospect of a multi-racial Dale need not be as daunting as it seems to many people today. Already many South African private schools have quietly lowered the barriers without the dire consequences that some pessimists foretold.

The trend voluntarily to accept limited numbers of Asian, coloured and black pupils on merit is bound to spread to State schools eventually. And it would be folly to hope that Dale could remain pure white for ever in a black state.

What is important is that Dale should survive as a quality boarding school and that a steady flow of boarders from all four provinces and beyond should be maintained.

If the school's high standards and traditions can be maintained in a stable environment we need not fear the future — even though change is inevitable.

Perhaps the new challenges ahead present Dale with an opportunity to become an even greater school, pointing the way to the future and an example to others.

Return of Dale's glorious 1964's

By JOE SUTTON

FOR MANY it was the most poignant moment of the 1980 Reunion — when Charlie Pope gave back to Dale College the rugby ball he had treasured for 16 years.

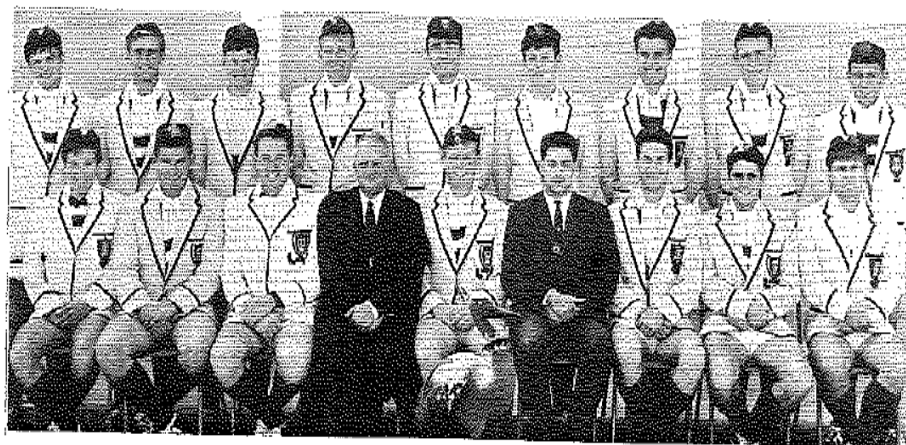
The 1964 Dale First XV was unbeaten in 18 matches. After the last game against Selborne in King William's Town they autographed the ball for their captain who took it home and later kept it in his office.

In 1980 the ball and the 1964 team came back to Dale College to add an extra touch of glamour and nostalgia to the annual Reunion.

They came, they saw and were defeated on the rugby field for the first time. But they conquered. For few Old Dalians have achieved such a remarkable reunion of teammates.

One by one they trooped up to the Assembly Hall platform as their names were called out amid applause. That night the ball was handed over to the Headmaster, Colin Thomson, at the Old Dalian Reunion dinner.

It all started when Mike Dickson saw a newspaper picture of Ken Mourant and phoned him at his factory in Ben-



THEN: Standing: K Mourant, J Hendriks, M Crossman, L Botha, W Morrison, J Ehrich, J Berry, P Morrison, F Coetzee. Seated: G Snodgrass, C Bissell, M Jennings (vice-capt), Mr R W Searle (Headmaster and coach), C Pope (capt), Mr J Haggard (trainer), D Filmer (com. member) M Dickson, E Kietzman. In front: Sir Langham (mascot).

rose, Johannesburg. Over lunch in May the idea of a reunion of the unbeaten 1964 XV was born.

"It was like a chain reaction," Ken Mourant recalls.

Within two weeks in a series of phone calls he had traced his old teammates in far corners of South Africa.

The challenge: Get fit in three months for a get-together game in King at the August Reunion.

The 1964 Dale XV was a star side. Mike Jennings became a Springbok and at least four others attained provincial honours — Louis Botha (Western Province), Mike Crossman (South-East Transvaal), Mike Dickson (Border, Eastern Province) and Chow Bissell (Border). Charlie Pope played for the SA Defence Force and John Ehrich for Transvaal Under 20's.

But in 1980 only Botha, who still plays for Wanderers, was match fit. They were all overweight — except Pope, lighter now than he was at Dale.

Everyone promised to train hard, but after a week's jogging most of them gave up. It was too much like hard work.

What started as a serious campaign

ended in a giggle.

Who were they — that intrepid band of ex-rugby stars who came back to don the red-and-black jersey after 16 years? Most of them, now married and with families, had never touched a rugby ball for ten years.

This was the line-up:

Fullback: Ken Mourant (Johannesburg)

Wings: Mike Dickson (Johannesburg) and Jackie Hendriks (King William's Town)

Centres: Derek Schreiber (Dor-drecht) and Frasier Coetzee (Tarkastad)

Flyhalf: Charlie Pope (Molteno)

Scrumhalf: Mike Crossman (Umhlanga Rocks)

Frontrankers: William Morrison (Roodepoort) and Chow Bissell (East London)

Hooker: Eldred Kietzman (King William's Town)

Flanks: John Ehrich (Standerton) and Gavin Snodgrass (Carltonville)

Locks: Denzyl Filmer (East London) and Mike Jennings (Johannesburg)

Eighth man: Louis Botha

On the night of Thursday, August 14, after the team gathered in King, the party at Jackie Hendriks' home went on till 2 am. Old times were recalled, old stories retold.

"Remember Eldred Kietzman's short legs? They were so short that when he sat on the toilet his feet could not touch the ground. . ."

It was a great get-together. But next **NOW:** The returning 1964 players in a similar line-up. Exceptions: D Schreiber, absent from the 1964 picture, is fifth from the left and cricket pro Percy Davis takes the place of the late Mr Searle. Absent: J Berry, P Morrison and Mr Haggard.



Glorious 1964's

day the mighty 1964 Dale First XV were in no shape to meet the Masters XV. The teachers had been training hard and practising together and contained several regular players, it was said.

The 64's showed flashes of the old brilliance but lost their unbeaten record. What they lacked in stamina they made up in spirit.

Their kicking was woeful. But their tackling — legendary since 1964 — was still superb. One strange flashback: The wings threw the ball in at the lineouts. Hookers were No 1 in line.

The old timers knew little or nothing about the new rules of rugby in the eighties.

Says Ken Mourant: "We didn't have a clue. It was a giggle, but the ref was fairly lenient. He penalised us a few times then gave up."

Lack of fitness hit the 64's most. Schreiber went off with hurt knee liga-

ments and was treated in hospital. The rest were stiff and bruised the next day.

Four were out of the second match against a combined Old Selbornian and Old Queenian side. And those who survived felt worse than when they took the field the previous day.

But some of the magic returned and the unbeaten 64's retrieved their honour, if not their lost youth.

History repeated itself when John Page came on in the first game to replace the injured Schreiber (in 1964 Page played two games after Schreiber went down with jaundice).

As Percy Davis said, one thing made the reunion incomplete — the absence of the late Russell Searle, the headmaster who coached and inspired the 1964 team to achieve their unbeaten record.

Mourant recalls: "Mr Searle's tactics included no fancy moves. They were built around a basis of being superbly fit and the ability to fight back."

"And we came back often. We were down so often it was unbelievable, in-

cluding against Selborne and Queen's.

"In the second half we were unstoppable.

"We had a good pair of wings (34 tries) and a brilliant pack of forwards. A brilliant lock (Jennings) who became a Springbok No 8 and a No 8 (Botha) who later played for W P. And the backs could stop anything.

"We had a never-say-die spirit and an amazing will to win. We were down 14-30 against Queen's with 20 minutes to go in King and drew 14-all."

The 64 side were not noted for their kicking: Of the 60-odd tries scored that season only 14 were converted. For the record, the team played 18 matches, they won 16 and drew 2. They scored 252 points against 81.

Will they meet again? Maybe socially in 1984, but never again on the field, says Ken Mourant.

The playing days of these Dale heroes are over. But they have written a page in school history that will never be forgotten.

How to 'sell' Dale in Transvaal

ROY TAYLOR, Principal of Dale Junior, flew to Johannesburg at short notice in September to address a large gathering of parents at the Risidale Primary School.

His subject: The advantages of sending a boy to Dale.

This rare opportunity to promote Dale in the Transvaal arose through an invitation by Risidale, a go-ahead junior school in north-west Johannesburg, to Bob Gillanders, then chairman of the Transvaal branch of the Old Dalian Union.

After a flurry of weekend phone calls between Johannesburg and King William's Town, Mr Taylor kept a date on the platform with speakers from two local high schools and a technical high school. They were joined later by Riva Forman, celebrated businesswoman.

"What has Dale to offer?" asked Mr Taylor — and then supplied the answers: Here are extracts:

6 For a start we breath fresh air, and tradition, too. Dale is 120 years old in a 145-year-old town steeped in tradition. At Dale learning and playing flourish side by side.

There is one teacher to an average of 25 pupils. We offer a highly organised and effective outdoor education programme.

We try to educate the whole child, intellectually, physically and morally. Extramurally, both cultural and sporting needs are catered for.

More than 90 per cent of pupils take part in sport. This is partly because the school is closely knit and all sports are easy accessible. Parents of Dalians are not taxi drivers.

Dale is not an institution catering for the broken home and the undisciplined child. There is a small percentage of these boys at the school and we do our best for them. We

cater for these situations:

- Where both parents work — where the child is left alone.
- Where a child struggles academically in large classes.
- The lonely child — where there are long distances between school and home.
- The sport-orientated child — there are facilities all around the school.

We share a cricket pro with Harrow, England. What has brought him back every year for 28 years?

There are four large hostels run by Dale teachers. Of the 11 married teachers the wives of eight are also teachers.

Each master is assigned to a group of pupils in the hostels. We try to keep the situation as close to home as possible.

To many it is a home where there is security for them. Many boys return to pay homage to the school which gave them a start in life.

The audience was clearly impressed. Mr Taylor was enthusiastically applauded and several parents spoke to him privately after the function. They were given Dale magazines and promotional material.

The function was attended by the chairman of the Transvaal Parents Association, Alan Naylor, and other members of his committee.

It showed how Dale College can be promoted among prospective parents given an inspiring speaker plus appropriate aids such as the Dale slide show and the new prospectus.

Here is a field in which parents, the school and Old Dalians can co-operate to encourage more Transvalers to send their sons to Dale.

17 teas please! — for the adventurous band who braved the cold in overnight ride to Reunion



Cape Town parents and Old Dalians. . . all set for the Memorial Service

From Cape to King by bus

ONE evening in March 1980 some of us Cape Town parents decided it was time to organise a bus trip up to Reunion, as most of us had not been up to King at that time of the year.

I set about hiring two 10-seater buses from a Cape Town firm — and collected enough money to pay in full, only to be told that another company had hired our two buses for a year and it was tough luck on our part.

I sat on the phone for days shopping around for the best rate, and finally picked a company in Sea Point. After paying what was necessary I waited for Wednesday, August 13, to arrive, hopefully with no hitches.

Once a month we had a meeting to discuss the trip and on the evening of August 13 my husband Reg and Chris Tiltman, another parent, went to collect the two buses. They were overjoyed to see we had been given two brand new Datsuns. We couldn't have asked for anything better.

We left Pinelands at 10 pm, eight people in Bus No 1 — Reg, myself, Brenda Mason, Rod Sutton (an Old Dalian), Syd and Lorraine Taylor, Bobby and Sybeth Riley. In Bus No 2 were Chris and Jackie Tiltman, Sue and Dennis Pederson, George and Shirley Nuttall, Old Dalians George Sutton and Barry Wiggett and Barry's wife, Mercia.

Peggy and Henry Herrmann and Joyce Ten Velden travelled by car as part of our party.

We had plenty of space, sweets, blankets — you name it we had it on the trip. Dennis Pedersen had his rusks.

The excitement was fantastic — we chatted non-stop till our first petrol and coffee stop, then unpacked our baskets and had sandwiches.

Bus No 2 had a big bag of rusks made and supplied by

● A BRAVE party of 13 Cape Dale parents, three Old Dalians and the wife of one travelled overnight by bus to King William's Town to attend the 1980 Reunion.

They left Pinelands at 10 pm, travelling via Beaufort West, Graaff-Reinet, Somerset East, Bedford, Adelaide and Fort Beaufort to reach King at 1 15 pm the next day.

Despite intense cold on their outward and return journeys, they enjoyed the venture so much that they intend to do it again next year.

Here ANNE PENGELLY, who played a leading role in organising the trip, describes their experiences on that memorable weekend.

Dennis and they had no intention of sharing them with Bus No 1. He was ragged about his rusks during the whole trip — hence in the photo Dennis is holding a rusk!

The drivers did two-hourly shifts and we took it in turns on various seats as some were more comfortable than others. Thank goodness we brought blankets and cushions as it was terribly cold — snow was on the mountains along the route.

We refilled our flasks with water at a garage in Graaff-Reinet and stopped at the first lay-by out of the town for breakfast — chicken and more sandwiches. We stood around freezing and very hungry, then set off half an hour later and made for Bedford for morning tea.

There we took over the lounge of an hotel. We had tea

Transvalers there too — scores of them

A LARGE Transvaal contingent attended the 1980 Reunion — one of the biggest ever held. About 30 parents (six of them Old Dalians) and a further 25 Old Dalians, some with wives or friends, made the trip by road or air. Two Kombi-loads travelled overnight to arrive in time for the Reunion assembly.

Among the parents who attended were: Bob and Gene Gillanders with their daughter Gennie, Mossie and Gill

Hawkes, Bob and Claire Tandy, Robbie and Jean Bretagne, Joe and Bunty Sutton, Shamus and Beryl Glynn, Wally Hamilton and his wife, Ernie Fisher and his wife, Teddy and Heather Bresler, Theuns and Michele Serfontein, Audrey and Ron Begg, Ailsa de Klerk, George and Avril Thompson, Errol Korras, and Ken and Jill Mourant, whose son Michael has since started at Dale Junior.

From Cape to King

and at last Dennis decided to share his famous rusks with us all (they were delicious). In one corner of the lounge was a little old lady who couldn't take her eyes off us. When we ordered 17 teas her eyes popped out — the hotel had never seen so many untidy tourists at that time of the morning.

We arrived in King at lunchtime on Thursday in cold, windy, wet weather. Some went to see their sons, others bathed and unpacked. That afternoon we went to watch the rugby teams have their final practice before their big matches against Queen's. We watched the cadet band practise as well, then all had a very early night.

Next morning we woke up to a beautiful day and arrived at the school at 10 am for a most impressive ceremony in the college hall, followed by tea in the Hallowed Courtyard.

That afternoon we thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment — rugby, drummers and the Retreat ceremony, but what a rush! Now we know what it is like for the boys rushing here, there and everywhere.

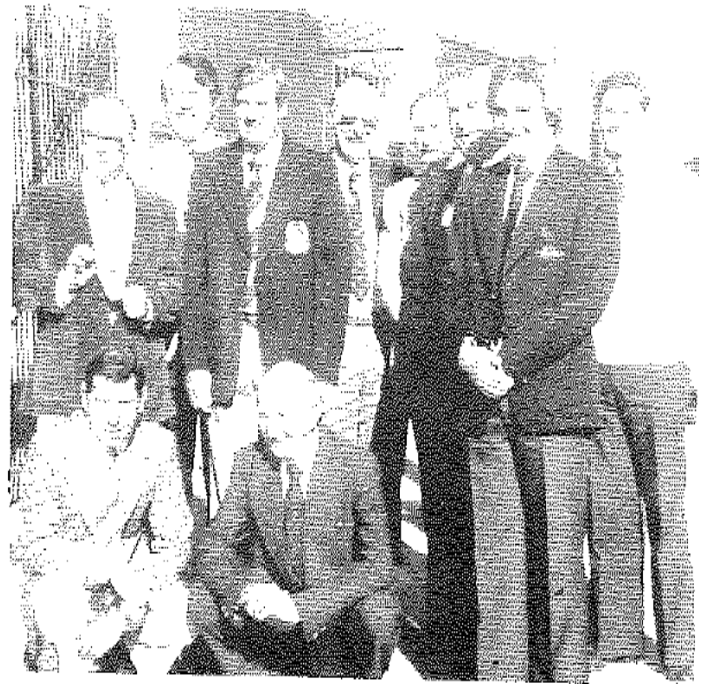
We left the A Field at 5.45, dashed back to the hotel, bathed and were out by 6 pm to a cocktail party for parents at the King Club. We had to leave at 7 pm so we couldn't really talk to many people.

We had our boys and friends for dinner but they had to be back at school for 7.30 as the matrics were staging a Sing Song in the hall. At 11 pm we collapsed into bed, dead beat.

Saturday we enjoyed the rugby all day. It was so very hot, we got a King tan. The tuckshop had a real rush on and sold out of anything cold. That night most of us took the boys to the cinema.

Sunday we attended the Memorial Service conducted by the Rev Brian Coventry and after tea our buses went to East London. Some went to the zoo, others to the beach.

We arrived back in King at 6 pm, dropped the boys at their hostels and then went off to fill up with petrol, only to be told, "Sold out of 98 due to Reunion". So we filled up with 93 and were on our way home at 6.30, all feeling very miserable having left our sons and all very tired after the hectic weekend.



Ready for Reunion: The men from the Cape

Our first petrol stop was Somerset East. Out came the sandwiches (supplied by our hotel), coffee, chicken and two suitcases to be used as a table in the driveway of the garage. We settled down to a very cold trip back home.

At 8.30 am we arrived at the Tiltman's house in Pinelands, finished off our coffee and chicken and then went our separate ways.

The two buses were taken back later that morning. Reg worked out our finances and petrol etc and told me we got 9.41 kilometres to the litre (26.6 miles a gallon).

The trip cost each person R43 and we came back with R92.78 in credit.

Three weeks later we had a super get-together at the Pedersons' house in Pinelands, talked about our trip and showed our photographs.

We are all set to do the same next year.

Transvaal boys score at the prize-giving

TRANSVAAL Daliens were again prominent in the 1980 Dale College prize list and several parents attended the prize-giving ceremony on October 24.

The guest of honour was Mr J H (Chick) Henderson, of Johannesburg, prominent rugby administrator and sports commentator. Mrs Henderson presented the prizes.

Rory Odendaal, the 1980 head prefect, won four prizes. They included a prize for diligence in Std 10, a prize for the most efficient student officer, a trophy for sportsmanship and determination and another special merit prize presented to the head prefect for service to the school. Rory is the son of Mr and Mrs W Odendaal of Witbank.

Neil Vorster, son of Mr and Mrs F A L Vorster of Fochville, won a trophy as second prize in Standard 10 and also a prize for geography.

Kerry Swemmer, son of Mr R Swemmer of Secunda and Mrs J A McConnell of Edenvale, was awarded second prize in Standard 9.

Paul Naylor, son of Mr and Mrs Alan Naylor of Edenvale, won a prize for progress in Standard 8 and **Glen Gillanders**,

son of Mr and Mrs Bob Gillanders of Randburg, a practical course prize in Standard 7.

Stuart Sutton, son of Mr and Mrs Joe Sutton of Edenvale, won four awards — two as the best junior speaker in English and Afrikaans, a prize for the pupil who had made the most progress in music, and a certificate of honour in Standard 7.

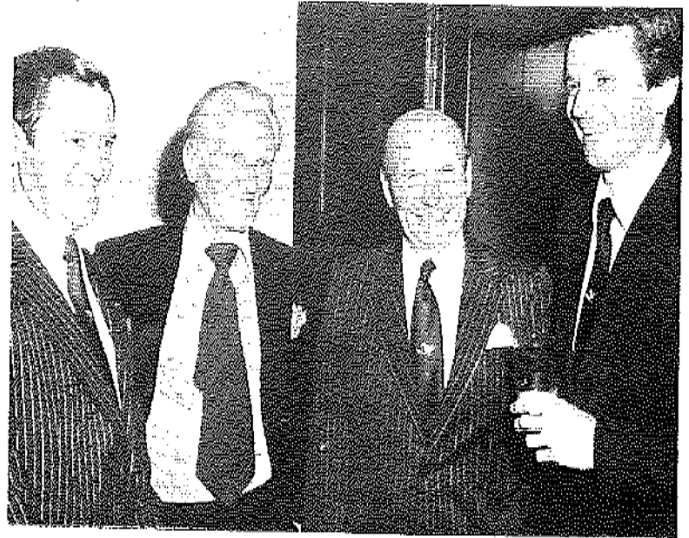
Richard Newton, son of Mr and Mrs D Newton of Witbank, won a special prize for dramatic art and a trophy for oratory, debating and dramatics. A special prize for promise in junior cricket went to **Pierre Rouessart**, son of Mr and Mrs Frank Rouessart of Mondeor.

Jack Rowland, son of Mr and Mrs J H Rowland of Hamberg, was awarded a trophy for the most progress in physical education. The prize for the leading bugler in the cadet band was won by **Ralph Harris**, son of Mr and Mrs D T L Harris of Bryanston.

The prize to the beginner who had made the most progress in music went to **Colin Bretagne**, son of Mr and Mrs Robbie Bretagne of Johannesburg. **Peter Boden**, son of Mr and Mrs A Boden of Alberton, won a trophy for practical service.



A balancing act by Old Dalian David Ellwood, flanked by Bobby Locke (left) and Neil Turnbull



Percy Davis with Springbok friends (from left): Jack McGlew, Eric Rowan and Buster Farrer

Pictures: JAMES SOULLIER

Exit Percy, peerless coach

THE TRANSVAAL gave a rousing send-off to Percy Davis, one of the most remarkable characters to grace the cricket fields of Dale College.

Genial, gracious to the end, "Sparrow" responded to a round of tributes and applause in characteristic down-to-earth fashion.

"I feel so 'umble," he said again and again.

The Old Dalian stag dinner in Johannesburg on November 28 came near the end of a long round of farewell functions for the man who spent 28 summers instilling the finer virtues of the game among generations of Dalians.

The gathering at the President Holiday Inn organised by Bob Gillanders and his Transvaal Old Dalian committee

attracted more than 100 Old Dalians, fathers of Dalians, VIP guests and a strong King William's Town contingent.

There was an impressive line-up of cricket personalities who have known Percy down the years, including four Springboks, and the doyen of commentators, Charles Fortune.

It ended on a high note with Percy himself presiding over an American auction of an autographed cricket bat which raised R2 160 for the Percy Davis Benefit Fund. The winner: One of Dale's cricket stars, Peter Fenix.

Setting the tone for a splendid evening was the breezy Master of Ceremonies, Tertius Myburgh, distinguished Old Dalian and Editor of the Sunday Times. The speakers were Charles Fortune, ex-schoolmaster, broadcaster and writer; Eric Rowan, controversial ex-Springbok batting star and lively after-dinner speaker; Headmaster Colin Thomson, Old Dalian National President Jack Marshall; Old Dalian double Springbok Buster Farrer — and Percy himself.

And among the cricketing greats was Springbok Jackie McGlew, who presented Percy with a Springbok tie. Sitting down table keeping a low profile was another Springbok friend of Percy's, Johnny Lindsay.

The toast of the evening was Percy Davis and the game he has been associated with since his early days on the ground staff of Northamptonshire back in 1932.

Tertius Myburgh introduced Percy as a man "who commutes between the Northern and Southern Hemisphere in the interests of cricket and a sun tan."

"Perhaps the greatest tribute to Percy is the nature of the cricketing greats sitting here," he added.

For almost three decades he had instilled not only cricket but its lessons in life into generations of those who regard Dale as South Africa's finest school.

Eric Rowan: "Percy is the salt of the earth ... one of those good pros who has done cricket good wherever he has gone. The epitome of a scholar and a sportsman."

And of cricket: "The greatest game in the world ... a

Go to it, Dale!

BEHIND the air of jollity at the Percy Davis stag dinner lay an undercurrent of uncertainty about the future of Dale College.

Over pre-dinner drinks and across the table the question recurred: What will happen to Dale if the Ciskei absorbs King?

Top-table speakers, sensing the mood, spoke with optimism.

Colin Thomson, Headmaster: "As far as we are concerned in King William's Town there is a tremendous air of confidence in the town. Our future is secured and we have that from the Director (of Education) himself.

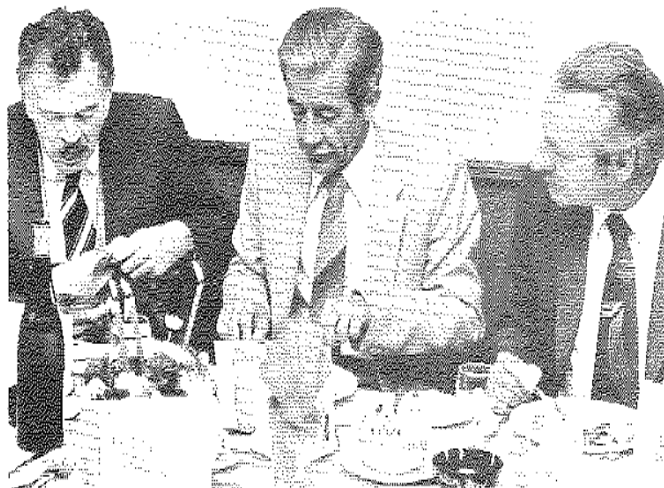
Tommy Marshall, National President of the Old Dalian Union: "Don't be disturbed. Don't panic. Don't withdraw from Dale. Don't change.

"Dale will become an even more exclusive school (if incorporated into the Ciskei). Dale College needs your support 100 per cent more than at any time before."

Tertius Myburgh, Editor of the Sunday Times, referring to the school's "uncertain future", said there was enough resource to ensure that in the new sort of history that will evolve Dale will continue to play an important role."



Happy smiles from a younger group of Old Dalians... they gave the dinner a lively touch



Transvaal Parents Association pioneers (from left): Ted Crossey, David Halse and David Turnbull

Farewell, Percy

game that teaches you some of the fundamentals of life."

Buster Farrer: "He is irreplaceable, a friend and father to all of us."

Colin Thomson spoke of Dale's outstanding cricketing record under Percy in 28 seasons (played 322, won 156, drawn 121, lost 55). He had produced two Springboks and was a man who coached cricket not for money but his love for the game.

He was more not only an outstanding cricket coach, said the Headmaster.

"This is a man who educated boys for life using the sportsfield. We salute him for the wonderful work he has done among the youth of Dale, the Border and South Africa."

Charles Fortune played tribute to the English professionals who year after year had coached and played in South Africa (33 at present). Percy represented a link between the Border, the country and the British people, he said.

"Old Dalians, you have done Percy Davis proud."

Percy replied with typical humility.

"I've loved every moment of my time in South Africa," he said. "I've loved the competition the inter-school cricket. In Dale, Queen's and Selborne we've got three great schools.

"Dale has been kind to me. I'll never be able to repay what you've done for me. Thank you all so much..."

"I feel so 'umble..."

A Sparrow out of the sun

BACK in England for his first winter in 28 years Percy Davis is missing the sun and Dale College.

In a letter to Sunday Times sports writer Mel Channer, he writes:

"It's going to be hard seeing the winter through, knowing that it will be as hot as hell in King William's Town and that the boys will be playing cricket.

"But I must make the most of it and look forward to April when I can do a bit more at Harrow. I'm going to keep that job on as long as I can if I can manage it."



Transvaal Dale parents John de Klerk (left) and George Thompson

Jackie bows out... Barbara takes over

ABOUT 40 Transvaal Dale parents attended an end-of-year party at the Bryanston home of Robin and Sheilagh Pringle on November 15.

A presentation was made to Mrs Jackie Ford, who for several years has ably arranged train block bookings for Dale boarders from the Transvaal. Jackie, whose son Adam matriculated at the end of 1980, has now handed over the block bookings to Barbara Naylor, wife of the chairman of the Transvaal Parents Association, Alan Naylor.

Alan paid tribute to Jackie for her untiring efforts. Jackie responded with a string of jokes and stories which were taken up by her husband Dennis and others present. Several new parents were welcomed to the ranks of Dale parents in the Transvaal.

Many thanks to Sheilagh and Rob for a most enjoyable evening.

● Those interested in block bookings should get in touch with Barbara Naylor, 57 Second Avenue, Edenvale 1610

AFTER 33 YEARS, A FOND FAREWELL TO EGGY VAN NIEKERK

"GO well Eggy, Dale will miss your footprints coming down the corridor."

So said a telegram read out at the ceremony when Dale College said farewell to its longest serving teacher, Mr Jacobus Friederik van Niekerk.

Eggy van Niekerk, or Kola as he was also known, became a legend in his 33 years at Dale under four headmasters. So did the quaint, homespun expressions that endeared him to generations of Dalians.

"I can hear footprints coming down the corridor . . ."

"Fools will never cease to happen . . ."

Some of these "Van Niekerk stories" were retold with affection at his farewell.

Like when he "klopped" you with a flat hand and marched you down to the Headmaster's office and told the Head: "This boy has been annoying me so much for so long that I should have klopped him myself — but instead I have brought him for you to deal with."

Sometimes he spoke a little loudly to the boys in the Metalwork Room (he introduced Metalwork to Dale).

But, as Terry Lennard pointed out, Eggy was never really angry when he shouted quietly in his characteristic whisper.

Old Dalians fondly recall the time when he peered down to the boiler room at Sutton House, a favourite haunt of smokers, and roared: "Is anyone down there?"

"No!" came the reply.

"That's okay then,"

said Eggy and walked on.

His humanity and sense of humour were not the least of Eggy van Niekerk's admirable qualities. Tribute was also paid to his determination, dedication and dignity.

Chris Marx, who himself taught at Dale for 29 years under three headmasters and two acting headmasters, recalled Mr Van Niekerk's arrival at Dale in 1947 — "a very friendly young man, yet initially clearly cautious."

"After all he was a 'ware Afrikaner' venturing into one of the most famous English-medium schools in South Africa, said Chris who accepted the same challenge when he came to Dale in the thirties.

"It was not always easy but he persevered and his determination carried him to remarkable heights without sacrificing his convictions and principles or his personality.

"He continued with uns-

He left his footprints in the sands of Dale . . .

werving dedication to serve Dale and King William's Town with exemplary success."

Of Mr Van Niekerk's sense of dignity, Mr Marx said:

"I know of no occasion where he sacrificed his dignity. A natural, calm, lasting dignity stamps him for the man he is and that undoubtedly was one of the main pillars of his popularity.

Eggy van Niekerk's service to Dale extended



Eggy in his beloved Metalwork Room . . . he was never really angry
Picture: JAMES SOULLIER

from the classroom to the staffroom, to the hostel (he was superintendent at Sutton House for nine years) and to the sportsfield.

But he rates his rugby coaching years as his most memorable.

"Those first-team years were the best of my life. Rugby was my life in those days," he told Khale, the Dale-KHS newspaper.

And, he observed, boys were much naughtier

when he first came to Dale. "They aren't so bad now."

Says Headmaster Colin Thomson: Mr Van Niekerk has carved a special niche for himself in the annals of college history."

Parents who have known Eggy van Niekerk will remember him with respect and affection and wish him and his wife Orsilla a long and happy retirement on their cattle farm near Berlin.

Go well . . .

Buy this attractive clock and help Dale

THE Transvaal Parents Association is still offering attractive battery-operated Dale clocks to raise funds for the school.

So far 57 clocks have been sold in the second phase of this drive.

Clocks with a wooden-type frame cost R25; those with an aluminium frame R23.

For details write to Joe Sutton, 33 Sheila Street, Dunvegan, Edenvale 1610, or phone 53-4927(home), 28-1700 (bus).

● One of the latest to order a clock was 73-year-old Basil Elliott of Vereeniging, who was at Dale from 1916 to 1924.

Your 1981 parents committee

THE NEW committee of the Transvaal Parents Association for 1980-81, elected at the annual general meeting, is:

Alan Naylor (chairman)
57 Second Avenue, Eden-

vale, 1610 (Phone 609-8147).

Theuns (Serf) Serfontein (vice-chairman) and Michelle Serfontein (secretary-treasurer), 108 Honiball Street, Rynfield, Benoni 1500 (Phone 849-

1909).

Joe Sutton (editor, Trans-Dale magazine) 33 Sheila Street, Edenvale, 1610 (Phone 53-4927).

Ron and Audrey Begg, 23 Ann Arbor Place, Glen-

dower, Edenvale, 1610 (Phone 53-8298).

Sheilagh Pringle, 3532 Ness Road, Bryanston, PO Box 68926 Bryanston, 2021 (Phone 706-3055).

Ailsa de Klerk, 47 Hamilton Avenue, Craighall Park, Johannesburg, 2196 (Phone 788-9265).

George and Avril Thompson, 187 Donnelly Street, Kenilworth, Johannesburg or PO Box 57258 Springfield 2137 (Phone 683-4601).

Errol Korrass, PO Box 1263, Edenvale, 1610 (Phone 36-6185).

Cookie Rouessart, 290 Daubency Road, Mondeor, 2091 (Phone 942-3957).

Neville and Gill Hawkes, 55 Greenhill Road, Greenside Ext., Johannesburg, 2193 (Phone 41-9890).

● If you have a problem concerning Dale College you may approach any of these members.

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