

The first 47 Group Mini-Reunion in London in 1995 - Joe Kinson

I recall being contacted by John Grosvenor, the First Head Boy at PRS, and advised that Peter Mettyear was organising a mini-reunion for 18 people in the Oxford and Cambridge Club in Pall Mall, Peter being a member of the club. As John's letter arrived just as I was leaving home for a few days to visit my parents in Nuneaton, I phoned John and asked could he book me a place. The reunion called "Lunch for the Originals" was held on 30th November 1995, so I took a day off work to attend.

We eventually had 20 people who were able to attend, and I think I was the first there, possibly except Peter, who I had not met at the Newbury Reunion. The others started to arrive, and it was as though we had been in touch for years. Gary Grosvenor, John's younger brother travelled over from Germany to attend and it was great to see him again, he and John being in Rodney House, as were several others. We have a lovely meal, with much silverware on display on the table and paintings befitting such a club on the walls, thus providing a lovely setting for our dinner. After the meal, Peter suggested we all give a short brief on our life since leaving PRS, and in that way we learned what everyone had been doing since PRS. Peter supplied a list of names addresses and in most cases telephone numbers of those attending. It will be no surprise that when the meal was finished we all went to the bar and spent as much time as possible together. Some had to leave earlier than others, one having travelled from Leeds, others from Cornwall and Somerset to name a few places.

Those who stayed did not want to leave when the time came, but we all decided we must keep in touch. I guess that was when I decided I would try to keep in touch with them all, and we now have mini-reunions which are held all over the UK. We were grateful for Peter for starting the ball rolling, and are grateful to those stalwarts who regularly organise our reunions not only in the UK, but also in the south of France. We also had a group of us who had an 18 day holiday in Canada in 2001, and we met up with 8 ex-PRS pupils from our era, 3 in Vancouver (one had flown from Los Angeles to join the group), 1 in Calgary, 3 in Toronto, and 2 in Napanee, which shows the determination of our friends to keep in touch.

Perhaps when we can get this Articles Page going, I might later be able to tell you about other 47 Group Reunion locations and their organisers, and also it may encourage others to write some stories of their life or reunions. This is our Members Site, so please support it by providing suitable articles.

Joe Kinson (Rodney 1947-1950)