

Addendum No. 1 to Old Morganians  
**NEWSLETTER No. 11, OCTOBER 2015**  
**OM'S VISIT TO MILLFIELD SCHOOL**

**By Committee Member Colin Brown.**

REPORT ON THE VISIT TO MILLFIELD SCHOOL - SOON AFTER OUR LAST ANNUAL DINNER  
(Oct. 2014)

It was with great anticipation that our visiting party comprising of Alan Hurford, Dick Raymond, Tony Wilkins, Mike Dodden, Bryan Scott, Colin Brown and Mike Berry came through the gates of Millfield School, Street.



At the reception we were met by Rod Speed, former pupil and later Staff Rugby Coach, now a director of Millfield, under the gaze of Mary Bignal – Rand’s Olympic Testimonial Cabinet and the actual collection of medals.



He gave us a brief introduction to Millfield School both then and now. Early days it was still very much an “Army Camp” with cheap nissen huts and very few facilities but now as we were about to discover it is a centre of international excellence both academic and sporting.

As we proceeded about the complex (and its huge!) Rod regaled us with anecdotes and stories of top sporting achievements. This was particularly interesting for us as we all seemed to have a sporting background.

Our first impression was how superbly equipped Millfield is. At every turn we looked on with admiration (and more than a little envy) at seemingly unrivalled facilities and equipment – much of it donated and named after wealthy parent benefactors. Rod impressed on us that Millfield “Is for life” still kept alive by the “Chronicle” published by John Davies and staff and distributed around the world.

At every turn famous names were exhibited with photographs and memorabilia – a great PR presentation much appreciated by our visiting party. There was also a large theatre that had witnessed international events and presentations. Other facilities gave us individual pleasure.

#### THE 50 METRE OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOL

This was used by the Russian 2012 Olympic Team and also graced by the likes of Duncan Goodhew who won gold and bronze in the 1956 Olympics – later to become tutor and coach at Millfield. Also Rod mentioned Mark Foster 1980 gold medallist and Joanne Atkinson, British Olympic swimmer. The facility was ultimately to host the British Olympic Team. It was the envy of Alan Hurford (Bridgwater Town Clerk), who was heard to remark “Its big enough for our town!”.

#### ATHLETICS TRACK

Also welcomed Mendip AC and Wells City Harriers on a 400m 6 lane all weather track - recently resurfaced for the Great Britain Pentathlon Squad – it is amazing that this private school produced eight of the Olympians 2012.

#### TENNIS and SQUASH

Both indoor and outdoor multi courts developed international & professional standards. – A very impressive Jonah Barrington tribute board gave us all food for thought at his amazing achievements. Rod’s wife was squash coach for many years.

#### THE CRICKET FIELD and PAVILION

With a backdrop of Glastonbury Tor behind the wicket, and all round picket fence, it was a fantastic venue. Who amongst us didn’t imagine ourselves striding out to the crease on a sunny day to score our maiden century? (I did anyway!).

#### THE RUGBY FIELD

There are a large number of Old Millfieldians who have played international rugby – currently Chris Robshaw, Henry Thomas and Mako Vunipola – and who can forget the great Gareth Edwards -Wales and British Lions?

#### THE EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

It is with great merit that the Millfield director of the centre, Danny Anholt and his staff of 16 offer the best facilities anywhere and to anyone who wants training and instruction. Currently they have 53 horses in school both for visiting riders and full time students. They have their own polo field and dressage arena and are currently handling up to 140 horses, either stabled or visiting.

I could go on and on about our visit, and I haven’t mentioned the Fencing Salle, the Ballet school the Music and Drama School, the Archery Butts, or the two golf courses. However to round off – a most enjoyable visit and highly recommended to any of you who want to arrange your own. (Look up Millfield School on Google – most interesting).

Before I finish I would like to pay tribute to one of our party, Mike Berry, who has just retired as Bridgwater and Albion President – and player after 50 years of dedicated service to the club. He ran out for the last time in his beloved red, amber & black with Dirtrackers XV against Somerton at the end of April 2015 exactly 50 years from his debut in the colts at Cardiff in April 1965. – He was honoured with a special dinner and a full house with Gareth Owen Edwards CBE former Welsh Scrum Half and Old Millfieldian as a special guest. Three cheers for Mike !! Well done.

**COLIN BROWN** (EAOA)

Colin also provided a number of pictures which I will use as space allows, here are 4 of them:



The Athletics Track.



The Olympic Swimming Pool and Side Pool.



Olympic Café



The Main Restaurant.