



seasons at

Amersham

& Chiltern RFC



A HISTORY OF THE CLUB 1924-2004



seasons at Amersham & Chiltern RFC



WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY ROGER COOK

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Dedication

This condensed history of Chiltern Rugby Football Club is dedicated to Arthur Gerald 'Griff' Griffiths who passed away in 1995.

Griff fortunately had the opportunity to edit the initial collected stories and I feel confident that his fear of losing the connections with bygone days of the club to which he was so devoted are eliminated.

Griff would relate the following quote, passed on to him by 'Khaki' Roberts. It summarises Griff's attitude towards rugby and how Chiltern players should benefit from the game.

During his speech to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Rosslyn Park FC, C.C.Hoyer-Miller stated that:

"The three greatest influences since the Christian Era were to be found in the work of the Salvation Army, secondly in the institution of the Boy Scouts, and thirdly in the spread of outdoor games, particularly rugby football. My belief in the importance of rugby football in the formation both of individual and national character is increasingly profound".



Author's introduction and acknowledgments

In 1992, on a Saturday evening at the Chiltern clubhouse bar, as in many previous seasons past *Griff* Griffiths was holding court. He would have then been seventy seven years of age. "Someone in the club has to write down the club's history and I am too old". Several people had started, John Carpenter and Colin Maloney were names that Griff mentioned. From somewhere within, I suddenly heard myself volunteering for yet another job at the club.



Roger Cook

Of the many varied tasks I have carried out around the club over the past thirty years, several have been very rewarding. But the satisfaction gained over the last twelve years spent in researching the first years of the club's history has surpassed all others by far.

My first box of information was passed down from John Carpenter. John when Chairman of the club in the 1980s had put together a brief history for a 65th anniversary appeal. Material gathered at that time introduced me to several well-known public figures. Research started at Amersham Library with "Who's Who".

The process then snowballed. Club reports were found in the Bucks Examiner and the Advertiser in Chesham Library, the majority recorded on microfilm. Dusty old rugby books were found in the Union Reserve of Hammersmith Library, my lunchtime refuge from the world of oil and gas projects. The RFU library at Twickenham also provided a valuable source of reference and, of course, there were the first-hand accounts from old club members.

Several members who had played at The Pineapple ground were rediscovered, Dick Wheeler and A.G.L. 'Larry' Harding were still alive and living in Beaconsfield in 1994. They were most useful with their reminiscences of the club and early members. Jim Randall, a pre-WW2 player from Chesham, and post-WW2 players such as *Griff* Griffiths and Alistair Fordyce gave great encouragement to continue. Happily, *Griff* had tucked away in his loft the original club minutes of meetings.

Within the club's original constitution, Rule 10 required a match report to be sent to the local papers each week. Future officers of the club may well take particular note of this duty as the gaps that appear in these records are due to a lack of information from that invaluable source. I am confident that the detail collected is as authentic as it can be.

It was a clear objective of this book to record particularly the earlier years in full detail. It had never been done before and best to do it whilst many early stalwarts are still fit and healthy. The most recent, and arguably most successful years have been dealt with quite briefly. But Amersham & Chiltern RFC appears to be in very rude health, so I trust we can continue making history.

My apologies for the inevitable omissions. It takes so many people year in year out to run a successful club that it would be impossible to mention them all. However, there is a time when you have to let go. I trust that when you have digested this brief history, it will allow you to associate more closely with the club and its members past and present.



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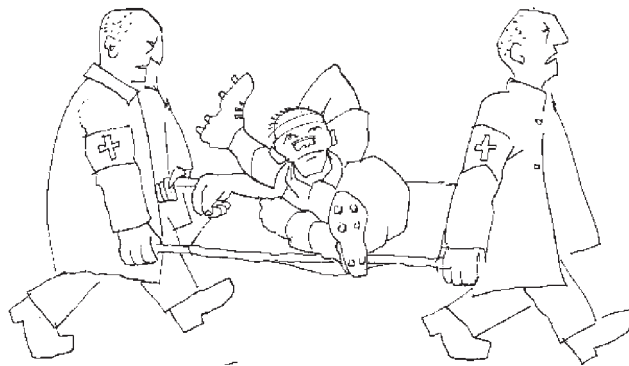
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The beginning at The Pineapple

Chapter 1

Chiltern Rugby Football Club was formed in 1924, principally by the Halton family of Copperkins Lane, and well supported by rugby enthusiasts living in and around Amersham, Chesham, Gerrards Cross and Beaconsfield. The club grew rapidly, running three regular senior sides and a schoolboy fifteen before 1928.

The enthusiasm for rugby was surprising as local sports in the Chiltern area were very active and well organised. Football and cricket were the major seasonal sports and, with respect to clubs past and present, the pecking order was the same then as now, with Wycombe Wanderers of the Isthmian League as the premier club of the area, followed by Amersham and Chesham of the Spartan League. In fact, Chesham was so well supported it started a third eleven for the first time. The village sides of Holmer Green, Seer Green, Missenden and Kingshill, Ley Hill, Chalfont Wasps, Coleshill and many others were well established in the local Chesham league.

The order within the cricket clubs was very much the same, with the town sides of Amersham and Chesham leading the way. The village sides were well organised in the Chesham Cricket League, formed in 1911, during which year Ley Hill won the first division.

Amersham Athletic CC, formed in 1919, and now called Amersham Hill CC was under threat of losing its ground to building speculators, unless £1000 could be raised to purchase the ground from Hyrons Farm. It survived, thanks to generous donations from the local community.

Other sports in the area, such as athletics, cycling, bowls and tennis were prospering. With an expanding population of 'middle-class' commuters, Amersham residents were looking for suitable sport and leisure at weekends. The time and the area were ready to accept a permanent rugby club.

The idea of a local rugby club to serve mainly the communities of Amersham, Chesham Bois and Chesham had originally been the plan of Ernest Gladstone Halton. He was born in Stockport but moved to London at the turn of the century.

Ernest was a former rugby player himself and was involved in the historic meeting of 1895 when the Rugby Football Union was in conflict with the Association of Northern Clubs. But no-one knows, or will tell, which way he voted.

Ernest Halton had three sons, Ken, Hugh and Geoff, all former captains of school rugby at Sutton Valance. So, together with his friend Eric Ainsworth Redfern, the experienced secretary of Chesham Bois Lawn Tennis Club, and his London commuting partners Dennis Richardson, Charles Penny and Bertie Side, they set about arranging a game over the Christmas holidays against old boys from the local Berkhamsted school.

The initial response by the local public was rewarding and a meeting was arranged at

Eric Redfern's house, 'By the Way', Clifton Road, Chesham Bois on 20 December 1924 with the purpose of forming a permanent rugby club.

A provisional committee was formed consisting of K.E.Halton, D.S.Richardson, H.W. Halton, A.W.W.Side and E.A.Redfern.

Eric Redfern was directed to approach Mr Nunn with an offer of between seven and ten pounds to secure the use of the Amersham Athletic ground at Woodside Road, for the rest of the season and to arrange a match against Old Berkhamstedians. He failed with regards to the former, but was successful with the latter.

Eric Redfern strategically positioned a hand written poster to catch the eye of commuters at Amersham station, with the help of the station-master. Hugh Halton, the last survivor of the founder members, described him as "a long thin individual with an amiable and agreeable disposition who always dressed with butterfly collars and LNER standard issue railway uniform". It was later discovered that the station-master was severely censured by headquarters management for this action.

The poster announced the formation of a rugby club which would become the first, and for many years, the only club in the south of Buckinghamshire. Only Olney in the far north of the county existed earlier and it was through this connection that Chiltern became a member of the East Midlands Rugby Union. Unusually, Chiltern had an open membership. Nearly all other clubs at that time were Old Boys or private clubs with restricted membership.

The poster was very effective and it soon became clear that there was more than enough support to sustain rugby in the area. So the match against Berkhamsted Old Boys went ahead as planned at the Berkhamsted School ground on Boxing Day, Friday 26 December 1924.

The home side was drawn together by rugby enthusiast R.O.Hutchison, whilst Hugh Halton led the visiting side. In spite of rain, the ground was in excellent condition resulting in a fast and open game considering the two scratch sides. The Berkhamsted scrum included the current Oxford Blue A de H.Boyd and the experienced Old Blue R.O.Hutchison, which enabled the Berkhamsted three-quarters to gain the advantage and score a try and a placed goal – eight points to nil at half time.

The second half saw both G.Stroud and K.E.Halton leading attacks that failed just short of the Berkhamsted try line but despite some good tackling in defence by the men from Chesham Bois. Berkhamsted OB ran in five more tries to win the game by 28 points to 0.

The match report, as with all further match reports, was recorded in the Bucks Examiner. It concluded that "I.Forbes, G.L.Stroud (who led the pack) and P.H.Stacey played exceedingly well and were well supported by the other front five".

The team: D.Forbes (fullback), R.B.Middleton, H.W.Halton (Captain), E.A.Redfern, N.S. Finlason (three-quarters), J.Tragett, K.E.Halton (half-backs), I.Forbes, A.W.W.Side, G.L.Stroud, P.H.Stacey, F.L.Stroud, A.Smith, J.W.O.Moore and O.E.F.Moore (forwards).

Following the match, another meeting was held at Eric Redfern's house on 27 December 1924. Eric Redfern was directed by the committee to try another local landowner, Mr Ivins, to attempt to hire his field in Clifton Road, Chesham Bois.

Subsequently, a general meeting took place at the Halton household, 'El Esbah', in Copperkins Lane on Monday 25 January 1925, when a formal governing and selection committee was formed. 'El Esbah' was the official headquarters of the club until 1946. K.E.

Halton, H.W.Halton, D.S.Richardson, A.W.W.Side and E.A.Redfern were elected as the general and selection committee, with D.S.Richardson elected as honorary treasurer and E.A.Redfern as honorary secretary.

Playing member subscriptions were fixed for the rest of the season at ten shillings and sixpence for full members, ten shillings and sixpence for honorary members and five shillings for holiday members.

Each of the twenty members that attended the meeting were instructed to arrange a game against a club previously known to themselves and to co-ordinate the fixture with Eric Redfern. Within the week, a complete fixture list was available for the rest of the season.

A range of names for the newly formed club were discussed. Ernest Halton, who had previous experience of these debates a year earlier during the formation of Chiltern Cricket Club, proposed Chiltern but with the additional title of Wanderers, as the club had no home ground.

Before the week was out, *Teddy* Tyrwhitt-Drake and E.Forward, the owner of The Pineapple public house at Amersham Common, had offered the use of the field behind his public house together with the use of an adjacent old cow shed as changing rooms. As such, Wanderers was dropped from the club's title.

The first match of 1925 was arranged on 10 January against RAF Halton at the Halton Camp, Wendover. The match was played on a wet and heavy ground and Chiltern found themselves 12 points to nil down at half time. The second half was more even but the home side crossed the visitors line for three more tries, finally winning the game 21 points to nil.

The Chiltern RFC team for its first match was: A.G.Keeble (full back), G.Sidford, H.W. Halton, E.A.Redfern, Bagshot (three-quarters), J.Tragett, K.E.Halton (half backs), D.S. Richardson, A.W.W.Side, P.M.Bennett, F.I.C.Roberts, R.F.Page, H.R.Culverhouse, H.Pitt-Kethley, D.Halton (forwards).

The following week, Saturday 17 January, was the inaugural home match. The game was to be played on the club's newly acquired home ground. The visitors were arranged to be Old Merchant Taylors.

The ground itself was in reasonable condition as Fred Jarvis, the local farmer, allowed his six cows to graze the field during the week. But posts had to be erected and thanks to Albert Gomm, a notable local sportsman and more important to the rugby club a builder, donated not only scaffolding poles and concrete to the club but more importantly, basic foundation and erection techniques.

Hugh Halton, an unemployed student at the time, used his newly acquired knowledge of triangulation to mark out the pitch. Dr J.C.Gardiner, a former Cambridge Blue at rowing and notable local sportsman in his own right, felt he was properly qualified and agreed to attend to cover for any first aid. He was later to become a club Vice President and Medical Officer of the Amersham Union.

Mr Hance, the publican of The Pineapple, agreed to provide teas at one shilling a head and so all was ready for the kick off.

The problem was the opposition, who were forced to 'call off' during the week through a shortage of players, as it was an international weekend at Twickenham. At the last moment,

University College Hospital agreed to fulfil the fixture.

The match report in the Bucks Examiner ran to half a column finishing with praise for the match referee R.Ross, a rugby enthusiast and club member who was later to organise a pool of club member referees. Throughout the game he was not called upon to award either side a single free kick. But the end result was that Chiltern lost the game by 28 points to nil.

Chiltern had to wait just one more week, 24 January 1925, to record its first ever win. The opponents were Old Merchant Taylors in a re-arranged match at the Pineapple ground. OMT's home ground was then located in Teddington and is now the home of St Mary's Hospital Sports Club.

The weather at Amersham Common was fine and the ground in excellent condition, encouraging a fast and open game. After fifteen minutes R.B.Middleton, playing on the right wing, showed a turn of speed that carried him past three of the opposition to score Chiltern's first ever points. W.A.Scott, playing at full back, converted and for the rest of the half Chiltern attacked OMT's line. They were finally rewarded with a second try, this time scored by the inside centre H.W.Halton after some fine work by the half back Eric Redfern.

The second half started with OMT setting up a fine attack which resulted in a line out at the Chiltern try line, from which OMT scored a try. With ten minutes left, all the Chiltern backs combined to send the flying left wing, N.S.Finlason, over for the concluding try giving Chiltern its first historic victory, 11 points to 3.

Fixtures were arranged for the rest of the season against Wasps, Civil Service, Park House, National Bank, Lensbury, Old Paulines, Thames Valley, HAC, Old Whitgiftians and Arlington. Six games were won against OMT, Wasps, Park House, National Bank, Old Whitgiftians and Arlington and there were eight defeats.

In that first season, forty players were used. N.S.Finlason the flying left wing, who unfortunately died from cancer in June 1944 at the early age of 38 years, was the top points scorer with seven tries followed by K.E.Halton and D.S.Richardson with five tries each.

Chiltern's problem was finding a combined full back and place kicker. From over forty tries scored only seven were converted. For seventeen games, a different full back was selected for each game, usually a forward from the previous week. After the first home game it became obvious that the coppers of hot water used as washing facilities and heated by fires set outside the cow shed by Tibbles, the local farmers boy from Bakers Farm, would not attract better teams to Amersham Common, particularly as they would often extinguish themselves on a wet day.

Once again the Haltons, with help from Bertie Side and Eric Redfern with materials procured from Albert Gomm, set about building a concrete bath and renovating the old cow shed into habitable changing rooms. Despite all efforts to improve the situation at The Pineapple, the club felt it would not progress and improve its fixture list.

An attempt to improve the situation included an abortive effort where an architect was engaged with a view to erecting a new pavilion for an estimated sum of £150, only to find that the site could not be drained.

A ground and pavilion committee was therefore set up under the chairmanship of Charles Herbert Penny, who also played his part on the field as one of the club's referees. It was to take several years and considerable effort by Charles, described by Giffard Newton as

"a really dynamic man", to negotiate finance and a suitable permanent site for the club.

Charles Penny summarised his season's efforts to obtain the ground at Weedon Lane, he stated that at least £1000 would be required to purchase the land and build a clubhouse. The assembly of members agreed that the future success of the club would be based on having its own facilities and agreed to approach the RFU and the East Midland Rugby Union for a loan and negotiate a 35-year lease for the ground from the Shardeloes Estate.

It was later to transpire that the land could have been purchased for £1,050 and the pavilion would have cost a further £500 but the RFU refused the loan because the question of ground access did not meet its requirements. Charles had personally sought out ten neighbours and friends to guarantee £50 each, and on this basis he had hired an architect to draw up plans for a clubhouse. Charles Penny reported that negotiations were preceding with a view to purchase the ground at Weedon Lane. The East Midlands Rugby Union had promised to review the club's request for a loan.

The club gained the services of the two experienced Baker brothers, due to a new posting by the Army. The Bakers were immense characters that lived at Stanbridge House, Amersham – now a block of apartments. Euston Edward Francis Baker CBE, DSO, MC and Bar, was also mentioned in dispatches three times. Freddie had the distinction of being the youngest Colonel in the British Army at 23 years of age.

The committee noted the requirement for youth rugby and matches for the schoolboys and younger players were arranged for the school holidays. The highlight being a match played against Rosslyn Park Public Schools XV on 13 January at Old Deer Park, Richmond, and covered by the national press.

The Daily Telegraph listed the following Chiltern XV: M.C.Black (Brighton), G.Beyts (Wellington), H.P.Deane (Dundalk, Dublin), C.D.R.Gray (Fettes), M.Ionoff (Brighton), G.N.Hooper (Christ's Hospital), N.L.Kelly (Eastbourne), G.Sale Capt (Berkhamsted), V.F. Sheppard (Berkhamsted), G.Stroud, E.M.Jukes (Merchant Taylors), S.Black (Berkhamsted), W.N.D.Lang (Sherborne) and H.D.Oclee (Tonbridge).

C.D.R.Gray in the backs, G.Sale, E.M.Jukes and V.F.Sheppard for the forwards were noted as the star players for Chiltern. The result being in favour of Rosslyn Park 36 points to 23.

The Schools Holiday XV expanded its fixture list, taking on matches against Rosslyn Park, London Irish and The Merlins, a public school XV. All these matches were reported in the national press, in particular the Daily Telegraph.

The match against The Merlins reported that the Chiltern outsides were superior but the forwards were outweighed, J.Parry and H.Vick made several good runs and J.Romer and P.Norton played well in the forwards.

The British Broadcasting Corporation was setting up and experimenting with test broadcasts on closed circuits for its future outside broadcasting service. H.B.T 'Teddy' Wakelam, the former captain of Harlequins and the newly assigned commentator for rugby union, was also great friends of the club President, Capt Ivor Stewart-Liberty, and a former team member of club coach G.D 'Khaki' Roberts. They used the Chiltern club match against Rosslyn Park to test the quality of signal and to give *Teddy* much needed practice.

The 1st XV opened the last season at The Pineapple with a match against West Herts having recruited several new players, amongst them John Raymond Evans, a hooker who had

previously played for the Welsh Secondary Schools and Newport RFC.

John had been transferred from Newport to the Lloyd's Bank in Chesham in 1929. Later in the season he was transferred back to Newport where he managed to secure a first team place for the last five games of the season. John went on to become a rugby legend, as a great player can only do in Wales, becoming Captain of Newport, Captain of Wales and a Barbarian. He died in Tunisia, North Africa, in 1943 serving with the 3rd Parachute Battalion. Another experienced newcomer was B.Wace, who was a master at Stowe School.

A.J.Wheeler, cousin to Dick Wheeler, was another new player who later qualified as a chartered accountant with an office in London. 'AJ' learnt his rugby at Claysmore School and played on the wing or in the centre for the Chiltern 1st XV and a Buckinghamshire XV in 1934. He moved to Exeter in 1937, after being 1st XV vice captain from 1933 to 1935, and continued to serve on the committee for many years after as Treasurer.

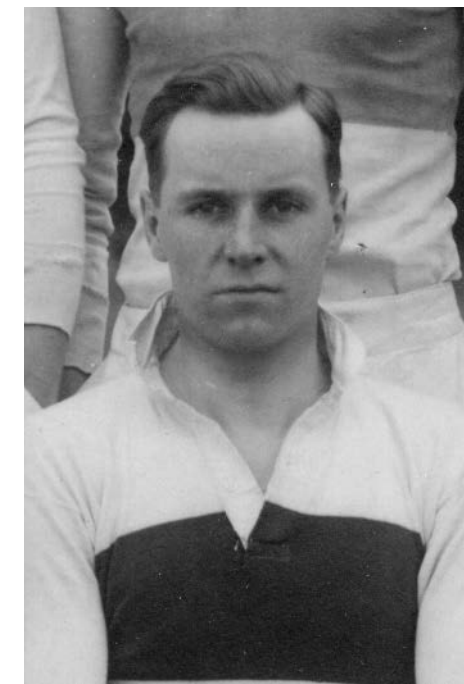
Dick Wheeler, Giffard Newton, T.Hahn, and brothers E.Loos and W.Loos, were all later to play and some captain the 1st XV. They all started in earnest to play for Chiltern RFC on the first Saturday of the 1929 season.

The AGM for the 1928-29 season recorded that the club had shown steady progress in playing strength which was reflected by the record number of wins in the club's short history. The number may have been greater but for the extended bout of frost later in the season.

The secretary also recorded that Chiltern RFC had agreed to propose Old Wycombiensians, later to be known as High Wycombe RFC, as members of the RFU. This meant that Chiltern had another local club to play. Chiltern already had fixtures in Wycombe against The Royal Grammar School and Wycombe Old Boys.



K.E.Halton



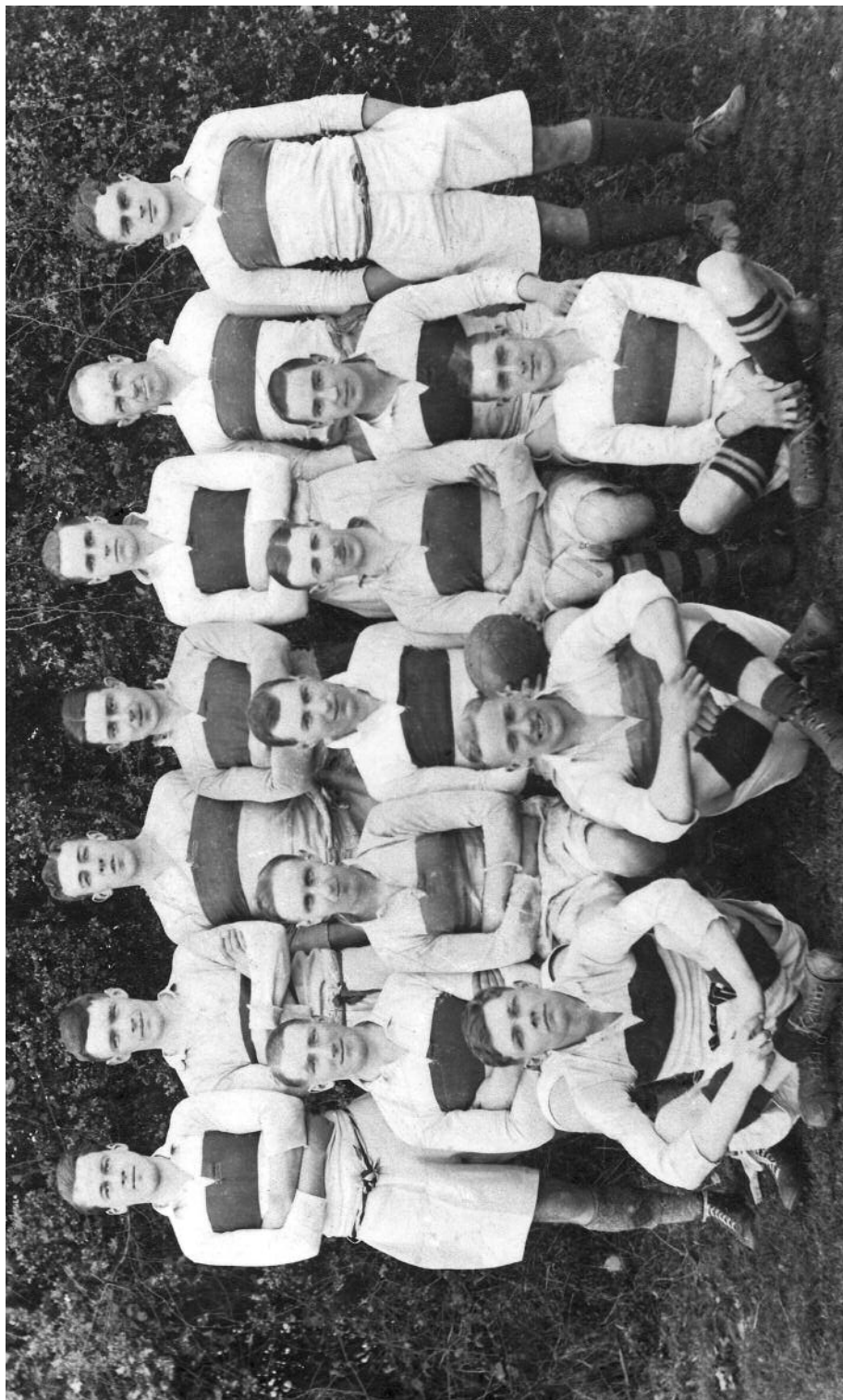
H.D.Ocle



A.J.Wheeler



J.G.L.Harding



Chiltern RFC 1st XV 1928-29: (back) J.W.Moir, G.Kelly, L.N.Side, L.F.Glauret, D.Oclec, F.Goudie, I.Statham
(middle) P.Fraser, K.E.Halton, R.W.Webb (Capt), A.W.Side, R.Fraser (front) W.N.Lang, J.A.Speer, E.Williams

Copperkins Lane 1929-1939

Chapter 2

From the outset, the club sought a local figure of some standing to boost credibility and represent the club's open membership ideals. At the time, rugby in the south of England was based on the old boys and services network. None was more suited to the role than Captain Ivor Stewart-Liberty of The Lee. A keen sportsman himself, he relished the idea of becoming the first President of Chiltern RFC.

Ivor introduced a lifelong friend, G.D 'Khaki' Roberts, as Chiltern's first ever coach. *Khaki* not only excelled in his chosen profession, the courts of law and order, but also on the rugby field as a player for England, Barbarians and Harlequins.

The AGM for the 1929-30 season was held at the Station Hotel, Amersham, during which the Secretary Ken Halton announced that as from Saturday 27 September, Chiltern RFC would be playing on its own ground at Weedon Lane. The trustees and agents of the land for the club were Ernest Gladstone Halton, Charles Herbert Penny and Ivor Thomas William Cownie.

The ground committee issued the following communication to the members: "A ground of just over seven acres has been found at Amersham, situated on the west side of Weedon Lane, which seems in every way suitable. It is level and dry and, with a little attention, two excellent full-size pitches could be made."

The owner, Shardeloes Estate, was approached and negotiations led to the freehold of the ground being offered to the club at the price of £150 per acre. An interview with Mr Prescott, the Honorary Treasurer of the Rugby Football Union, was obtained and on his advice formal application was made to the RFU for a loan to assist the club in the purchase. The official valuer inspected the ground and the RFU offered to advance £600 on very favourable terms. But, unfortunately, it included certain difficult conditions as regards access that proved impossible to fulfil. So, the purchase had to be abandoned.

However, Shardeloes Estate then offered to grant the club a lease of the ground for 35 years at a rental of £50 a year, with access from Copperkins Lane. As this was only £14 more than the club was paying for rent for its ground with one pitch and dressing-rooms, the offer was seriously considered. The pavilion presented a difficult financial dilemma. Estimates showed that a building to accommodate four teams would cost about £500, including drainage, water and gas. A further £50 would have to be spent on the grounds.

Both the Rugby Football Union and East Midlands Rugby Union had been approached with a view to obtaining a loan towards the cost of the pavilion. The former had refused and the latter, though it had not replied officially, held little hope of assistance. The club hoped that at least half the £550 could be raised amongst its members, who now numbered nearly 200, if everyone made an effort. The club's bankers were approached for a loan for the balance, subject to the usual guarantees.

Ken Halton reported: "We desire to record our appreciation of the sympathetic manner in which we were received by Mr Prescott and of the valuable assistance rendered by Harvey Ellis, of Messrs Pretty & Ellis, in the negotiations with the Shardeloes Estate. The club would now have a pavilion and ground of which all members may well be proud".

However a price had to be paid for the privilege, in the form of a bank loan from the National Provincial Bank to cover the £300 excess. An extra nine shillings was added to the player's subscriptions and each club member made a donation of one guinea per quarter year.

The architect for the pavilion was F.Q.Farmer and the builder was Rodwells of Great Missenden. The total cost of the new pavilion was £742. Due to the cost of the pavilion, the field was leased for 35 years from Squire Tyrwhitt-Drake at £25 per annum. For his hard work, Charles Penny was elected Vice President.

Committee for the season 1930-31

President: Capt Ivor Stewart-Liberty MC, JP

Vice Presidents: Major G.D.Roberts OBE, KC, E.Forward, Dr J.C.Gardiner, E.G.Halton, C.H.Penny

Secretary: K.E.Halton Treasurer: L.N.Side

General and Selection Committee:

C.H.Penny (Chairman), K.E.Halton, J.W.J.Moir, L.N.Side, H.D.Oclee, R.W.Webb

Captain 1st XV: R.W.Webb Vice Captain: L.N.Side

Captain A XV: R.B.Middleton Captain B XV: J.Gardner

Ron Webb's background, before and during WW2, was at Webb and Foulger, formerly R Webb and Sons – a Chesham company, making brushes, of which Henry Webb was part owner and happened to be Ron's uncle. Ron like Giff Newton was an Old Tauntonian. Ron Webb was manager at the Chesham factory until 1957. The business was then amalgamated with United Transport and Ron with his golden handshake brought a preparatory school in Surrey. His wife Connie, in the summer of 1932, won the Chesham Bois Lawn Tennis Club Ladies single championship and Ron was runner-up in a close match in the men's final. Ron's son has occasionally visited the club.

The new season kicked off on 4 October 1930, with the inaugural game at Copperkins Lane against West Herts, the team selected:

J.F.Taylor (full-back); A.J.Wheeler, R.S.Fraser, P.Cave, J.G.L.Harding (three-quarters); R.W.Webb (Capt), J.Lane (half-backs); L.N.Side, H.D.Oclee, D.Jenkins, G.G.Newton, W.J.Frost, R.P.Fraser, W.D.Lang, J.Moir (forwards).

Earnest Halton opened the ground on a fine October afternoon. With good support from a large gathering, the Chiltern 1st XV found West Herts to be well organised in all aspects of the game, winning the match 19 points to 0. The A XV went down to West Herts A XV at Watford 26-0 and the B XV was beaten at Weedon Lane 16-0.

It was not an auspicious start and the club had to wait until 25 October to record its first victory at Weedon Lane against the Merton Mudlarks, a college side from Oxford.

Among the pre-WW2 Chiltern players were some notable local people – Giffard Newton, John Widgery, Bill Lang, Ron Webb, John Grayburn, Dick Wheeler, and Jim Randall.

Chiltern was now improving in playing strength with each season. The 1st XV included four captains from previous seasons and was to recruit many new players. Among them

Walter John Frost, a second row forward who lived in Beaconsfield. John was a qualified surveyor and a partner in the Frost Estate Agents, well known in South Bucks, before being taken over in 1987 by Nationwide Building Society.

John had been well tutored in the game at Kings College School, Wimbledon. John played twice for a Buckinghamshire XV against Hertfordshire and Oxford, when the county was attempting to get established before the outbreak of war in 1939. John joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve as a pilot officer, attached to Bomber Squadron 44. John was killed in action on a bomber raid during the night of 8/9 November 1941, his twenty ninth birthday. His Wellington bomber was shot down over Germany and his memorial is located at Runnymede and Beaconsfield. His son Alan continued the estate agency business and played for the club in the 1960s.

Another club stalwart, Peter Lobb, joined the club straight from the Sherborne School 1st XV, eventually securing the inside centre position. Peter joined the Westminster Dragoons in the Territorial Army, until being called up to serve in the Royal Tank Regiment. He saw service in Europe with the rank of Major, winning the Military Cross. Peter worked in the Stock Exchange and his sister married WND Lang, the Chiltern captain in seasons 1935-36 and 1936-37.

His brother Jim Lobb also joined the club but was one of the unfortunate members not to return from the war. Jim joined the 51st Leeds Rifles and was serving as a Captain in the Royal Tank Regiment when he was killed on 22 April 1943 during the advance on Tunis in the North African campaign.

John Grosvenor 'Larry' Harding had joined the club from the Rugby School in the 1926 season. Larry had for several seasons established himself as the left wing and was among the clubs elite group of London commuters who travelled to offices in Lincoln Inn Fields, where he trained as a solicitor. It was a combination of good luck for the club and poor eyesight that Larry was one of the few Chiltern players that did not pass the physical examination to join the services in the war. Larry served as a police force extra during the war period, but more importantly, was handed the club records for safe keeping. These records were maintained until his retirement in 1974. The documents and club photographs were then handed to *Griff* Griffiths, and so made available for this edition.

Club membership now topped two hundred of which over seventy were playing members. J.W.J.Moir, 1st XV captain 1931-33, later became a director of Rockware Glass at Greenford. L.N.Side carried on in the post of Treasurer.

A great local sporting debate was the purchase of playing fields for general public use. Guidelines set by the National Playing Fields Association stipulated five acres to be available for every 10,000 head of population, of which four acres should be given over organised sport. The Chesham population in 1931 was 8800. Amersham and Amersham Hill each had populations of close to 1000. Amersham RDC noted that the rugby club was on a long lease and that the ground should be purchased if it became available. The chairman of Amersham Parish Council was M.A.Side, father of the club's Treasurer, and the committee also included a club Vice President, Dr J.C.Gardiner.

The proposal was to purchase Barn Meadow for £2000, Raans Farm Road for £1500 and Woodside Lane for £3300, each site around seven acres in size, putting pennies on the rates

spread over 60 years. Through general public objections, the motion to purchase all sites was deferred at the first meeting. The second meeting, held mid-week with a vastly reduced attendance, pushed through the option to purchase, but only the Barn Meadow site. The Chesham sports complex was finalised with the Lowndes estate. The football club moved to a dedicated pitch whilst cricket and hockey stayed on the original meadow – the arrangement that currently exists. Lord Chesham opened the new facilities in time for the new football season.

The Chiltern area, due to the rapid expansion in population, was suffering badly for amenities. New schools, police stations, public utilities and in particular mains drainage were required. The mains required to be laid at least twenty feet below the surface. No mechanical diggers were available in 1931 and so unemployed Welsh miners were brought in to complete the work. Many were billeted in and around Amersham. It only took them a week to find out where the local rugby club was located, and so the first invasion of Welsh rugby players and supporters of Chiltern RFC was recorded. It was quite a shock for some of the opposition to find so many Welshmen at the club. They contributed on the field and in the clubhouse and built up the club's reputation for hospitality, especially the quality of the male voice choirs.

Aylesbury RFC was formed at a meeting held in the Bulls Head Hotel, Aylesbury, where P.Black presided over a meeting in which the Rev F.J.Howard was elected Chairman of the club. It was decided to rent Mr Smith's field in Manderville Road for £10 per annum. Aylesbury RFC's membership to both the RFU and East Midlands Rugby Union was proposed by Chiltern RFC. Chiltern 1st XV players Giff Newton and Dick Wheeler were both selected by East Midlands to play in Aylesbury's inaugural game.

Jim Randall, a Chesham man all his life, joined the club in 1937 together with fellow Dr Challoners school friends Pat Mason, Martin Burbush and F.W.Whitmarsh. With players joining the territorial army, Jim quickly moved up to play as tight head prop, a 1st XV position that was his own for many seasons. Jim served with the Scots Greys during WW2 as a tank commander. The Scots Greys was the last cavalry unit to change horse for tank. Jim was involved in the Western Desert and Europe, where by coincidence he had been part of the same armoured relief column in operation 'Market Garden' as was his club captain Dick Wheeler, also a tank commander. They were both trying to reach the bridge at Arnhem where fellow Chiltern team member Jack Grayburn had parachuted in with the 1st Airborne. They did not know this fact until meeting for the first time after 60 years at a recent President's Luncheon.

Prior to involvement in the European campaign, Jim had been involved in the Western Desert and Palestine and while on leave in Alexandria, Egypt had a chance meeting with a Chiltern team member Pat Mason also on leave. Pat, following a spell of duty in the SBS around the Greek islands, was walking past Jim's hotel and was instantly recognised in spite of the suntan and beard. They went on to spend a very social evening, together with Pat's shipmates, sharing the crew's issue of Navy rum.

Jim has always been a keen sportsman. His other great love being horse riding, in particular cross country and hunting, where he has been for many years a member of the Vale of Aylesbury Hunt. While on active service Jim could not turn down any sporting opportunity and quickly found that he was playing rugby for the Regiment. His first

international match in 1940 was against the Household Cavalry in Jerusalem, followed later by a match in 1943 against the New Zealand Division in Tripoli. Jim recalls that both games were won. Jim can still be seen every day cycling up the hill from Chesham with two full feed buckets on the handlebars for his horses located in the fields along Amersham Hill.

William Nevill Dashwood '*Bill*' Lang joined the club while still a schoolboy, learning his rugby at the Sherborne School, Dorset. Bill was the Chiltern 1st XV captain during the 1935-37 seasons. He started work in London for Jones, Lang & Wootton where he progressed through the rank and file to take over from his father as senior partner after the war. Bill helped the company to grow, eventually to become an international property management company. The Lang family was committed to Chiltern rugby. Bill's father A.B.D.Lang, was elected a Vice President before the war. Bill's daughter married Peter Lobb, a 1st XV player in the late 1930s. Bill appeared indestructible but Old Father Time eventually caught up with him while sailing his yacht in the English Channel. He was rushed to a Torquay Hospital where cancer was diagnosed. Bill died a few weeks later.

Chiltern gained the services of Chesham cricketer and former Berkhamsted school rugby star, R.T.Campbell. Another important character emerged in 1934 to join the Chiltern club. Chris '*Paddy*' Newton, no relation to Giffard Newton, joined through an association with S.Hatrick, the Chiltern A XV captain and light weight boxing champion and P.Norton, heavyweight boxing champion and a Chiltern forward. Both boxed with the Amersham Boxing Club.

Paddy Newton was instrumental, together with Norris Bazzard and later with Noel Foster, in training the Chiltern players to a method of fitness called the 'Muller System of exercise'. The object was to condition the body together with the mind. *Paddy* was first mentioned locally in the 1934 Amersham Boxing Club championships. The boxing club had moved from their old headquarters in the Amersham Brewery, to its new site in Woodside Farm Barn Hall, now the site of the Amersham Library. Paddy Newton and his wife produced eight sons and two daughters of which sons *Curly* John, *Wiggy*, *Ollie* and *Fred* were later to become club 1st XV stalwarts. Later grandson Robert '*George*' took up the game and played for the 1st XV. In fact, from this period the Chiltern club has never been without a Newton as a playing member from either Newton family.

Phillip Deurdoth started his club rugby with Chiltern during the 1934 Christmas holidays. Phillip had played for the 1st XV at Mill Hill School together with Colin Morcom and was invited to join the Old Boys, then a first class club. Fortunately they both decided to join Chiltern. In the 1946-47 season Phillip shared the 1st XV captaincy with Graham Patterson before emigrating to Australia.

Pat Mason joined the club together with M.W.H '*Bunny*' Burbush, both converted footballers from Dr Challoners Old Boys. They were in their own ways to contribute to Chiltern RFC for the next thirty years or more of their lives.

Bunny brought with him as a supporter his father G.H.Burbush, who ran the line for many years with his old friend H.Wareham-Harding, always resplendent in his indestructible rust coloured Harris Tweed suit. Both of these, then octogenarian supporters, were later to become Vice Presidents. G.H.Burbush had in his earlier days played local cricket for St Michael's and as a powerful rugby centre. His son *Bunny*, a forward, therefore suffered much

verbal touchline abuse. Apart from rugby, *Bunny* was an excellent sportsman, playing cricket for Amersham, Buckinghamshire and MCC. After the war, during which he had served in the Royal Engineers, he found himself posted to Carlisle.

Bunny played for Northumberland County Cricket Club against Donald Bradman's Australian touring team. Donald Bradman retired from test cricket after this series and it was locally acknowledged that his decision was greatly influenced by the fact that while in Northumberland he had lost his wicket to *Bunny's* bowling, one of seven Australian wickets *Bunny* claimed on that memorable day.

Bunny was married to Wendy, a sportswomen of world class. In 1938, as Wendy Woodhead, she won with L.Bellak of Hungary the World Mixed Doubles at table tennis. With M.Osborne, the English Mixed Doubles in 1935, 1937 and 1938 and with N.Wood in 1932. Wendy also played tennis for Buckinghamshire.

It was no surprise that as a young lady Wendy had played so well. Her father, connected to Brocks Fireworks factory, had his own tennis court and built a shed alongside the family home in Chestnut Lane large enough to practice in. Mr Woodhead had also filled his large garden with several other sheds for his firework experiments. Later it took the new owner of the property, Brian Kenchington a club member, several years to dismantle.

C.N. 'Kit' Hembrow was another new member to join the club. *Kit* learnt his basic rugby skills at Sevenoaks School. Chiltern members who commuted to London from Gerrards Cross introduced *Kit* to the club. His business was with Austin Reed, whose head office at the time was located in the West End at Red Lion Square.

Kit was a regular member of the club until 1939, when as a member of the Territorial Army serving with the Westminster Dragoons, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant to the 23rd Battalion of The London Regiment, later incorporated into the Royal Tank Regiment. *Kit* was killed on active service 22 November 1941 when his tank received a direct hit in the battle of Mersa Matruh, a bleak little Egyptian port on the edge of the Libyan Desert Plateau, 80 miles west of El Alamein. After tank battles at Knightsbridge, Acroma and Bir Hakeim, the British army's new commander, General Auchinleck, contemplated making a stand at the Halfaya escarpment, despite most of its armour being destroyed by the superior German Panzer divisions. But, unexpectedly, the allied forces surrendered Tobruk. This caused the retreat into Egypt and the enforced temporary stand at Mersa Matruh. This battle included *Kit's* 42nd Royal Tanks. Their stand allowed the bulk of the Army time to regroup at El Alamein where the Eighth Army reinforced them.



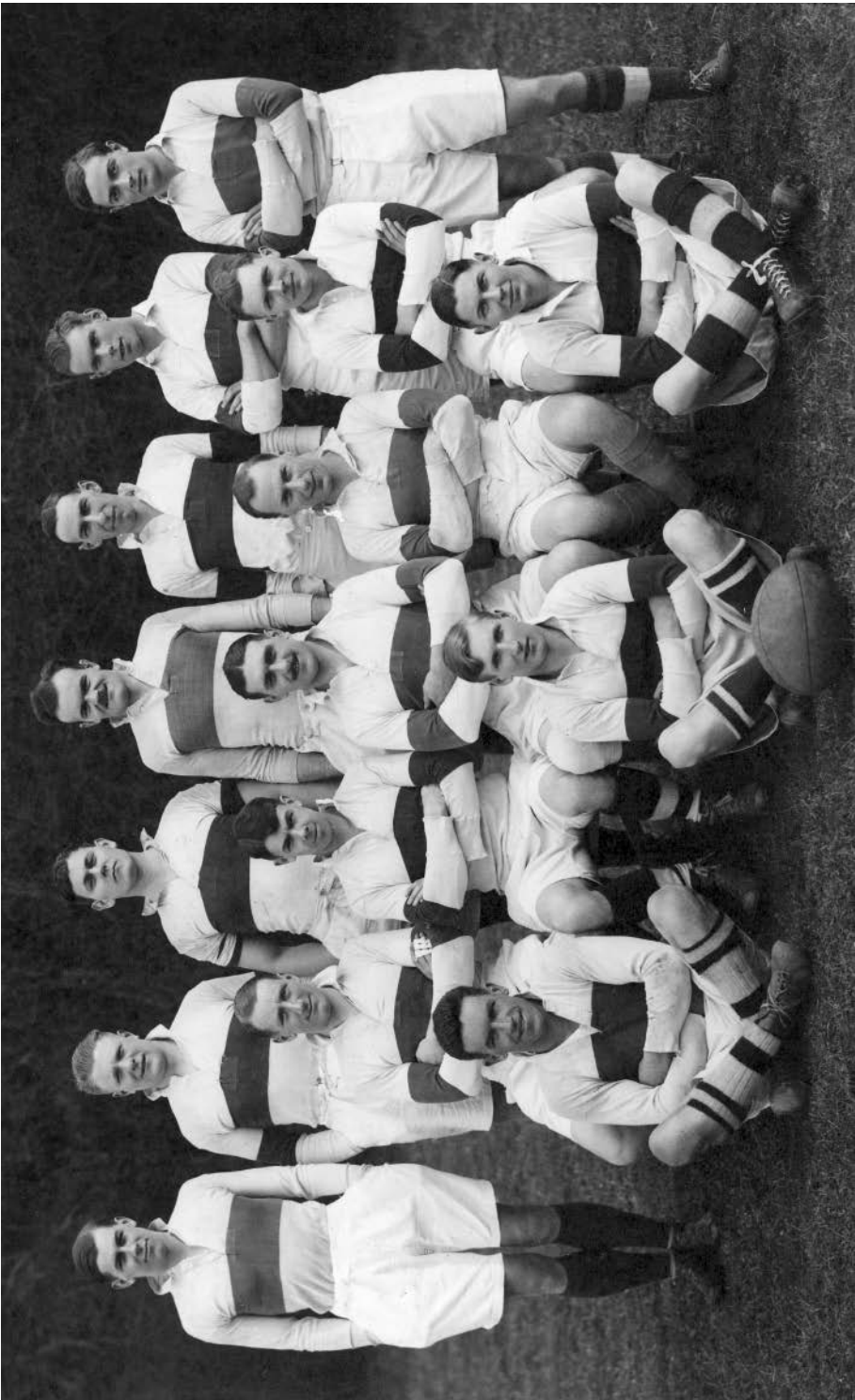
Khaki Roberts



Capt Ivor Stewart-Liberty



Old Wycombiensians 8 v Chiltern 3 at the school ground January 1939.
Chiltern players (from left) J.Randall, R.W.Webb, D.Wilkinson, J.Frost, J.Grayburn VC



Chiltern RFC 1st XV 1934-35: (back) R.C.P.Wheeler, A.A.Law, J.P.Duerdoth, H.L.M.Price, J.F.Taylor, J.Frost, E.Davies (middle) R.P.Fraser, A.J.Wheeler, G.G.Newton (Capt), R.W.Webb, W.N.D.Lang (front) G.Lewis, P.H.P.Lovell, A.J.G.Spence



W.N.D.Lang



R.W.Webb



Old Wycombiensians 8 v Chiltern 3 at the school ground January 1939.
Chiltern players (from left) R.Fraser, J.Widgery, J.Hooper, J.Grayburn VC, R.Wheeler



Chiltern RFC 1st XV 1938-39: (back) D.Wilkinson, P.E.Dalgleish, M.W.H.Burbush, A.G.Patterson, R.Dodd, B.F.Dill-Russell, J.H.Grayburn (middle) J.P.Duerdoth, R.P.Fraser, R.C.P.Wheeler (Capt), P.Goldsmid, P.E.G.Lobb (front) R.T.Turner-Hughes, J.C.Randall, N.Rowntree

The War Years 1939-1945

Chapter 3

For the 1939-40 season, Chiltern's fifteenth AGM was held on Tuesday 16 May 1939 at the clubhouse. The following were elected: R.Dodd as 1st XV Captain and J.P.Duerdoth as Vice Captain. P.L.Mason as Secretary, N.Rowntree as Treasurer, J.P.Widgery as Team Secretary, R.W.Webb as Match Secretary and A.J.Wheeler as Auditor. The committee also included M.W.H.Burbush and J.F.Taylor.

An emergency committee meeting was called on Sunday 22 October 1939 to resolve the club's position for the duration of the war against Germany. The following decisions were made:

1. C.H.Penny and R.W.Webb were co-opted members of the committee
2. Resolved: that the club should not use the ground nor pavilion for the duration of the war
3. The secretary was instructed to let the pavilion to evacuated companies or schools
4. The secretary was instructed to circularise the members explaining the committee's policy and asking for support
5. R.W.Webb was appointed Honorary Treasurer
6. L.C.V.King was appointed Honorary Auditor
7. Resolved: that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the club be held at the pavilion for the following purposes:
 - a. To adopt the accounts and balance sheet for the 1938-39 season
 - b. To confirm appointments of Treasurer and Auditor
 - c. To consider the proposals of the circular
 - d. To give the emergency committee full powers to act in any emergency during the war.

The Extraordinary General Meeting was held on Sunday 12 November 1939. The committee's proposals for limiting expenditure for the duration of the war were discussed and it was resolved:

1. Use of the clubhouse and ground be suspended for the duration of the war, that away matches be played and members taking part be charged one shilling per match.
2. R.W.Webb elected captain of the A XV
3. C.S.Dingley and C.H.Penny be elected to the committee

It was resolved that the committee had full powers to deal with any emergency for the duration of the war. The committee was constituted of the following: J.F.Taylor as Chairman, P.L.Mason as Secretary, R.W.Webb as Treasurer and A XV Captain, R.Dodd as 1st XV Captain. C.S.Dingley and C.H.Penny as committee members.

Most of the major rugby clubs managed to keep going, providing servicemen on leave with a game. However, international and other first class fixtures lapsed. Unofficial games were substituted, such as service internationals, home and away games between universities and a hospital sevens competition were arranged. The Middlesex Sevens continued and was

won by St Mary's Hospital four times. Twickenham as with many other grounds was taken over by various branches of the services.

Chiltern's ground was initially used by the local Home Guard, but occasional away games were played thanks to the services and enthusiasm of Pat Mason and the availability of his car with petrol. The Chiltern XV was augmented with medical students from Amersham Hospital who had been evacuated from the London hospitals.

Ronnie Webb then took over as the main organiser when Pat joined the Merchant Fleet. He eventually arranged that the clubhouse be let to a displaced Jewish family, who had been bombed out of their own house in London. Happily, the family was enlarged when a baby girl was born in the clubhouse. The rent from the clubhouse occupants and income from a local farmer for the grazing rights for his sheep helped to clear the clubs pre-war debt.

From the time that the club had first played at Copperkins Lane and up to the suspension of the club's activities, Fred Sabitini had performed the ground and general pavilion duties. A member of the well-known Chesham family, Fred worked for Ronnie Webb of Webb & Foulgar, the Chesham-based brush makers.

His usual routine on a Saturday was to cycle to the club at 6am from Pond Road, Chesham, to light the boiler. A fractious piece of equipment when successfully alight, he would then cycle home for breakfast. At 7:15am, Fred would cycle back to the club to check the boiler before checking in for work at 8am. At noon, with a morning's work finished, Fred would cycle back to the club, check the boiler and mark out the two pitches. He would then lay out clean towels and soap for each player. In the afternoon Fred was joined by his wife Maud, who would walk to the ground to prepare the teas. When finished with the washing up, he would clean out the dressing rooms before going home. Fred was paid 5 shillings a week for his duties. If two teams played at home, his mother-in-law would help out and the payment was increased by half a crown.

In a Red Cross rugby international at Richmond on 16 December 1939, a combined England and Wales beat Scotland and Ireland 17 points to 3. In a second Red Cross international at Cardiff on 9 March 1940, England beat Wales 18 points to 9 in front of a crowd of 40,000. In a third match on 30 March 1940, England again beat Wales 17 points to 3.

In the 1943-44 service internationals, England lost to Wales in Swansea 9 points to 11 and won the return match 20 points to 8 at Gloucester. England beat Scotland twice, 23 points to 13 at Murryfield and 27 points to 15 at Leicester. Former Chiltern player Dr Bob Campbell, then playing for the very successful St Mary's Hospital, played in all four matches.

As soon as peace was declared, rugby got back into full stride. A series of victory internationals, which included a 'Kiwi' XV, as well as the Home International XVs were arranged. These matches were supplemented by inter service matches, county matches, the University match and the Middlesex Sevens. The larger clubs started to play again immediately, but Chiltern RFC, along with the majority of other local clubs, waited until the summer of 1946 to call a committee meeting to discuss restarting the club.

In the Chiltern area, a limited number of cricket matches had been played throughout the wartime period. Amersham CC, Beaconsfield CC, Gerrards Cross CC and the Home Guard CC (later renamed Fencibles CC) continued but football and other ball games had generally

been suspended. Despite calls from supporters, it was to be a full season after the end of the war before football was to restart in earnest.

The local council issued an order to restore the playing fields. They had been used as allotments or turned over for food production during the war time period. Hervines sports ground had a new cricket table laid.

During the war, the area of Beaconsfield, Amersham and Chesham had experienced 227 air raid alerts, 279 high explosive bombs, 5 parachute mines, 29 oil bombs, 25 incendiary bombs and 8 flying bombs. The air raids had killed nine and injured thirty people. They had destroyed nine houses of which one was in Chesham and one in Chesham Bois. Four others suffered severe structural damage.

IN MEMORIAM

**Chiltern RFC members who in the cause of freedom gave their most precious gift
1939-1945**

Capt M.Cooke-Hurle 2nd Northamptonshire Yeomanery, RAC

Capt E.J.R.Davies RA

Capt G.L.Day Seaforth Highlanders

Flying Officer B.F.Dill-Russell 115 Sqdn RAFVR

Lieutenant J.R.Evans 3rd Bn Parachute Regiment

Pilot Officer W.J.Frost 44 Sqdn RAFVR

Flight Sergeant D.E.Gale RAFVR

Capt J.H.Grayburn, VC 2nd Bn Parachute Regiment (1st Parachute Brigade)

Lieutenant C.N.Hembrow 42nd (23rd Bn London Regiment) Royal Tank Regiment

Flight Lieutenant J.P.Hodgkinson, DFC and Bar, DSO 23 Sqdn RAF

Capt J.E.D.Lobb 51st (The Leeds Rifles) Royal Tank Regiment

Squadron Leader J.McCallum RAF

Private O.E.F.Moore 1st (Perak) Bn Federated Malay States Volunteer Force

Major H.D.Oclee 1st Bn The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire)

Lieutenant H.W.Ross 1st Bn Black Watch (Royal Highlanders)

G.E.Sale Reporter

Sub-Lieutenant S.W.Sidford RNVF

Squadron Leader I.G.Statham, AFC 177 Sqdn RAFVR

Capt R.T.Turner-Hughes No3 Special Services Bn Royal Welch Fusiliers

Capt D.D.Tweddle RA

Copperkins Lane 1946-1960

Chapter 4

The club's committee reconvened on 14 July 1946. Immediately, a special committee was elected for the purpose of restarting playing activities: W.N.D.Lang as Chairman, P.L.Mason as Secretary, R.W.Webb as Treasurer and P.E.G.Lobb, J.P.Duerdoth and R.C.P.Wheeler as members. The committee organised a group of members early in September to clear the playing area of bushes and prepare it for play. The secretary stated that he had a complete season's fixtures for one XV.

Old members would be approached to donate their old club kit and boots as clothing was rationed. The club's tenant would be asked to vacate the premises no later than 1 August. Pioneer FC had applied to use the second pitch for association football during the 1946-47 season. The secretary was instructed to arrange terms with Pioneer FC. The club Treasurer reported that the bank overdraft was only £20 and suggested that subscriptions remain at the pre-war level, thirty shillings for a full playing member.

An Extraordinary General Meeting was held on 28 September, chaired by K.E.Halton. The Secretary reported that fourteen members of the club were killed on active service (later adjusted to twenty from a pre-war playing membership of sixty two) and that a suitable memorial to should be considered.

Access to the club from Copperkins Lane had been closed due to timber hauling. The secretary was asked to contact Shardeloes Estate and Lesley Bailey, the co-owners of adjacent land, to obtain access via a path off Weedon Lane – Ash Grove.

The club was now desperately short of playing members, but somehow managed to elect thirty five members at the AGM – twenty three playing and twelve non-playing members. By common consent, Pat Mason was the driving force at this time.

Perhaps the two most influential new members in the club's post-war history were to join in 1946. Trevor Davey who had been demobbed from the RAF and found employment with the Commercial Ignition Company at Tatling End and Arthur Gerald 'Griff' Griffiths who had fortunately found the perfect 'other half' in Meme, a local girl from Copperkins Lane. From these two imported Welsh rugby enthusiasts, the foundation of post-war Chiltern RFC and also to a major extent Bucks County rugby was to be formalised.

F.W.King, a chartered accountant with a practice in London and Amersham, had stepped into the auditors position during the war through his association with Pat Mason and their common interest in scouting. He was also a member of the Chesham Bois Parish Council and a Vice Chairman of Amersham Rural District Council. The club was indebted to F.W.King for auditing the club for many years free of any charge.

Alistair Fordyce learnt his rugby at Merchant Taylors and on leaving school took up a position as an accountant in London. He joined the club at the outset of the war years, playing in the war time friendly matches as full back before joining up with the Navy. On his

demobilisation he played for the 1st XV and joined the club's committee. He later served as Match Secretary for several years. Alistair, together with Robin Russell-Smith, were instrumental in finding last minute players when the club was really struggling

J.P.Duerdoth, 1st XV captain, emigrated to Australia during the season as a frustrated owner of a braces manufacturing business in Chesham. He could not obtain sufficient supplies of material due to the rationing after the war. When he complained to the Ministry it stated that he had no labour – but the local labour office stated that he could not take on labour without materials. So he emigrated to restart a very successful business.

Andrew Graham Patterson took over as Captain. Graham was educated at Germain St School and Chesham Preparatory School before attending Mill Hill from which he gained entrance to Jesus College, Cambridge. Before the war, Graham worked in the research department of George Kent, the instrument engineering company from Luton. At the outbreak of war, Graham volunteered for the Navy and was commissioned as a Sub-Lieutenant RNVR on the new cruiser HMS Kenya. She operated from Scapa Flow and Iceland protecting Atlantic convoys, hunting the Bismarck and carrying out operations in Norway. After training on torpedoes and demolition, Graham was promoted to Lieutenant and appointed as Torpedo and Executive officer on HMS Kenya, now protecting convoys making their runs to Malta. The ship was torpedoed in the Mediterranean but survived to fight another day. The next time was against the Japanese in Burma and the Far East. In 1944 Graham was appointed to Admiralty Head Quarters in Bath where he stayed until demobilisation in 1945. After the war, Graham joined the Civil Service and spent time in USA as the delegate to US Naval Research Office for Navigational Instruments. He retired from the Civil Service in 1977 and joined British Aerospace until final retirement in 1983.

Graham had joined Chiltern in 1937 playing as a forward for the junior XVs. In 1946 on his return from Bath, he was one of the key figures in re-establishing the club. He took up refereeing when he retired from playing in 1948. Whilst at Admiralty Head Quarters in Bath, Graham met and married his wife Margaret and also found time to play for Bath RFC.

Graham's brothers John and David also became members of the club. John was an exciting 1st XV three-quarter, David as a utility back playing mainly for the A XV. John Patterson was educated at Germain St School, now Thomas Harding, and then Watford Grammar School where he developed as a keen sportsman. On the outbreak of war, he joined the Fleet Air Arm and trained as a pilot in Canada. He then joined the Naval Squadron of Swordfish, the 130 Knot torpedo bombers used to defend the Atlantic convoys, until the invasion of France, when his base was transferred to Belgium. After the war, John married and trained at Manchester Baptist College and Manchester University, gaining BA and BD. He subsequently held ministries in Great Missenden, Bristol and Derby before transferring to the Church of England, becoming Vicar of Winhill, Burton on Trent. He retired to Eggington but unfortunately died suddenly of cancer in July 1993.

The club started the 1946-47 season with a game against Pinner Grammarians at Old Millhillians ground, Headstone Lane, winning 17 points to 6. The team that day: J.A.Fordyce, F.N.Foster, M.Williams, A.J.Patterson, J.Bowles (three-quarters); I.Owen, W.H.Garland (half-backs); A.G.Patterson, J.Randall, E.H.Nankivell, J.Dodds, R.N.Anderson, J.P.Duerdoth (Capt), H.R.Ross, A.G.Griffiths (forwards).

The club's committee found players for the A XV difficult to find, despite constant notices in the local press. Finally, Pat Mason managed to contact some pre-war players and together with some local schoolboys scrambled a side together. They completed a season, shortened by a hard winter, but ended up winning a majority of their games.

Dr R.T.Campbell who had started his club rugby with Chiltern in 1934 and progressed to war-time international fame, again played in Chiltern colours when he returned from service in the Far East. His appearance in the win over Aylesbury was 'yellowed' by a severe bout of jaundice, but this was no handicap as he darted past three defenders to score a try in his first game back. In all, nearly fifty players turned out for the club during the season, a tribute to the determination of Pat Mason, Trevor Davey and *Griff* Griffiths to restore rugby to the Chiltern area.

Jim Randall, a Chesham man all his life, joined the club in 1937 together with fellow Dr.Challoners school friends Pat Mason, Martin Burbush and F.W.Whitmarsh. With players joining the territorial army, Jim quickly moved up to play as tight head prop, a 1st XV position that was his own for many seasons. Jim was by profession a school teacher, educating the young of Chesham at White Hill School. Jim was not alone in the teaching profession at that time in the Chiltern team. John Bowles, a former Watford Grammar schoolboy, went on to become Headmaster at Tewkesbury Grammar School and I.G.Owen was a master at Dr Challoners. Jim gained a little local notoriety when he defended his diminutive headmaster against a physical attack from an irate parent of greater stature. The parent took Jim to court for assault where the charge was dismissed immediately with the magistrate issuing a warning to the parent, putting him on probation pending his further good behavior.

Trevor Crole-Rees came to the club through entertaining film stars in The Bull, Gerrards Cross, where he met Trevor Davey. As a past player for Weston Super Mare and London Irish, *Wild Geese* found it more convenient to be at Weedon Lane. What he didn't do in the second row during the afternoon he made up for at 6 o'clock, with the first verse of 'Good Night Ladies'. His next rendering would be 'They are shifting father's grave to build a sewer', and team-mates added to the evening's entertainment. In the summer he organised a cricket match against his old school at Mayfield, Sussex.

The McGregor brothers, Arthur and John, both joined the club. Arthur became established as 1st XV full back when the Stuart-Prince team was at its peak. The McGregor family owned the grocers shop on the corner of Whielden Street, Old Amersham. It was quite usual after celebrating a victory in the Old Town at The Griffin, for team members at closing time to go on to the McGregors grocers shop for late night ham sandwiches – a real treat as food was still rationed. Arthur eventually emigrated to South Africa and later to Northern Rhodesia, where he became a firm friend of Robin Russell-Smith. They have both since moved back to Scotland.

Marlow RFC was formed and quickly established itself as a major force within Buckinghamshire. During the 1947-48 season, Buckinghamshire County RU again tried to establish itself, playing games against other junior counties. For the first game against Northants, R.N.Anderson, A.J.Patterson and H.R.Ross from Chiltern were selected. Bucks lost 11 points to 17.

During the season F.N.Foster was forced to retire from playing rugby. Noel had suffered

at the hands of the Japanese when he was interned as a prisoner of war in Sumatra. C.J.F.Downs took up the position of A XV captain. In 1981 he was instrumental as Chairman in the foundation of Chesham Rugby Football Club. He had joined Chiltern in 1946 while working with the Uxbridge and District Electrical Company. So it naturally fell to him to organise together with *Griff* Griffiths the estimates for installation of the electricity supply and lighting in the clubhouse. C.J.F.Downs served on the Chiltern committee for several years, an experience that stood him in good order for when later in life he served on the Chesham District Council.

Leslie Peter Fennimore lived with his family in Jordans and had been well schooled in sports during his school days at The Beacon and Merchant Taylors. Peter graduated as a medical student from St Mary's, where he played rugby at hooker and cricket as wicket keeper before taking a post-WW2 commission in Ox & Bucks Regiment. He was stationed in Egypt, playing rugby for the regiment, when he suffered a dislocated shoulder that eventually caused his early retirement from the front row. He then joined Wyeth Pharmaceuticals in Taplow, eventually becoming sales director. This involved Peter moving back to Amersham from London, joining Chiltern RFC and Amersham Cricket Club. Peter was also a first class shot winning many competitions with the rifle, a natural ability discovered during his service days. His father, F.E. 'Earl' Fennimore was later to become a Vice President of the club.

The twenty-fourth AGM for season 1948-49 opened with a statement from President Capt Ivor Stewart-Liberty. It reminded the assembled members that during the coming season, the club had been in existence for twenty five years and that a suitable celebration should be arranged. He also stated that his term of presidency had also lasted twenty-five years but expressed his willingness to continue. The members expressed their wishes that for as long as he should continue in good health he would remain President of the club, a position Ivor was pleased to accept.

The members asked *Griff* Griffiths to draw up plans for a ladies toilet. It was installed thanks to a contribution indirectly from Squadron Leader F.J.Thompson. *Freddie* also contributed to the installation of a fireplace, which became a feature of the clubhouse for many seasons. He had been posted at an opportune moment to Washington, USA, as a security officer for a services conference. Whilst there, he procured a large York ham and had it flown home to Chiltern. With food on ration this was a magnificent raffle prize. The money raised purchased the ladies toilet. Inevitably, the toilet seat when lifted had the words engraved "You sit here by the goodwill of Squadron Leader F.J.Thompson".

A key member and a great influence during his time was Robin Russell-Smith. He was elected to the post of Team Secretary, a daunting task made a little easier by his own dominating personality. As a player, once selected you needed a very good excuse to call off after the Thursday deadline. Robin joined the club having been appointed to the position of Factory Manager of Amersham Toys, located in Chesham. Robin had spent the war serving with 51st Highland Division, seeing extensive service throughout Europe. Later he emigrated to Rhodesia and developed a large timber industry. In spite of the upheaval, he survived to become a prominent citizen based in Harare in the new Zimbabwe. Robin introduced Barry Tanner, his deputy manager at the toy factory, a former Old Wycombiensian and RAF light heavyweight boxing champion of India. Barry made up a very formable second row

partnership with Keith De Belder.

The club also welcomed a new player, R.G.Stuart-Prince, who had moved with his parents into Hyde Heath. He had been educated at St Edwards, Oxford, and Cambridge University where by general census he had only failed to win a Rugby Blue due to his poor eyesight. He played his first game for Chiltern against Hendon in late October. Chiltern lost by 12 points to 6. The following season, Dickie Stuart-Prince was elected to take over as 1st XV captain, a position he held until the 1953-54 season when he went to work in the USA. He returned to captain the club in 1955-56 season but retired in that season following a broken leg. Dickie was a patents officer who lived in London during the week. He was a fitness fanatic and trained daily in Regents Park. He introduced this discipline to the 1st XV, raising standards to a new level. Mid-week, he arranged a training session for all the Chiltern players who lived in London, starting at his London flat. At the same time, he organised the local Chiltern based players to train under the watchful eye of another 1st XV player W.Rigby, a physical training master at Dr Challoners School, well known for bringing along his classes of pupils to watch rugby from the touchline. Dickie was also appointed captain of Bucks County RU, supported by five other Chiltern players: Trevor Davey and Mickey Laing at half-backs; Colin Morcom at hooker; Brian Tanner at loose-head prop; and Robin Anderson on the right wing.

Irishman Barry Dewberry and his wife Peggy became great stalwarts of the club and when the club decided to start a Sevens tournament in 1950, Pat Mason was elected Chairman of the Sevens committee, Griff Griffiths as Secretary and Barry became Treasurer, owing to his bank experience. Peggy was 'Queen Bee' of the teas and heaven help any player who did not bring some cakes to help swell the refreshments.

Dickie Stuart-Prince also introduced Dudley V.Townsend to the club. Dudley was an executive with Shell Mex Petroleum and a great prospect as centre or wing. After a few seasons he was unfortunately posted to the West Indies and then finally to the Shell headquarters in Holland. John Landon was the landlord of the Cock and Rabbit at The Lee. His father was an hotelier in Aylesbury. On the death of his father, his services were lost to the club when he sold the business at the Lee and moved to Aylesbury to run his father's old business.

The 25th Anniversary dinner was held at Darsham Hall, Chesham, on 22 January 1949. The toast list included: The President. Capt Ivor Stewart-Liberty MC, JP, proposed the club. He recalled the early playing days at The Pineapple and the stalwarts of the club in its first days – the Haltons, Penny and Webb, and referred to the match played that day against Aylesbury, which Chiltern won. The reply was made by Trevor Davey who presented Capt Ivor Stewart-Liberty with a handsome clock, suitably inscribed in recognition of his twenty five years service to the club as President.

The Vice Presidents were proposed by A.J.Wheeler and replied by K.E.Halton. The Guests proposed by I.G.Owen and replied to by Dr.T.A.Kemp, Captain of England, Richmond, St Mary's Hospital and Barbarians. Rugby Football was proposed by G.D.Roberts KC, OBE and replied to by Sir Wavell Wakefield MP and a Vice President of RFU.

The whole evening was full of fine speeches, in particular the exchanges between two former Harlequins, *Khaki* Roberts and *Wakers* Wakefield, about their earlier playing days. *Khaki* described rugby as "the best game in the world" and *Wakers* added that "out of rugby

football there arose comradeship, friendship and good feeling, which in these days of cocktails and lounge lizards is a quality to be encouraged".

The evening finishing with a round of rugby songs, led by Trevor Davey and controlled by Pat Mason.

The twenty fifth AGM accepted the resignation of Capt Ivor Stewart-Liberty as club President, due to failing health. A resolution was unanimously past that he should be appointed an Honorary Life Vice President of Chiltern RFC. K.E.Halton, a founder member and former 1st XV captain, was elected as the new President. Ivor's grandson Michael Cowdy continued the Stewart-Liberty connection with the club until the early 1960s, when he moved to Banbury, Oxfordshire.

The members rejected an application from Fencibles Cricket Club to share the ground. A cricket square was however proposed for the use of rugby club members. The wicket was to be laid between the two pitches.

With electric light and a ladies toilet, dances became very popular at Chiltern. A great success with the dancing couples was the constant supply of 'hit records' kindly and indirectly donated by EMI – always 'hot off the press' thanks to the wife of H.R. Rene Ross, whose father was the managing director of EMI at Hayes. Rene Ross joined the club before the war and played as the club's No 8 for several seasons. He lived in the property on North Road, Chesham Bois Common, that was later known as Ken House Hotel. The property was sold, and Rene retired from rugby, when his wife died in childbirth.

J.A.Fordyce introduced David J.Skipper, an exciting young player, to the club. He was attending Watford Grammar School when he was selected to play for Eastern Counties Schoolboys against Middlesex. In his first game for Chiltern against GWR he ran in three tries from the right wing. Two seasons later he won his Rugby Blue at Oxford University. After university, he accepted a teaching post with Merchant Taylors where he eventually became Headmaster.

The committee had taken the decision to organise a Chiltern Sevens competition on 22 April with invitations to all the local major clubs. The Vice Presidents offered to supply tournament trophies. The competition committee was formed under the joint leadership of R.G.Stuart-Prince, B.Dewberry and J.M.Constable.

RAF Halton was the inaugural winner, captained by Flight Sergeant N.E.Notley who was also a Chiltern player and represented Bucks against Hampshire in 1954. He introduced his brother, J.R.Notley, to Chiltern as an occasional player – he had played for Wanderers Club, Dublin, and Ireland.

The 1951-52 season was to be the best season for results that the club had experienced. At the turn of New Year, the 1st XV had played thirteen games, winning twelve and drawing one. They went unbeaten until March, when they lost to Hendon followed by their only other defeat of the season two weeks later against Osterley.

For the first time at Chiltern, a joint tour with Aylesbury RFC and RAF Halton was to be organised to Bideford, North Devon. The tour finally took place, but without any Aylesbury players, and took place on the Sussex coast. They travelled as Chiltern Wanderers, winning all their games – Sussex Yeomanry 21 points to 0, Seaford 17 points to 0 and Brighton 12 points to 5.

The second Chiltern Sevens was won by Richmond, who had won the Middlesex Sevens the previous season. After qualifying in their group they went on to defeat Slough, RAF Halton after extra-time, and then Chiltern in the final 23 points to 3. Chiltern had a great competition defeating Blackheath and London Irish 10 points to 0, before losing the final.

Two members joined the club in 1953 and became stalwarts of Chiltern, John Page and Dennis Nash. John Barton, a local dealer in agricultural machinery, introduced John 'Page One' Page. Page became a regular member of A XV. John played all his Chiltern rugby in the junior XVs until in 1978 at the age of 57 he was pensioned off by the Extra B XV captain, Chris Aylott. John's son Tony, known as *Page Two*, went on to play for the Chiltern 1st XV during the 1970s.

A proposal by B.A.Tanner that a club badge should be designed was accepted and the committee arranged a competition. This was won by Rene Ross, and the badge design has altered little to this day.

The season proved to be difficult for the new captain, Robin Anderson. His star player Trevor Davey was injured and missed the best part of the season. Towards the end of the season several new players found regular places in the 1st XV: John, Huxtable, Phillips, Ridgway, Broome, Morcom and Parkhouse. Bucks County RU ran its first Sevens competition at Old Wycombiensians ground. Chiltern lost in the semi final, Wasps won the final.

Shardeloes Estate had expressed concern about the public using the ground as a footpath to the woods. The club erected three notices that read "Property, no right of way". The Beacon School, already using the ground mid-week, asked permission to fill in the dell, the area in the north west corner of the ground, to create a small football pitch. The club rejected the offer. The club Treasurer reported that the club had a surplus of £300 at the start of 1955. P.B.Arbib, a future 1st XV captain and club President, was elected as a playing member.

During the Christmas holidays, the club again raised a Schools XV, referred to as Chiltern Colts, playing two matches. The first against Slough was successful, winning 31 points to 0, but the match against Windsor was lost 5 points to 4. The team: C.Brown, B.Lucke, M.Cowdy, N.Gosling, W.Kay-Smith (three-quarters); R.J.Martin, R.T.B.Barrie, (half-backs); C.Eastman, M.D.Beresford, D.C.Thomas, J.R.Strang (Capt), G.J.Lake, J.Parker, M.J.Christie, P.Shires (forwards).

Chiltern supplied four players to the Bucks XV, R.Anderson, M.Laing, C.Morcom and W.Whittingham, that defeated Cambridge 5 points to 3.

At this time, Chiltern acquired Paddy Clark. He had worked as a bank cashier in Dublin, but during WW2 he came to England to enlist in the army. After training, he was sent overseas to North Africa. He was involved in the El Alamein battle, where unfortunately, he was blown up in a Bren-gun carrier in the battle. He was the only survivor of his crew, but he suffered terrible injuries. He was rescued and taken to hospital in very poor condition, but over many months of hospital treatment his body was put together, though sadly, the blast had affected his brain. He then found out that there was a rugby club in Weedon Lane and he soon became a regular spectator. Paddy lost his lodgings as his nursing family friends decided to retire to the south coast, so he was left trying to find alternative accommodation. The club, having been subjected to a number of break-ins and damage, offered lodgings in a

caravan placed on the grounds, as they thought this would give some protection to the premises. This arrangement lasted for a number of years until the new housing estate was built adjoining the club in Windmill Wood and the residents objected to the caravan.

During the severe winter of 1963, the pitches were completely frozen for several weeks, followed by a heavy snowfall on Boxing Day. It was noted that Paddy was missing and had not been seen for some days. On Boxing Day morning *Griff* went to see for himself, only to find *Paddy* ill in bed and covered with army greatcoats and in a very poor state. He had no Christmas meal and was short of food. With the help of Harry Trott and his wife Shelia, they contacted the doctor and brought him some hot soup and food. Eventually, following an Enforcement Notice, *Paddy's* caravan had to be removed from the grounds and he was never the same after this. Even so, he always showed his appreciation of the club.

The 'Lions' tour of South Africa and Rhodesia was captained by Irish and Instonian forward Robin H.Thompson and managed by J.A.E.Siggins, the former Irish international. The Lions won 18 of the 24 games, winning two and losing two test matches. The party included Doug Baker of Old Merchant Taylors, a talented England fly half. He once stated that "had Mickey Laing, his Merchant Taylor School VX scrum half, stayed with him to partner the Old Boys XV, instead of joining Chiltern, they would have properly both enjoyed the same international success". Dickie Jeeps at that time was the England scrum half.

Mickey Laing eventually left Chiltern to join Bedford but his career finished with a broken leg playing for Eastern Counties against the touring 'Wallabies' in the 1957-58 season. Coincidentally, Doug Baker also suffered the same injury to finish his career in the first England trial of the 1955-56 season.

For the first time, Chiltern introduced a new fifteen, the Extra A XV, created and captained through its inaugural season by I.G.Hillyard. At the annual club dinner, W.N.D.Lang made a very strong plea to the local senior clubs to stop poaching young players from junior clubs, particularly when a majority of players poached only made up the numbers in their lower sides.

For the matches against Ealing, Bedford Athletic, Harpenden and London Irish, Chiltern selected Squadron Leader R.V.Stirling - he had been England captain for 1951-52 and 1952-53 seasons, accumulating 18 England caps. Bob had retired playing for Wasps and was stationed at RAF Halton, but for a few seasons contributed to Chiltern in many ways, as a player, a referee and as a speaker at the annual dinner.

Chiltern Schools XV was defeated by Windsor Schools, 14 points to 0 and by Wycombe Schools 12 points to 3, over the Christmas holidays. The team: Alexander, John, Hopcroft, Cowdy, Looker (three-quarters); Neil, Barnes (half backs); Copman, Phelps, Pangbourne, Walsh-Waring (Capt), Marchant, Icke, James, Nellist (forwards).

During the 1955-56 season, Vice President Captain Thomas Tyrwhitt-Drake passed away. He had suffered for many years, paralysed from the waist down as a result of an accident when he was with the Iraq Levies in 1924. He had been educated at Eton and Sandhurst and served in World War 1 with the 52nd Battalion, Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry. He had inherited Shardeloes Estate on the death of his cousin E.T.Tyrwhitt-Drake in 1928. Squadron Leader F.J.Thompson represented the club at the memorial service. His brother Francis accepted the club's invitation to become a Vice President.

K.E.Halton stepped down as club President. W.N.D.Lang took over the vacant position. Viscount Hall was the main guest at the club's annual dinner. His speech started with his opinion that "there was no other game for men like rugby". He went on to say "It is a good tough game but it is a man's game". R.M.Bartlett, captain of Harlequins, responded on behalf of RFU.

The club applied to Shardeloes Estate for an extension to the lease, only to receive a reply from Captain Hill, the estate manager, that the lease would not be renewed as the land was of considerable building value. *Griff* Griffiths looked into the matter and found that the land was in fact designated as private open space and not available for building. A ground sub-committee was formed to report at the forthcoming AGM on the purchase of the land from Shardeloes Estate. It was a very competent team – A.G.L.Harding (solicitor), W.N.D.Lang (managing director of London Land & Estate Agents), A.G.Griffiths (local government officer), P.L.Mason (export manager), G.C.Morcom (chartered accountant).

The Chiltern Wanderers toured Sussex with matches against Crowborough, Lewes and Seaford. The Wanderers won against Crowborough 11 points to 0, drew against Lewes 5 points all and defeated Seaford. During the tour, the usual souvenir hunting took place but unfortunately the owners of some of the items objected. This led to six Chiltern players being fined a total of £55 by Arthur Jolly, the Brighton magistrate. John Huxtable, Anthony Nash, Michael Joliffe, David Pickup, John Menist and Stephen Outwaite were found guilty of collecting red warning lamps belonging to South East Gas Board, a lifebuoy from Brighton West Pier, a flag and deck chair, glass plates from a Hove solicitors, a menu board and a house agents board.

Chiltern Schools Seven reached the final of the Windsor Schools Competition, beating Newbury, Windsor and Harrow in the semi final, but losing to Surbiton in the final. The team: Randall, Compton, Grace, Griffin, Mitchell, Phillips (Capt), Marchant.

During the season, the saga of the land purchase unfolded. First, access from Weedon Lane was to be purchased for the sum of one pound from the trustees of the Weedon Lane development, William Collins Mathews Estate. Next, Shardeloes Estate had agreed to sell the land for £700 per acre. Squadron Leader F.Thompson proposed that the committee proceed with the purchase of the freehold of the rugby grounds.

The club was saddened in 1957 by the passing of Vice President, Ernest Gladstone Halton, the inspiration behind the founding of Chiltern Rugby Football Club and father of the Halton brothers.

Colin Pegley was still on national service in Malaya when he received a letter from Robin Anderson telling him of his election in absentia as 1st XV captain. Colin returned home in October to find the club with a poor playing record and an even worse social record. Colin together with his brother Alan gathered around them members of the club that were to serve together for several years on the club's committee. His immediate duty was to re-establish the playing strength that was enjoyed so much during the Stuart-Prince era.

By good fortune a number of promising young players were recruited and some existing players were asked to try their luck in different positions. The most notable was Brian Arbib, a winger converted to second row, and John Wells who joined from Downside School, proving to be a very useful flanker over several seasons. John Strang was another useful player who

had developed his rugby at Oxford University as a regular member of the University Greyhounds. Richard Hughes also joined whilst still at Sherborne School, later to become an outstanding player for Chiltern. Midway in his playing career, he joined Harlequins for a few seasons, but unable to command a regular 1st XV place, he returned to Chiltern to play out his final rugby years.

The local Rotarians had booked the Old Town Hall in Amersham to raise money by running Bingo evenings for a national charity. As they had reached their target within a few weeks they offered the spare bookings to Chiltern. It proved to be a great fundraiser for the club. The hall was soon packed out, mainly because the prizes were cash, for the first time ever. Again the old team of Pat Mason, *Griff*, Cobber Cain, Harry Trott and his wife Sheila, Mary Sawyer and Pat Howells were the main fundraisers for the club.

The social events and dances were re-established under the management of G.J.Cain 'Cobber' and his two daughters, later to marry Harry Trott and Dennis Webb, with the help of Brian and Martin Arbib. Plans were made to extend the bar. The work was completed by the start of the 1958-59 season under the managerial skills of John Page. So within a few seasons, Colin with a little help, turned the fortunes of the club around.

Anthony Nash, A XV hooker, was just making his mark in the winter sport of bobsleigh. During the winter of 1958 he had been one of the four-man team that had secured second place in the Commonwealth Championships, as well as driver of the two-man bob which finished in fifth position. Tony then partnered Robin Dixon to win the gold medal in the two man bob of the 1964 Olympic games.

Chiltern Schools XV played Windsor Schools XV during the Christmas holidays, the game ending in a draw. The team: Griffin, Newth, Neil, R.Hughes, Hearne (three-quarters); R.Phelps, P.Phelps (half backs); Thomas, Richardson, D.Bazzard, R.Thompson, Harding, Wright, Deacon, M.Thompson (forwards).

J.V.Adey was elected as a member. John had the rare distinction of being one of the few Englishmen to be captain of rugby at Blackrock College, Ireland. He was later to captain Chiltern and play many times for Bucks.

On Tuesday 12 May 1959, the clubhouse was burnt to the ground. Fire engines from Amersham and Chesham were called but the wooden structure was fully engulfed in flames on arrival. Within 40 minutes, only a few beams and a length of corrugated iron roof was left. The devastation was not helped by a 200 cubic foot gas meter exploding just as the fire brigade had the main fire under control.

The President, W.N.D.Lang, called an emergency committee meeting the following evening to launch an appeal fund. Present were: W.N.D.Lang, P.L.Mason, C.J.R.Pegley, A.G.Griffiths, R.N.Anderson, A.G.O.Williams, A.S.Pegley, D.J.Nash, P.B.Arbib, D.L.Trott, H.F.Trott, P.H.E.Padley-Smith, R.H.Green, C.D.Hart. The President took the chair. R.Anderson reported that he had met the assessors appointed by Lloyds that afternoon. The building was insured for £2000 and the contents for £200, but the assessor had pointed out that the brick built part of the pavilion around the bath and boiler house had not been destroyed and therefore the whole club could not be classed as a total loss. The Secretary reported that the brokers had been notified and that an inventory of the contents of the pavilion had been drawn up. The landlord had yet to be notified.

It was then decided that a personal approach should be made to the Squire, with regards the ground and lease, as this would affect the decision about rebuilding. Colin Pegley agreed to write to Capt Tyrwhitt-Drake. The President agreed to confer with Larry Harding, the club's solicitor, to approach the RFU for help with rebuilding and ground purchase. A.G.Griffiths agreed to draw up plans of the pavilion as it was originally built and to obtain a cost so that a claim could be made to the insurance company.

The club's committee then decided that a sub-committee should be set up to deal with the insurance claim and to make preliminary investigations into the type of replacement building to be rebuilt and to report back to the main committee. The following members agreed to serve on the sub-committee: A.G.Griffiths, R.N.Anderson, C.Pegley, C.Hart, A.G.O.Williams (secretary).

The main committee then considered the best means of raising money. It was decided that a separate Appeals Committee should be set up to deal with raising funds. The committee would be comprised of the following members: P.L.Mason, C.Pegley, P.B.Arbib, P.Padley-Smith, A.G.O.Williams (treasurer).

The question of clearing the site was discussed and R.Anderson stated that as the brokers were satisfied that there was no salvage value, there would be no objection to clearing the site. Within forty eight hours of the fire, the appeal was launched under the signature of Major George Boyce MBE, MC, JP, chairman of Amersham Rural District Council. Arnold Williams dispatched over 1000 letters.

At the next committee meeting, the President reported that he had contact with Larry Harding, the club's legal advisor, and he confirmed that there was no clause in the lease requiring us to rebuild the pavilion as originally designed. He had also spoken to Capt Hill, agent for Shardeloes Estate, regarding the renewal of the lease. Capt Hill stated that Shardeloes Estate would refuse to renew the current land on a long lease, and in any case, not at the present rental. But it had offered an alternative site on lease, a field to the south of the club ground. After some discussion, it was decided that this field would be quite unsuitable.

The President recommended that the club should offer £850 for the purchase of the current ground. In addition, Shardeloes Estate should have right of way over the club's recently acquired access but Chiltern give up right of way over the fields from Copperkins Lane, north of the ground.

R.Anderson reported that the contents claim had been prepared and a figure of £426 submitted, the building claim was not yet completed. A.Griffiths quoted £94 as the estimated value of the part of the building that had not been completely destroyed by the fire, and £2180 as the total value of the buildings, excluding the cost of bar fittings. Pat Mason proposed and Bill Lang seconded the proposal that a claim for £2180 be put up to the insurers.

R.Anderson also reported that Whitbreads the brewers had claimed on the club for £54, being the cost of equipment in the bar on loan. He had replied that the club was not apparently responsible for this equipment and suggested that they should refer the matter to their own insurers.

An appeal in general terms had been sent all round the local district, resulting in 93

replies. The total sum received to date was £393. It was suggested that a more detailed letter be sent out to selected people regarding loans, but it was decided to leave this over until the next committee meeting when more cost figures would be available.

At the next meeting, the President reported that he had received a letter from Capt Hill representing Shardeloes Estate stating the following terms:

1. Purchase price would be £1000.
2. Restricted covenant to be imposed on the land for use as a playing field only.
3. The club should convey to Shardeloes Estate the strip of land giving access to the public road, Weedon Lane.
4. The club should give up their right of way over the land to the north of the field from Copperkins Lane.

Subject to the approval of the committee, the President had replied to the effect that:

1. The club would pay £1000 for the ground.
2. The club would take a lease of the land for 999 years at a nominal ground rent (say £5 per annum).
3. There will be a restriction of use, to that of a playing field.
4. Consent of the freeholder required for any change of use.
5. If the property is sold, then the club will pay the freeholders half of the difference between the net price and the agricultural value, such amount to be settled by independent surveyors.
6. The club would not convey the strip of land giving access to the public road, but would grant a perpetual easement to the Shardeloes Estate over the strip.
7. The club would surrender the right of way over the field to the north of the ground.

A.G.Griffiths proposed and D.Nash seconded the motion that these conditions should be confirmed to the Estate and that the President should have the power to negotiate minor points.

J.D.Drake presented two plans of the proposed new pavilion. Plan A, based on the layout of the old building but with improvements to the bath and cloakrooms, with the addition of showers, beer store and verandah. An estimate of the price was £3000/3500 erected on the old site. Plan B was similar in layout but a more elaborate design of verandah increased the price. After discussion, it was decided that Plan B should be dropped due to cost and that Plan A should be sent to four builders to tender. A vote of thanks to J.D.Drake for his help in drawing up plans and costings was carried unanimously.

At a meeting held on 28 July 1959, the President reported that Shardeloes Estate had agreed the terms laid out in the club's letter. The meeting proposed that Larry Harding and W.N.D.Lang be authorised to agree and sign the contract. R.Anderson reported that the insurance claim would be met in full and the total of £2000 would be paid. J.D.Drake reported that of the four builders approached only Blareaus had replied with a reasonable quotation. The committee agreed to contact four other builders, allowing a sum of £3500 as an estimate guideline.

At the start of the 1959-60 season, W.N.E.Bazzard, a local solicitor, accepted the club's invitation to become a Vice President. His three sons David, Evan and Roy were all later to play for the Chiltern 1st XV and on several occasions packed down as the complete front row for the A XV. Norris played in his early days for Neath 1st XV, whilst living at home in

Swansea. His parents were coal merchants, at a time when middle class business people frowned on the professionalism that had filtered into Welsh rugby. The final straw was when they suspected that 'boot money' was being paid to the Neath players. Norris was forced to resign.

The sub-committee dealing with the land purchase had concluded its discussions with Shardeloes Estate and contracts were in the process of being exchanged. The amount of £1000 had been borrowed from the RFU for the land purchase and was repayable over a period of 15 years. The insurance claim had finally been settled at £2100 and the appeal fund had raised a further £908. The building sub-committee finally selected Y.J.Lovell, stating that its estimate of £3354 was the lowest. Peter Lovell had played for the club before the war and it was generally appreciated by members, that at the end of construction, the club had been given a great deal more than the final cost involved. Without the clubhouse, the players changed and showered at the Raans School, using the Station Hotel (now the Iron Horse) for beer and sandwiches after the game. Surprisingly the performance of the teams started to improve and many new members joined the club.

The club recruited the services of N.Glyn Davies, formerly with Swansea, Blackheath, London Welsh, Barbarians and Wales. Glyn's one international match for Wales was against England in 1955, when Wales won 3 points to 0. Unfortunately a recurrence of an old injury received during his international match, convinced Glyn to take up the referee's whistle.

The fortunes of the club had changed for the better and it was decided to run a B XV for the first time since 1928.



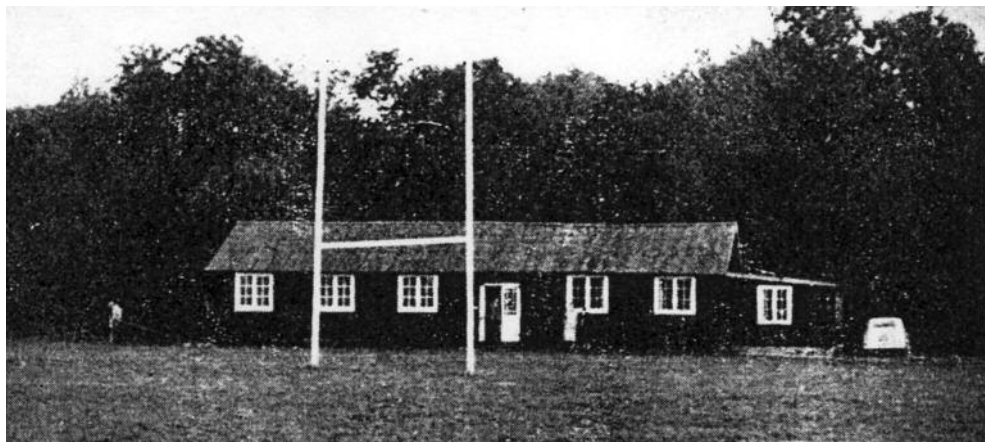
Chiltern RFC Jubilee Dinner, Saturday 22 January 1949 at Darsham Hall, Chesham



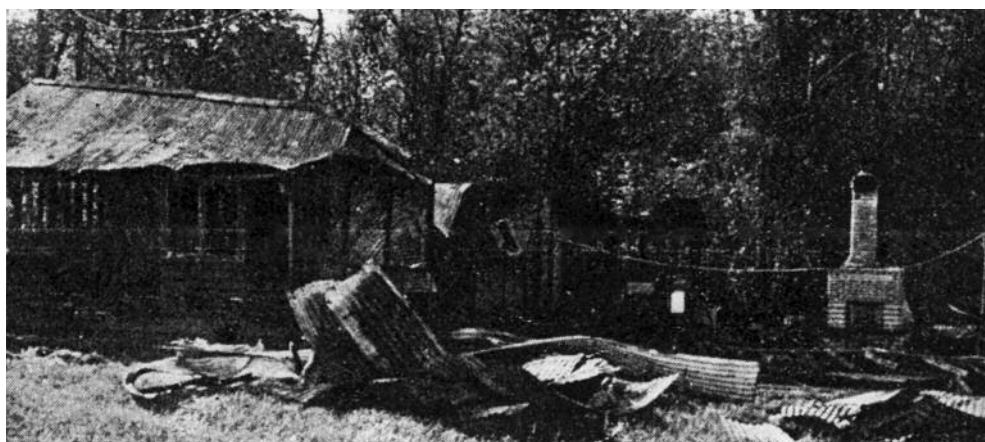
Chiltern RFC 1st XV 1947-48: (back) F.J.Thompson, P.W.Penstone, D.V.Townsend, G.Campbell, H.R.Ross, P.L.Mason, T.C.Crole-Rees (middle) R.N.Anderson, A.G.Griffiths, T.Davey (Capt), J.Randall, A.J.Patterson (front) I.G.Owen, L.P.Fennimore, P.C.Tuckett



Chiltern RFC 1st XV 1955-56: (back) S.Phillips, J.Randall, J.Barton, M.Sharp, B.A.Tanner, J.M.Patterson, G.C.Morcom (middle) P.F.Jackson, B.Wilson, R.N.Anderson, R.G.Stuart-Price (Capt), T.A.Davey, W.Parkhouse (front) P.Simmonds, J.F.B.Huxtable, N.Gardner



The old pavilion built in 1929



The fire, 12 May 1959



The new pavilion, 21 September 1960

Ash Grove 1960-1987

Chapter 5

With the new clubhouse completed, it would be the last season for the committee of Pat Mason, Trevor Davey, Griff Griffiths, Robin Anderson and the captaincy of Dickie Stuart-Prince. They had taken over control when the club's progress had stuttered following the very successful period after the war. The retiring committee could take immense credit for turning the club around, to place it once again as a major rugby club in the Home Counties. They carried the additional burden of rebuilding the clubhouse and refinancing of the club, so with this completed they virtually retired en bloc to enjoy all their hard work from the touchline.

The official opening of the new clubhouse took place on Wednesday 21 September 1960. J.A.Tallent OBE TD, President of the RFU and former Cambridge University, Blackheath, Barbarian and England, cut the ribbon. The match that followed was reported in the Times and other broadsheet newspapers.

Chiltern XV: P.F.Jackson, A.S.Pegley, M.I.Golding, C.D.Hart, S.W.Downing (three-quarters); R.C.Hughes, J.G.Wells (half backs); M.Preston, C.J.R.Pegley (Capt), A.J.Smith, B.A.Tanner, P.B.Arbib, R.Wallace, R.E.Jackson, J.V.Adey (forwards).

President's XV as selected: P.Burnham (Kent and Old Cranleighians), R.H.Thompson (Scotland and London Scottish), J.A.P.Shackleton (Scotland and London Scottish), I.H.P.Laughland (Scotland and London Scottish), D.W.C.Smith (Scotland and London Scottish) (three-quarters); A.L.Stadler (RAF Eastern Counties and Wasps), A.A.Mulligan (Ireland and London Irish) (half backs); G.Taylor (Wasps), N.S.Bruce (Scotland and London Scottish), L.L.Weston-Kaye (Middlesex and Wasps), M.J.Cutter (England trial and Wasps), H.Inglis (Scotland and London Scottish), R.E.Syrett (England and Wasps), J.E.Woodward (England and Wasps), R.I.Marshall (London Scottish) (forwards).

The President's XV, much changed from the selected XV on the day, won the match by 11 points to 8 with Scottish Internationals Shackleton and Laughland scoring the tries for the visitors, converted by Stadler of Wasps. In reply, C.Hart and J.Wells scored the Chiltern tries.

During the season over 40 new players were elected to the club, among them were several that would contribute greatly in the seasons to follow; in particular, C.D.Aylott, E.G. Bazzard, H.S.Davenport, A.J.Baxter, R.A.Alexander and D.J. 'The Baron' Rimmer. An Extra B XV was run on several occasions. The 1st XV had an improved season but results suffered towards the end of the season when key player and try scorer John V.Adey was injured.

The question of installing a telephone was deferred from meeting to meeting because of the cost. Mrs Arbib eventually agreed to pay for it, no doubt worried about her sons Brian and Martyn who seemed to be spending more time at the club than at home.

The Treasurer reported that the current bank balance stood at £304. He also reported that the club's annual income was currently £1000 and expenditure was £400 allowing £600

annually for future development.

The committee discussed for the first time the requirement for an extra home pitch, and agreed to contact Shardeloes Estate with a view to leasing the field located to the south of the clubhouse.

A sub-committee was formed with A.G.Griffiths, W.N.D.Lang, P.L.Mason and J.G.L.Harding to protect the interests of the club with regard to the new Woodland Estate that had received planning permission.

The annual club dinner was held in the club pavilion for the first time. Ian Laughland, London Scottish and Scotland, was the guest speaker with Glyn Davies the former Welsh International replying for the club.

The 1st XV for the 1961-62 season was greatly strengthened by the addition of A.Baxter, R.Alexander and S.Young and the outstanding performance of full back Peter Jackson. John A. Adey, the International athlete joined the club and proved to be an outstanding success playing on the right wing. John was instantly recognisable as he was the only 1st XV player to wear a suit to every game. Dan Harman came down from Cambridge University where he had played regular college rugby and proved to be a great asset as a utility forward. Training continued at Raans School, which was of great benefit to the 1st XV results.

During the season the telephone was finally installed, the number Amersham 61. Colin Pegley organised the Christmas Draw that raised the handsome profit of £400. Trevor Davey became a Vice President. Bar prices were revised and ordinary bitter cost one shilling and eight pence a pint, tankard bitter cost two shillings per pint.

The club had a quiet year mainly due to the bad weather that caused all rugby to be cancelled for 10 weeks. However, several new players found their way into the 1st XV. For the first time regular fixtures were arranged for the Extra B XV.

At the 1963-64 AGM the question of a third pitch was again raised. For two years Shardeloes Estate had not given the club a satisfactory answer on the lease of the extra land. John Adey Senior, father of John A.Adey, volunteered his services as he knew the estate managers Mr Midwinter and Whatley Mills personally. The committee put a limit on the rent the club could afford for the season of £50 and the arrangement was drawn up within the month.

Simon Curtis, a future 1st XV captain, was proposed as a new member to the club. The extra A XV captain *The Baron* Rimmer retired from playing following an operation on his knee. Later in life, he was to become a formidable solicitor who was involved on behalf of the British government in the cessation of Hong Kong.

At the 1964 Winter Olympics Anthony Nash, the A XV hooker achieved his best ever result when he won the gold medal by twelve hundredths of a second in the two man Bobsleigh with Robin Nixon. The local population welcomed him home as a hero, he was kept busy for months attending functions and opening school fetes. The club presented him with a silver cigarette case.

The B XV captained by N.Innes had a remarkable season scoring over 400 points of which Trevor Davey, at the age of 53, personally scored 120. The team presented him with a tankard. The playing strength was sufficient to run six XVs for the first time.

The club organised a fortieth anniversary dinner, a year ahead of the occasion, to be held

at the Bell House, Beaconsfield, on 22 October, tickets costing one guinea. The club's two main speakers were J.Butterfield of Northampton and England, who proposed the guests and J.A.Tallent, a past President of the RFU who proposed the toast to the RFU.

The club made arrangements to purchase an extra strip of land at the northern end of the ground. This was to enable the club to fill in the pond located at the east side of the clubhouse. The committee purchased 100 tons of reject stones to fill the pond. Part of the land was later sold to build the bungalow.

Curly John Newton joined the club as a promising second row. He was always referred to as 'the old scarred warhorse' by the press. Later in his career he switched positions to loose head prop where he achieved county recognition.

The club held extended discussions with Brazil's, the builders of the houses in Ash Grove, and finally settled with the following conditions for access over Ash Grove:

1. The residents of Ash Grove will maintain Ash Grove.
2. The residents only have right of access and no parking rights.
3. The builders would make up a standard 20 ft road up to the second entry gate to the club. They would also connect the water and gas supplies.
4. Brazil's would donate £700 to the club.

Having successfully organized a Sevens tournament for many years Chiltern won for the first time in fourteen years. The team: R.Alexander, J.V.Adey, J.A.Adey, N.Snelson, R.Hughes, P.B.Arbib, M.Clover. Chiltern defeated Richmond I in the final 17 points to 13, with wins in earlier rounds against Beaconsfield 24-5, Old Windsorians 8-0, Old Lutonians 9-3 and Old Creightonians 20-5.

At the AGM for the 1965-66 season the club agreed to increase subscriptions to: Full playing member £3.00; Under 21 £1.00; Non-playing member £1.00; Schoolboys 5 shillings.

The club welcomed the return of Tony Baxter who had played for Northern while working in Newcastle. He was immediately selected to play for Bucks against Middlesex. The club regretted the unavailability of John A. Adey, who was in training for his athletics. John was building up to the 1966 Commonwealth games to be held in Kingston, Jamaica. He had some respectable club and International performances behind him in his build up to the games. Representing England at the White City, London, just before the games he ran second in the individual 440 yards in 47.6 seconds and then ran a leg in the 440 yards relay, which England won. Happily, the flying Chiltern wingman was selected to run for England in the Commonwealth Games. He won a bronze medal as a member of the 440 yards relay team. Clive Newton joined the club, playing in the 1st XV for the first time against Mill Hill.

Chiltern won the Chiltern sevens for the second time in the club's history, defeating Old Dunstablians in the final 15 points to 13. On the way to the final they defeated London Irish and Letchworth. The team: P.B.Arbib, R.Young, S.Young, M.Britton, C.Newton, J.V.Adey, J.Adey.

The club had grown considerably over the last few years and the main club committee was reorganised to incorporate the sub-committee chairmen. Chairman of the club committee was A.G.Griffiths, D.J.Nash as Membership Secretary, H.V.Ettenfield as Bar Secretary, D.A.Harman as Pavilion and Ground Secretary, A.S.Pegley as Publicity Secretary, G.Arbib as Social Secretary and H.R.Trott as Fund Raising Secretary.

During the season the club lost its longest serving Vice President, *Khaki* Roberts QC. He

had lived his professional, private and sporting life to the full. At eighty years of age, there were times when he required the help of several City of London constables to get his mellowed eighteen stone up four flights of stairs to his flat in King's Bench Walk. Chiltern RFC will always be grateful for his support and he will be especially remembered for the quality of his after dinner speeches.

The club committee had long considered various improvements to the dressing room, shower areas, bar and kitchen facilities. All required upgrading to cater for the increase in the number of club members. During the close season, under the watchful eye of Harry Trott and *Griff Griffiths*, the rebuilding was efficiently completed.

The original idea had been that the club would apply for a local government grant of about £13,000, which would cover the building, a groundsman's bungalow and purchase of the field for the extra pitch. At the time grants were available for recreational purposes but this had to be abandoned when central government cancelled all such loans. Not to be put off by this setback, Harry Trott and his committee raised £5,000 through functions and donations which covered the building modifications. This added three changing rooms, ten showers and three plunge baths. A new bar, extended tea room and extended clubroom area were also included.

Neville Compton, President of the Bucks County RU and Wasps, opened the new club extensions on 16 September 1967. Other guests included Councillor A.Coker, Chairman of Amersham Parish Council and Dr S.Mattingley, Chairman of Amersham Rural District Council. A match against the Bucks County XV to commemorate the occasion ended in a defeat for the club by 11 points to 3.

The club recruited several new players that were to stay with the club and serve on committees at various times throughout their long association with Chiltern. Eric Planken-Bichler and Piers Sabine who had both previously played for Maidenhead and Bill Webb who had learnt his rugby in London with Old Elliotonians and Rosslyn Park. Tony Tagent also joined to renew his partnership with Simon Curtis in the centre, a position they had occupied when at The Beacon School. Tony had gone on from the Beacon to play for Merchant Taylors School and its Old Boys, while Simon had played for Berkhamsted School and then due to his relocation in London, for a while shared his games at Chiltern. The result of the influx of players to the club was that the lower sides became stronger, with the A XV winning all their matches from the turn of the year and scoring over 400 points.

The AGM for the 1968-69 season was held at the club. P.L.Mason was in the chair, A.J.Baxter became 1st XV captain replacing his brother in law J.V.Adey, P.G.Toon A XV captain, Dr D.E.Stephens Extra A XV captain, R.I.A.Howard B XV captain, A.G.I.Withey Ex B XV captain.

The new committee as follows: A.G.Griffiths as Chairman, D.J.Rimmer as Secretary, A.G.O.Williams as Treasurer, W.G.Leckie as Match Secretary. D.J.Nash as Membership Secretary, H.V.Ettenfield as Bar Secretary, D.A.Harman as Pavilion & Ground Secretary, M.Chapman as Publicity Secretary. C.J.R.Pegley, A.G.O.Williams and G.C.Morcom became Vice Presidents of the club.

During the season the club gained the services of Danny Hale, a front row player who had played for the Welsh Secondary Schools and Tredegar before gaining first class experience in England with St Luke's College, Exeter and Bedford. He was the catalyst that

the club required to galvanise the latent talent at Chiltern into a formidable club side. As with players of the same calibre in the past such as Dick Wheeler, Richard Stuart-Prince, Trevor Davey and Brian Arbib, Danny was responsible for turning around the results of the club in a very short time.

Danny coached the forwards in the finer techniques associated with the scrum and was responsible for the 1st XV wearing numbered shirts, running out onto the pitch together as a team and meeting for all games at the clubhouse instead of Amersham station. He was the sports master at Raans School and responsible for introducing Alan Simmons to rugby and Chiltern. Later, when working for the Harrow Education Authority his wife moved back to Wales which put him under considerable pressure. He then moved to Australia.

The Vancouver Kats on tour to the London area played Chiltern having defeated Wasps, Saracens and London Irish. Old Millhillians had only previously beaten them until they suffered their second defeat at Weedon Lane 14 points to 8.

Chiltern Wanderers had a change of venue for their Easter tour. They travelled to The Hague, Holland for their first overseas tour. The first game of the tour was against The Hague Rugby Club, one of the strongest clubs in Holland. On this occasion they included six Dutch Internationals and surprisingly the Wanderers were winning 12 points to 0 with 15 minutes left, although the Dutch won 18 points to 12 with the last scores of the match. The Wanderers played two more Dutch teams. The Dutch National Students XV, winning 22 points to 3 and the Wrecht Rugby Club winning 15 points to 8. Piers Sabine scored 5 tries on tour and the second XV won all their games. During the tour Dr Eddie Stephens thought it was prudent to call all the players together to deliver a speech about sexually transmitted diseases together with advice about protection and prevention as the touring party's 50 seater coach toured the red light district of Amsterdam.

Philip Joseph Maguire became a club member during the 1960s. Phil was considered by his colleagues and friends to be a most serious and sincere person. Phil originated from Castlederg, Co Tyrone and played first class rugby in Ireland before a serious head injury halted his playing career. Moving to Amersham, Phil found work in Slough as a sales representative for Birds Eye Food Products. He became a member of the Hertfordshire and London Referee's Society, eventually taking charge of first class matches, whenever possible returning to Chiltern after a match.

On Saturday 18 May, Phil was in charge of a first class match at Coventry. On the way back down the M1 he stopped to help a motorist who had broken down in the rain. He was hit and killed, at the age of 28, by a car that ran onto the hard shoulder out of control. He was buried in his hometown of Castlederg, the funds for the funeral raised by his colleagues at work and members at Chiltern. Graham Risk and Tom Kearney represented the Chiltern club at the funeral on May 21 1969. Graham recalls that he suffered a minor shock when the unknown twin brother opened the door to welcome them to their home. The excess cash from the funeral collection was donated by the Maguire family to Chiltern for a trophy awarded to the Player of the Season.

Many impressive players have since won the coveted silver cup in the years since 1969: A.D Page, A.Baxter, C.Newton, A.Tagent, A.Roddie, P.Stafford, J.Rowlands, A.Packham, S.Curtis, D.MacIntosh, I.Hannah, D.Carlike, S.Porter, C.Holmes, P.Springford, A.Arbib, S.Stally, J.Salmon,

T.Holmes, M.Littlejohns, S.Virlombier, C.Luker, D.Richardson, B.Adams, M.Adey, D.Choules, B.Richardson.

At the AGM for the 1969-70 season, A.G.Griffiths was in the chair. Team Captains as follows: C.Newton 1st XV captain, P.G.Toon A XV captain, D.E.Stephens Extra A XV captain, R.I.A.Howard B XV captain, M.E.Cork Ex B XV captain, N.D.Miles captain Chiltern 100s. The committee was elected as follows: A.G.Griffiths as Chairman, D.J.Rimmer as Secretary, A.G.O.Williams as Treasurer, W.G.Leckie as Match Secretary. P.G.White as Membership and Publicity Secretary, C.J.C.Calder as Bar Secretary, M.J.Fielding as Team Secretary.

H.F.Trott accepted the club's invitation to become a Vice President of the club. Harry Trott joined the club in 1948 and became Secretary in 1957. Harry was deeply involved in the rebuilding of the club in 1960. He resigned as Secretary in 1961 but continued to serve on the committee until 1975.

Clive Newton's election as 1st XV captain coincided with Danny Hale's inspired resurgence and the introduction of Bill Patterson, who had previously played for The British Lions, England, Cheshire, Barbarians and Sale. Peter Stafford, England trialist, Barbarian, Cheshire and Rosslyn Park and Roddy Adams, the 6 foot 7 inch second row, who had previously been a helicopter pilot, on loan from the British Army to the Sultan of Oman. The excellent service allowed John A.Adey on the wing to run in a club record of 34 tries. John V.Adey also had an outstanding season as the Bucks County XV first choice flanker.

The club also recruited the services of David McIntosh. David had just left Glasgow University to join Amersham International as a research chemist and had taken up temporary accommodation in Chalfont St Peter. He was persuaded by Clive Newton to play rugby again. David had last played at Paisley Grammar School and then taken up football at university. David was an extremely talented sportsman, playing cricket for Amersham, Buckinghamshire and Scotland as well as an excellent golfer playing at Harewood Downs. Sandy Wood, another Scotsman, found a regular place in the 1st XV as a very mobile second row. Sandy by trade was a baker, working in Wycombe for Wonderloaf on the nightshift. On Saturday he would work until 9am, have four hours sleep and then play rugby, have a few drinks with the team and return to work for the nightshift at 10pm.

The club for the first time organised a regular sixth team, known as the Chiltern 100s, which eventually became the veterans team.

Buckinghamshire County RU introduced a Knockout Cup competition for the first time for the 12 senior member clubs, and games were to be played on Sundays. In the first round, Chiltern played Marlow having already lost to them at the beginning of the season 13 points to 18. The cup game was drawn 3 points all. The rules of the competition at that time stated the result should then be decided on the toss of a coin. Chiltern won the toss and drew Slough out of the hat for the semi final. Slough were a physical side that had beaten Chiltern 24 points to 6 earlier in the season, but Slough had not allowed for the new improved and remodeled Chiltern XV inspired by Danny Hale and Clive Newton. They defeated Slough 12 points to 8 in a hard fought game, hanging on over the last ten minutes with 14 men due to Tony Baxter suffering a broken leg that brought his 1st XV rugby career to a halt for two seasons.

Also injured and unavailable for the final was regular flanker Simon Pounds. His position

was filled by Welshman Jeff Diamond, a former Penarth 1st XV player but at that time a medic at Amersham Hospital and later in life, physio for Neath and subsequently an actor.

Aylesbury were to be the other finalists and were at the time the strongest side in the county. Aylesbury had already beaten Chiltern a few weeks earlier, 14 points to 11 and were confident that they could repeat the result. On the day, Aylesbury were ahead 6 points to 3, a penalty converted by Bill Patterson to an Aylesbury try and a penalty, when Ross Young scored in the corner following some fine handling and first time passing of the ball by Clive Newton and Tony Tagent. With the difficult conversion to win the match, Bill Patterson missed and the match went to a replay. The team for the first match: W.Patterson, R.Young, A.Tagent, C.Newton, J.Adey (three-quarters); P.Stafford, M.Fogg (half backs); D.Hale, M.Britton, J.Newton, S.Wood, R.Adams, J.Diamond, J.V.Adey, A.McDowell (forwards).

The second final was to be played on Easter Saturday at Chiltern. Over 600 spectators watched a thrilling game played in atrocious conditions. Aylesbury controlled the match throughout with the astute kicking from their outside half Bill Bevan, a first class player who was also the RAF XV captain. Aylesbury won 6 points to 0. The Chiltern side had been forced to make a change to the critical position of hooker when Martin Britton broke an ankle the week before the final during a training session. The training session followed a visit to the Varsity game at Twickenham and half the 1st XV, including Martin, were training under a severe alcoholic handicap. Martin discovered the damage a day later.

The 19th annual Chiltern Sevens was the most successful to date in which the club had participated. Chiltern I won the main competition and Chiltern II won the plate.

Chiltern I had defeated Farnham Common 14-5 in the first round, Beaconsfield 8-0 and then the mighty London Welsh 9-0 in the semi final. London Scottish, the favourites, had beaten Maidenhead in the other semi final. Chiltern II defeated Phoenix in the final of the plate.

At the AGM for the 1970-71 season, A.G.O.Williams resigned his position as Treasurer after holding that position for 22 years, including the difficult rebuilding of the clubhouse period. Arnold never played rugby but was persuaded to become Treasurer. By profession Arnold was a bank manager, working in the Gerrards Cross branch of Lloyds. Jimmy Perry the author and scriptwriter for the very successful television series Dad's Army, resided in Gerrards Cross during the war time years and it was said that he had based the character of Captain Mainwaring on the personality of A.G.O.Williams.

Alan Simmons, as a fifteen year old, started his illustrious rugby career with his very first Chiltern 1st XV match against Slough, Saturday 14 November 1970, playing in the second row. The club also recruited a very good hooker in Barry Hornby. Clive Newton had initially persuaded Barry to join Chiltern when he was found to be playing for High Wycombe.

The club lost the services of Danny Hale who was injured early in the season but found his personality and coaching methods clashed with those of Peter Stafford. The club was partially compensated by the presence of the old Beacon School player Chris Turk in the front row. His father was a senior partner in Hetherington, Pretty and Ellis, estate agents in Amersham. They also lost the valuable services of Bill Patterson at full back when he decided to play hockey again.

The club at this time gained many players who played nearly all of their rugby in the

lower XVs. Malcom Pease was the epitome of a well-dressed rugby player, his kit was not cleaned from season to season. A former Hendon player, Malcom joined when he moved to Chalfont St Peter following his company move as the manager of Perrys, the Rickmansworth Ford Motor car dealers. He retired from rugby many years later when his rugby shirt could not be sewn up any more by his eight year old daughter, his wife had given up several seasons earlier. Ian Elliason was also another long time servant of Chiltern who made a few brief appearances for the 1st XV. Ian had joined the club from Hemel Hempstead, then known as Camelot, as a good club standard mobile back row was he was unfortunate to have John V. Adey in opposition for the number eight spot when at the peak of his career

The club surprisingly lost to Newlands Park Teachers Training College 3 points to 0 in the first round of the Bucks Cup. The Chiltern Sevens, main and plate competitions, for the second season running, were won by Chiltern. Chiltern I defeated Roxeth Manor, Luton, London Welsh, Leighton Buzzard and Richmond 24 points to 3 in the final. The team: J.A.Adey, C.Newton, R.Young, D.McIntosh, S.Pounds, B.Hornby, A.McDowell. Chiltern II won the plate competition defeating Luton 24 points to 0 in the final. The team: A.Clarke, C.Turk, M.Britton, A.Page, P.Sabine, M.Fogg, B.East.

The AGM for the 1971-72 season passed a resolution to increase the annual subscriptions to: Full playing member over 21 years £5.00; Full playing member under 21 years £1.50; Non playing member £1.00.

The club recruited some excellent new players who have been and are still great servants to the club. Tony Hale, a former Old Hertfordians and Hertfordshire player, was also one of a select group of parents who formed the Chiltern Mini section of the club. Jim Kent, a former Wasps and Middlesex prop, and Geoff Rowlands a Chalfont schoolteacher. Geoff had played for the British Students when at Carmarthen Teachers Training College and had first class experience in Wales with Bridgend and Maesteg. Geoff Rowlands made the rare leap from the Extra B XV to 1st XV in as few weeks as possible. He was also later to become a 1st XV captain.

The club also gained a very useful acquisition in Mike Wilson, a former 1st XV captain of Northern RFC. Mike was to become a great asset to the club as a 1st XV captain and then as the Fixture Secretary for many years. On the negative side, Chiltern lost the services of John A.Adey with a broken ankle and Clive Newton with a broken nose. Clive had finally been selected for the Bucks County XV, making his debut for Bucks against Berkshire, a game that Bucks lost 3 points to 10.

The club tour was organised to Belgium where games were organised against Antwerp and Brussels British. *Wiggy* Newton, son of *Paddy* Newton and brother of loose head prop *Curly* Newton had made his very formidable presence felt in the 1st XV playing at tight head. Most of the opposition front rows also got to know him quite well. *Wiggy* was and still is a larger than life Amersham character. It was quite normal for *Wiggy* to bag a couple of rabbits for his tea on his way over the fields to a Saturday game. *Wiggy* was always at his most outrageous on the club tours. He had been asked to return home early from the 1969 tour of Holland where the local hotelkeeper did not fully appreciate *Wiggy* eating his pet parrot. He was also well known in Antwerp and Paris.

The club recruited several new players for the 1972-73 season. Brian Richardson Senior,

Gosforth and Percy Park, played his first 1st XV game against Borderers. His sons David and Brian were later to play for Chiltern from mini age group up to 1st XV. Joe Morgan Senior, a Liverpool and Saracens, played his first game against Oxford Old Boys, the same match that Tony Roddis, Leicester Viper, started his rugby career with Chiltern. Joe Morgan's son, Joe Morgan Junior was also one of the clubs first mini players.

Colin Maloney, David Goode and Mike Wild, who had previous first class experience with Pontypridd, started for the 1st XV against Hemel Hempstead. Colin had played social rugby for The Royal Exchange RFC at their sumptuous grounds at Hampton Court before moving to Seer Green and joining Chiltern. His family also became great supporters of the club. Colin serving on the committee in numerous posts over a number of years and his wife and family taking over the ever-increasing duty of post match club teas. Ian Henderson was also a useful acquisition as the 1st XV hooker taking over the duty from the injured Barry Hornby. Peter Stafford's brother James turned out for the occasional game, he was at St Luke's College, Exeter. He later played for Rosslyn Park and made ten appearances for Hertfordshire. The 1st XV lost in the first round of the Bucks Cup to Aylesbury.

The club's Easter tour was organised to Savigny, in the northern suburbs of Paris. The tour really took off when the Chiltern party commandeered the ferry's restaurant and held an impromptu concert, in which the ferry's restaurant personnel took part. The first match was played against Savigny on a bone hard grassless pitch. The French club treated the game as a serious International club occasion, entertaining the tourists royally the night before the grand match with liberal amounts of the local wine drunk supposedly alongside the players from the Savigny team.

At kick-off, the Chiltern team did not recognise any of the opposition from the previous evening, losing 54 points to 3. The second game was against Compiegnois Rugby Club that turned out to be in Compiègne, 40 kilometres away. When the team recovered from travel sickness, they managed to hold the French side to 15 points all draw.

The AGM for the 1973-74 season was held at the club. P.L.Mason was in the chair. The officers of the club were elected: R.D.Adams as 1st XV captain, D.W.T.Shannon A XV captain, J.R.Carpenter Extra A XV captain, M.E.Cowley B XV captain, D.Springford Ex 'B' XV captain, N.Dawson Chiltern 100's captain. Dr D.E.Stephens as Chairman, J.Leggett as Secretary, R.C.B.Horsley as Treasurer, W.G.Leckie as Match Secretary, V.Ettenfield as Membership Secretary, H.F.Trott as Bar Secretary, M.J.Fielding as Team Secretary, C.Newton as Social Secretary, J.Page as Pavilion Secretary, K.Newton as Ground Secretary, Mini and Junior Organiser A.Hale.

20 October 1973 was an historic day in the history of Chiltern RFC. Eddie Stephens recalls, "that during the course of a post match convivial drink and chat with Ken Williams of Marlow, whom the 1st XV had just defeated, Eddie learned that they were organising a mini rugby day the following Sunday and inquired whether Chiltern would be interested." Instantly, Eddie was able to produce the man who was to become Chiltern's Pied Piper of mini rugby, Tony Hale, at that very moment playing outside the clubhouse with a group of young lads who were sons of the Chiltern players from the afternoon's games. On Sunday 28 October 1973, the first Chiltern mini team played in earnest. The team: James Kent, Peter Springford, Adrian Planken-Bickler, Kari Hale, David Stephens, David Richardson, Charles

Kent, Joe Morgan Junior, Robert Quick, Kevin Newton, Kevin Fielding and Phillip Hilton.

Junior rugby had been tried at many clubs over the years but had never been successful. This was due to the difficulties of organising thirty boys with no knowledge of the game on a full size pitch. Ray Williams, Welsh RFU coaching organiser, who realised that once the basic skills were taught the boys then wanted to use them in competitive play, noted this fact. As a result, he devised a scaled down version of the game that involved playing nine a side with simplified laws and on a reduced playing area, generally a strip across the full size pitch. This gave a pitch size of about 68 metres long by 22 metres to 36 metres width depending on the boy's age group. Ray Williams ideas and methods were first published in 1973 in a book called 'Rugby for Beginners'.

So fertilisation was ensured, with the idea publicised in the Bucks Examiner. The following weekend forty boys turned up, aged from five to eighteen. Under the supervision of Tony Hale, Eric Planken-Bichler, Dave Springford, Bill Webb and Eddie Stephens mini and junior rugby started. A few weeks later, Sunday 25 November 1973, the official registration of mini and junior players took place. It was obvious that proper supervision was necessary, other clubs had experienced the same problem in the past and the movement had fallen apart through lack of organization.

The club quickly organised itself into age groups and then found a team of administrators and coaches from parents who wanted to re-enter the game for each age group. The system was successful and the club has never looked back and has set the standard for other clubs to follow. The demand for mini rugby was astonishing and soon over a hundred boys were turning up on a Sunday morning to take part in a mini session. The next stage was to satisfy the boys desire for competition against other clubs and so a meeting was arranged with Thames Valley rugby clubs to set up rules for competitions. It was to be only a year later, 14 October 1974, that Chiltern ran its first mini tournament in which 450 boys took part, watched by an estimated 1000 spectators.

The committee decided to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the club one season early and arranged an Anniversary dinner on 4 May 1974 at The Bellhouse, Beaconsfield. The prime guest and speaker was current England selector J.D.Currie of England, Barbarians, Bristol and Harlequins. John had made his home in Beaconsfield and had turned out for the Beaconsfield club on the odd occasion. When in his prime he partnered R.W.D.Marques in England's second row, it was surprising to find that for such a well capped International player, he was only 6 foot 2 inches tall. The Harlequins also supplied the other guest, J.J.McPartlin of Scotland, Barbarians, Harlequins and Oxford University.

Alan Simmons won the club's best forward nomination. Geoff Rowlands won the best three-quarter award and was presented with the Phillip Maguire Cup. The Paddy Clark Cup was presented to Richard Adams as captain of the most successful team in the club.

The club's chairman recalled a season that had seen mini rugby blossom at the Chiltern club. Eddie described mini rugby 'as a refreshing innovation'. He praised the enthusiasm and the keenness of the players involved and added, 'ability and flair abounds limitless'. Eddie did however warn against all rugby players from taking the game too seriously. He posed the question: "Are we in danger of too professional an approach". Perhaps showing the first signs of the Anglicisation of a Welshman.

The club made a unanimous gesture to Pat Mason by inviting him back to become President for the season. The club also made several 50th Anniversary fixtures. London Scottish sent their 1st XV which included their three Scottish Internationals A.F.McHarg, A.Biggar and M.Biggar to play a mid week evening game for which they presented to the club a commemorative plaque and the Bucks County XV who also played a mid week fixture.

The pre-season training had been well attended, with a larger playing membership than at any other time in the club's history. The extra training and membership was not reflected in the 1st XV results, in particular the anniversary game against London Scottish.

The season started with Alan Simmons starting as 1st XV hooker. Alan had waited since the 1969-70 season, where he played in the second row for the 1st XV. Andy Packham had also joined the club from Moseley but it took him several weeks to move from the Extra A XV to the 1st XV, to become one of the finest stand offs to play for the Chiltern club. He was fortunate to play for Bucks County XV against Berks at Chiltern when they had a last minute call off. He impressed enough to play for them for the rest of the season, helping Bucks to their first ever Southern divisional championship. They were beaten by Gloucestershire, the eventual champions, 10 points to 0 in the quarter final. Andy was awarded a Bucks County RU cap, the first cap awarded to a Chiltern player. The club also obtained the services of Gerry Pearson, a very useful loose head prop who had previous experience with Harpenden. His time with Chiltern was all too short before he moved on again, this time to Surrey.

The club played a return fixture against Savigny, Paris, and this time the French were suffering with 'travel' sickness, the 1st XV winning by 34 points to 18. The Chiltern A XV was defeated 34 points to 10.

The 1974-75 season AGM approved the committee's recommendation to increase the annual subscriptions by 10 percent: Full playing member over 21 years £5.50; Full playing member under 21 years £1.65; Non playing member £1.10.

The club appointed Peter Stafford as the first official club coach. However, rugby at this level was still an amateur sport in the truest sense, but it was all about to change for ever.

At the end of the 1974-75 season, the committee at High Wycombe RFC was under pressure from its 1st XV captain Fred Fox, who had accused the club of being comparable to England in that they had players abounding but played the game too casually and would never be all conquering until their attitude changed. High Wycombe RFC committee was about to change idle bar talk into fact, the facilities, administration and team organisation were reorganised, leaving all the other local clubs trailing behind for a number of years.

Other local clubs, notably Marlow, Henley and Maidenhead followed the progressive trend and a great division quickly appeared in playing standards that had previously fluctuated around the performance of a few individuals. Chiltern witnessed these changes and stood by. The club lost in the first round of the Bucks Cup to Marlow in a controversial game where the Chiltern centre and star player Andy Packham was knocked out in the first minutes with a deliberate punch.

The Mini and Juniors continue to have many successful coaches and organisers, some outstanding and much admired throughout the world of mini and junior rugby. Such a coach was Bill Webb. Bill joined the club in 1965 when his club Old Elliotonians folded as a result of the school turning comprehensive and rugby being discontinued. Bill tried Rosslyn Park for

a season but after moving house to the Chorleywood area decided thankfully, to play for Chiltern. Bill started his 1st XV Chiltern career playing in the second row with John V. Adey, the club captain that season, playing at the start of the season against a Bucks XV to commemorate the opening of the clubhouse extensions. In 1979, Bill along with some heavyweight support from senior club members, decided to form the 100s as a veterans team. At the time, this was against considerable opposition from other club members. The outcome is now club history.

After seeing the 100s on their way, Bill turned his attention to coaching the Chiltern Minis and Juniors. Following outstanding success, this led to coaching the Bucks Colts and Bucks Under 21s, who reached the County semi finals for the first time. Some great club players have learnt their basic rugby skills from Bill, including Paddy Young (Wasps), David Jackson and Duncan Patterson (London Scottish), Shaun Dinnon (Oxford University and Blackheath) and David Choules (Saracens). It was again a natural progression that Bill should become 1st XV coach in the 1989-90 season when the club played for the first time in the Southern Counties League.

The period between 1976 and 1983 is probably best remembered for the Chiltern teams rather than the club's 1st XV performances. The Minis and Juniors operated with virtual autonomy and there was little contact between the Saturday members (Seniors) and the Sunday membership (Minis and Juniors).

Probably the most notable XV was Peter Jalland's Extra Bs. For many seasons throughout the 1980s Peter captained a team, that was almost as strong as the 1st XV. Peter himself had moved to Amersham in 1978 and was fresh from playing for Bristol. On joining the club, he was instructed at his first training session to go and train with the Extras and not bother the 1st XV training session. Unfortunately, this was not an uncommon attitude at Chiltern during this period. Many undiscovered talents were playing in lower XVs.

The 'grass roots' rugby played by the Extra Bs continued after the match in the club bar and many pubs on the homeward journey. The forwards were a legend of their own, for many seasons at selection meetings the names of Bazzard, Bazzard, Maddock, Phasey, Reed, Newton, White, and Jalland were repeated every week. The Extra B XV together with the 100s also provided the backbone of the club's committee and administration throughout the late 1980s, which in retrospect was the peak era of membership and redevelopment.

Other memorable XVs in the past 25 seasons have all been associated with their captains such as Malcom Cork and David Springford's B XV from 1974 to 1980, who managed to keep together a very useful collection of players.

Bill Lang and Reverend Tom Thorp's 1980 to 1984 Extra A XVs brought together a blend of youth and experience that served the club well in later seasons. Dave Richardson at 15 years of age played alongside Bill Patterson and Tony Hale. The Veterans XV, first formed in 1977 but known formally from 1979 as the Chiltern 100s, has continued to be an important source of personnel for club administration and financial support as well as being consistently one of the best supported and most successful club XVs.

Not all the problems were associated with the club's internal disorganization. The grading of clubs by the RFU started as early as 1981 and was based on the historical results of fixtures against other clubs, in particular, Bucks clubs.

The original paper issued by the RFU referred to the introduction of leagues and included an attempt at seeding clubs, although the facts look very different today. The top league for the Southern area, the Southern League (today's equivalent of National League Three) included Saracens. High Wycombe were one league below placed in the South and South West League with Aylesbury and Marlow in the South League. Chiltern were placed a further league below.

Chiltern during the late 1970s and early 1980s had a run of indifferent results and were generally struggling to keep pace. However, Chiltern finally organised themselves on rugby matters in 1980, when Clive Newton, Richard Yelland, Tony Hale, Colin Maloney and Gwynn Howells formed the nucleus of the 'playing panel'. Unfortunately, the panel had minimal success. The 1st XV results were initially improved and the A XV and Extra A XV introduced senior rugby to the younger generation with the support of some experienced senior players. This worked well but the eventual fall out at training, injuries and general malaise in the senior club proved once again that a key factor for total improvement was missing.

In 1982 through the connections of Tony Aplin, the club played a charity match in aid of Stoke Mandeville Hospital against an invitation XV that included 14 British Lions from their South African Tour the previous season. The score was a flattering 62-20 to the Internationals who voted centre Sean Porter as Chiltern's man of the match. It was the initial introduction to the club of Tony Aplin and his organisational powers.

The senior club was making slow progress but the strengths of the club were being recognised at colts, junior and mini levels. The senior club made little improvement until the 1983 season. After a poor start, the combination of John Carpenter as the new club Chairman, Clive Newton, Stan Griffiths, Martin Bugg and Peter Jalland on the playing committee and the introduction of Tony Aplin as 1st XV manager the senior club was transformed with the addition of Tony's former Welsh rugby playing friends.

The mid 1980s cannot be passed without mention of Tony Aplin's teams. Tony, a sportsman, but primarily a fanatical Welsh rugby supporter and a new neighbour in Weedon Lane, took on the mantle of 1st XV manager in 1983 when Chiltern's results had reached rock bottom. The 1st XV had only three wins up to 10 December. With early season defeats, including a 49-0 thrashing against Leighton Buzzard, it was more than a Chiltern rugby supporter could endure. Tony a man whose ideas of how the game and the club should be run was ten years ahead of his time. Personal contact was made to his friends in Wales, recruiting the services of four key players. Former Wales B Prop Gareth Howells, tight head prop Mel Bevan, second row Lyn '*the Leap*' Jones, who went on to play for the Welsh 'Golden Oldies' and fly half Mostyn '*Reg*' Richards.

What a difference a weekend makes. The lift given to the younger Chiltern players was immediate and soon the results, thirteen wins from twenty games and with the assistance of coach Glynn White, the whole attitude and confidence started to turn in favour of Chiltern.

Notable wins against Marlow and Aylesbury (Cup), Reading, Hendon, Middlesex Cup finalists, Cheltenham and London Irish and with a quarter final cup defeat to High Wycombe 4 -3 which was there to be won with a last minute penalty was proof that the corner had been turned on the playing aspect and status of the club. Players wanted to play and soon new, fringe and 1st XV players were training, many for the first time on a regular basis and

contesting 1st XV places.

Under the control of John Carpenter and with help from Mike Spencer and Jeff Choules the clubhouse refurbishment moved forward. A new bar area and showers replaced the old baths, outlawed by the RFU because of the aids scare. The club was fielding seven senior sides and this became one of the peak periods for Chiltern club rugby.

The juniors were winning at most age groups and supplying Bucks with quality players. The minis were also busy starring, especially an under eight side that went to April 1990 winning 213 games without defeat and entering the Guinness Book of Records.

Finally during this period of the club's history the first and probably the most notable team was that which won the Bucks Cup for the first time in 1987.

The Bucks Cup, later the Alan Grimsdell Cup, was inaugurated in 1969 and after many seasons of disappointing results and under-achievement by many Chiltern teams, the cup was finally Chiltern's, beating the favourites Marlow 9-8 on a muddy Chiltern pitch. The whole team were heroes but a young 19 year old, David Choules, won the match with a 40-yard conversion, in pouring rain from the touchline with the last kick of the match.

The Bucks Cup Winners: Peter Springford, Dave Daniel, Jez Salmon, Simon Stalley, Brendan Adams (three-quarters); David Choules, Huw Thomas (half backs); Steve Fuller, Martin Watson, Steve Kinsey, Chris Smith, Steve McGee, Russell Davies, Gary Broome, Alex Pegley (forwards); James Hamilton, Bruce Yelland (subs).



Chiltern RFC 1st XV 1962-63: (back) A.Pegley, D.Harman, A.Stevens, F.Troupe, R.Jackson, A.Scott, S.Young, R.Alexander
(front) A.Baxter, W.Lemmon, J.Adey, B.Arbib (Capt), C.Pegley, J.Wells, J.Smith



The opening of the posts, dedicated to Trevor Davey



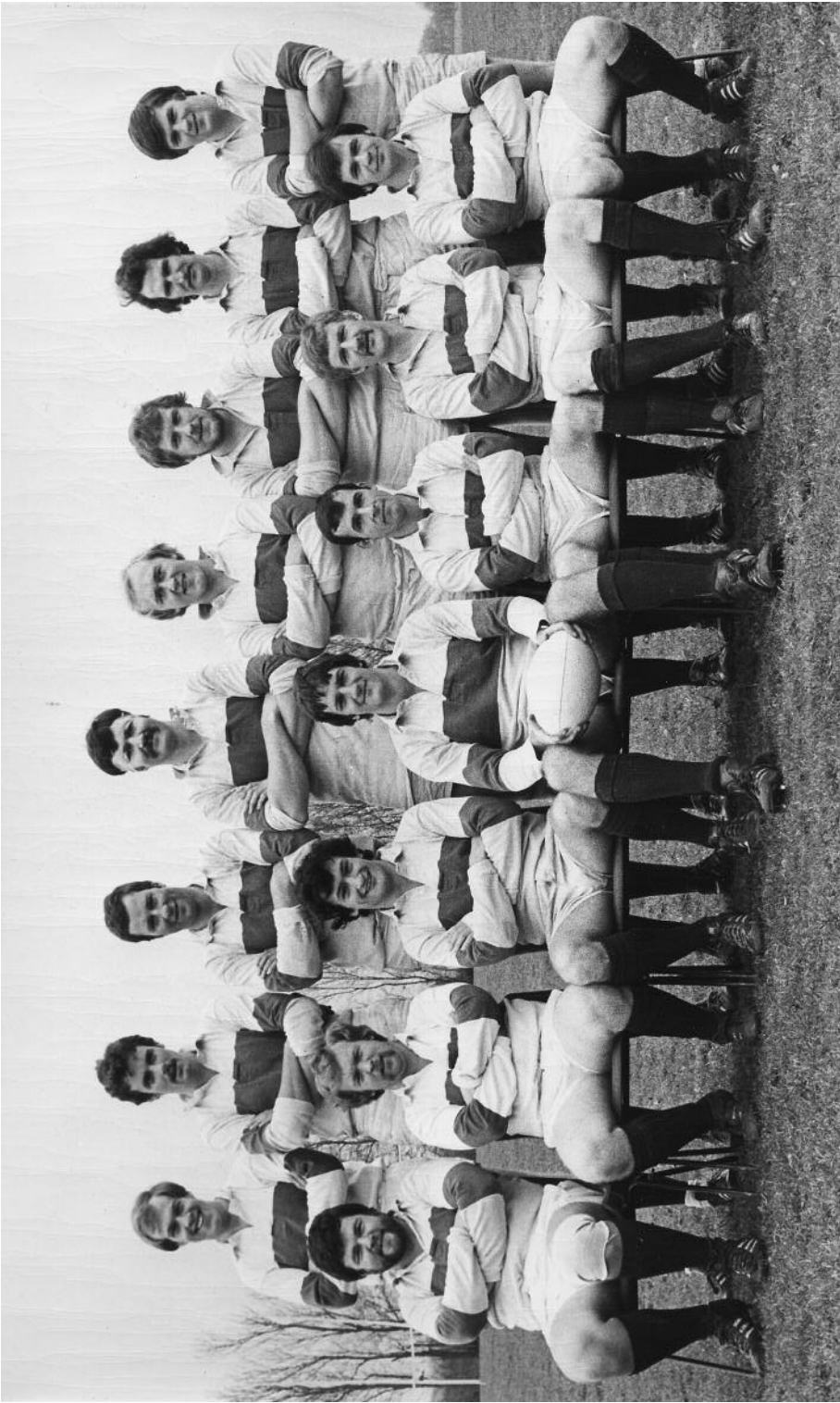
Chiltern RFC Sevens, Winners 1970:
J.Adey, A.Wood, A.McDowell, J.Adey, D.Macintosh, C.Newton, P.Stafford



Chiltern RFC 1st XV 1970-71: (back) D.Shannon, C.Turk, B.East, R.Wilson, P.Moller, R.Simmonds, S.Pounds, D.Macintosh
(front) J.Adey, R.Young, A.McDowell, C.Newton (Capt), P.Stafford, J.Newton, R.Hornby



Chiltern RFC 1st XV 1975-76: (back) M.Wilson, P.Osborne, S.Fuller, J.Rowlands, C.Maloney, M.Brigdon, A.Packham, I.Adams
(front) J.Morgan Snr, C.Newton, D.Macintosh, S.Curtis (Capt), A.Simmons, N.Towell, I.Hannah



Chiltern RFC 1st XV 1980-81: (back) R.Berkley, N.Toogood, T.Pattison, P.Osborne, M.Bugg, T.Stickland, R.Anderson, D.Carlsle
(front) S.Fuller, A.Littlewood, I.Shaw, R.Yelland (Capt), D.Macintosh, D.Martin, P.Warren



President's International XV: can you work out who's who? For clues, see poster right.
Chiltern's President Tony Aplin is seated third from left, next to Allan Martin



Chiltern RFC 1st XV: (back)

INTERNATIONAL RUGBY

COMES TO AMERSHAM

TREVOR DAVEY MEMORIAL MATCH

SUNDAY 17th OCTOBER

President's

INTERNATIONAL XV

Versus

CHILTERN R.F.C.

See the Rugby Greats V. the Rugby Faithfuls

WEEDON LANE, AMERSHAM
BAR AND REFRESHMENTS 1 p.m.
MINI RUGBY 2 p.m.
INTERNATIONAL MATCH 2.30 p.m.

| INTERNATIONAL TEAM FROM: | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| DUSTY HARE <small>Leicester and England</small> | LES KEENE <small>Aberavon and Wales</small> | ALLAN PHILLIPS * <small>Cardiff and Wales</small> | CLIVE BURGESS <small>Ebbw Vale and Wales</small> |
| ELGAN REES * <small>Neath and Wales</small> | GARETH DAVIES * <small>Cardiff and Wales</small> | BOBBY WINDSOR * <small>Pontypool and Wales</small> | VINCE CANNON <small>Northampton and Barbarians</small> |
| PAUL DODGE * <small>Leicester and England</small> | STEVE SMITH * <small>Sale and England</small> | ALLAN MARTIN * <small>Aberavon and Wales</small> | JEFF SQUIRE * <small>Pontypool and Wales</small> |
| RAY GRAVELL * <small>Llanelli and Wales</small> | GRAHAM PRICE * <small>Pontypool and Wales</small> | BOB WILKINSON <small>Bedford and England</small> | TONY NEARY * <small>England</small> |
| LES CUSWORTH <small>Leicester and England</small> | PETER WHEELER * <small>Leicester and England</small> | DEREK QUINNELL * <small>Llanelli and Wales</small> | ROGER UTTLEY * <small>England</small> |
| * BRITISH LION | | SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY | |

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In aid of Jimmy Savile's Stoke Mandeville Appeal

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WATFORD



Chiltern RFC 1st XV 1985-86: (back) R.Anderson, M.Watson, G.Howells, L.Jones, J.Jones, A.Pegley, T.Stickland, T.Aplin (Manager)
(front) P.Evans, S.Metcalf, H.Thomas, R.Davies (Capt), M.Richards, P.Springford, J.Harrison, A.Arbib

Ash Grove 1987-2004

Chapter 6

With the onset of the new league structure in 1986, the club retired the Welsh connection. The decision by the committee was made after unrelenting pressure from clubs who thought Chiltern was paying its players. This was not true as the club's finances at that time would never extend even to minimal expenses.

Unfortunately, High Wycombe, Henley, and Leighton Buzzard dropped long standing friendly fixtures that may have been kept with some favourable adjustments. Also, Marlow and Aylesbury withdrew fixtures, which was rather sad as they were not in contention for a league placing.

Many other clubs such as Ealing, Reading, Maidenhead, Barnet, Harpenden, Stockwood Park, Luton and Hemel Hempstead stood firm and we are pleased, where possible, to continue an association with these clubs.

With hindsight, it set Chiltern back fifteen seasons in our attempt to climb up the leagues and to maintain parity with 'senior' Bucks clubs.

It was ironic after all the problems that Chiltern should win the Bucks Cup, without an 'Aplin' Welshman in sight, a season after Tony had left to become chairman of Chesham United Football Club, another Aplin personal triumph.

Following the Burgess Report and endless debates at RFU, the league structures were finalised and Chiltern was placed in Bucks & Oxon 1. In the 1989 season, Chiltern was finally promoted to Southern Counties as champions of Bucks & Oxon 1 under the guidance of Eric Planken-Bichler and Bill Webb.

Two seasons later, winning only two games but due to Divisional rearrangements, Chiltern was once again placed in Bucks & Oxon 1. It took until the season of 1993-94 for Chiltern finally to start a move back up the leagues.

The resurgence was initially started under the influence of 1st XV captain Mark Littlejohn in 1991, a former athlete who upgraded both the training and social skills of the 1st XV squad. This continued with David Richardson returning to Chiltern after many successful seasons with Wasps and was augmented with the coaching of Chiltern rugby legend, Alan Simmons, also returning from Wasps. The resurgence was completed when David Choules returned from Saracens.

In 1992, with the arrival of a new rugby club in Chesham, it was decided that it was necessary to identify the club with its local town of Amersham and so the club changed its name to Amersham & Chiltern RFC.

Successive promotions as champions in 1993-94 and 1994-95 secured a position in South West 2 East. George 'The Greek' Grammenos and Steve Dunn were 1st XV managers during this period and contributed much with their boundless enthusiasm to the spirit which lifted the side through many tough matches.

This tremendous spirit continued in the 1st team squad and was rewarded with four famous Bucks Cup victories in close succession...

Alan Grimsdell Cup Winners

1996-97: Amersham & Chiltern 18 Olney 7
 1999-00: Amersham & Chiltern 35 Marlow 3
 2000-01: Amersham & Chiltern 41 Slough 7
 2003-04: Amersham & Chiltern 19 Marlow 18

Meanwhile, in 1994 Peter Osborne, a former Chiltern 1st XV player in the 1970s, became Chairman of the club and Stuart Fordyce, son of Alistair, became Treasurer. With these appointments and with higher standards required within the club both on and off the field, paid appointments were made within the administration of the bar, clubhouse, catering and ground maintenance.

A major advance was the appointment of a schools liaison officer Matt McHardy, a New Zealander, who also coached the backs and played centre. Matt made the game of rugby a simple affair and coached the 1st XV to its best ever league seasons. Matt's departure two seasons later to take on a senior post with Auckland rugby has proved to be a difficult position to fill. Overseas coaches have the choice of almost every club in Europe to seek work, causing Chiltern in more recent years to turn to its own homegrown resources. In 2000, the club appointed Tyrone Sterry as Community Development Officer and later Sean Jarrold (sponsored by SportsMatch) was appointed by Chairman Kyte.

The majority of funding for all these assisted positions in the club has been raised by relatively few of the club membership. Leading the fund raising, season following season, has been Roddy Owen, Chris Smith and Clive Newton and their posse from the Red Lion at Little Missenden together with a few notable annual contributions and assistance from Peter Osborne, Simon Curtis, Jonathon Royals, Roy Jarrold, Stan Griffiths and Brian Arbib.

At this time it was becoming clear that the clubhouse needed to be upgraded or even replaced. A meeting was called to gain the support of the membership. Plans were initially drawn up by Lyn Edwards and fundraising started. A team including David and Geoff Choules and Roy Jarrold developed the plans and Glyn Roberts pulled together an excellent but ultimately unsuccessful bid for a grant from the National Lottery. Eventually, a plan was agreed and permission granted for a two phase reconstruction of the pavilion in the summer of 2002, under the chairmanship of Peter Kyte, the shower and changing room area of the club was demolished and replaced with an efficient modern structure, at a cost of £150,000. Plans are now well advanced to complete the second phase of the reconstruction in 2005 and when finished the club will have excellent facilities for all members to enjoy.

Chiltern Colts rugby from the 1980s onwards flourished under the informative control of Stan Griffiths, Tony Bottomley, John Killingley, Roy Jarrold, Peter Kyte, Mike Bray and lately Tony Carne. This has meant that Bucks Colts and Bucks Under 21s also prospered at these times – yet another perennial point in favour of Chiltern overlooked until recent years by Bucks County administration.

Many of our younger players have represented Bucks Colts, Bucks Under 21s, South/South West of England, Anglo-Scots, Scottish Under 21s and England Under

16/18/21s. Patrick Young, captained the Under 18 England Schools playing alongside Hackney, Pilgrim, Tony Underwood, Martin Haag and Neil Back before joining Wasps. In recent years Josh Lewsey has made it all the way to play for the full England XV.

But unfortunately, losing Colts as club members is a problem that is very difficult to solve. Many move out of the area to university, start careers and seek cheaper first-time housing. On the positive side, sheer persistence from some of the outgoing Colts managers, particularly Roy Jarrold, Peter Kyte and Stan Griffiths, has led to the return of former players to the senior club. In the 2003-04 season, 34 players who came through Minis and Juniors played for the 1st XV, including no less than 16 of the 21 players in the Bucks Cup winning squad.

The Chiltern Mini and Junior sections throughout the past 30 years have achieved the very highest standards for coaching, organisation and management. Season upon season has brought unlimited success for all age groups. However, there are a number of challenges to be overcome to maintain this success.

Firstly, each generation of boys and girls faces ever more competition for valuable weekend leisure hours. It's got to be fun and players should be excited about turning up. Luckily, rugby is without doubt the greatest team sport in the world and kids love being encouraged to roll in the mud!

Secondly, many schools have discouraged competitive team sports or do not have the budgets for 'non essential' sports staffing. Often, it is up to the goodwill of individual teachers to give some of their valuable free time, usually unpaid, in organising fixtures, coaching and matches.

Lastly, professional clubs have been taking the 'cream' from local clubs into their academies. It's quite understandable, as it's exciting and flattering to both player and parents. However, the competition is so fierce and genuine opportunities for advancement are so slim, that the ambition and confidence of players is destroyed when rejected. These young sportsmen are often multi-talented and fail to return to rugby after the experience, preferring one of their other sports.

The future of the club undoubtedly lies with this co-operation between minis, juniors, colts and seniors. The senior club continues to field four XV's, and the minis and juniors remain as strong as ever, for example, with as many as 70 children in the U7 age group. As we go to press, the club has just completed one of its most successful seasons on and off the field. 1st XV won promotion and the Bucks Cup and there were notable victories throughout the age groups from U7 up to Colts.

This surely indicates that after 80 years, the legacy passed down from the founders of the club is still in good hands. The future looks as bright as ever for the next 80 years.

Let each of us remind ourselves of Colin Maloney's 1980 statement so that a 100-year publication on 'The history of Amersham & Chiltern RFC' can be published:

THE CHILTERN MESSAGE

"In this newsletter, I want to address myself to the younger playing members of our club, the Minis and Juniors. So, if you are under 19 read on..."

"Chiltern is enjoying greater playing success from season to season at all levels, Mini, Junior and Senior. It is very clear to me that we are making an excellent job of 'growing our own' in future talent. It is my very sincere hope that this process in the next decade will make our senior sides the best in the county."

"We all know where our major local competitors are: High Wycombe, Aylesbury and Marlow in this county - and all credit to those clubs for the high standard of play they achieve. We are already showing how well our 1st XV can play by this seasons record. If we can process the talent coming through the club intelligently we can build senior XVs that can devastate our current fixture list (and I am not exaggerating). After all, any rugby club only consists of human beings, and you chaps are showing by your results that you are rugby playing human beings of a very high standard. My message to you is simple..."

"Chiltern is your club and you are the club's future. You can make it formidable".



Chiltern RFC 1st XV 1989-90: (back) A.Arbib, M.Virlombier, E.Planken-Bichler, N.Necker, S.Gotch, J.Fisher, M.Watson, D.Richardson, D.Gray, I.Patterson, T.Stickland, H.Bennett, H.Ainsley-Jones, C.Sandys-Lumsdain, G.Holmes (front) B.Adams, D.Bell, B.Richardson, H.Thomas, A.Pegley (Capt), T.Broomby, M.Bugg, H.Lambert, J.Harrison, P.Springford



Amersham & Chiltern RFC 1st XV 1992-93: (back) R.Garratt, G.Moore, D.Goldsworthy, J.Fisher, J.Daly, J.Salmon, J.Royals, P.Luker, D.Richardson, H.Thomas, M.Thomlin (front) T.Stickland, M.O'Connell, B.Adams, C.Luker, M.Littlejohn (Capt), P.Thompson, S.Virlombier

AMERSHAM & CHILTERN RUGBY



August 1997

Photo courtesy Matt Fowler

First XV sets new and higher standard for the new season

The First XV's tremendous pre-Christmas performance ensured a top-half finish to the season, in spite of bad weather cancellations and the extended Cup run.

This led to fixture chaos which wrecked the league programme, the season finally grinding to a halt in May with two games still unplayed.

The team should have finished third, recording an excellent late win against second-placed Swanage. A big game against runaway leaders Bracknell showed

the strength of the team who surely now have no-one to fear in the league.

Match of the season was the Cup quarter final at High Wycombe as the team heroically defended its early lead against fancied opponents.

The semi at Aylesbury and the final at Olney were won with confident and disciplined displays and the team now qualifies for the all-important National Knock-Out Cup.

Excellent all-round performances from a small squad

Bucking great!

Last season built to a tremendous climax as Amersham & Chiltern were crowned county champions, winning the Bucks Cup for the first time since 1986. Defeating Olney 7-18 in the final, Chiltern had already dispensed with High Wycombe and Aylesbury on route. The pack's effort was "immense", led superbly by Alan Simmons playing his last ever game of rugby. The backs were devastating in defence and attack, but special mention must go to David Choules who kicked five penalties from six attempts and lastly to David "Superhero" Richardson who turned the whole match with a dropgoal from the halfway line.

with a stand-out contribution with the boot from top points scorer

the inspirational Alan Simmons.

The league is wide open next year and if the team can stay fit and healthy it can go all the way. A lot depends on hitting the ground running in the early games, that and the whole club getting behind the team.

Make a note now to support the First XV on 13 September at Maidenhead in the first round of the National Knock-Out Cup.

League South West Two (East) – Final Table 96/97

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | D | Pt |
|-------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|------|----|
| Bracknell | 22 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 868 | 201 | +667 | 44 |
| Swanage | 20 | 16 | 0 | 4 | 590 | 268 | +322 | 32 |
| Aylesbury | 22 | 11 | 1 | 10 | 432 | 401 | +31 | 23 |
| Dorchester | 22 | 11 | 0 | 11 | 414 | 366 | +48 | 22 |
| CHILTERN | 20 | 11 | 0 | 9 | 340 | 312 | +28 | 22 |
| Marlow | 22 | 10 | 1 | 11 | 432 | 444 | -12 | 21 |
| Chinnor | 22 | 10 | 0 | 12 | 386 | 474 | -88 | 20 |
| Sherborne | 19 | 10 | 0 | 9 | 329 | 473 | -144 | 20 |
| Oxford | 21 | 9 | 0 | 12 | 423 | 500 | -77 | 18 |
| Bournemouth | 21 | 6 | 0 | 15 | 329 | 473 | -144 | 12 |
| Chippenhams | 22 | 6 | 0 | 16 | 381 | 587 | -206 | 12 |
| Swindon | 21 | 4 | 0 | 17 | 256 | 681 | -425 | 8 |

NEW PLAYERS AND MEMBERS

If you would like to join our thriving and happy club, as a player or supporter, just call one of these numbers:

Senior 01494 724222
Age 13-19 01494 726705
Age 6-12 01494 874673
Non-playing 01494 727436

AMERSHAM & CHILTERN RUGBY



Christmas 1997

Young guns point the way

There is a new look to the First XV this season as the team brings on the next generation. Several newcomers have introduced an exciting playing style and the results have more than justified the selection policy.

The club's record as the best in the County has helped bring in new players and the exceptional talent at Colts level is a good omen for the future. Many of the First XV players have been through Mini, Junior and Colts and this is a tribute to the coaches and organisers.

There is a feeling in the club that the team could go all the way this year. Certainly we have no-one to fear and are more than capable of beating every team in the league.

The team was unbeaten in September with an outstanding 36-14 away win against Maidenhead in the National Cup, taking complete control against a team who on paper should have won comfortably.

A tough away fixture against Second Division Lydney in the next round saw the club go down fighting, not outclassed, but outdone by levels of fitness which were impossible to match at an "amateur" club.

Mixed league results in October;

It's cold and wet outside, you're hung over and Johnnie's lost his gunshield (yet again) - it must be Sunday, it must be Mini rugby! The sunny September mornings are a distant memory, so now is a good time to remind everyone of the success and fun that has been enjoyed so far this season.

The start of the season presented many new challenges, not least of which was the new Continuum ("rule book" to the uninitiated), issued by the RFU.

As consultation with clubs which run Mini rugby was kept to a minimum, ie, it came as a surprise to find that the new rules were unworkable. Fortunately, nearly every club we meet (except you know who, not a million miles from here) honour the Continuum by breach rather than slavish compliance.

The Chiltern Tournament was an outstanding success and we have received many compliments on the organisation, facilities and spirit in which it was played.

Thanks must go to many people, but in particular to Tim O'Mara, Sue "per Loo" Riley, Roddy Owen and the tournament committee.

Age Group Round-up

U7's are coached by Lynda (with a "y") Bond and Peter Anton, with Paul Belcher as age group organiser (01494 875028). They have few

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Chiltern 100s tours to Torquay 1986, Tavistock 1994 and Berlin 2003



Just one of many successful Chiltern Minis. This is the U10 squad in 1996, proudly showing winner trophies for tournaments at Saracens, Marlow and London Irish.



The Luvvies – God bless her, and all who sail in her!



Steve Dunn



Simon Curtis



George Grammenos



Chris Smith



Andy Gillanders



Tom Osborn



Colin Maloney



Stan Griffiths



Roddy Owen



Paul Fullagar



Andy Thomson



Peter Kyte



Peter Osborne



Stuart Fordyce



Brian Arbib, Peter Trunkfield, Clive Newton



Peter Williams



Tim Stickland



Bill Davies



Roy Jarrold



Richardson, senior



Tony Tagent



Chris Phasey



David Macintosh 1



David Macintosh 2



Gary Gotch



Steve Fuller



Simon Ripper



Chancellor Uli



Ross Thomson



Sean Fitzpatrick, legendary All Blacks captain, leads the U12 squad in the "Haka" outside Chiltern's clubhouse, celebrating their Bucks Cup triumph in 2004.



Chiltern Colts win the Bucks Cup yet again in 2004, having set a County record by winning all Bucks Cups from U12 to U17, scoring 747 and conceding only 24 points.



Bucks Cup Winners 2003-04: (back) Alan Simmons, Alex Maloney, David Smith, Richard Dobby, Charlie Griffiths, Ashley Dowle, Andy Ireland, Mike Griffiths, Brian Richardson, Sean Jarrold, Paul Luker, Geraint Rowland, Dave Richardson (front) Gareth Dunsmore, Mark Douglas, Nathan Wilkinson, Malcolm Lambert, Tom Reynolds, Greg Douglas, George Shanks (reclining) Julian Alexander (Capt)

Distinguished Players

Chapter 7

William Michael Patterson

Born 11 April 1936, Newcastle

Died January 1999, Chesham, Bucks

Three-quarter

Sale Grammar School 1954

Sale RFC 1954-65 (Capt 1960-63)

Cheshire (Capt) 1956-64

N.W.Counties v Wallabies 1958, Springboks 1960 (Capt),

All Blacks 1964

Buckinghamshire 1967

Barbarians 1959 v Cardiff, East Midlands

British Lions v New Zealand 1959

England & Wales v Scotland & Ireland 1959

England v Scotland 1961

England v South Africa 1961

Anti-Assassins v East Africa (Capt) 1965, 1969, Canada (Capt) 1967

Gloucester FC 1959

Wasps FC 1965-68

Chiltern RFC 1969-84



Bill joined Sale RFC from Sale Grammar School, where he was also a capable cricketer having trials for Lancashire Cricket Federation. He played hockey for Cheshire Schools and represented Cheshire in the hurdles, relay, shot putt and high jump. He also represented Cheshire Schools at rugby. On leaving school, Bill trained as a mechanical engineer with Amalgamated Engineering Industries, Trafford Park, where his father was a manager. His father was a former Old Novocastrian and Northumberland County winger.

Bill quickly gained a place in the Sale 1st XV and then found his way into Cheshire County XV at 18 years of age to play against Yorkshire. Bill led Cheshire to their second ever county championship in 1961, beating Devon 5 points to 3 at Birkenhead Park following a pointless draw at Plymouth.

On the strength of some fine displays for Sale, Cheshire and Barbarians (Bill scored two tries on both occasions he appeared in Barbarian colours) he was called up as a replacement for Niall Brophy of U.C.Dublin on the 1959 British Lions tour of Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Bill joined the Lions tour at Timaru, South Island, to play against Combined Mid and South Canterbury and North Otago on 8 July 1959.

J.B.G.Thomas, the official Lions correspondent, recalled: "Bill was a tall, likeable young

man answering to the name of 'Long Will'. He was a great tourist who thoroughly enjoyed himself and added to the defensive qualities of the side. He played in the third test and did a good job of work. Indeed he might have been played more frequently in the centre. He has achieved a Lions test cap before an England cap, though it is likely that he will follow Jeeps and achieve England honours. A good golfer on tour and an expert card player, he like Risman and Ashcroft, saw little of the New Zealand countryside en route. New Zealanders liked Patterson's play and although he was not quite as fast as an international centre should be, he was shrewd and easy to play with". Bill's record in New Zealand: scored 8 tries, played 10 times including the third test at Christchurch, 29 August, lost 8-22.

Bill's first international call up to England's colours was in 1961 against South Africa, which England lost 5 points to 0. He recalled: "A copied typed sheet arrived through the post, spelling out the itinerary for the forthcoming international against Scotland. Bill was either to meet at the teams pre-match headquarters, The Star and Garter Hotel, Richmond on the Thursday. Or if he wanted to, he was to report to Rosslyn Park RUFC ground on Friday at 2:45pm, with his own kit for a 'run about' with the other players. Bill recalls that the selectors had to take off their jackets and ties to make up a sacrificial opposition front row for the pack to practice against."

As a new cap, the RFU supplied you with a new pair of England socks, your one and only pair. Bill recalled that Lou B.Cannell, the Oxford University and St Mary's Hospital centre, had lost or worn out his official socks. F.D.Prentice, the team manager, refused to issue him with a replacement pair quoting the RFU policy. The official England team photo was delayed, with kick off only minutes away, when Lou Cannell appeared wearing only his boots and ties. Lou was issued very quickly with his new pair of socks.

England overlooked Bill for the Five Nations Championship but finally conceded when Richard Sharp was ruled out against Scotland with a pulled muscle. Bill was instrumental in dashing Scotland's aspirations for the 1961 Triple Crown when he produced a precision kick through the flat Scottish backs for his new Sale club mate, Jim Roberts (ex Old Millhillians), to score. England won 6 points to 0, their only win in the championship. Bill's short but distinguished international career finished when M.S.Phillips, who had graduated from Oxford and was playing for Fylde, once again caught the eye of the selectors.

Bill joined Chiltern initially in the 1969-70 season, at the same time as fellow Cheshire and Barbarian player Peter Stafford. When the new 1st XV captain Clive Newton was short of a full back for the second game of the season against St Nicholas Old Boys, he knew exactly where to find Bill. He was persuaded to give up gardening and put on his boots again.

The 1969-70 season witnessed Chiltern reaching the first ever Bucks County Cup final against Aylesbury. Bill was unfortunate to miss a vital conversion kick, practically on full time, that could have won the match. Chiltern went on to lose the final replay. Bill retired from rugby again at the end of the season and went to play hockey for Chalfont St Peter and his long time sporting passion golf, which he played off an 18 handicap.

Bill was persuaded to play again for Chiltern in 1979, along side his son Ian, who was then a Chiltern colt playing in Bill Lang's emerging Ex A XV. Bill passed away in 1999. His family, friends, members of the RFU, Sale, Wasps, Chiltern and eleven former international players attended his service at St Mary's, Chesham.

Peter Maxwell Woolley Stafford

Born 16 November 1940

Three-quarter

Birkenhead School 1956

Corpus Christi College, Oxford 1958-62

Oxford University 1961, 1962

Hertfordshire 1961, 1962

Oxbridge v East Africa, Rhodesia, South Africa 1963

Rosslyn Park FC 1961-63

Old Birkonians RFC 1963-67

Cheshire 1965-67

Buckinghamshire RFC 1968, 1969

Barbarians FC 1962 v Cardiff, Newport

England Reserve 1962 (Home Internationals)

Irish Wolfhounds 1962, 1963

Chiltern RFC 1968-78 (Capt 1971-72)



Peter was introduced to Chiltern in 1968 by Clive Newton. Clive had just been elected as a very young captain of the 1st XV and was very keen to recruit quality players. Once again, as with Bill Patterson, Clive found Peter who had just moved to the area, turning over the garden of his new house. Clive immediately estimated from the state of the garden that his free time would be better spent playing rugby.

The 1st XV then had some very useful players, amongst them John A. Adey, John V. Adey, Tony Baxter, Danny Hale and Bill Patterson. The club's strength and reputation encouraged many other players to join, sufficient for the club to run six XV's for the first time.

Peter played for two seasons with Clive as skipper during which time the team reached the final of the first Bucks Cup and won the Chiltern Sevens competition. Peter was elected captain for the 1971-72 season. Peter then took on the task of club coach for 1974-76 seasons before retiring from rugby to take up golf.

Peter's serious rugby had started at Oxford University, which culminated with a tour with the Oxbridge team to Southern Africa. At Oxford in 1961, he played in the centre with Richard Sharp, one of the all time great centres and reached the peak of his rugby career during this period, following Richard Sharp into the England squad. Peter also played for Rosslyn Park and Hertfordshire on 10 occasions. He stayed on after the Southern Africa tour and taught for a short while at the Prince Edward School in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.

Peter then returned to take up a teaching post for a very brief spell at Leggatt's Way Secondary Modern School, Watford, before joining the commercial section of The Metal Box Company.

John Raymond Evans

Born 12 September 1911

Died 8 March 1943, North Africa

Hooker

Newport High School 1927

Welsh Secondary Schools 1926, 1927

Newport RFC 1928-37 (Capt 1935-37)

Barbarians 1935, 1936

Wales v England 1934, (Capt 1934)

Chiltern RFC 1929-30



John Raymond Evans joined Chiltern RFC at the start of 1929-30 season. He was working as a bank clerk for Lloyds Bank, Chesham, having been recently transferred from Lloyds Bank, Newport. John must have wondered what he had let himself in for when he found himself playing for the local rugby club, from the thousands of supporters at Newport, to the loyal few at The Pineapple. The first game he played in was against West Herts, which was also the first of Chiltern's 1929-30 season.

His obvious talent as a front row forward had prevailed in the trial game the week before but was ignored and he was selected to play at wing forward. A week later against Thames Valley at Maidenhead, common sense took over and he was selected as hooker. He also took all the penalty kicks and conversions. The game a week later was against Upper Clapton, where he again scored freely. John managed to score over fifty points in his first three games.

John played his last game for Chiltern against RAF Halton in the New Year before returning to Newport in February 1930. He managed to play five games for the Newport 1st XV before the end of the season. John established himself a season later as a senior player with Newport, playing over a hundred and fifty 1st XV games before 1938, which included two seasons 1935 to 1937 as the club's captain.

By 1934, he had become a major player at international and representative level. In 1934 he was selected as Captain of Wales against England at Cardiff, his only cap. England won by three tries, nine points to nil. His brief international career was a rare moment in Welsh rugby history in that he was only one of four Welsh Internationals ever to captain the side on his debut game. John always insisted the reason behind this was that he was the only Welsh player in the side that could speak both Welsh and English. John was a member of the unbeaten Barbarians Easter tour of 1935. Giff Newton, the Chiltern skipper at the time of the international match, sent him a telegram wishing him luck and reminding him of his days spent at Chiltern.

With war imminent, John returned from a brief career move with the Forestry Commission on the Gold Coast of Africa. He signed up with the South Wales Borderers, later transferring to the Welsh Guards. When the Parachute Regiment started to call for volunteers he was naturally first in line, eventually serving as a Lieutenant with the 3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment in North Africa during 1942-43.

In late 1942 he parachuted into Bone, Algeria, with the objective of capturing the airfield. This turned out to be an uneventful exercise but he was later tragically involved in

the preliminary skirmishes around Sedjenane, which led up to the major battle of Tamera, Tunisia. Major Alan Bush, a 1934 Oxford rugby Blue who had played against John when playing for a Major Stanley's XV, was John's direct commander and it was he that made the regretful decision when he issued the order to keep the road to Sedjenane clear and safe. The forward position at the road was at the base of a wooded slope and was exposed to attack from higher ground, which was bound to come. Reluctantly, Major Bush turned to John Evans and ordered him to take over the position, knowing that he could rely on him to hold the position and not call for help before it was needed.

The attack came in early morning on 8 March, a fine spring morning. A crescendo of noise suddenly erupted, indicating the battle had commenced at very close quarters. The exposed platoon held their ground and the reserves were quickly dispatched to reinforce the position and they quickly succeeded in driving off the attack. It was at this point that John Raymond Evans, in the defence of his position, with his ever present pipe in his mouth, was shot with a single shot through the head and killed instantly.

Major Bush recalls: "It was when we reached the defensive position that I saw the dead. The injuries to our dead were gruesome. It was the general opinion that the attackers had used Dum Dum bullets. My immediate thought was remembering John's acceptance of the orders I had reluctantly given him. He had received them as a challenge with a spirited glint in his eye, a visible reluctance, as much to say 'If you insist'.

"He had not been the best of Regimental officers. He was too much a rebel and had too much individuality. Yet some instinct made him always respond rightly and immediately to the needs of the occasion. I would miss him, the naughty glint in his eye when he recalled an escapade following an international rugby match. Thoughts lingered for many days until my initial sadness was dispelled".

John's batman Jocky Allen recalls: "He was not a typical officer. On marches, he would sing 'We'll keep the red flag flying high' and would turn up at the pub and have drinking contests with members of his platoon. No one could beat him. His platoon would follow him anywhere and did so when action was called for".

In the action when John was killed, it turned out that the platoon found the German sniper that had fired the fatal shot. He had already been wounded and was wearing Red Cross arm bands. He was carried to an ambulance on the main road that was collecting the wounded. A few moments later there was a direct hit on the ambulance and it burst into flame, burning alive all its inhabitants. John was buried near to where he fell and was later interred and buried in the War cemetery of Tabarka Ras Rajel along with his fellow paratroopers.

Robert Thomas Campbell

Born 1 October 1916

Died 24 April 1981

Berkhamsted School 1932

England v Wales 1943

England v Wales 1943

England v Scotland 1943

England v Scotland 1943

East Midlands

Barbarians FC 1939-40

Old Berkhamstedians RFC 1933-39

Bedford RFC

St Mary's Hospital RFC 1937-41

Chiltern RFC 1931-52

Chichester RFC 1952-67



R.T.Campbell started his club rugby with Chiltern in 1931. He played as a schoolboy while still at the Berkhamsted School, no doubt influenced by *Giff* Newton who played cricket with Bob at Chesham Cricket Club, where he was to star for many seasons.

Bob played for Chiltern for three full seasons before winning a scholarship to Magdalen College, Oxford, where in his second year he won the Theodore Williams prize. Bob achieved a first class honours degree in Physiology and the Geraldine Harmsworth scholarship to St Mary's Hospital. During his studies, Bob played for the prestigious Hospital XV in its unbeaten run of Hospital Cup victories during the 1930s.

Bob played for the United Hospitals and joined Bedford FC where his talents were quickly recognised by the Barbarians, Eastern Counties, and Midlands. Bob then joined up with the RAMC in 1941, becoming regimental officer to the Berkshire Yeomanry. He took part in the Normandy landings, running an aid post in a tank landing craft.

Bob played for the full Army XV and for an England XV in services internationals, against Wales and Scotland in 1943, before being posted to the India where he was graded as surgeon in 1944. Bob, after a spell in the East Indies where he had the rank of acting lieutenant-colonel, returned to play for Chiltern in 1947. Playing against Aylesbury in his first game still suffering from the effects of yellow jaundice, he scored the winning try.

Bob eventually returned to St Mary's as surgical registrar. In 1952 he was appointed consultant surgeon at the Portsmouth group of hospitals becoming a pioneer of vascular surgery. Bob played out his days with Chichester RFC raising the club to new heights before turning to sailing. His nephew Ian played for Chiltern 1st XV in the 1970s.

David John Richardson

Born 16 May 1965, Corbridge, Northumberland
 Full back
 Chiltern RFC 1971-85, 1991-current (Capt 1995-97)
 Wasps FC 1985-91
 Buckinghamshire 1986



David joined Chiltern as a mini aged six, progressing through the age groups under the supervision of Tony Hale. David played in the first Mini match ever at Chiltern on Sunday 28 October 1973.

Football was David's premier sport at Dr Challoners School until the age of fifteen, mainly due to his early diminutive stature. David's father, Brian Richardson Senior, Gosforth and Percy Park, played his first Chiltern 1st XV game against Borderers in 1971. His youngest son Brian, Chiltern's 1st XV Captain 2001-03, plays in a very similar style, without ever quite mastering Senior's sidestep.

David was introduced to senior rugby as a young 16 year old in Bill Lang's Extra A XV on the wing, where he had the comfort of playing alongside former Hertfordshire and Saracen Tony Hale and former British Lion and England player Bill Patterson. He joined Chiltern 1st XV for a short period and then moved to Wasps FC to progress his outstanding talent. Initially playing for Wasps 2nd team, David went on the Wasps tour to Vancouver, Canada where he gained some valuable experience and cemented his position as a class full back. On his return, David's talent was quickly noted and he gained 1st XV selection ahead of the incumbent first team full back Nick Stringer, then the current England and former Herts and Fullerians RFC player, and Huw Davies the England centre who also played at full back for club and country.

David finally secured the position as his own and was reported by Wasps selectors to 'being watched' by the Divisional and International selectors when he broke his collarbone against London Scottish. David regained his 1st XV position at the start of the following season but was again injured, breaking his leg this time in a mid-week game against Ealing, then a National league 4 club. In his final season with Wasps in 1990-91, David played in over twenty 1st XV games.

David then decided that together with the pressure of work and a young family he would rejoin Chiltern where his brother Brian was just breaking into the 1st XV. David has since been the outstanding back in every league Chiltern has operated in and has been an inspiration to many other Chiltern backs.

When Matt McHardy, Chiltern's dynamic New Zealand coach (1998-2000) was first introduced to Dave at training he was amused at his ball juggling skills and said they were fine in training but could never be useful in a real match. Dave proved him wrong. He captained Chiltern through a league championships and a Bucks Cup victory against Olney. Those in attendance at Olney will never forget the outrageous drop goal, 10 metres from inside his own half.

Alan Simmons

Born 28 July 1955, Amersham
 Hooker
 Chiltern RFC 1971-1980, 1991-current
 Wasps FC 1980-91
 Barbarians FC 1984, 1987
 Buckinghamshire 1980, 1994-1996 (Capt 1994-1996)
 London Counties 1983, 1984
 London Division 1985, 1986
 England B v France, Italy, Wales, Scotland 1984
 England v Wales 1985, Full Replacement
 England v Scotland 1987, Full Replacement



Alan Simmons joined Chiltern as a 15 year old schoolboy from the Raans School, Amersham, introduced by Danny Hale, the sports master and also a Chiltern 1st XV player. Alan played his first Chiltern 1st XV game in the second row against Slough on 14 November 1970. It was coincidentally the first defeat of the season, 9 points to 3. Alan had to wait two more seasons before he claimed his place as the club's first choice hooker. The 1st XV captain Barry Hornby and Ian Henderson were ahead of Alan at the time.

The club during this period in its history fell off the pace set by other local clubs, so it was no surprise when Alan left Chiltern to play for Wasps in 1980.

Intensive dedication to physical fitness and care in the intricacies of playing as a hooker at the highest level was Alan's contribution to a total team effort that eventually won Wasps the Courage Clubs Championship in 1989. Alan was often to be seen during this period at the Chiltern ground in the summer, training solo and perfecting his throwing technique. With all the other Wasps players striving to achieve the same high standard, it was little wonder that when Courage leagues started in 1987, Wasps were in the forefront of senior clubs and Alan was there as a key player. Probyn and Rendall have both publicly expressed their admiration for Alan's professionalism in the front row.

Representative honours of the highest order came along when Alan was selected for the London Division against New Zealand and Australia when at their peak.

At the 1984 England B match against France B, played at Bath and captained by Mark Bailey, a fellow Wasp, the French selected their first choice front row in an attempt to counter Probyn, Simmons and Chilcott. The plan was to give their talented backs some ball to run with. Both front rows left the field looking as if they had been ten rounds with Mohammed Ali.

Alan was twice involved with the full England XV, only to be denied the ultimate prize, in particular in 1987 against Scotland.

With Peter Wheeler unavailable, the selectors had picked Steve Brain of Coventry, a spent force at this stage of his career. By self-admission, in a speech at the Chiltern RFC celebrities' dinner of 1989 and witnessed by all the Wasps and Chiltern members at the international match that day. Brain was injured during the game and was clearly seen to be unable to carry on playing but refused to leave the field, denying Alan's chance at Twickenham.

The greatest disappointment for Alan was when at London Airport packed and ready to go on the England tour to South Africa in 1984. Alan was stood down in favour of the Gloucester front row of Blakeway, Mills and Preedy. Steve Brain the tour's second hooker and Peter Wheeler the preferred hooker was who was in doubt to the last moment with an injury. Some reports blame the harsh decision by the RFU not to allow Simmo to travel on some bad advice given to Alan by the Wasps committee when Alan played for Wasps in a mid-week game instead of 'resting' before an England B match and was injured, forcing him to withdraw from the game.

As English club champions, Wasps took on and beat Racing club of Paris 23-13 to win the Challenge cup at the start of the 1990-91 season, in which Alan clocked up 39 appearances. Finally, a cruciate ligament injury at Leicester forced Alan to retire from first class rugby.

After rehabilitation, Simmo soon found himself back where he started, coaching and playing for Chiltern and Buckinghamshire. Alan raised the club to new playing standards, particularly in the forwards, winning the league for two successive seasons. Alan officially retired, again, at the end of the 1997-98 season with Jeff Probyn and several former playing colleagues from his Wasps days in attendance to witness what was thought to be the end of a truly fantastic rugby career.

At the start of the 1998 season, all Chiltern first choice hookers were suddenly injured or unavailable. Alan once again donned his boots, much to the dismay of opposing hookers throughout the league, and stayed unopposed as the 1st XV hooker until 2001. Alan today in the 2004 season is coaching and playing occasionally as hard as only an outstanding competitor can.

David Choules

Born 15 May 1968, Amersham

Scrum half

Chiltern RFC 1974-87, 1994-2003

Buckinghamshire 1985

Wasps FC 1988-91

Headingley RFC 1987-88

Saracens RFC 1991-94



David joined Chiltern as a Mini aged six, progressing through the age groups before playing his rugby under the supervision of Bill Webb.

However, the 1986-87 season was to be the last at Chiltern for David for some years. The season ended with Chiltern winning the Bucks Cup against Marlow for the first time with David the star player, converting a last minute touchline kick in the pouring rain. Chiltern beat High Wycombe and Aylesbury on the way to the final.

David has played for every Bucks age group at representative level, playing scrum half for the Senior XV at 17 years of age. David played for the South West Under 21 before his further education at Leeds Polytechnic where he played for Headingley, Northern Schools and British Polytechnics. In the trial game for British Students David played alongside Will Carling and Jon Webb.

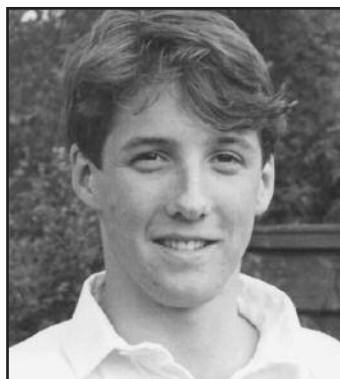
After college, David joined Wasps but after two seasons in the 1st XV squa but he was persuaded by Gavin Holmes, then Bucks representative and a rugby coach at Chiltern, that his rugby future was with Saracens. Gavin's son Nick, also a former Chiltern junior and 1st XV centre, had also moved to the same club and become an established Saracens player. After three seasons with Saracens, alternating as 1st XV scrum half with Brian Davies, David was again persuaded by Alan Simmons and Dave Richardson to rejoin Chiltern. David has helped Chiltern win two league championships and played in a unique series of Bucks Cup winning performances in 1987, 1997, 2000 and 2001.

A partner for a company specialising as project managers for various building and civil engineering projects, David undertook the successful refurbishment of the changing rooms and new services installation of the club in the 2002 closed season.

David retired from senior rugby at the end of the 2002-03 season and is now the Mini under seven coach at Chiltern.

Patrick Young

Born 29 October 1967, Chesham
Centre
Chiltern RFC 1974–1987
England Schools 1984 (Capt)
Wasps FC 1984–1991
Rosslyn Park 1991–92
London Irish 1991–1993
Irish Exiles 1991–1993



Paddy joined Chiltern as a six year old mini in the group coached by Bill Webb. His age group included David Choules, Chris Howlett, James Baxter, James Hamilton, James Fisher, Damien Gray, Duncan Patterson, James Sandell, Cren Sandys-Lumsden, Paul Willshire and Mark Harrison. The group won the Bucks U16 Cup, Kent and Dunstablian 7's. Fourteen of the group forced their way into the Bucks Schools Under 16s. Amazing as most of the boys went to non-rugby playing schools.

With the pressures of England schoolboy rugby *Paddy's* appearances for Chiltern were limited but one memorable game was the 1984 semi final of the Bucks Cup against the then powerful Aylesbury which included his Aylesbury school coach and No8 Dudley Smith. Late on, *Paddy* turned the game to Chiltern's advantage with a superb drop goal. *Paddy* was amazed that British Lions and Wales pair J.J.Williams and Allan Martin ran the pre-match coaching session. Although not playing in the final, Chiltern lost narrowly 5–3 to High Wycombe (three leagues above Chiltern) on their ground when a young Peter Springford missed a last minute penalty.

The following season *Paddy* joined Wasps FC where he teamed up with David Choules and Alan Simmons and had a long and distinguished playing career with them before moving in the professional era to London Irish. Unfortunately the knee injury that had plagued his rugby for seasons forced him finally to give up rugby. *Paddy* is now living and working in Holland and playing the occasional game of golf.

Josh Lewsey MBE

Born 30 November 1976, Bromley, Kent
Full back, wing three-quarter
Chiltern RFC 1984–1993
Bristol FC 1994–1997
London Wasps 1998–current
England 1998–current



Josh learnt his basic skills with Chiltern, successfully going through all age groups of the Mini and Junior sections. Josh then moved to play for Wasps FC at Colts and Under 21s (Capt). He went from Watford Grammar to Bristol University to read physiology, sponsored by the Army. Whilst at university he signed for Bristol, after which Josh transferred to London Wasps in 1998.

At the age of 21 Josh was selected for the 'Tour to Hell' with the 1998 England side that toured New Zealand, Australia and South Africa. In 2001 Josh appeared in three more England tests on the summer tour to North America.

Josh was called up to the full England Squad after an impressive season with London Wasps and England A, as well as being a key player in the England 7s that won the Hong Kong 7s in 2002.

He made his debut in the Six Nations Championship at Twickenham in 2002. Josh was part of the team that won the Grand Slam in 2003, the final game being played in Dublin.

The premier moment of his rugby career to date is being a member of the winning England 2003 World Cup Squad, being selected in the XV for the Final. As a member of the squad, he was awarded the MBE.

Despite all the recent media frenzy and glory as a World Cup winner, Josh has been a constant visitor and supporter of functions at Chiltern. Josh opened the new Chiltern clubhouse changing room facilities in 2002. His brothers Tom and Ed have also played at Chiltern and are currently playing for London Welsh and Exeter Chiefs.

Distinguished Members

Chapter 8

Geoffrey Dorling Roberts OBE, QC

Born 1886, Exeter, Devon

Died 1967, London

Oxford University 1905-09

England v Scotland 1907

England v Wales 1908

England v France 1908

Devon 1906-07

Barbarians 1906-09

Harlequins 1909-15

1st XV trainer, Chiltern RFC 1925-30

Vice-President, Chiltern RFC 1924-67



Khaki Roberts was given his nickname by a friend at Rugby School after falling heavily into a wet clay and gravel path covering himself with an unmistakable colour. G.D.Roberts was an outstanding sportsman and personality in his time. He not only excelled in his chosen profession in the courts of law but also on the rugby field. He was awarded a half Blue at tennis and played golf off scratch for Surrey, his adopted county.

It was as a fresh young first year student at St John's, Oxford, that *Khaki* was selected to play against the first All Blacks side to tour Britain. He was fortunate to play in an Oxford XV that fielded nine internationals. E.H.D.Sewell, rugby correspondent, described it as "The best university side I ever saw".

His first call to international duty followed his highly respectable performance for Devon against Kent on 21 February 1907, when Kent were trounced 28 points to 3. It was by chance that *Khaki* bought an evening paper in Oxford on 8 March following the county match, to find that he had been chosen to play against Scotland eight days later along with seven fellow Devonians. He therefore became one of the select few to play for his country before receiving his Blue. He was duly awarded his Blue a season later.

That Easter, *Khaki* was invited to join the Barbarians tour of Wales, a club for which he later became a distinguished committee member. He finished his most rewarding season in rugby ever with the County final against Durham, requiring a replay, which was also drawn.

The following season, *Khaki* won two more England caps against France in Paris and against Wales at Ashton Gate, Bristol. England losing 28 points to 18 in the fog after which *Khaki* was dropped, he thought, rather unfairly as in his opinion he had played one of his better games. *Khaki* was chosen once more to play in 1908 against Scotland, but was forced out with a knee injury. He was offered a tour to Australia and New Zealand in 1908 but had to decline due to his studies, but did tour at Easter again with the Barbarians. On leaving

Oxford, *Khaki* joined Harlequins.

H.B.T.Wakelam, the famous broadcaster and fellow Harlequin, recorded in his memoirs that *Khaki* was an outstanding Harlequin player. He was an Herculean forward with most distinct methods of his own and a truly wonderful kicker of the ball. *Khaki's* exploits are far too numerous to mention. But, he had a curious habit when playing rugby of asking a riddle in one scrum and of answering it in the next. On 17 April 1908, *Khaki* played his last game for Barbarians against Wales at Cardiff Arms Park, in aid of local military charities.

In 1905, Chiltern's first President Ivor Stewart-Liberty and *Khaki* met at an Oxford college dinner where they had both done rather well with the port. Walking home after the dinner, they were propped by the Proctor and his Bulldogs and for some unaccountable reason found this highly amusing. Thereafter they became firm friends. Their paths intertwined for many years as members of Chiltern RFC and the Inner Temple.

In fact, Ivor introduced *Khaki* to the Chiltern area, staying at Lee Manor and playing cricket for Sir Arthur Liberty's team against local sides during the autumn holidays. It was on 2 August 1914, with war imminent, that a match was halted early due to rain with both *Khaki* and Ivor at the wicket, batting on The Lee's renowned fiery track. *Khaki*, Ivor and Bert Phillips, the village fast bowler, took shelter under a tree as the club at that time did not boast a pavilion. They all made a promise that after the war they would return to finish the match. *Khaki* returned after an appalling experience on the front line that would later turn him into a conscientious objector. Ivor returned minus the best part of a leg lost in action during the Somme battle at Laventie in 1916. Sadly Bert Phillips was lost forever.

In August 1914, *Khaki* joined 8th Devonshire Regiment and was sent to the front line at the Battle of Loos. He gained rapid field promotion to Captain, due to the sad fact that he was the only officer left following the battle. On regrouping, he was noticed by a fellow lawyer from the Inns of Court. He was transferred to the Army Legal Department to practice military law, eventually securing the position of D.A.A.G in the Fourth Army. *Khaki* was mentioned in dispatches on five occasions, finishing his army career with the rank of Major.

After the war, *Khaki* became the defence counsel in several newsworthy cases representing Ivor Novello and Noel Coward. His great claim to fame was when he was selected as a member for the prosecuting counsel at the Nuremburg International War Crimes Tribunal. As recorder of Bristol, *Khaki* conducted trials expeditiously – he would often clear a roll of twenty five cases in a day. He was again in the headlines in 1947, acting as prosecuting counsel in the famous Porthole Murder case. James Camb, a steward on the liner Durban Castle sailing from Cape Town to London, was sentenced to death by hanging for the murder of actress Gay Gibson, disposing of her body by dumping her overboard through the cabin porthole. The trial thrilled, horrified and disgusted millions and *Khaki* was centre stage and at his flamboyant best, securing a guilty verdict. In 1961, his farewell party after forty nine years at the Bar and fourteen years as leader of the circuit was recorded as one of the last great shindigs held in the Great Hall, Winchester.

Khaki is still remembered at Chiltern by many old friends for the superb quality of his after dinner speeches, his sheer physical presence, his knowledge of sport and as Vice President for forty three years, his long and lasting friendship with Chiltern RFC.

Ivor Stewart-Liberty MC, JP

Born 1887, Nottingham

Died April 1952, The Lee

President, Chiltern RFC 1924-49



Born Ivor Stewart to Dr Donald Stewart, an ear, nose and throat specialist, and Ada Liberty, therefore nephew to Sir Arthur Lasenby Liberty. Sir Arthur, founder of the Regent Street House in the 1890s, had acquired Lee Manor which he greatly extended and installed himself as Squire of The Lee. Sir Arthur was unfortunate to remain childless and cast around for an heir to his fortune. He selected his nephew, on condition that Ivor should add to his patronymic the name of Liberty, which he graciously consented to do.

Ivor was educated at Winchester and Oxford, where he met his life long friend *Khaki* Roberts. Their lives were ordained to run on parallel tracks for so many years. Ivor enjoyed and participated in all sports before the Great War. In a few short years of leaving Oxford he had married Evelyn Phipps, daughter of Canon Phipps of Christ Church, Oxford, who resigned the following year to become the resident vicar of the church at The Lee. His uncle Sir Arthur retired in 1914 and handed over to Ivor the administrative duties and directorship of Liberty and Co.

Ivor had at the time a thriving career as a barrister in the Inner Temple where he had the opportunity to meet and participate with many fellow sportsmen. With war imminent, Ivor joined up with the 2nd Bucks Battalion of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, together with his father-in-law and several other local men.

It was not long before the Battalion was 'baptised'. At the Battle of the Somme, on 16 July at the northern edge of the main thrust against the Germans between Fauquissart and Neuve Chapelle, Ivor was wounded in the leg as German machine guns ripped into waves of light infantry as they left their trenches. Ivor spent the whole day from dawn to dusk lying helpless in front of the German wire until the brave Sergeant Joe Petty, later promoted to Sergeant Major, dragged him to safety under cover of darkness. When Ivor got to the base hospital, a pre-war hotel on the cliffs at Wimereux, gangrene had set in and amputation of the leg below the knee was inevitable. Ivor forever thankful for the Sergeant's bravery, sort him out after the war and gave him employment as the estate manager at The Lee.

In 1917, Sir Arthur died leaving the estate in trust to Ivor for life. Ivor also inherited all the duties of the local Squire. He was also President of the local branch of the British Legion, Chesham Football Club, Great Missenden Lawn Tennis Club, The Lee Cricket Club, Ellesborough Golf Club. In 1917, Ivor became a member of the Bucks County Council and in 1922 became the High Sheriff of Bucks. Despite all his duties, he was always supportive towards Chiltern RFC until his death in 1952.

John Hollington Grayburn VC

Born 1918, Manora Island, Karachi, India

Died 20 September 1944, Arnhem, Holland

Wing forward

Sherborne School 1935

Chiltern RFC 1936-39



Jack Grayburn moved in at Roughwood Farm, Chalfont St Giles, with his father Lionel, locally known as Paddy and brothers Bill and Pat during the mid 1930s. Paddy, originally from Ireland, served in the Yeomanry in the Boer War and was involved in the relief of Mafeking. Jack, along with his two brothers, was educated at Sherborne School, Dorset, where he excelled at boxing and rugby. Jack was not an academic and his future career was structured to work with his uncle, Sir Tubby Vandeleur Grayburn, who was Chief General Manager of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in Hong Kong.

Jack played for Chiltern during his holidays from Sherborne, as had many other schoolboys since 1924, and on leaving Sherborne, played the 1936-37 season mainly for the Extra A and A XVs. He made his 1st XV debut on 13 March 1937 against Oxford Exiles, then reputed to be the strongest club side in Oxfordshire. Chiltern lost the game 6 points to 3. He played his last game for Chiltern on 17 April 1939.

Jack, described as a 'belligerent individual', signed up with the Army Cadet Force where he was duly commissioned with the 1st (London) Cadet Force, Queen's Royal Regiment before transferring to Oxford & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. His intolerance towards lack of action made him a prime candidate for the newly formed Parachute Regiment. On completion of training, Jack was transferred to 2nd Battalion of the 1st Airborne Division and during this time served in North Africa, Sicily and Italy.

The Battalion's next operation was 'Market Garden', better known to younger members by the famous film 'A Bridge Too Far'. The official Parachute Regiment citation reads: "For supreme courage, leadership, and devotion to duty".

"Lieutenant Grayburn was a platoon commander of the 2nd Parachute Battalion that was dropped on 17 September 1944, with the task of seizing and holding the bridge over the Rhine at Arnhem. The north end of the bridge was captured and, early in the night, Lieutenant Grayburn was ordered to assault and capture the southern end with his platoon. He led his platoon on to the bridge and began the attack with the utmost determination, but the platoon was met with a hail of fire from two 20-mm, quick-firing guns, and from the machine guns of an armoured car. Almost at once Lieutenant Grayburn was shot through the shoulder. Although there was no cover on the bridge, and in spite of his wound, Lieutenant Grayburn continued to press forward with the greatest dash and bravery until casualties became so heavy that he was ordered to withdraw. He directed the withdrawal from the bridge personally and was himself the last man to come off the embankment into comparative cover.

"Later, his platoon was ordered to occupy a house that was vital to the defence of the

bridge and he personally organised the occupation of the house. Throughout the next day and night the enemy made ceaseless attacks on the house, using not only infantry with mortars and machine guns but also tanks and self-propelled guns. The house was very exposed and difficult to defend and the fact that it did not fall to the enemy must be attributed to Lieutenant Grayburn's great courage and inspiring leadership. He constantly exposed himself to the enemy's fire whilst moving among and encouraging his platoon, and seemed completely oblivious to danger.

"On 19 September 1944 the enemy renewed his attacks, which increased in intensity, as the house was vital to the defence of the bridge. All attacks were repulsed, due to Lieutenant Grayburn's valour and skill in organising and encouraging his men, until eventually the house was set on fire and had to be evacuated. Lieutenant Grayburn then took command of elements of all arms, including the remainder of his own company, and re-formed them into a fighting force. He spent the night organising the defensive position to cover the approaches to the bridge.

"On 20 September 1944 he extended his defense by a series of fighting patrols, which prevented the enemy getting access to the houses in the vicinity, the occupation of which would have prejudiced the defence of the bridge. This forced the enemy to bring up tanks, which brought Lieutenant Grayburn's position under such heavy fire that he was forced to withdraw to an area further north. The enemy now attempted to lay demolition charges under the bridge and the situation was now critical. Realising this, Lieutenant Grayburn organised and led a fighting patrol, which drove the enemy off temporarily, and gave time for the fuses to be removed.

"He was again wounded, this time in the back, but refused to be evacuated. Finally an enemy tank, against which Lieutenant Grayburn had no defence, approached so close to his position that it became untenable. He then stood up in full view of the tank and personally directed the withdrawal of his men to the main defensive perimeter to which he had been ordered. He was killed that night.

"From the evening of 17 September until the night of 20 September, over a period of three days, Lieutenant Grayburn led his men with supreme gallantry and determination. Although in pain and weakened by his wounds, short of food and without sleep, his courage never flagged. There is no doubt that, had it not been for this officer inspiring leadership and personal bravery, the Arnhem Bridge could never have been held for this time".

John Passmore Widgery

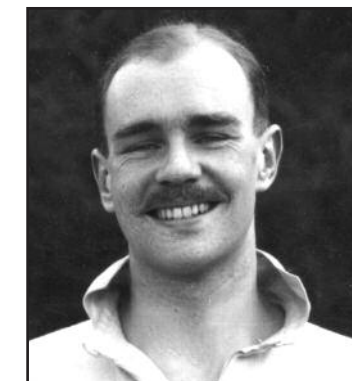
**Right Honourable Baron Widgery of South Molton,
PC, OBE, TD, LLD (Hon)**

Born 1911, South Molton, Devon

Died 1981, Chelsea, London

Front row

Chiltern RFC 1933-39



John Widgery was born at Ashley House, Paradise Lawn, South Molton in one of the two adjoining houses built for his father, a carpenter, from a legacy left to the family by the artist J.M.W. Turner, a close relation.

John's early education was at the local South Molton Primary school progressing to the more established Queen's College, Taunton. He left at the age of sixteen to become an articled clerk with solicitors Crosse Wyatt of South Molton. In 1933 he qualified, though never practiced as a solicitor, joining the staff at Gibson and Welldon, law tutors in London. At the same time, he married Helen Yates and moved to the Amersham area and joined Chiltern RFC, where he played until the outbreak of war.

John made his debut as hooker for the 1st XV in a 6-6 draw against Slough in 1935. In the 1937 season, he became club Match Secretary, a post he held until the club was suspended for the duration of the war.

At the outbreak of war, he was mobilised along with most of his fellow members from the club's 1st XV and saw active service with the Royal Engineers for which he became a lieutenant-colonel in 1942. By 1945 he was decorated with the Croix de Guerre and the Order of Leopold and in 1952 he was again promoted to brigadier in the Territorial Army.

After the war, John was called to the bar, Lincoln's Inn, and he quickly built a substantial practice on the south-eastern circuit, specialising mainly in the areas of rating and town planning. In 1958 he became QC, was Recorder of Hastings from 1958 to 1961, appointed judge of the Queens Bench division and knighted. In 1966 he became the first chairman of the Senate of the Inns of Court and the bar. In 1968 he was promoted to the Court of Appeal and appointed a Privy Councillor. In 1971 he succeeded Lord Parker of Waddington as Lord Chief Justice with a life peerage and was honoured as a Freeman of South Molton.

As a personality he was never an easy man to assess. In private life, he was always kind and courteous but seemed to be shy to the point of reticence. He was once described by a Chiltern team member as "The most boring man to talk to other than the Archbishop of Canterbury".

Giffard G. Newton

Born 1910, Chesham

Died 1982, Ashridge

Second row forward

Taunton School 1928

Old Tauntonians 1928-39

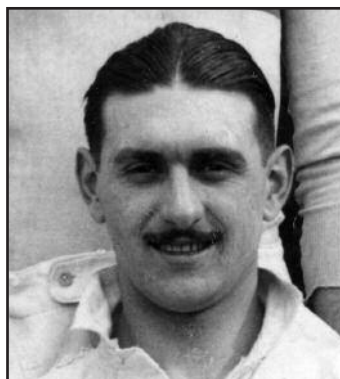
Chiltern RFC 1928-35 (Capt 1933-35)

Wasps FC 1936-39

East Midlands RFC 1931

Buckinghamshire 1933-34

Vice President, Chiltern RFC 1957-82



Giff was Chesham-born but learnt his sports at Taunton School, Somerset, the traditional source of education for the Newton family. It was while on Christmas holidays in 1928, that *Giff* was persuaded to play for the newly formed Chiltern RFC against Old Berkhamstedians at The Pineapple ground. His only two memories of that game were the stench of alcohol in the scrum, which was quite an experience for a youth who had only played rugby at school, and that only two baths were available for washing. These were filled by bucket from a copper in the pub and since he was the new boy in the team, he was last to wash in a bath of mud.

On leaving school in 1929, *Giff* took up a position within the family boot manufacturing business, now sadly the only remaining business of that type left in Chesham. Happily, the company is still in the family, currently managed by his son Clive, who in 1969 became Chiltern 1st XV captain.

Giff remembered the move to Weedon Lane, mainly for the constant stone picking parties to get the pitch into a playable condition. The stones were used as a base for what is now Ash Grove and the footpath past the tennis club to Hervines Road. In hindsight, the plots of building land adjoining the club in Weedon Lane for sale at £100 each would have given the club easier access.

Giff was invited by the Eastern Counties to play in the inaugural match against Aylesbury RFC in 1931, together with another Chiltern player R.C.P. Wheeler at wing three quarter. The old ground at Aylesbury was located a mile from Old Market Place on Manderville Road. It did not boast a pavilion, so the teams changed in the Bull Hotel to where they returned after the game for tea, cakes and buns. *Giff* played in the 'middle row' with Malcom Blair, who was captain of London Scottish and lived in Chalfont St Giles with his family. His father was Sir Reginald Blair, Member of Parliament for Hendon. Unfortunately Malcom with the rank of Major was a casualty at Dunkirk.

In the evening, Malcom and *Giff* decided to stay on for dinner, particularly as there was grouse on the menu, washed down with several bottles of vintage claret. Around 10.30pm, they decided to make their way home, only once outside to be confronted by thick Aylesbury Vale fog. *Giff* assured Malcom that he could find the London Road by carefully following the grass verge – there were no white lines or cats eyes in 1931. *Giff* finally, almost predictably, managed to lead the cars into the middle of a field. The cars developed wheel spin and were

trapped. They had to sleep in the cars all night, rousing a local farmer at daybreak to tow the cars out of his field. *Giff* at the age of 22, learnt a valued lesson that eight pints of beer and vintage claret are not the ideal mixture to exercise navigational skills in thick fog.

Giff recalled another fixture of great interest against RAF Halton where they changed in the officer's mess in the Mansion House, formerly a residence of Lord Rothschild. Using the bathrooms with gold gilt leaves, it was pointed out that Lily Langtry actress and mistress of the Prince of Wales, had formerly used the very same bathroom. One large leaf behind the bath was a spy hole hung with a concealed hinge, which could be moved to one side from outside the room.

Giff was selected to play on several occasions for Buckinghamshire, who were attempting to gain county status from 1933. Delayed by the war years, the county was finally established in 1946. *Giff* also recalled that Thames Valley club, now Maidenhead, was the toughest fixture of the season for Chiltern, the match nearly always ending up in a fight. *Giff* went on to play for Wasps FC in 1936 but always gave support to his local club.

He retired from rugby in 1945, but carried his sport forward for many more years with Chesham Cricket Club. He is also remembered as a member of Ashridge Golf Club where he was made captain in 1979. He unfortunately passed away with a sudden heart attack on the tenth hole during a game with his friend Frank Jarratt.

Giff and his family have been an ever present and continuing source of support throughout the history of Chiltern.

Brigadier Euston Edward Francis Baker

CB, CBE, DSO, MC & Bar, JP

Born 1895, April

Died January 1981, Amersham

Centre

Sherborne School 1913-14 (Capt rugby and shooting)

Richmond RFC 1920-24

Chiltern RFC 1924-26

Eastern Counties 1922

On leaving Sherborne School in 1914, E.E.F.Baker, *Freddie*, went directly into the army. He was gazetted to 5th Battalion Middlesex Regiment, where he won the the 'Spencer Cup' at Bisley in 1914.

Freddie quickly found himself posted to the Western Front and during March 1915, located on the grim Artois plain, found himself briefly engaged in the tragic defeat at Neuve Chapelle where 2nd Battalion was virtually annihilated by German machine guns. During this battle *Freddie* was wounded, but this was the only time during the war that he left the front line. In October 1918, *Freddie*, now Lieutenant Colonel, led 2nd Battalion into Douai. Soon after, at 23 years of age, he was promoted to Colonel of 2nd Battalion Middlesex Regiment, thereby becoming the youngest Colonel ever in the British Army.

Freddie was married in 1920 and moved into Amersham with his wife Mary. They had two sons and a daughter, raising their family in Stanbridge House, Chesham Road. Between 1923 and 1930, his Chiltern RFC years, *Freddie* became Colonel of 8th Battalion Middlesex Regiment before transferring in 1931 to take command of 7th City of London Regiment. He again transferred back to 8th Battalion Middlesex Regiment as Commander 1936-37 before becoming ADC to King George VI.

Freddie retired from the Kings service through ill health in 1951, but remained a JP for Bucks and was Chairman of the Amersham Bench from 1954 to 1969. He was best remembered locally as President of the Amersham Hill British Legion.

Trevor A. Davey

Born 1916, Newport, Gwent

Died 6 July 1981, Gerrards Cross

Centre

St Julians High School, Newport

Newport Athletic RFC 1934-1939

Gloucester FC 1939-1945

RAF RFC 1939-1945

Buckinghamshire RFC 1947-48

Chiltern RFC 1946-1981 (Capt 1947-49)

President, Chiltern RFC 1976-1981



It was on 26 October 1946 that Trevor Davey first played for Chiltern against Harrow RFC at Spur Road, Edgware, the site of their ground in the 1940s. Bill Lang had introduced Trevor to Chiltern after a casual meeting in the Bull Hotel in Gerrards Cross, a friendship and association with Chiltern that lasted for 35 years.

Trevor was educated at the renowned stronghold of Welsh schools rugby, St Julian's High School, Newport. He came to live in Gerrards Cross in 1946, joining the Commercial Ignition Company at Tatling End as chief buyer, where he worked until his retirement in 1981.

From an early age he showed outstanding talent at both rugby and cricket. On leaving school, he joined Newport Athletic Club at 18 years of age. He was very proud to be a member of the 'Black and Ambers' and was also a member of the town's cricket team. Although an outside half, he played as full back in local derby matches against Cardiff, Pontypool, Bristol and Gloucester. He gained a real baptism in hard rugby, making his first team debut in the 1938-39 season. However, a promising senior rugby career was ended as soon as it started with the outbreak of war.

With Chiltern re-establishing after the war, Trevor became captain in 1947 and under his leadership won 17 out of 25 matches that season. In January 1949, he presided over the Silver Jubilee Dinner held at Darsham Hall, Chesham, when the chief guest was Sir Wavel Wakefield, later to become Lord Wakefield. Having set a high standard with the 1st XV, he handed over the captain's job to Dickie Stuart-Prince. At the same time, Bucks County Rugby Union was established for which his services were soon required. Trevor became County's first captain. His partnership with Mickie Laing was undoubtedly the finest the club had since the war, and they also had many seasons of Bucks County rugby together, until Laing moved on to play for Bedford RUFC.

No tour, either rugby or cricket, would be complete without him. He was always a 'must' with Chiltern Wanderers as the touring side was originally known. Whatever disappointments there were on the field were certainly made up in after-match festivities. Those who were with him in Brighton, Westward Ho! or in Holland will know only too well.

Dr James Cardwell Gardiner

Born 1864, Cheshire

Died 1935, Little Kingshill

Rugby School 1885

Emmanuel College, Cambridge 1887-90

St George's Hospital RFC 1891-96

Stratford upon Avon RFC 1886-96

United Hospitals 1895

Midlands 1896

Vice President, Chiltern RFC 1925-35



The obituary in Bucks Examiner took a full page to itemise all the activities, associations, business partners and remembrance service details – The Times devoted a full column. J.C.Gardiner was the son of Rev James Gardiner and was educated at Rugby School in the 1880s when the school was influential in the formation of the laws of rugby. During his time at Rugby, he won the Public Schools Shooting Championship, one of over four hundred trophies he won during his remarkable sporting life.

On arrival at Cambridge University in 1887, he gained his sporting laurels when winning the sculls and stroking the coxless fours to the University championship. He followed this by stroking the University eight in the 1888 and 1889 boat races to two consecutive wins over Oxford. In his final year, Oxford won by a bare length. While at Cambridge, he also found time for boxing, rugby, athletics, cycling, fives, swimming, tennis, cricket and golf.

On graduating, he took up his clinical training at St George's Hospital and continued his rowing with Leander and Thames clubs. He was at stroke for the winning crew of the coxless four in the Stewards Cup at Henley in 1891 for the Thames boat club and again in 1894. While at St George's he spent his winter playing rugby, helping them to two consecutive Hospital Cup finals in 1895 and 1896, losing on both occasions to St Thomas's. He was also selected to play for United Hospitals XV and the Midlands.

He duly qualified to practice at the age of twenty eight and continued to work at St George's until he moved into general practice in Amersham in 1896. Dr J.C.Gardiner soon became a pillar of the Amersham and district society, his practice flourished and he became a firm favourite within the local sporting fraternity.

Initially, in the winter months, playing for two years as a half-back for Amersham Hockey Club and then changing winter sports, played as Amersham Town FC goalkeeper. He played for Amersham CC in the summer, a game he played until the age of sixty. He was one of the original members of the Harewood Downs Golf Club, founded in 1907, and was secretary to the Old Berkeley Hunt for six years. In 1933 he became Vice President of the newly formed Amersham Boxing Club located in the Amersham Brewery.

His duties to the town included Chairman of Amersham Building Society for 24 years, magistrate for 20 years, Chairman of the Amersham Bench, Chairman of the Chesham Brewery for 22 years, Chairman of Conservative Association and parish councillor for 22 years. He was also the senior medical officer in the Amersham Union, resigning in 1933. He died at his home Attricks Farm, Little Kingshill, leaving his widow Ethel and no other family.

Patrick Lorimer Mason

Born 1913

Died 1987, Edinburgh, Scotland

Dr Challoners School, Amersham

Chiltern RFC 1935-1987

President, Chiltern RFC 1964-69, 1973-74



Pat Mason and Martin Bunny Burbush had returned to Amersham after playing for Old Challoners Football Club, when they decided to take up an invitation from other Old Challoners who preferred the oval shaped ball, to visit the Chiltern clubhouse on a Saturday night. They enjoyed the 'Apres' rugby so much they decided to stay – maybe a small loss to Challoners Football Club but over the years an immense gain to Chiltern RFC.

Pat had lived in Rose Cottage, Chesham Bois Common, as a young man when his father Capt S.G.Mason was transferred to RAF Halton as a gunnery training officer. Pat's change of sport gave his father great pleasure, for as a young man he played rugby for the Royal Navy, Devonport Services and Devon. He played for Devon against the first touring 'All Blacks' in 1905, losing 55 points to 4. By coincidence, the match was watched by a young *Khaki* Roberts, later to play against the same All Blacks.

Pat's first game for Chiltern was in the 1935-36 season for A XV against London Scottish B. A season later he was elected A XV vice captain, and captain by the 1938-39 season. The war years intervened and since the majority of younger Chiltern members volunteered, the slightly older Pat became the central figure at Chiltern. However, he soon joined the Merchant Navy. He experienced many hazardous crossings on Atlantic convoys and later Russian Convoys to Arkhangelsk, where twice his ships were torpedoed. He later volunteered for duty in the Special Boat Service operating out of Alexandria, Egypt. Most of his operations were conducted from a Greek fishing boat, creating diversions for the occupying forces around the Greek Islands.

After the war Pat worked in the City of London as a chartered company secretary for the Bovril Group of Companies. In 1952, fed up with commuting, Pat took up a position as export manager with Webb & Jarratt, the Chesham-based brush manufacturing company. In 1957, Webb & Jarratt was sold to United Transport Company, and Pat continued to work under the new management until his early retirement in 1969.

Pat had been elected club Secretary after the war and continued until 1953, completing eighteen years active member on the club's committee. He was a founder member of the Buckinghamshire County Rugby Union.

Pat was elected as President of the club from 1964 to 1969. He was then re-elected as President for the 1973-74 season, the club's fiftieth anniversary – a worthy gesture by the club members in recognition of his long service to the club.

Dr D.E.Stephens

Born 1936, Aberavon, Wales
 Full back, outside half
 Cardiff Medicals RFC 1955-56
 Charing Cross Hospital RFC 1959-61
 Taibach RFC 1957-61
 Chiltern RFC 1965-76
 Chairman, Chiltern RFC 1971-74
 President, Chiltern RFC 1974-76



'Eddie the Drop' moved into general practice in the Chilterns in 1965, joining Chiltern in the 1966-67 season after a brief flirtation with High Wycombe RFC. The nickname followed a particular touchline dropkick effort against Beaconsfield. Lying recumbent from a crunching tackle, Eddie gained a sufficient glimpse of the ball to see it ricochet off the upright, smack the cross bar and gratefully go over.

Eddie enjoyed playing all sports, but in particular he was a very good cricketer. In his early days, playing for Glamorgan Schools Under 19s, he opened the innings with Tony Lewis, who went on to captain Glamorgan and England. Also in the side was Keith Rowlands – Cardiff, Wales, 1962 British Lion and first secretary to the IRB. Eddie was awarded his 'Gold' at Welsh Universities, the equivalent to an Oxbridge 'Blue'. He then played for Charing Cross Hospital CC, before moving to play for High Wycombe and Amersham CC.

Eddie together with Tony Hale, Eric Planken-Bickler and Dave Springford were instrumental in starting the Chiltern Mini Section in October 1973. His son David was amongst the team of boys who represented Chiltern in its first competitive game against Marlow on Sunday 26 October 1973. In 1974, Eddie with the help of Bill Webb, concentrated on coaching the 6-8 year old boys. A majority of these boys were to continue through the system to play for Bucks County Colts, Schoolboy International, Chiltern 1st XV and first class rugby. Patrick Young was the most notable, playing for England Schools and Wasps.

In the 1968-69 season, Eddie was elected as the Extra A XV captain, a position he held for three seasons. During the course of his own Extra A game, it was not unusual for Eddie to be called to render professional help to a casualty on the 1st XV pitch. On one occasion against Harpenden, Eddie was forced to send off the referee, albeit with a ruptured leg tendon. He quite often returned from an away game to hold an impromptu surgery in the kitchen, made up of players with a variety of lacerations requiring suturing.

Eddie remembers the 1973 and 1975 tours to France with clarity. Lydd Airport, near Romney, Kent, was the departure point in a well travelled ex-WW2 converted bomber. A worried band of tourists needed little excuse to become comatose on French wine and beer after they splash-landed in muddy conditions at Beauvais, France. Richard Adams demonstrated his prowess by swallowing two-dozen raw eggs in quick succession. Richard also sampled whenever possible different presentations of 'Escargot'. The horse that won the Grand National that year was 'Escargot' – virtually the whole touring party had backed it.

He was elected club President in 1974, the club's fiftieth anniversary year. He retired as a local GP and from the club in 1976, setting up home in North Devon.

P Brian Arbib

Born 15 March 1937
 Felsted School 1953-54
 Buckinghamshire 1959-67
 Chiltern RFC 1954-68 (Capt 1961-64)
 President, Chiltern RFC 1988-98



Brian joined Chiltern in 1954 as a promising young winger. He had joined straight from Felsted where he was noted in the school 1st XV for his ability to score important tries and then convert them with ease. The Daily Telegraph reported on the match against St Pauls where Brian, "From the half way line and only five yards from the touchline, kicked a magnificent goal".

In the early part of March 1955, Brian made his first appearance for Chiltern 1st XV against Old Wycombiensians, scoring the first try of the match in a 15 points to 0 victory. With several useful wingmen playing for Chiltern in the mid 1950s, Brian was persuaded to try his luck in the forwards, initially as a flanker and later in the second row, where he found a regular 1st XV place in the 1957-58 season.

When Dickie Stuart-Prince broke his leg and retired, results started to suffer and players drifted away. But along came Brian and together with Colin Pegley rebuilt the 1st XV, taking particular interest in the organisation of the Easter tours. With his brothers, Martyn and Gordon, they resurrected the social side of the club, particularly the annual dinners. When the club was destroyed by fire in 1959, Brian was again deeply involved in the fund raising and rebuilding of the club.

In 1959 he started his long association with the Buckinghamshire County XV, playing his last Bucks game in 1967. In 1961 he was elected Chiltern 1st XV captain, a position he held until 1964 when he handed over a successful 1st XV to John Adey.

In 1965, Chiltern won the Sevens Competition, a prestigious annual tournament, defeating Richmond in the final 7 points to 3. Brian had been a star sevens player for Chiltern over the years, the club entering up to four tournaments each season. Brian also played in many other representative games playing alongside current internationals and first class players. Despite many offers, he always stayed loyal to Chiltern. Brian retired from playing in 1968 due to injury.

When the club was extended in 1963, 1971 and 1984 and the extra field was purchased in 1976, Brian was involved with the committee raising funds. He was therefore a natural choice as club President in 1988 when Tony Hale resigned, a position he held with great style and success for ten years.

Arthur Gerald Griffiths

Born, 16 February 1915, Merthyr Tydfil, Wales

Died 1995, Amersham

Pontypridd RFC 1931-32

Merthyr Tydfil RFC 1932-34

Old Bristolians RFC 1936-39

Chiltern RFC 1946-56

President, Chiltern RFC 1969-73



A.G.Griffiths, known throughout Bucks as *Griff*, joined Chiltern immediately after the war. *Griff* arrived in Amersham during WW2, as a staff sergeant with 3rd Infantry Division to the C-in-C of the Allied Naval Expeditionary Force, Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsey. The job was to assist in planning 'Cossac', the allied landings in France, and *Griff's* part as a surveyor was to assist in the development of the Mullberry harbours and Gooseberry breakwaters.

Griff learnt his rugby at Quakers Yard Technical School, playing briefly for Pontypridd before being forced to retire from rugby following a serious knee injury while playing for Merthyr. On leaving Wales, to join the Ministry of Works, *Griff* was transferred to Bristol where he was once again persuaded to play for Old Bristolians until the outbreak of war. Whilst in the services, he played for Combined Services in Germany, but broke his leg and retired again.

Griff had fortunately met his wife Meme, a local Copperkins Lane resident, during his wartime posting to Amersham. When the club restarted in 1946, he was encouraged to play again by Pat Mason, Phillip Duerdoth and John Patterson who were busy clearing the pitch of wartime growth and erecting the posts when *Griff* strolled by with his baby son Chris, later to become a 1st XV player in the 1970s. He recalled his first game against Windsor, when the teams changed in empty storerooms in the rear yard of the Castle Hotel. The teams then had to walk down the High Street in their kit, past the Round Tower and on to the playing fields, overlooked by the castle. After a tub bath, the Windsor club entertained Chiltern to a meal in the hotel dining room where they were served dinner by waiters in full dress.

Having studied engineering at London University and a town planning officer, *Griff's* practical skills were recognized and he was immediately elected onto the committee. Soon his goodwill was utilised to the full, drawing up plans for clubhouse improvements and managing works. *Griff* was involved in the purchase of the ground and thanks to his personal understanding of local planning and byelaws, he was able to persuade Tyrwhitt-Drake Estate to release the land to the club. The rebuilding of the clubhouse following the fire in 1959 was another major achievement in which *Griff* played a leading role.

He was A XV captain 1949-53 and elected chairman of the Ground & Pavilion from 1956, when he retired from playing to take up the referee's whistle. He was elected Vice President in 1958 and became President in 1963. With Trevor Davey, *Griff* represented Chiltern at the first meetings of Bucks County RU. In 1995, just before he died, the club unanimously voted him 'Clubman of the Year'. It was estimated that he had played, refereed and supported over 1000 games with Chiltern. Memorial gates were erected at the entrance to the ground that *Griff* loved so much and to commemorate the years of hard work put into Chiltern RFC.

Clive R. Newton

Born 1949, Chesham

Centre

Taunton School 1965

Sale FC 1966-69

Chiltern RFC 1966-72 (Capt 1969-71)

Buckinghamshire RFC 1970-71

Chairman, Chiltern RFC 1984-87

President, Amersham & Chiltern RFC 1998-2002



Clive typifies "Chiltern Man" according to Tony Harman's book "More than Seventy Summers". It states "Chiltern Man's capital is Chesham and his main characteristics are extreme independence and a disrespect for authority".

Clive first played for the club on 8 January 1966 for Wynn Evans Extra B XV against Camelot. By 19 February, Clive had been chosen to play at full back for the 1st XV against Mill Hill, replacing club stalwart Alan Pegley.

Clive learnt his basic rugby skills at The Beacon School, in the same era as Tony Tagent and Simon Curtis, before being further educated at Taunton School, Somerset, and Manchester University, when he took the opportunity to play rugby for Sale FC. He returned to Chesham to work in the family boot manufacturing business, Giffard Newton.

Clive's election as 1st XV captain in the 1969-70 season brought about the resurgence of Chiltern rugby. A number of key players joined, including Danny Hale, a teacher at Raans School and former Bedford player, Bill Patterson, who had previously played for Sale, Wasps, Cheshire, Barbarians, England and British Lions, as well as Peter Stafford, England trialist, Barbarian, Cheshire and Rosslyn Park and also Roddy Adams, a 6 foot 7 inch second row on loan from the British Army to the Sultan of Oman. Even further recruits were David McIntosh and fellow Scotsman Sandy Wood.

Clive's senior rugby career peaked with games for Bucks County XV but was curtailed towards the end of 1971 when he suffered a broken Achilles tendon. Clive recovered, but fortunately for Chiltern members broke his jaw in a Sevens competition at Oxford and was wired up for 10 weeks.

Clive 'rested' for several years until his son William took up the challenge with Chiltern Minis, Juniors and Colts, when he returned to coaching. Flushed with success, Clive's ambition was to promote greater unification between the Mini and Junior sections and the senior club. He seemed the natural candidate to take on the onerous task of club Chairman.

During Clive's chairmanship, the senior club improved its playing status by appointing Tony Aplin as 1st XV team manager - a local rugby enthusiast who, it could be said, was ten years ahead of his time. With his connections to Welsh rugby, Tony secured the services of several 'retired' senior players, bringing a new dimension to Chiltern rugby.

In 1998, Clive took over from the retiring President Brian Arbib, who had been in residence for ten excellent years. In his Presidency, together with his 'think tank' from the Red Lion Little Missenden, Clive has raised considerable funds towards the new Chiltern clubhouse.

Club Records 1924–2004

Chapter 9

AMERSHAM & CHILTERN RFC, PRESIDENT

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Capt I.Stewart-Liberty | 1924–1949 | Dr D.E.Stephens | 1974–1976 |
| K.E.Halton | 1949–1959 | T.A.Davey | 1976–1981 |
| W.N.D.Lang | 1959–1964 | A.V.Hale | 1981–1988 |
| P.L.Mason | 1964–1969 | P.B.Arbib | 1988–1998 |
| A.G.Griffiths | 1969–1973 | C.R.Newton | 1998–2002 |
| P.L.Mason | 1973–1974 | C.R.Smith | 2002–current |

AMERSHAM & CHILTERN RFC, CHAIRMAN

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|---------------|--------------|
| K.E.Halton | 1924–1925 | G.E.Jackson | 1974–1977 |
| C.H.Penny | 1925–1936 | C.G.Maloney | 1977–1981 |
| R.W.Webb | 1936–1939 | J.C.Carpenter | 1981–1984 |
| J.F.Taylor | 1939–1946 | C.R.Newton | 1984–1987 |
| W.N.D.Lang | 1946–1947 | S.F.Griffiths | 1987–1991 |
| No Chairman Elected | 1947–1966 | S.J.Fuller | 1991–1994 |
| A.G.Griffiths | 1967–1969 | P.R.L.Osborne | 1994–1997 |
| A.J.Baxter | 1969–1971 | R.Jarrold | 1997–2000 |
| Dr D.E.Stephens | 1971–1974 | P.J.Kyte | 2000–current |

AMERSHAM & CHILTERN RFC, SECRETARY

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| E.A.Redfern | 1924–1926 | D.J.Rimmer | 1968–1970 |
| R.B.Middleton | 1926–1930 | J.Leggett | 1970–1977 |
| K.E.Halton | 1930–1934 | B.Trent | 1977–1979 |
| J.F.Taylor | 1934–1939 | S.J.Fuller | 1979–1981 |
| P.L.Mason | 1939–1953 | A.R.Thompson | 1981–1983 |
| G.C.Morcom | 1953–1957 | C.D.Aylott | 1983–1988 |
| H.F.Trott | 1957–1961 | P.M.Jalland | 1988–1991 |
| J.R.Strang | 1961–1962 | A.S.R.Pegley | 1991–1994 |
| A.H.Scott | 1962–1965 | C.G.Maloney | 1994–1995 |
| G.C.Morcom | 1965–1968 | I.McKenzie | 1995–current |

AMERSHAM & CHILTERN RFC, 1ST XV CAPTAIN

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|----------------|--------------|
| H.W.Halton | 1924–1925 | P.M.W.Stafford | 1971–1972 |
| K.E.Halton | 1925–1927 | B.Hornby | 1972–1973 |
| R.W.Webb | 1927–1928 | R.Adams | 1973–1974 |
| R.Nott | 1928–1929 | M.Wilson | 1974–1975 |
| R.W.Webb | 1929–1931 | S.D.Curtis | 1975–1977 |
| J.W.J.Moir | 1931–1933 | D.F.MacIntosh | 1977–1978 |
| G.G.Newton | 1933–1935 | J.Rowlands | 1978–1979 |
| W.N.D.Lang | 1935–1937 | R.J.Yelland | 1979–1981 |
| R.C.P.Wheeler | 1937–1939 | D.V.Martin | 1981–1982 |
| R.Dodd | 1939–1940 | A.Littlewood | 1982–1983 |
| J.P.Duerdoth | 1946–1947 | M.Bugg | 1983–1985 |
| G.Patterson | 1946–1947 | R.Davies | 1985–1986 |
| T.A.Davey | 1947–1949 | M.A.Watson | 1986–1988 |
| R.G.Stuart-Prince | 1949–1953 | A.S.R.Pegley | 1988–1990 |
| R.N.Anderson | 1953–1955 | D.Gray | 1990–1991 |
| R.G.Stuart-Prince | 1955–1956 | M.Littlejohns | 1991–1995 |
| R.N.Anderson | 1956–1957 | D.J.Richardson | 1995–1997 |
| C.J.R.Pegley | 1957–1961 | C.Luker | 1997–2000 |
| P.B.Arbib | 1961–1964 | B.Richardson | 2000–2002 |
| J.V.Adey | 1964–1968 | D.Wyatt | 2002–2003 |
| A.J.Baxter | 1968–1969 | J.Alexander | 2003–current |
| C.R.Newton | 1969–1971 | | |

Chiltern
RFC Records
1924–2004

CHILTERN RFC, 1ST XV SEASON

1924/25 Season

Played 14 Won 6 Lost 8

1925/26 Season

Played 19 Won 11 Lost 8

1926/27 Season

Played 21 Won 8 Lost 11 Drawn 2

1927/28 Season

Played 20 Won 12 Lost 7 Drawn 1

1928/29 Season

Played 21 Won 16 Lost 3 Drawn 2

1929/30 Season

Played 24 Won 16 Lost 7 Drawn 1

1930/31 Season

Played 21 Won 10 Lost 11

1931/32 Season

Played 23 Won 18 Lost 5

1932/33 Season

Played 21 Won 15 Lost 6

1933/34 Season

Played 22 Won 14 Drawn 2

1934/35 Season

Played 28 Won 10 Drawn 2

1935/36 Season

Played 18 Won 8 Lost 7 Drawn 3

1936/37 Season

Played 22 Won 11 Lost 11

1937/38 Season

Played 22 Won 17 Lost 4 Drawn 1

1938/39 Season

Played 23 Won 10 Lost 10 Drawn 3

1946/47 Season

Played 17 Won 10 Lost 6 Drawn 1

1947/48 Season

Played 24 Won 16 Lost 5 Drawn 3

1948/49 Season

Played 25 Won 19 Lost 6

1949/50 Season

Played 25 Won 19 Lost 3 Drawn 3

1950/51 Season

Played 22 Won 10 Lost 8 Drawn 4

1951/52 Season

Played 23 Won 20 Lost 2 Drawn 1

1952/53 Season

Played 25 Won 19 Lost 4 Drawn 2

1953/54 Season

Played 27 Won 14 Lost 10 Drawn 3

1954/55 Season

Played 21 Won 13 Lost 6 Drawn 3

1955/56 Season

Played 23 Won 11 Lost 10 Drawn 2

1956/57 Season

Played 24 Won 3 Lost 19 Drawn 2

1957/58 Season

Played 23 Won 3 Lost 19 Drawn 1

1958/59 Season

Played 20 Won 3 Lost 15 Drawn 2

1959/60 Season

Played 27 Won 10 Lost 16 Drawn 1

1960/61 Season

Played 29 Won 12 Lost 14 Drawn 3

1961/62 Season

Played 26 Won 14 Lost 10 Drawn 2

1962/63 Season

Played 19 Won 10 Lost 7 Drawn 2

CHILTERN RFC, 1ST XV SEASON

1963/64 Season

Played 25 Won 16 Lost 9

1964/65 Season

Played 24 Won 14 Lost 7 Drawn 3

1965/66 Season

Played 27 Won 17 Lost 7 Drawn 3

1966/67 Season

Played 27 Won 11 Lost 13 Drawn 2

1967/68 Season

Played 27 Won 8 Lost 16 Drawn 2

1968/69 Season

Played 26 Won 14 Lost 10 Drawn 2

1969/70 Season

Played 34 Won 23 Lost 8 Drawn 3

1970/71 Season

Played 29 Won 16 Lost 9 Drawn 2

1971/72 Season

Played 32 Won 24 Lost 7 Drawn 1

1972/73 Season

Played 33 Won 21 Lost 11 Drawn 1

1973/74 Season

Played 26 Won 11 Lost 15

1974/75 Season

Played 29 Won 15 Lost 13 Drawn 1

1975/76 Season

Played Won Lost Drew

1976/77 Season

Information Required

1977/78 Season

Information Required

1978/79 Season

Information Required

1979/80 Season

Information Required

1980/81 Season

Information Required

1981/82 Season

Information Required

1982/83 Season

Information Required

1983/84 Season

Information Required

1984/85 Season

Information Required

1985/86 Season

Information Required

1986/87 Season**BUCKS CUP WINNERS**

Information Required

1987/88 Season

Information Required

1988/89 Season

Played 10 Won 8 Lost 2

1989/90 Season

Played 10 Won 4 Lost 6

1990/91 Season

Played 10 Won 2 Lost 8

1991/92 Season

Played 25 Won 12 Lost 11 Drawn 2



AMERSHAM & CHILTERN RFC, 1ST XV SEASON

1992/93 Season

Played 29 Won 19 Lost 10

1993/94 Season

BUCKS AND OXON 1 CHAMPIONS

Played 29 Won 23 Lost 6

1994/95 Season

Played 28 Won 16 Lost 12

1995/96 Season

SOUTHERN COUNTIES CHAMPIONS

Played 12 Won 12

1996/97 Season

BUCKS CUP WINNERS

Played 20 Won 11 Lost 9

1997/98 Season

Played 22 Won 10 Lost 10 Drawn 2

1998/99 Season

Played 22 Won 13 Lost 8 Drawn 3

1999/00 Season

BUCKS CUP WINNERS

Played 22 Won 11 Lost 11

2000/01 Season

BUCKS CUP WINNERS

Played 22 Won 13 Lost 9

2001/02 Season

Played 22 Won11 Lost 10 Drawn 1

2002/03 Season

Played 22 Won 6 Lost 16

2003/04 Season

BUCKS CUP WINNERS

Played 18 Won 13 Lost 4 Drawn 1

AMERSHAM & CHILTERN RUGBY

champions
southern counties
BUCKS
cup winners

| AMERSHAM & CHILTERN RFC, A XV CAPTAIN | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|--------------|
| E.A.Redfern | 1925-1927 | B.East | 1972-1973 |
| M.Abbott | 1927-1929 | D.W.T.Shannon | 1973-1974 |
| R.B.Middleton | 1929-1930 | C.G.Maloney | 1974-1975 |
| J.Gardner | 1930-1932 | B.Dowling | 1975-1976 |
| S.Hatterick | 1932-1934 | A.Roddis | 1976-1977 |
| R.E.G.Stewart | 1934-1935 | A.Tagent | 1977-1978 |
| I.S.Iphcjian | 1935-1936 | G.Howells | 1978-1979 |
| F.N.Foster | 1936-1937 | A.Littlefield | 1979-1980 |
| P.L.Mason | 1937-1939 | C.R.Smith | 1980-1981 |
| F.N.Foster | 1946-1948 | S.F.Griffiths | 1981-1983 |
| C.F.Downs | 1948-1949 | E.Cruddas | 1983-1984 |
| A.G.Griffiths | 1949-1953 | D.O'Connor | 1984-1986 |
| R.H.Newman | 1953-1954 | B.Sheldon | 1986-1988 |
| C.J.Pegley | 1954-1955 | G.Newton | 1988-1991 |
| M.C.German | 1955-1956 | S.Fowler | 1991-1992 |
| D.W.Barnett | 1956-1957 | J.Royals | 1992-1993 |
| J.Page | 1957-1958 | R.Thompson | 1993-1995 |
| P.H.Padley-Smith | 1958-1960 | A.Walters | 1995-1997 |
| R.E.Andrew | 1960-1961 | T.DeMonte | 1997-1998 |
| G.C.Harvey | 1961-1964 | D.Yarrol | 1998-2000 |
| B.M.Walker | 1964-1967 | T.Stickland | 2000-2001 |
| P.G.Toon | 1967-1970 | T.Rowlands | 2001-current |
| D.Bazzard | 1970-1972 | | |

Amersham &
Chiltern RFC
1924-2004

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