



OLD GREY NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates from the Old Greys' Union



From the Old Grey President

To All Old Greys

To all Old Greys worldwide. I certainly never thought we would be part of a pandemic such as what we currently experiencing. My first comment would be to praise all the staff at The Grey as well as the pupils for the effort and the manner in which they have dealt with Covid-19.

For me, it is still clear that classroom learning is very valuable to the boys and of course their sport which has been dealt a severe knock this year. I can only say that we as Old Greys are grateful to the school for its efforts in maintaining its standards very ably led by Rector Chris Erasmus and Headmaster Grant Butler as well as a very determined group of staff. It would be remiss of me not to mention Danny Daniels and Richard Lane, the heads of the Grounds and maintenance, these two gentlemen have really gone the extra mile in helping maintain the health and safety of the schools.

So whilst the year draws to a close we must remember that there are a number of Old Greys and family members that have succumbed to Covid-19, our thoughts go out to their families and friends. Currently, there are a number of Old Grey families in the throes of dealing with Covid, and let us hope for a speedy recovery for all. Never forgetting the Doctors and Nurses throughout the world for their outstanding commitment to fighting this dreadful virus

May I take this opportunity to wish every Old Grey and their families a wonderful and blessed Christmas. To keep safe and spend time with close family. Let us hope that 2021 is a year filled with hope for the economies of the world to recover and an end to the Covid-19 virus.

Regards,

Dave Hurr

National President, Old Greys' Union



Headmaster's Newsletter: Term 4, 2020

[CLICK HERE TO READ](#)



Rector's Newsletter: Term 4, 2020

[CLICK HERE TO READ](#)



Old Greys in the News



Source: <https://www.heraldlive.co.za/weekend-post/>

Bay chef, Daniel Hirschberg '15, cruises into dream job

After he matriculated, Hirschberg enrolled at the Port Elizabeth campus of Capsicum Culinary Studio to study for a two-year diploma in hot and cold and patisserie. After graduating in 2019, Hirschberg went to Cape Town to complete a series of yachting courses, and from there traveled to the south of France in search of work. [READ FULL ARTICLE](#)



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/user/enewschannel>

Mike Abel '84 - A book of hope

Cape Town ad-man, Mike Abel, has now launched a book about his experiences tackling adversity, which offers hope in the new normal. Mike Abel's new book is titled Willing & Abel – Lessons from a Decade in Crisis.

[CLICK IMAGE TO VIEW VIDEO](#)



Source: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/cliffe-dekker-hofmeyr-inc/>

Prof Avinash Govindjee '94 - Acting Judge of the Eastern Cape High Court

Congratulations to Prof Avinash Govindjee Executive Dean of the Faculty of Law, Nelson Mandela University, and Consulting Attorney to Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, who has been appointed Acting Judge of the Eastern Cape High Court from 18 January to 26 March 2021.

[VIEW ORIGINAL LINKEDIN POST](#)



Source: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/bvpg/>

Grant Ford '84 - Lawyer of the Year 2021

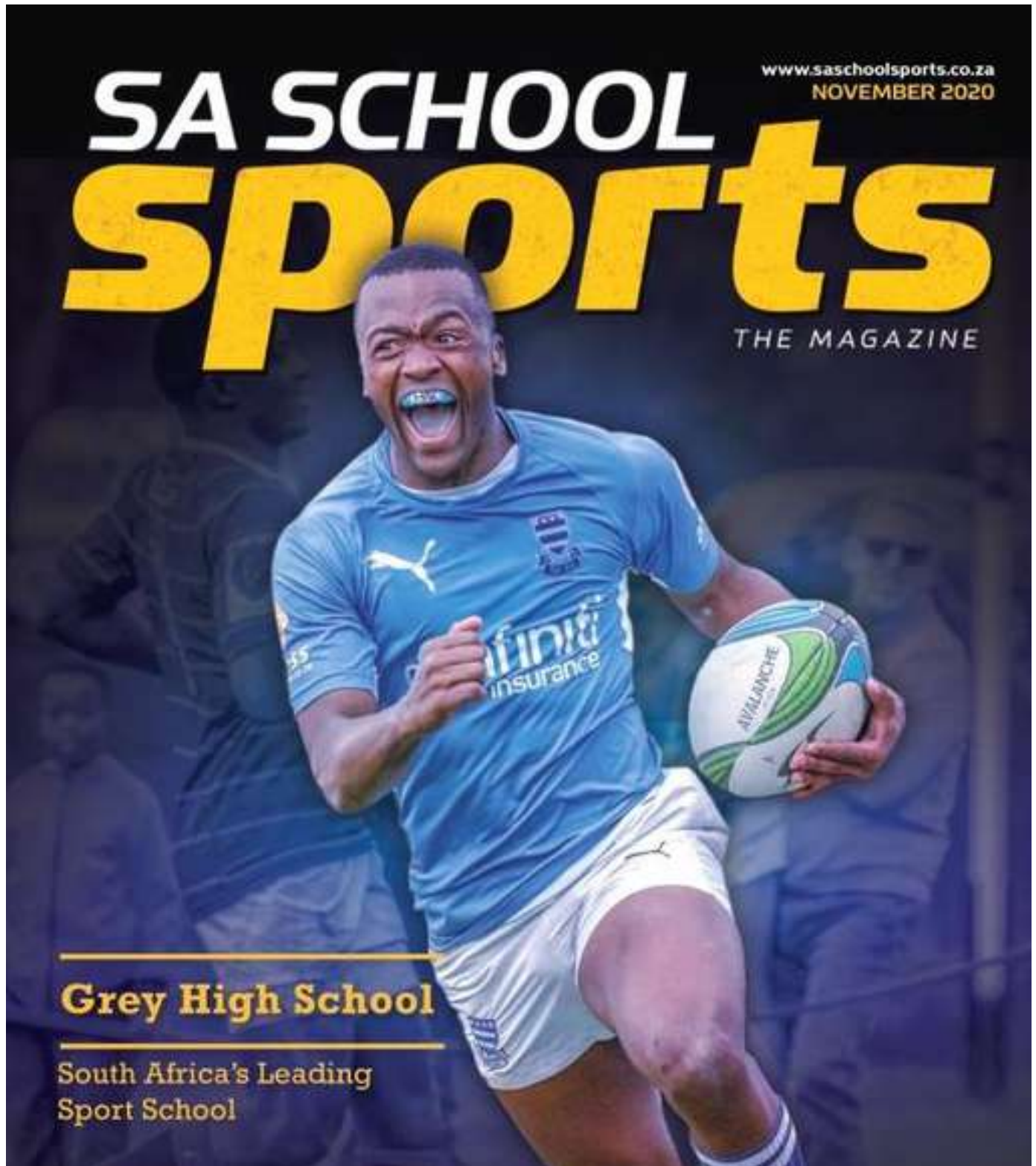
We congratulate Grant Ford on being recognised as Lawyer of the Year 2021 - Insolvency & Reorganisation Law (Cape Town). Grant has also been recognised in categories Litigation (Cape Town) and Arbitration & Mediation (Cape Town).

[VIEW ORIGINAL LINKEDIN POST](#)

DECEMBER 2020

**Top Boy Sports Schools of the Decade:
Grey High is now ranked No.1 across the codes of Rugby,
Cricket, Water Polo, and Hockey.**

[CLICK HERE TO READ](#)



www.saschoolsports.co.za
NOVEMBER 2020

SA SCHOOL Sports

THE MAGAZINE

Grey High School

South Africa's Leading
Sport School

Looking Back with Ian Pringle

The Swinging Sixties

The so-called “Swinging Sixties” – the days of The Beatles, Rolling Stones, Elvis Presley, stovepipe trousers, and winkle picker shoes will be forever etched in the memories of those who grew up in this era. Much social change was taking place - this included the arrival of professional soccer and PE City enjoyed the support of thousands of youngsters. It was not uncommon to attract 15 000 spectators at the Crusader Grounds on a Friday evening in matches played against Durban City, Southern Suburbs, Highlands and the like. Nearly every spectator had an “anorak” and they came in a variety of colours.

Freedom and liberation had arrived and it was out of the window with convention and custom! Needless to say, this affected those at Grey but tradition held fast and no latitude was tolerated!

Your trousers needed to have at least an 8-inch flannel width (20cm) and anything less was considered too narrow. No pointed shoes of any nature were allowed and do not even think of coming to school with a Beatle fringe haircut! No round collar shirts and pin through collars – you could wear your Beatle jacket and the rest of that attire to the 20th Century or Grand movie houses and that is where it stayed!

But times did change at Grey albeit rather slowly. During WW2 the traditional Grey blazer material was unobtainable and a black blazer was introduced. It was only however in 1964 that it was realised that peace had long since been declared and the black blazer could be scrapped. During this time the wearing of the school cap was abandoned and it was left to the Grey Junior boys as an item of apparel. The cap really did look rather silly perched on the top of a bulky First XV member’s head and sanity prevailed.

Post WW2 the traditional Grey blazer was only worn on “High and Low occasions” – like being on tour, at sporting fixtures over the weekend and generally at what may be termed smarter occasions. All the boarders had straw bashers as did many day boys. It was part of the uniform and say what you like the hat looks smart and a Grey lad on crossing a road and tipping his hat to a waiting motorist is still looked upon as the epitome of good manners. That basher or “Cheese Cutter” is now priced at R385 at The School Shop!

Black and brown shoes were permissible but the points had to be round – nothing square or chisel cut or, worse still, pointed. Who remembers fitting “bones” in to stiffen a shirt collar? These pieces of flat narrow white plastic slipped into a groove in the collar and stiffened a limp collar! The boarders had it tough – every Sunday saw this lot dressed in their dark blue suits marching off in crocodile formation to attend a church service come hell or high water. On a hot day, it was a trying walk for some, walking to far-flung churches like the Hill Presbyterian and the Dutch Reformed Church in Richmond Hill. The Anglicans had it easy with a stroll down to St. Cuthbert’s in Westbourne Road and the Methodists had a bit of a longer trek to St. John’s Church

But the Presbyterians were not all that dumb and often skipped the evening church service and sat on the benches at the Donkin Memorial for an hour viewing the harbour lights and hearing the busy steam engines down at the railway station before making their pious way home.

During the Edkins era, the Prefect Tie was introduced as was the Merit tie. The latter was awarded to senior boys who had made a positive contribution to school activities and was considered a signal honour. It was probably the forerunner of the present Service Awards but the Academics had yet to be acknowledged and looking back one can only but think of the great academics that Grey has produced and none were ever awarded a Colours blazer. But that wrong has since been righted and deservedly so! The School Tuck Shop has always been a convivial meeting point – a place of warmth and companionship especially on a miserable day or after a sporting practice. At this time it was situated opposite the bicycle sheds and adjacent to the hostel. In 1961 Grey took leave of the lovable Mrs.R.F.Holmes known as “Auntie Harve” who had presided over the tuck shop for 35 years having begun service in 1926. She was known to hundreds of Old Greys and with few exceptions recalled all their names. The fare is still much the same – the caramel donuts, sliced fruit cake (Fly cakes!) and chocolate éclairs, etc. Back in the day, the latter cost 6 cents but now retail for R9! Coca-Cola bottled in a glass was also 5 cents and you could get four loose sweets for a cent!

The writer recalls in his final year his father very magnanimously raised his pocket money for the term from R6 to R10 and told him “Not to waste it”! To that generation memories of The Great Depression were still very vivid and a shilling (10c) was turned over twice before it was spent!

It was the days when school fees were R20 a term, boarding was R120 for the same period and it cost R400 per term for private school education in Grahamstown (Makhanda).

In present times parents take their siblings to school by car. That was a rarity in the 1960s and riding bicycles and catching a bus to school was the common mode of transport. Those living out at Redhouse and Swartkops caught the early train in on the first part of their journey to the station before boarding the Newton Park bus that ran up Cape Road. There was also the “Moped Gang” who parked their 49cc Honda or Yamaha bikes between the two Grey schools and belched off home in clouds of blue smoke after school.

We recall former Rector Stan Edkins who once said that “*Tradition is a fine thing but it should never stand in the way of progress*” and how right he was for it was during his time that the first positive changes began to take place at Grey and he was no Beatles fan!

In Memory

Ken Forbes - Class of 1949

Ken Forbes came to Grey High School on a well-earned scholarship in 1946. He soon firmly established himself as one of the top students. After matriculating he chose Chartered Accountancy. On qualifying, he joined the firm of R.L. Weir & Co rising to become a partner in the firm which ceased trading after many years. He soon became a tireless worker for the Old Grey Union. Thereafter he approached me (we were close friends since school days) about the possibility of acquiring a business together. We acquired a small canvas business and ultimately S.A. Canvas which we sold on retirement. He became very involved in the PE Bowling Club and Ex-Service Men's League. He passed away on 16th November 2020 at the age of 87.

My kindest regards to all Old Greys wherever they may be.

- *David Broadbent '49*

David Selwyn-Smith - Class of 1966

David studied for a year at Rhodes before joining the army. After his time in the army, David worked in and around the printing industry and started a printing business called Downtown Print & Copy in Port Elizabeth before selling and moving to Kenton on Sea. Here he was involved in sales, marketing, and hospitality. Our sincere condolences to his three sons Guy, Philip & Paul Selwyn-Smith.

Andre Lemmer - Class of 1962

Following school, Andre spent a year in the Army gymnasium in 1963. Ever the man looking to further his education, he did his first university year at Rhodes in Port Elizabeth, then moved to Rhodes in Grahamstown. He completed his degree in 1966 and then his Honours degree in English in 1967. He then started teaching at Kingswood College in 1968, the year that he got married. After 6 very happy years there the family moved to Graaff-Reinet where he taught at Union High School, becoming head of the English Department there. He was offered a post as lecturer at the Graaff-Reinet Training College. In 1980 he was awarded a scholarship to do his Masters Degree at Exeter University, England, returning in 1981. When the College closed down in 1983 he was appointed to the Education Department at the then University of Port Elizabeth. He trained English teachers which he so enjoyed. He retired as a Professor in 2002. He then accepted a position in the Sultanate of Oman training teachers of English. He was based in Ibri, Nizwa and finally Salalah. He returned to South Africa in 2006. He enjoyed hiking on various trails and sport viz squash, tennis, hockey and cricket. In later years he became involved with theatre and acted in many of the open-air Shakespeare plays in Mannville. He wrote a number of books and plays, one of which was performed in London. In April 2020 he was diagnosed with brain cancer and passed away peacefully on 27 August 2020. He is survived by his wife Isobel, children Melissa, David and Jean Paul and his brother Marius.

Fatima Williams - Staff

It is with deep regret that we advise the loss of a long-serving, dedicated member of The Grey family. Fatima passed away suddenly on 13 November 2020. She served the school for 26 years having come on board in 1994 and worked out of the Restaurant Kitchen. She was a kind, gentle, caring lady who was respected by all. She was also a true, passionate 'blue blood' and loved watching the 1st XV war-cry and would try to catch as much of the main game on the Phillip Field as possible. Fatima also took an interest in the news of Old Greys, especially the birth of their children, and enjoyed seeing them on return visits for Reunion weekend. Fatima will be missed by many and remembered with great affection.



THE OLD GREY CLUB

The latest updates from The Old Grey Club

FROM THE OLD GREY CLUB CHAIRMAN



Dear Old Greys

Devastating doesn't begin to describe the crazy year we have had at the Old Grey Club. What was going to be a really exciting 2020, both on the sporting front and the great support that had built up for the Restaurant during 2019 was quickly obliterated by Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdown.

All sporting leagues and fixtures were suspended and remain so until the new year. This has been especially hard on the youngsters and seniors alike not to mention sponsors who have not had the exposure

they were hoping for.

The OG Club has been hard hit from a rental income point of view as the tenants were not able to operate for a substantial period of time. What has been encouraging is the massive support that the OGC has received from members and visitors alike when the lockdown restrictions were relaxed.

We are forever grateful for this support and hope this continues into 2021 as the restaurant industry has been severely damaged. At present, it is a day-by-day management process, and we truly pray for a better year ahead.

Keep safe all and may you enjoy a special time with your family and friends.

Kind regards

GARY SIM

Old Grey Club President