

“HERE & THERE” (Overseas Bag)

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Through the wonders of e-mail, I've kept in touch with all OFs living overseas, who have registered an e-mail address on the SOF website. I would strongly encourage everyone to ensure that they register their e-mail address on the website, so that we can keep in touch.

My thanks to everyone who has contributed. Although it gives me a lot of editing headaches its great to hear from so many of you and I trust that my editing skills have done your messages proud. It's also great through the website to be able to include your messages and photos in full, whereas space constraints mean that the OF Newsletter and Yearbook have only a small section on the Overseas Bag.

Please keep your messages and news coming in, along with your photos and don't be too shy to let me know if you think you or someone else should be included in the Distinguished section of the SOF website.

AUSTRALIA

Phil Bower (G65-74) was in touch again about his long awaited album. To quote Phil “Being as the international press have been hammering at my door wanting their freebie (NOT!!)..... you'll be delighted/dismayed/horrified (delete as appropriate!) to learn that the masterpiece that's been 20 years in the making has been completed. Here's my band website: www.darquarter.net Details on everything are on the disc link..... along with some 30 second soundbite mp3's. Bear in mind that the backing tracks went down in December last year and the sound guy is alcoholic (!) otherwise, it ain't so shabby!! Enjoy.

John Gates S44-48 got in touch when he returned from his latest overseas jaunt. “We cruised from Brisbane to Darwin, Singapore, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Osaka, Yokahama, Honolulu, San Francisco, Acapulco, Hautulco, Panama Canal, Aruba, Barbados, Ponta Degada and into Southampton on 22nd April- 53 days in total. Had a great time, played Bridge everyday whilst at sea and Ports of call all very interesting.

On arrival in UK, spent a few days with friends at Warsah, then to my wife's brother near Wimborne, then up to Somerset where we rented a cottage at Wembdon. Great area plenty of wild life. Visited Tyntesfield National Trust property up near Bristol - Great.

Flew home via Dubai on 31st May and caught up with friends there. Weather 42c and arrived home Monday 4th June 17c - quite a contrast!

In reply I asked John if they had been affected by dreadful weather they have experienced in some parts of Australia. He replied “No we have not been affected by any floods as we are in S.E. Queensland, and floods are at least 600 Klms away. Always happens in Australia - prolonged drought, then either fire or floods. Two days ago my wife had a bad fall and has

broken her right wrist - seeing the Orthopedic Surgeon this morning, then I lost 1 lens out of my reading glasses and cannot find it - so Optomotrist appointment as well this morning. To cap it off my hearing aid is playing up - never rains but it pours.

Mike Garnett (R53-55) contacted me about the list I have compiled of OF's who have published books (see Distinguished Section on OF website at www.oldframlinghamian.com). He let me know that the late Len Evans MBE had written the definitive book on Australian wines in 1990 titled 'Complete Book of Australian Wines'.

Before I could reply, he got in touch again to say "After I sent you the email, I searched around the Melbourne book shops and found a 1990 edition of Len Evans' book in almost mint condition. I would like to donate it to Fram of course. It is a monster of a book, so I might bring it to UK next April rather than spend a fortune by post! I think my visit coincides with the OF (lunch or dinner?) in April 2008, so I will hand it to someone there."

I replied saying that I would be at the Essex Supper in April 2008 and would let **John Rankin (K47-56)** know, so that he got an invite nearer the time.

Mike replied saying that "Rankin was a very well known name, many of whom lived in the Rayleigh area - and at Alleyn Court [*this school prior to Fram*] I was in Rankin House! The Rankin family were very close to the Wilcox family who ran the school. The headmaster was Denis Wilcox who captained Essex at cricket, and my housemaster was Trevor Bailey the fast bowler. A relative of mine married a Rankin and they lived near Paglesham (I think!). So I wonder if John Rankin is of this family."

He added "Did you know there is a very early real tennis court in Bath - it is in Morford Street and I visited it many years ago? Built in 1777 it is converted to other uses - last used for tennis about 1800!! I replied saying I didn't, but would take a picture next time I popped in and forward it on to him.

The same day I received a package from Mike in the Post - a copy of his latest book entitled "A Tennis Miscellany". It's a fascinating read, which Mike has generously asked to be donated to the College. I was also happy to confirm that copies of his earlier books "A History of Royal Tennis in Australia" and "A Chase Down-Under" are held by the College.

Finally my thanks to Mike for agreeing to meet up with Hugo Hutchison (see below) when he goes over to Melbourne.

Hugo Hutchison (R01-05) got in touch with the Society to say that he was due to leave the UK for Melbourne, Australia on 30 September 2007. He had got a job as a tennis coach for 7 months. As mentioned above, we have put him in touch with **Mike Garnett (R53-55)** and look forward to hearing how he get's on. He'd also like to hear from any other OFs in the area.

CANADA

Thomas Wolever (R71-72) As part of my research of Distinguished OFs, I was put in touch with Thomas by another OF living in Canada – **Howard Thistlewood ((K66-73)**. Thomas has the distinction of being our youngest Professor, which he puts down to it perhaps being easier to become a professor in North American than in the UK – I think he’s being modest.

You can read a full write up in the Distinguished Section of the OF website, but briefly he says “I went to Fram as an English Speaking Union Exchange student, and it was very instrumental in getting me to where I am now because if I hadn’t gone to Fram, I never would have met Laurie Rimmer (the headmaster at the time) who persuaded me to try for Oxford, never would have met David Jenkins at Oxford and never would have started work on fibre and GI with him. I am most proud of the fact that I have a lovely wife and 3 children aged 19, 17 and 10.

I hardly remember any students from Fram, except **Dave Winter (R68-72)** who I shared a study with and **Rob Ellerby (G65-72)** and **Stu Cockman (R63-72)** who went up to Oxford with me. I have lost touch with them all and would love to hear from anyone who remembers me at thomas.wolever@utoronto.ca”

Not strictly part of the Overseas Bag, but quite by accident **David Lebbell (K 41-46)** sent the Hon Secretary a petition about the honouring of the last Canadian WW1 veteran. Given the **Gordon Flowerdew VC (1894-99)** links to Canada and the College, the petition was duly signed, with the following response:

Dear petition supporter: You did it! Thanks to you and the over 90,000 people who signed our petition for a State Funeral for the last veteran of the First World War, the Parliament of Canada unanimously passed the following motion introduced by M.P. Peter Stoffer on Tuesday, November 21: "That, in the opinion of this House, the Government of Canada should honour all who served Canada in the First World War by sponsoring a State Funeral on the passing of the last Canadian veteran of this Great War." This binding motion will ensure that at the appropriate time the family of the last veteran of the Great War will be offered a full State Funeral to recognise the service and sacrifice of their loved one and the 600,000 fellow Canadians who served under arms from 1914 to 1918. This brings to a conclusion the Dominion Institute's public campaign for a State Funeral for the last First World War veteran. On behalf of all the veterans, staff and volunteers at the Dominion Institute thank you for supporting for this important national cause! Rudyard Griffiths, Executive Director The Dominion Institute The last remaining Canadian First World War veteran will be laid to rest at a state funeral, after Ottawa voted unanimously Tuesday in favour of an NDP motion.

FRANCE

Robert Kos (G75-82) has recently moved from London to Bordeaux region and provided the following update :-

“My wife & I decided to leave behind our hectic life in London for the French rural countryside. We bought our 400 year old farmhouse in the south west, 2 hours from Bordeaux, 4 years ago, and have been restoring it on extended holidays ever since.

We made the decision to move permanently in October, my parents following suit just this month. They are building a new house with a wonderful view 12 miles from us. I am currently building a garage/workshop so that I have somewhere to pursue my love of tinkering with vehicles & woodwork. We brought our 37 year old MGB roadster with us, which is fantastic to drive round the countryside at the moment with the top down, now that the sunflowers are blooming so spectacularly. My next restoration project, though, will probably be the old Renault tractor that was left behind in the barn & needs a lot of TLC.

Other than that, there's always so much to do around the house & garden, not forgetting socialising & sampling the local produce & wine of course! I hesitate to use the word 'retired' at the age of 44, but essentially, I suppose, that's really what I am! It helps as we decided not to have children & we can live on very little, especially now that the vegetable patch is very productive. We're not exactly Barbara & Tom from the Good Life, but life is good!”

HONG KONG

Ian Howard (S57-62) – I recently included Ian in the Distinguished OF section and wrote to him for some details on how he came to be awarded an MBE. You can read his full biography on the SOF website, but he was awarded the MBE (plus Queen’s Medal and Vanuatu Independence Medal for his part in the independence of the Anglo-French territory of the New Hebrides.



He spent the period from 1980 to 1995 working for the Hong Kong Government, spending the last 4 years based in London promoting Hong Kong to the business community. “I briefly joined the world of SOF while back in UK – and re-met a number of old and good friends that included **Jon Ford (S58-62)**, **Richard Sayer (S56-61)**, **John Wood (S56-61)** and **Richard Cullinan (K55-62)** - mostly, as you can see, from my old house, Stradbroke.

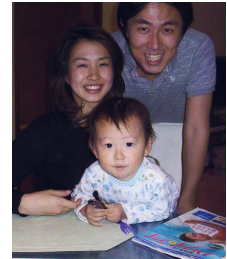
I started my own consulting firm in 1995 when I decided to leave the HK government and I found myself spending so much time back in East Asia that I finally moved back there, to Hong Kong, in 2000. I worked for three years, on a full-time consulting basis, for the Founder/Chairman/CEO of the Shui On Group in Hong Kong and Shanghai and very closely on a rather special project ("Xintiandi") in Shanghai and anybody who has been to Shanghai during the past five years has almost certainly visited this attractively restored area of the city.

I am still consulting in East Asia (China, Hong Kong, Vietnam) and am an Adviser to the Municipality of Chongqing in SW China.”

Finally, Ian went on to apologise to **Iain Fidlín (M73-77)** and others for not having organised a HK Supper, due to losing his e-mail addresses. *[I have now supplied Ian with an up to date list of OFs living in Hong Kong and China – there are 41 recorded with an e-mail address, plus many others without. Hopefully Ian will now be able to organise another Supper and will be in touch]*

JAPAN

Nally Kato (M93-96) wrote from Japan enclosing a very kind donation to the Society. She is working for Merrill Lynch in Japan. She also enclosed a photograph of herself with husband Hirokayu and young son Taiki.



MALLORCA

Michael Evans (S 45-48) has been in contact a number of times on all sorts of subjects, but I thought firstly the following tennis recollections may be of interest to others :-

He wrote to me about the sad death of **Anthony Rosen (S40-46)** and said “Many year's ago Anthony & I represented Fram in the Old Boys tennis competition @ Queens, where I subsequently became a member.” This prompted me to ask about his time at Queens Club -

“Queens in my day was a great members club, before it became taken over by the LTA. In those days I was working at Lillywhites so Queens was only 20mins away on the underground. The joy was you never really needed to book a court or set up a game in advance as they had a wonderful major domo called Jeffery who you rang. He organised games for you with someone of the same level & you could play singles or doubles as you preferred. On Sundays they had a traditional lunch where everybody sat at the club table. Teddy Tinling, of tennis wear fame, who scandalised Wimbledon in the early 50's with Gussie Moran's frilly pants held forth at the lunch table, he had great wit & always knew the latest gossip on the circuit. In the year that Jack Kramer won Wimbledon he invited me to knock up with him, a great honour. It was at Queens I was also initiated into the wonderful world of Real Tennis by David Warburg, the world champion at the time. We both represented Queens at squash in the Bath Cup - **Humphrey Truman (G49-52)** was to follow in my footsteps.

The Stella Artois is a great tournament at Queens & I watch every year on TV. In my time at Queens it was all much more informal & the great players mixed with the members. I also feel there were more characters. Art (Tappy) Larsen comes to mind, the winner of the US Open at Forest Hills on grass in those days. He never got out of bed until mid-day, insisted he could never play before 3pm, & could never walk on a line. Gordon Forbes, the South African Davis Cup player told me a wonderful story about Arts arrival to play in Rome. He was seeded No1 & 30mins before he was due on Centre Court had not arrived & no one knew where he was. Suddenly Art appeared in his tennis kit, threw his bag down in the centre of the clubhouse and announced he couldn't possibly play until his girlfriend had been found. Apparently he mislaid her at the airport. Fortunately she was found & somewhat behind schedule Art agreed to play. Having got on court, Art announced that he did not think it fair to keep the crowd waiting any longer & that play should commence immediately. He won I think 6-1 6-0 & went on to the title.

Incidentally Gordon Forbes wrote one of the most amusing tennis books I've read called "To soon to panic", well worth catching up with."

Later on he got in touch about my piece on the Waugh Family in the Distinguished OF Section. "Having reviewed your excellent entry re above on the OF website, it has reminded me of my time at Fram when **John Waugh (K41-48)** and I ran a "book". We used to go round in prep & chalk the odds on the blackboard for the following days major race, laying off with the local bookmaker. Our great highlight was Airborne winning the Derby for Perryman @ 66/1, the longest priced winner ever, whose son Dick was at the college. We were terribly worried the local bookmaker would fail to pay up, but fortunately he laid off with one of the major bookmakers in Ipswich. The sequel to this was that on Derby day John & I were both opening the batting for the 2nd XI on Dixons (I had just been dropped from the 1st XI). We were both going well against the Framlingham Town XI as 3pm approached. We met for a conference in the middle of the pitch & agreed we would get out in the next over, so that we could retire behind the pavilion to listen to the race on a portable radio. Unfortunately our celebrations of the result attracted the attention of Bertie Manthorp the master i/c of 2nd XI cricket & I ended up dropped from the 2nd XI as well. Just one more reason why the Head Mr Kirkman felt I was not prefect material."

Finally Michael provided a few reflections on life on Mallorca "Life here in retirement is as near perfect as one has the right to expect. Great climate, friendly people who can always find time for conversation. Good infrastructure, top class medical facilities, cheap air fares to all main European cities. So after 19 years away for GB I can truthfully say Mallorca has become my home. I still return to GB approx four times a year to spend time with my daughter, who lives in London & has followed me into retailing as a career and now has her own business in the "City". I see **Ian Foster (K46-53)** from time to time & together with Ian had a convivial get together with **Richard Sayer (S56-61)** when he & the Baltic Exchange boys were here on their annual jamboree. It is always a pleasure to take a glass or two with any OF who comes to the Island & would care to call me on."

USA

Anthony Cowan (R55-64) has re-established with the Society and provided the following update "Basically I spent 12 years at Lloyds, and then went to Seattle on a 5 year contract, and 28 years later am still there. 18 years ago I started my own Company, Caledonian Insurance Group, and we specialize in Aviation Insurance coverages. We have business in the U.S., Central and South America, Malaysia and Italy and Greece, etc. So a lot of travel!

I also have a son James who has just graduated from Purdue in Mechanical Engineering. Perhaps a job at Boeing, who knows? Recently I saw **Edward Turner (K55-61)** and a couple of years ago **John Birt (S59-63)** in Thailand.

Alfred Molson (K38-43) is a regularly correspondent with all sorts of fascinating tales. He is also very good at keeping in touch with a wide range of OFs across the world and is a strong advocate of using www.skype.com so you can talk as long as you wish for free. When I get time

I must get this set up.

In one of his e-mails he writes “Where are they now? Since leaving Fram in 1943 I have run into only two OF's of my time -

- **Luke F.S.Bentley (41-43)** - last seen in the Fall of 1945 in full FSMO (Field service marching order, i.e. carrying every piece of equipment your own) marching out of the Royal Engineers Barracks en-route to the train station, final destination Egypt/ Palestine.
- **Graham R. Rumbold (R 39-41)** - it was late one afternoon in December 1949 and I was visiting my sister in her office. She was secretary to Mr. 'Billy' Butlin of Holiday Camp fame. He hired her in Canada and brought her to Nassau, Bahamas, as secretary to the Board of his new venture, Butlins Bahamas Ltd. They purchased Crown Land from the Government at £5 an acre at the western end of Grand Bahama Island (about 95 miles due east of the Florida coast). I was working in Nassau at the time for Barclays Bank (D.C.& O.). Graham Rumbold had been hired in Canada and had worked at the camp being built in West End, Grand Bahama Island. He had come to collect his air ticket to return to the UK.”

My predecessor as editor of the Overseas Bag, **Richard Rowe (S65-74)**, has provided another update “It has been another busy year – but that is to be expected with three young sons. Schools and sports are regular events. Plus some business travel - both within the US and internationally – Brazil, Bolivia, Honduras so far; and maybe India next month.

I have had contact with a few OFs. Following the success of taking our boys sailing in the British Virgin Islands 2 years ago, we decided to try some sailing up in Vancouver Sound. From my time as Overseas Bag editor, I knew **Bill Sellers (G47-51)** (based in Boise, Idaho) had a lot of experience of sailing in this area including several “Round Vancouver” Races. So an exchange of emails with Bill had us lined up with a reputable yacht charter and some good tips on where to go. Since we were traveling through Vancouver Island, I also contacted **David Lebbell (K41-46)** to see if we might meet up. That wasn't to be but he kindly sent us details of a yacht trip he had done in Vancouver Sound – so more good information to guide us. We eventually opted to sail in the Desolation Sound region in June 2007 and had a great time. The weather was a bit cooler than what we were used to in Florida but more than made up by the amazing scenery. I took along my “All Angels” cd, so we had **Laura Wright (M02 -)** and company to serenade us in the mornings (including one day when we were so captivated by sailing and scenery that we left All Angels playing for about 8-hours non-stop – and it still sounded just as good in the evening when we dropped anchor as in the morning). I also had contact with **Howard Thistlewood (K66-73)** who lives in one of the valleys to the east of Vancouver; but June is a busy month for him, so we were not able to meet. My only regret was that my digital camera got left in the rain one day. I have salvaged the camera but the sd-card seems to have corrupted, so all my photos are still stuck on the card and have resisted my amateur attempts to retrieve them. So if anyone has any good suggestions, I will be grateful.

Anthony Cowan (R55-64), who runs his own aviation insurance company out of Seattle, also emailed me and it seems that he is also acquainted with boating in Desolation Sound – though it sounded as if he did it in more luxurious style than myself.

In July, **Chris Essex (K69-75)** and family visited Fort Myers for about 10-days as part of a 4-week US vacation and stayed in one of our beach condos. Sadly, we weren't able to meet up as much as we had intended as I had to return to UK for my father's funeral. But we did manage a few beers together and an evening of shark fishing when I caught a monster of the deep – all of 12-inches long! [*Chris failed to catch one at all!*]

In August, I had business in Texas, so attempted to set up an OF lunch with **Alfred Molson (K38-43)**, **Nick Allan (R59-63)** and **Andy Roberts (G73-79)**. In the end, I was only able to meet up with Alfred as Nick had some unexpected business to attend to, and Andy was in Perth, Australia on some mining industry business. However, Alfred and I had a pleasant barbecue lunch amidst a lot of discussion – mostly about his fascinating itinerant business past, and that of his father's colonial career (India, Egypt, Lawrence of Arabia, etc). August also took me to Denver, so I was able to meet up with my brother, **Alan Rowe (S64-73)**.

When the Greek fires were headlines, a phone call to Greece confirmed that **Ivor Webb (K37-42)** was safe and sound. I had met Ivor in 2005 near Thessaloniki in Greece, so it was good to talk to him again."