

ANTHONY JOHN GERMAIN PARSONS (R61-66)

He credits Norman Borrett with having an enormous impact on his hockey career after leaving the College. He put him forward for the Welsh School boys in 1966 and he did not retire from being involved with Wales until 1978.

He gained 47 caps for Wales and scored the only goal against England in Wales's first ever win against them at full inter-national. Also in 1966 Wales school boys beat England 1-0 in the round robin tournament in Ireland that year. **Ricky Parry (R57-66)** was the scorer.

The Hockey Museum in Woking, which is the national treasure trove of British hockey history, makes occasional presentations of Great Britain honours caps to former player and the family of former hockey players. One such presentation was made on 23 September 2023 to **Tony Parson (R61-66)** and the sons of the late **Norman Borrett (S31-36)**. At the time we posted the following news story :



Most of their presentations are now single or to only a couple of players at a time. Such an event took place at The Hockey Museum when the family of England captain Norman Borrett, who died in 2004, and former Welsh GB player Tony Parsons visited for their presentations. Both parties were completely unaware of each other, hailing from different nations and being of different international eras: Norman from the 1948 Olympic Games and Tony from the 1970s.

However, the most remarkable coincidence transpired when Tony revealed that he had been taught his hockey at Framlingham College by none other than Norman Borrett! Hockey never ceases to amaze us with its ability to make a big world feel so small and connected.

Picture left to right are Mike Smith (The Hockey Museum President and Hon. Curator), Tony Parsons (Wales and GB), and Tony (50-55) and Tim Borrett (58-63) (sons of Norman Borrett, England and GB).



He went on to say "I attach a photo of Fram's 1966 Hockey 1st XI which contain five school boy internationals, James Smedley (England), Ricky Parry (Wales), Jim Crosby (Scotland), Peter White (England 1967) and myself.



I was very surprised and delighted to meet up with Antony Borrett and family when I went to The Hockey Museum in Woking to pick up my GB cap. Norman Borrett was an exceptional character to us all at Fram. I can clearly remember him in his long fur coat coaching us hockey on The Back.

I have an enormous amount to thank Norman as he put me forward for the Welsh School boys in 1966 and I did not retire from being involved with Wales until 1987. I gained 47 caps for Wales and scored the only goal against England in Wales first ever win against them at full inter-national. Also in 1966 Wales school boys beat England 1-0 in the round robin tournament in Ireland that year. Ricky Parry also at Fram was the scorer.

1966 was a very good year for me except for my academic progress but that's life.

Looking back I was very lucky to have a mentor like Norman Borrett"

In further correspondence, Martin Lamb, who had captained this fine 1966 side, provided the following response :

"Thank you for forwarding the stuff from Tony Parsons. Very interesting although I had not (and I used to follow hockey pretty closely in the years following school) appreciated that Tony had also played for GB. He was a fine, utterly determined hockey player and apart from his international career, played and I believe captained Sussex for many years. He also captained the school in 1966 at cricket - a very good bat and wicketkeeper.

I hasten to correct Tony - I was not captain of the 1966 side (strange that the formal photo has it wrong). Richard Smedley was our leader, and I, sitting to his right in was secretary. I did captain the side in Richard's absence that year in Holland - our first visit to the Hague (our year to drop out of the Oxford University Festival) - in the delightful company of Cheltenham Ladies College which among other things provided some great mixed hockey on the last day with the Dutch girls and boys who looked after us all superbly.

We did indeed have a terrific side that year - unbeaten by schools, including the local derby against Ipswich HC whom we beat 4-3. I frequently remind Norman Mayhew about because he became 'very cross' as the game went on and ended moving from centre half to centre forward to try and score himself. Of note were the great triumvirate of masters in charge of hockey (C I M Jones at Bishop's Stortford College, John Cockett at Felsted and our own dear Norman of course). We beat Bishop's Stortford 0-1 and Felsted on the Back 2-1. Norman could not have been more delighted!

As Tony says, we had five schoolboy internationals but three of them went on to get full caps: Tony for Wales), dear old Jim Crosbie for Scotland and Peter White, England Indoor. Several of us played schools county that year but my great regret came in later life: I had always hoped that at least some of these multi-talented sportsmen would surely have been golfers and thus supported OF golf. We did see Jim Crosbie for several years and Peter White did once play in an Aldeburgh meeting, but we couldn't persuade Tony to make the trip to Suffolk. It's not too late Tony!

I agree we have much to thank Norman Borrett for in his 'rat skin' coat ! He inspired that team - no 'super stars' although Richard Smedley always stood out above us all - to truly play together and for each other. "