

Update from the DHS Old Boys Network

THE OLDIE

FEBRUARY 2023



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Old Boys News:

TWO OLD BOYS WHO TURNED 100 YEARS OLD IN 2022, RECONNECT.

What an amazing story. Two DHS Old Boys, who matriculated in 1937, reconnected again ... how poignant.

Len Baumann and Selwyn Laurie who both turned 100 last year and who live in different parts of the world, managed to reconnect after many, many years.

<https://www.facebook.com/234004959583/posts/10160242736159584/?mibextid=Nif5oz1...>



Old Boys News:

MYLES USHER (OB 2004).

Myles Usher was appointed as the Strength and Conditioning Coach of the National Indoor and Outdoor Men's Hockey Teams.

The National Indoor Team recently took part in the Indoor World Cup where they finished sixth out of 12 teams.

On behalf of the DHS Foundation and Old Boys' community we would like to congratulate Myles on his appointment.



Old Boys News:

SIBONGA MHLUNGU (OB 2007)

TALENT MANAGER, INDEPENDENT MEDIA
GROUP AFRICA AND MUSIC EXECUTIVE

Sibonga is a trailblazer in the music industry, and he was recently seen on the Grammy stage with his talent, Zakes Bantwini and Nomcebo Zikode accepting a Grammy award.

KwaZulu-Natal singer and songwriter, Nomcebo Zikode started a non-governmental organisation to help women and children living in poverty and Sibonga is Director and Head of Business Affairs at Nomcebo's eponymous foundation.

It is a huge achievement to be nominated for and win a Grammy Award, and DHS Old Boys are extremely proud of his achievement.



Old Boys News:

THE OPENING OF THE 'SAS' NOURSE GRADE 8 DORM.

On Thursday, February 9, the new Grade 8 dorm in Blackmore was officially opened with a small function attended by Sas's daughter Ann, his son in law, Clive, his granddaughter Lea, and a few invited guests.

Sas Nourse was a DHS Old Boy who attended DHS from 1932-35. He first taught at DHS from 1941-44 and then again from 1952-72.

He was the first Headmaster of Blackmore when Blackmore moved to its current location in September 1969. Sas also coached the 1st XV from 1955-67.

Jeremy Oddy (OB 1962) and Archivist of DHS described SAS as a quietly-spoken man who was fair in his decisions regarding discipline and exuded an aura of authority and wisdom. He was an excellent science teacher and was respected by the boys and the staff of DHS.

Sas also received the SA Surf Lifesaving Association's highest award for gallantry for his courage when he went to the assistance of a fellow bather who was fatally attacked by a shark off Warnadoone Beach in January 1946.
(Another project funded by the DHS Foundation).



Old Boys News:

THE OPENING OF THE ASTROTURF AT DHS – A MOMENTOUS DAY IN OUR SCHOOL'S HISTORY.

After nearly 18 months as a construction site, the DHS Astro was finally unveiled on Friday, February 17 - a day that will go down as one of the most eagerly anticipated in the School's history.

An enjoyable evening was attended by invited guests from the DHS Foundation, DHS, Maris Stella and Trellidor. The turf was officially opened by Mr. Tony Pinheiro. Headmaster of DHS, Joan Schmidt, Headmistress of Maris Stella, Mr. Peter Rawson, the Marketing and Sales Director of Trellidor and Mr. Damian Judge, CEO of the DHS Foundation.

The turf was opened with a game between the DHS Staff and the Trellidor Staff followed by a game between the Maris Stella 1st team and Maris Stella Old Girls. The DHS 1st team and DHS Old Boys played the final game of the evening.

A big thank you to the DHS Foundation, Maris Stella and Trellidor for making the entire project possible.

(Another project funded by the DHS Foundation).





Old Boys News:

DISTINGUISHED MEN OF DHS.

CHRIS ROBERT (CLASS OF 1965)

Chris Robert was probably one of the best athletes ever at DHS. He excelled in events ranging from the 110 yards to 880 yards but specialized in the 440 yards where he broke many school and national records.

In his matric year at DHS, representing his house Blackmore in the Inter-House Athletics Meeting, Chris won the 110-, 220-, 440- and 880-yard events and broke the school records in the 440- and 880-yard events.

In 1965 he won the 440-yard event at the South African Junior Championship and was selected for the South African Junior Athletic Team which took part in meetings in Germany and England. Chris also had the honour of being the captain of the Team.

In 1964 Chris also played 1st XV rugby, however in 1965 he had to give up rugby for fear of injury threatening his athletics career, something he sadly never forgot.

Chris passed away in March 1986 and Nick's (Chris's son) Blackmore form (class of 1988), together with Chris's family donated a trophy in honour of Chris for the winning house at the DHS Inter House Athletics Meeting.

Nick has also awarded a Scholarship in honour of his dad and the recipient of the Chris Robert Memorial Scholarship is Iwan Slabbert.

Iwan had the honour of meeting with Nick recently at DHS.



Old Boys News:

DAVID FRIEDMAN RECALLS HIS TIME AT DHS - PART 2.

(David Friedman, was at DHS from 1949-52. He was Dux in 1952).

David Friedman (OB 1952) shares his memories of his time at DHS. In this instalment, he recalls his memories of the two headmasters at DHS. David hopes it will be of interest to his contemporaries who are still around as well as those who are unaware of the school during the era of which he speaks.

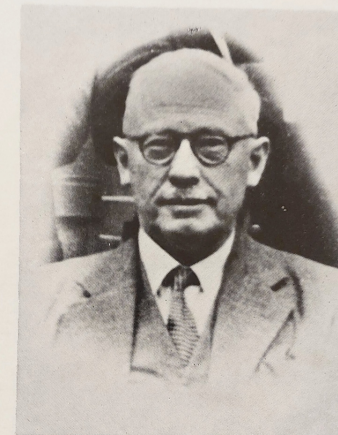
David writes, "In recalling the members of staff during my years at DHS I guess the appropriate starting point is the headmaster from some years prior to my attending DHS to the end of 1951, namely, Col A. C. "Betsy" Martin. Betsy was a typical ex-military type who ran the school like a highly efficient military operation and with the minimum of fuss and bother. He was well liked and above all highly respected by both pupils and staff and yet at the same time very approachable.

As a matter of interest his daughter was headmistress of Girls' High for part of the time, he headed DHS. When he retired at the end of 1951 the parents got together to make a presentation to him at a small function held in the hall. My father made a

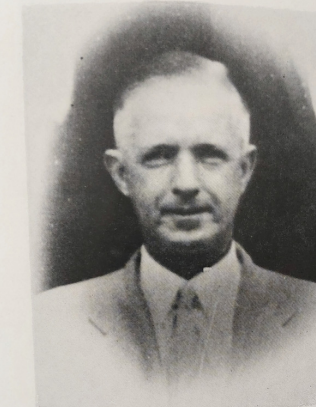
short speech on behalf of parents and the presentation was made by the mother of Ken Solomon, the Head Prefect. Betsy was succeeded by George Armstrong.

I cannot say much about him as he was headmaster for only one of the years I was at the school. The one lasting memory I have of him however is that he was always smiling. Although Betsy's shoes were hard to fill, George did more than a good job in ensuring that the school did not skip a beat when he took over.

The headmaster before Betsy was James "Jimmy" Black. The only reason I mention him is that in 1951 there was a temporary shortage in the maths department and Jimmy taught us for one quarter. All I recall about him was that he was highly irascible and spoke with a very strong Scots accent that was well-nigh impossible to understand".



A. C. Martin:
The sixth Head Master, 1943-1952.



G. J. Armstrong:
The seventh Head Master, 1952-1959.

Old Boys News:

DID YOU KNOW.

On this day, February 5, 1894, Mr. WH. Nicholas opened the 'new' School on the Berea.

The Foundation Stone marking the completion date of the School in 1894, was set in the wall above the Master's Office. (pictured below).



Old Boys News:

WE REMEMBER MAJOR EDWIN SWALES VC, DFC, SAAF - FEBRUARY 23, 1945.

Swales' VC citation reads:

Captain Swales was 'Master Bomber' of a force of aircraft which attacked Pforzheim on the night of February 23, 1945. As Master Bomber he had the task of locating the target area with precision and of giving aiming instructions to the main force of bombers in his wake.

Soon after he reached the target area he was engaged by an enemy aircraft and one of his engines was put out of action. His rear guns failed. His crippled aircraft was an easy prey for further attacks. Unperturbed, he carried on with his allotted task; clearly and precisely he issued aiming instructions to the main force. Meanwhile the enemy fighter closed the range and fired again. A second engine of Captain Swales' aircraft was put out of action. Almost defenseless, he stayed over the target area issuing his aiming instructions until he was satisfied that the attack had achieved its purpose.

It is now known that the attack was one of the most concentrated and successful of the war. Captain Swales did not, however, regard his mission as completed. His aircraft was damaged. Its speed had

been so much reduced that it could only with difficulty be kept in the air. The blind-flying instruments were no longer working. Determined at all costs to prevent his aircraft and crew from falling into enemy hands, he set course for home. After an hour he flew into thin-layered cloud. He kept his course by skillful flying between the layers, but later heavy cloud and turbulent air conditions were met.

The aircraft, by now over friendly territory, became more and more difficult to control; it was losing height steadily. Realizing that the situation was desperate Captain Swales ordered his crew to bail out. Time was very short and it required all his exertions to keep the aircraft steady while each of his crew moved in turn to the escape hatch and parachuted to safety. Hardly had the last crew-member jumped when the aircraft plunged to earth. Captain Swales was found dead at the controls.

Intrepid in the attack, courageous in the face of danger, he did his duty to the last, giving his life that his comrades might live.



Old Boys News:

CLASS OF 1982 HONOUR NICK REY.

On Wednesday the 22nd of February, Mrs. Penny Rey (Nick's mother), and Chris Rey (Nicks' brother & OB 1987) attended a small gathering to hand over the 1st team water polo caps to the DHS 1st Water Polo Team. This was to honour of an Old Boy, a husband, a father, and a friend who was so dearly loved and will always be remembered for the person he was.

Hugh Basel a great friend and classmate of Nick's writes:

"Nicholas (Sugar)Rey matriculated from DHS in 1982, the 3rd of the 5 Rey brother to walk through these famous doors.

The nickname Sugar was given by our water polo coach, Dallas Hutton, as it was the only name, he could think of to give to a boy who was so sweet. To a person, teachers, school mates, opponents from other schools, Nick was loved by everyone. I cannot recall, in our 5 years at DHS together, Nick ever NOT having a smile on his face no matter what he was feeling internally.

In his matric year Nick was Vice Captain of the 1stXV and Captain of the water polo team having

played in the 1st team water polo in both '81 and '82 (he also was selected for a few tournaments as a 15 year old in '80. Nick was one of 5 boys who in '82 was chosen to play for Natal Schools water polo having come off a season of losing only 2 games. The first loss was to Dale College in a early season tournament and the 2nd to Glenwood.

When the Class of 1982 started this initiative of raising funds from the class year (which seems to have now gained traction as a competition between the years) the school asked what 1982 would want in recognition for these funds. As a testament to Nick, who passed away 6 years ago after enduring 12 years of being handicapped following a freak Horse Polo accident , the unanimous response from the 85 guys in contact from 1982 was " Whatever we do, it MUST involve recognition for the incredible person Nick was".

40 years on after matriculating, to a man, everyone remembers Nick as the most humble, kind , giving, loving person from our matric class. You know a person is exceptional when as a 18 year old boy ALL the teachers loved him to".



General News:

FOUNDERS DAY & REUNIONS

A number of years celebrate their signature Reunions this year and a number of events have been planned.

The Years of 1963, 1973, 1983, 1993, 2003 & 2013 celebrate their respective signature Reunions.

They will be joined by the years 1968, 1988, 1998 and 2008

The events planned are:

THURSDAY 25TH OF MAY 2023:

Reunion Golf Day at Royal Durban Golf Club. This will be followed by prize – giving and dinner.

FRIDAY 26TH OF MAY 2023:

Special Old Boys Assembly and tea at DHS Luncheon for Old Boys from the vintage 1947 - 1960 Signature Reunion Dinners at DHS
DHS Foundation Golf Day at Royal Durban (this is for those Old Boys and friends not celebrating their Reunion)

SATURDAY 27TH OF MAY 2023:

Bill Payn Fun 10km run from Crusaders Club in Durban North to DHS.

Beer & a Boerie Roll in the Memorial Courtyard
Rugby vs Kearsney

Live entertainment in the Memorial Courtyard after the 1st XV game.

If you would like to join us for these celebrations, please contact me and I will provide you with further details: ceo@dhsfoundation.co.za

PLEASE NOTE FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING THE ABOVE EVENTS WILL BE COMMUNICATED OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS.



General News:

THE CLASS CHALLENGE.

February the challenge was laid to the Class of 1984, and I am happy to say, they put in a massive effort especially nearing deadline day, and they now top the "Leaderboard."

A big thank you to Markus Borner and Jono Zulman for driving the campaign and a special thank you to those who contributed toward the Class of 1984 fund.

The Class of 1984 have now challenged the Class of 1985 and I personally, have set the Challenge to Class of '85 and the Class of '90.

Hopefully at the end of March we will have a new LEADER.

LEADERBOARD AT THE END OF FEBRUARY

1. Class of 1984 – R140 000.00
2. Class of 1981 – R65 000.00
3. Class of 1892 – R50 000.00



Upcoming events:

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY 24TH MARCH

Q&A with 1st XV Rugby Coach, Peter Engledow and Director of Hockey, Michael Baker. (see details at end of Newsletter)

THURSDAY 30TH MARCH

Q&A with 1st XV Rugby Coach in Gauteng (see details at end of newsletter)

25TH – 27TH OF MAY – FOUNDERS WEEKEND (see details above)

- Reunion Golf Day – 25th of May
- Reunion Dinners – 26th May
- DHS Foundation Golf Day – 26th of May
- Bill Payn Fun 10km Run – 27th of May.

THURSDAY 27TH OF JULY

Rugby Dinner at DHS

FRIDAY 1ST OF SEPTEMBER

Gauteng Golf Day at Killarney Golf Club

THURSDAY 3RD OF AUGUST

Rugby Dinner – Gauteng (venue tbc) This the Thursday prior to the School's rugby and hockey fixtures vs Jeppe.

17TH OF NOVEMBER

DHS vs DPHS Old Boys Rory Sabbatini Ryder Cup Challenge – Royal Durban Golf Club.



OBITUARY:

LET US REMEMBER

CHEF LENTSWE BENGU – MAFOKO (OB 2002)

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the untimely passing of our beloved son and brother, Lentswe Bhengu – Mafoko, fondly known to the media and his culinary family as Chef Lentswe.

Lentswe had the misfortune of suffering a short illness and succumbed on the 28th of February 2023 at Sandton Medi – Clinic
Revelation 21.4 – He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

The Mafoko and Bhengu families welcome your thoughts and prayer during their time of mourning. RIP “Chef” Lentswe



SCHOOL NEWS

For all the School news click on the link below which will give you access to all the editions of THE HERALD.

<https://www.durbanhighschool.co.za/newsletters/>



DHS RUGBY & HOCKEY SEASON LAUNCH

Q&A with 1st XV Rugby Coach, Peter Engledow and Director of Hockey, Michael Baker.

- WHEN: FRIDAY, 24TH OF MARCH
- WHERE: DHS (venue to be confirmed)
- TIME: FROM 17H00
- RSVP: ceo@dhsfoundation.co.za by Wednesday 22nd of March.

CASH BAR & SNACKS WILL BE AVAILABLE



DHSOB GAUTENG EVENING

GUEST SPEAKER

PETER ENGLDOW – DHS 1ST XV HEAD COACH

- WHERE: PIRATES CLUB, 25 Braeside Road , Greenside.
- TIME: 18H00
- DATE: THURSDAY, 30TH MARCH

Enjoy a social evening together with fellow Old Boys and hear from DHS's 1ST XV Coach about the season.

Cash Bar & Snacks will be available

