



**THE HARRY BIRRELL
SCHOLARSHIP TRUST**

Silver Jubilee

1996-2021

“Since being asked by Stephen to become the Trust’s Patron in 2005, it has been hugely rewarding for both Autumn and I to follow the Trust’s progress and to provide our support to the many worthy recipients of the Trust’s scholarships.

My family has always had strong links to Africa and, in particular, South Africa. I am, as we all are, acutely aware of the pent up demand for education amongst South Africa’s youth, and I am delighted how the Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust is able to support the realisation of this talent by awarding scholarships to talented and deserving youngsters from the Eastern Cape, to top schools in Grahamstown.

Being able to provide the opportunity for any child to fulfil their potential is one of the most rewarding things we can offer. This is what Harry believed in and is what Stephen has continued with such passion, and is why we all continue to offer our full support to the The Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust.

Autumn and I have met so many wonderful supporters of the Trust over the years and we thank you all for your generous support of the Silver Jubilee Campaign which is so important in providing the financial means by which we can secure a vibrant and sustainable future of all current, and future, Harry Birrell Scholars.”



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Phillips'.

Peter Phillips
Patron, The Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust.

Chairman’s note

Last year Peter organised his Grandmother’s Patron’s lunch in the Mall for 800 UK charities. This took 18 months of 14 hour 6 day weeks and dealing with 800 organisations, many run by volunteers. Peter just got on and delivered it. Peter played rudy at school level for Scotland and if Harry had been his coach would have been the first man on his team sheet.

Stephen Sparrow

I am sitting at my dining room table in Notting Hill as the sun sets like a golden cricket ball over West London.

If you are reading this programme you will either have been afforded a wonderful high school education or are embarking on one as a Harry Birrell Scholar.

Harry Birrell was a story teller and encouraged people to be direct, balanced with charm. 27 years ago I was at a cross roads in my life and needed to be given a chance by people who didn’t know me but believed in giving a stranger with hints of talent the opportunity to develop their talent and see where it might lead.

I spent a year in 1990 in Grahamstown as a junior master at St Andrew’s college which gave me so much. I coached Rugby under the leading pioneer/proponent of running rugby in South Africa returning to coach my college team back at Oxford in 1992 to win the prestigious Oxford University Cuppers competition. We (St Edmund Hall) that year had one Blue versus Keble’s 9 in the final but expertly expediting the St Andrew’s college back line moves ran rings around Keble’s galacticos at Iffley road, winning by 2 points!

As a member of staff at a liberal South African school, the first white school to defy the apartheid government at the risk of closure by admitting blacks in 1986 (Steve Biko’s son was in my history class)

I learnt so much from the Eastern Cape philosophy of kindness, inclusion, high standards, earthiness, and robustness. I never would have been President of Vincent’s club on returning to Oxford if I hadn’t had that year in the Eastern Cape.

The Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust was set up in 1996 to give children from an economically disadvantaged background quality secondary school education. The Eastern Cape of South Africa sadly has a desperately under-resourced educational set up for the majority of children living there. It is the worst in South Africa. What we at the Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust try to do is to provide first class secondary education to children from the town ship primary schools in Grahamstown who have real talent to make a success of their lives.

As the Trust reaches our Silver Jubilee 25th Anniversary, nearly 50 children will have matriculated as Harry Birrell Scholars from one of 4 top Grahamstown schools (St Andrew’s College, Diocesan School for Girls, Victoria Girls High School and Graeme College) many as graduates from the Good Shepherd township primary school in the city of Grahamstown then going on to good universities after their Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust funded secondary school education.



None of this could have been possible without steadfast friendship and kindness. Andrew LaTrobe, the St Andrew's college Rhodes scholar at Oxford in 1989 who was a much better scrum half than I was but kindly moved to fly half so that I, as captain could keep my place. His long suffering patience and kindness still intact he then introduced me to the Eastern Cape and the great school he had attended there. In 1996 he then agreed to jump in and join me in setting up the Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust and in true Eastern cape style has been a rock and stay in keeping the HBST train on track over the last 21 years. Baba Roger, my father and long serving/suffering company secretary of the HBST, my African family the Birrells and Loggies, the wonderful leadership and the partnership of the Andean Community of schools and our Patron Peter Phillips who on his appointment 12 years ago proved a game changer for the Trust allowing us to quickly accelerate from funding one or two children at one time as scholars to five of six.

It would also be derelict of me not to thank the steadfast friendship and support of the core group of long term supporters and friends who without your support the Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust simply would not be viable including the Trust's Godfather, Finlay Calder whose encouragement has been priceless.

Please read this programme. There are wonderful contributions in it from remarkable individuals with links to education in South Africa and Oxford, old and young, and I hope you like me on reflection might break in to a smile and think "how lucky I am and how wonderful it would be to give someone far, far less fortunate than me the gift of quality education to make a success of their lives".

We are aiming to raise £250,000 over the next 4 years to have an endowment from the investment interest where we can educate 2 scholars (girls and boys) in each high school academic year (10 in total at one time) in perpetuity.

What could be more enjoyable and magnificent than harvesting our friendship for talented youngsters we are yet to know... let's go for it!

Thank you for your friendship and your support.

Stephen Sparrow
Chairman of Trustees



**“In memory of Harry Birrell,
a wonderful schoolmaster
and coach who helped to
shape my life.”**

Jacko Maree
Chairman of Council,
St Andrew's College

Chairman's note

Jacko has been described by business peers and commentators as one of the last gentleman scholar business titans, and one of the most honest businessmen in the world. During his 13 year tenure as CEO at Standard bank the share price rose from \$1.37 to over \$7.79. His leadership style always espoused the importance of the team. In 2011 Jacko started donating 10% of his taxable income to education programmes.

Silver Jubilee Calendar of Events



Gaudy Dinner

Long Room of Lord's, 1st June 2017
Formal start to the Silver Jubilee campaign

Dinner at Christ Church

Oxford, June 2018*

Winter Cocktail Party

Mayfair, November 2018*

Dinner at Lincoln College

Oxford, June 2019*

Winter Cocktail Party

Mayfair, November 2019*

Birrell Blues Dinner

Windsor, June 2020*

Chairman's X1 v Patron's cricket Match and Braai, St George's Windsor, June 2020*

Birrell Blues and Friends touring party to South Africa to coincide with the British and Irish Lions Tour in June/July 2021*.

Itinerary to include:

- Attendance at British and Irish Lions Test Match
- Safari at Amakala
- Chairman's v Patron's cricket match at Sidbury, Eastern Cape
- Dinner at St Andrew's college museum with past and present scholars
- Birrell Blues and Scholars Team Photo in front of Upper to conclude and "draw stumps" on the Silver Jubilee Campaign

The Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust is run 100% by volunteers who give their time and services free of charge. 100p in the £ raised for the Trust goes directly to the beneficiaries, we have no administrative charges.

We rely totally on the generosity of private individuals for the funding of our scholars education and raising the target of £250,000 for the Silver Jubilee Endowment Fund to support scholars' education in perpetuity. If you would like to set up a regular subscription or regular donation, or possibly a legacy please do get in contact with me directly by writing to me at 9 Ladbroke Gardens, Flat 4, London, W11 2PT or emailing me at stephen@snowleopardvodka.co.uk or donating directly to <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/harrybirrellscholarshiptrust>

Thank you very much indeed for your generous support

Stephen Sparrow

Chairman of Trustees

* dates will be confirmed on the www.harrybirrelltrust.org website and subscribers and friends of the Trust will be informed as to dates by email from the chairman



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The Harry Birrell Blue written by Finlay Calder

OBE, British and Irish
Lions Captain 1989

Chairman's note

Finlay Calder holds a unique position in British Sporting folklore in being the only Lions captain to win a series having started with a test defeat. Rugby legends such as Dean Richards and Scott Hastings describe Finlay as the most inspirational of all the Lions captains who've pulled on the famous red shirt.

Mike Teague, my great friend from Gloucester, once told me that in the West Country there is an expression that goes along these lines: 'In life, if your table isn't set by the time you are fifty, it's too late'. Over the years I've often thought about that expression and the wisdom of it.

When Stephen first got in touch with me, what must be nearly thirty years ago now, there was something in his letter that hooked me in. 'Could I bring a side up to play in Oxford to raise the profile of a Trust he was in the process of setting up?'

Those sorts of occasions usually went either of two ways. Either it's a one off or you remain friends for life. I am blessed in that my involvement with Stephen, and his beloved Harry Birrell Trust, morphed into a lifelong friendship. I have been equally blessed to have made so many lifelong friends in rugby.

In October, last year, I was invited to Dublin to attend a Dinner with a quite unique gathering of men. The occasion was to launch the British & Irish Lions Players Club and gathered around the table, in the Constitution Room of the Shelbourne Hotel, were twelve former Captains of the British & Irish Lions dating back to Ronnie Dawson's Tour to Australia, New Zealand and Canada in 1959. Ronnie now eighty four years young still works out twice a week! Look closely at the photograph you will note that I am standing in the back row proudly wearing my Harry Birrell Blue!

Since being presented with it in Oxford back in the summer of 2013 I wear it to all rugby occasions, for its eye-catching appearance, with the crest of Oxford University and the Elephant of the Eastern Cape of South Africa forming the unique badge. Without exception, folk come

up and ask about the blazer and the background as to why I am wearing it and the conversation usually starts with: 'remind me, when did you go to Oxford University?' ...and I am always for a split second tempted to blag it!

Yet the blazer represents to me all that's good in rugby folk. It's about friendship, it's about loyalty, and it's about helping those who have had only a fraction of the opportunities we have been afforded in our own lives.

Perhaps, in time, some of those who we have collectively helped along the way will stop to reflect on how it all happened. Hopefully then, they too, will hand on the Harry Birrell torch.

Finlay Calder



An historic gathering of British & Irish Lions tour captains and the Lions Board at the Shelbourne Hotel in Dublin

MJK Smith, OBE.

It is a great pleasure to be associated with the Harry Birrell Trust since I knew him well and played a lot of cricket and rugby with him whilst at Oxford in the mid 50s.

Basically down to the Rhodes scholarships South Africans were very well represented at Oxford in those days and in particular in cricket and rugby teams. We both played under Paul Johnstone who had previously toured the UK with the South African rugby team. The presence of experienced South African sportsmen was a big factor in post war Oxford teams. Another Double Blue at the time was Jon Fellowes-Smith who I later played against in a Test when he toured with South Africa.

Almost all aspirant blues had done National Service two years post-school which was a very important factor for them, experience wise; but the South Africans tended to be even older which obviously was to their advantage with the teams and Oxford sport in general.



My son, Neil went into cricket as did Harry's son. Adrian – Neil skippered Warwickshire and played in the World Cup so we both had the same outlook – it's better than working. It is a tremendous way of life and so if we can make this more of an opportunity for youngsters through the likes of the Harry Birrell Trust, and with your support, we shall be making a real contribution in helping other youngsters, boys and girls, as we were helped.

Chairman's note

Mike was the last man to play for England at Test level at both Cricket and Rigger. In an Ashes series in Australia, he sported a white linen jacket and a carry-cot containing his baby. Apparently Mrs Smith had gone shopping and M.J.K. was literally left holding the baby.

Constantine Louloudis, MBE.

It was a real pleasure to meet Stephen at the Vincent's Club at the end of last year and I am honoured that he should ask me to contribute in this small way to this wonderful event.

I owe so much of the sporting success I've had to my own education, both at school and latterly at Oxford. Without the encouragement of teachers and the wealth of opportunity I was so lucky to enjoy, I would never have found my way into a rowing boat. As it was, I had two pieces of extraordinarily good fortune: I went to a school where each individual was encouraged to find their own niche and excel, and I was a hopeless cricketer (no Harry Birrell myself, sadly). That left only one option in the summer term, and I took it with both hands.

Almost ten years on I can happily look back on a rowing career that included four Boat Race wins, four world titles and two Olympic medals. But I still ask myself: what if the sport had never been on offer? Or if my first coach had never taken the trouble to inspire me to push through and carry on?



No doubt it takes a lot to reach the top in any field. The physical pain and emotional lows of elite sportsmen can be almost unbearable, just as the highs are memorable and fantastic. But the reality is that the choice to put yourself through all of that, and to challenge yourself to achieve something special, is only available to the few. This was palpable in Rio de Janeiro last year, where at times it seemed as though poorer locals and better-off foreign visitors lived in parallel for two weeks.

The Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust is working to give that same level of opportunity to some of the children of Grahamstown who wouldn't otherwise have access to it, and who have demonstrated the talent and aptitude to make the very most of it; it needs generous support to achieve these ambitious goals.

I wish you all a wonderful evening.

Chairman's note

The rowing community regards Stan as one of the greatest living British oarsmen. He won every boat race he rowed in and stroked GB's top boat to Gold in the Rio Olympics. He managed to sandwich a 1st Class degree in Greats in to the mix too.

The Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust and the Gift of Education Written by Nick Mallet

Oxford Rugby and Cricket Blue,
Springbok player and Coach



First of all, huge congratulations on completing 20 years of raising funds in England to provide life changing quality secondary schooling for the scholars of the Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust. This is an incredible achievement and one which Harry himself would have been immensely proud.

I was fortunate to have been sent to St Andrews College back in 1970 and I finished in 1974 having completed a Post Matric. My father, who was Headmaster of Bishops at the time, wisely did not want me anywhere near his own school, so he sent me to off to College where, if I did any damage, it would be relatively far away!

I had my first direct contact with Harry Birrell in 1972 when he and Paul Marsh took the College Cricket team to England on tour. He was a wonderful motivator and mentor. He gave uncritical, kind and supportive advice and made you feel a better player than you really were. An essential quality in any teacher or coach.

I received a letter from him on being appointed Springbok coach in 1997. He made some amazingly salient points about the future of the modern game. He wrote that soon centres would be over 100 kg and be coached to 'fetch' like flankers. Sonny Bill Williams, Ma'a Nonu and Jamie Roberts are testament to his foresight. This prediction came from the same man who changed the throwing of the ball into the line out from wingers to the hooker whilst at Oxford university in the 1950s. Harry realised that this skill needed to be done by a specialist and could not be shared by the left and right wingers. Harry was an amazing thinker about sport and he loved innovation.

I was very fortunate to spend 2 years at Oxford from 1979/81 on a Scarbrow bursary from the University of Cape Town. Without a doubt this was the best educational experience of my life and it played a huge part in enabling me to adapt to my different coaching experiences in South Africa, France, and Italy. Your Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust gives the same priceless gift of education to a few very fortunate students from Grahamstown to realise their talents so that they can go on and make a success of their lives. Well done on a hugely worthy cause.

Wishing you great success with your dinner at Lord's and your Silver Jubilee fundraising campaign and as Harry would have said: "Go for it!"

Nick Mallet

Chairman's note

Nick's greatest sporting claim to fame was not in fact coaching the Springbok's to at the time a world record run of 17 unbeaten Test matches, rather hitting Ian Botham for 4 sixes in an over when Oxford were playing Somerset in the Parks.

Happy 21st Birthday to the Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust, a Magnificent achievement

Written by Roy Allaway QC

Steve Biko's lead defense lawyer during the SASO trial

Chairman's note

Harry's favourite story about Roy, was that of the OURFC Rugby tour to the West Coast of America in 1953. Roy arrived at the cocktail party hosted by the British embassy in LA with none other than Judy Garland on his arm as his date!

It was a privilege to have been invited by Stephen Sparrow to attend the dinner at Lords on the 1st June, a disappointment to have to tell him that I could not attend, but an honour to be asked to contribute a piece to be put into the dinner programme.

My friendship with Harry was a relatively short one which started in the 1953 rugby union season when he and I were chosen respectively as inside centre and hooker by Alec Ramsay, the Oxford Captain, in all Oxford's games including the Varsity match at Twickenham that year and ended after Harry and I had been on a tour as members of the Oxford University side that played rugby against and stayed at the Universities of British Columbia, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Stanford in 1954. After coming down and returning to South Africa with a government in power that promoted and legalised apartheid, Harry and I went our separate ways; he into teaching and I into law with the result that our paths did not

cross although we both left Oxford firmly opposed to apartheid.

After immigrating to Australia in 1978 convinced, wrongly as things turned out, that only a violent revolution would remove the apartheid government I was not surprised to find out that the Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust had been formed with the very laudable objects that it has. Many of the men I played rugby with or against during my Oxford days went into the teaching profession and, like Harry, have been an inspiration for their pupils.

In 1976, in the heydays of apartheid, The American Committee of Civil Liberties funded the defence of nine Black, Indian and Coloured male students who were members of The South African Students Organisation (SASO) and the Senior Common Rooms of the separate Black, Indian and Coloured Universities they were attending.



The nine accused were charged by the Minister of Justice under the Prevention of Terrorism Act with trying to overthrow the government of the Republic of South Africa by violent or forcible means, which carried the death penalty on conviction, and lesser offences under that legislation, some of which also carried the death penalty on conviction. I was chosen with two other advocates (barristers) to lead the defence team. The venue for the trial was Pretoria, the administrative capital of South Africa, and was before a single Supreme Court judge who was rumoured to play golf with the then Prime Minister.

The trial attracted great publicity both nationally and internationally. Thanks largely to the evidence of Steve Biko who was called as a defence witness and who had fearlessly promoted Black Consciousness in South Africa as featured in the subsequent film Cry Freedom, and importantly the trial Judges' impartial conduct of the case and objective assessment of the evidence of Steve Biko and the accused, at the conclusion of what was a very long, important trial, only four of the nine accused were convicted by the trial Judge and their convictions were for minor offences under the legislation. They were given the minimum jail term the legislation allowed for the offences they had been found guilty of.

I have referred to the SASO trial because it was during that trial that I came to know

very well the nine young students who had been charged with crimes for which they could be hanged if found guilty. My abiding recollection of all of them is that despite their underprivileged backgrounds they were fearless and intent on fulfilling their potential as human beings and achieving what they thought was right and it was a privilege to have defended them.

The Trust facilitates and accelerates the fulfilment of Nelson Mandela's concept of a rainbow country for South Africa because the Trust gives young South Africans of all ethnic backgrounds the opportunity to be educated at schools of the quality that the Trust promotes, whose objective is to produce educated, motivated, aspiring, brave, principled South Africans of both genders who are colour blind.

For obvious reasons The Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust needs generous, benevolent support to continue to achieve its laudable objects and its Jubilee year is a time for friends and supporters to be especially generous. It is appropriate that the Proteas who are on tour in the UK will be attending the dinner as Harry was a very distinguished cricketer both before, at and after he was at Oxford.

Roy Allaway QC

Member of the NSW Bar Association, Rtd & former member of the society of advocates of Natal

Biographies of 2017's Harry Birrell Scholars



Siphosihle had to make a big adjustment when she joined the Diocesan School for Girls. The amount of work was hard, but she got stuck in and told herself to take the opportunity she had no matter how hard it was. 'I have become transformed as a person' she writes. The school has given her a realization that she is capable of more than she could have imagined. The scholarship too helped her mother, who is a single mum and whilst being away from her is tough, it has made Siphosihle more motivated to succeed. She is now boarding, which makes it easier to get her schoolwork done as she has more time. It had also enabled her to get closer to others in her grade which has helped her as a person. 'As a young woman, I think the scholarship has shaped many aspects of my life in a positive way, be it socially, academically, independently and emotionally.'



Hlumela is in Grade 11 at the Diocesan School for Girls. Her first impression of the school was of pretty classrooms and happy lessons. She took to it straight away and quickly made friends. She plays the piano and joined the choir. What she likes most is that each pupil is allowed to grow and find their own pathway. Hers lead to the debating team where she learnt to be open minded. She is part of the speaker's society which has many public speaking opportunities and as she now nears the end of her school career, she has learnt "a lot about others and myself and truly have become a woman of substance."



Rickey is at the Diocesan School for Girls and has enjoyed everything the school has had to offer from the classroom to the camps. She writes: 'I personally feel grateful because I have grown to understand that it is the key to my future. It has given me a skill few people have, fitting into, and understanding two diverse social communities.' Rickey is involved in the chapel choir. She plays the violin and finds time to take to the netball court. She feels after her time at the school she can become anything she wants but 'this wouldn't happen without my scholarship.'



Vile can thank her mother for her strong work ethic and determination to succeed. 'My mother worked hard to make us confident, empathic, hardworking individuals, who not only stand on their own feet but also stand for others'. She is currently in Grade 10 at the Diocesan School for Girls. Starting at the school in Grade 6 was 'the happiest day of my life.' Since then she has worked hard to make the most of all the opportunities that have come her way. She has learnt to read music and plays the saxophone. She is in the choir and plays first team netball. As her mother used to tell her and her sisters: 'where the mind is without fear, the head is held high.'



Carma-Marie has loved every minute of being a scholar: 'it has been magnificent, it has expanded my learning experience' and has helped me grow academically'. She is hugely grateful for the opportunity it has had on her life. The school has taught her many things including 'independence, time management and how to focus on my goals.' She does archery, ballroom dancing and had just taken up the drums. The school has provided her the environment to grow as a person, and forge valuable friendships. She hopes to go on to University and study medicine. But that's not all, as she writes that 'an actress which is one of my biggest dreams.'



Zanele fell in love with the Diocesan College for Girls the first time she set foot in the school. There was colour at every turn. She writes that "you could never miss the bright smile or the eyes that shone like stars that everyone had." There were so many opportunities and she learnt to swim, play hockey and tennis. She learnt new languages and how to solve problems. Being part of DSG has helped "me grow not only physically and mentally but has also as a person." What she loves most is the spirit and friendship of the sisterhood. 'I'm very grateful to be part of such a wonderful family and I will always give my best.'



Viwe is a dayboy at St Andrews College and has lived in Grahamstown his whole life. He attended the Good Shepherd primary school. Viwe enjoys playing all sports but enjoys playing basketball the most. And he enjoys school. 'What I like about St Andrews College' he says, 'is the brotherhood and deep bond the boys have with one another'. He not only enjoys sport, but also the clubs and cultural activities. After school Viwe would like to go to Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and study medicine, with the hope of finally become a specialist neurosurgeon. He would like to find out more about the brain help cure many of the currently incurable brain deceases.



Lutho is in Grade 10 and a border at St Andrew's College. Lutho joined St. Andrews from Ntaba Maria primary school. He is very active person playing basketball, rugby, and athletics. He is also a choir member and likes to wind down with a game of chess. Lutho is specific on why he enjoys college: 'I like college not just because it's a private school but because of the brotherhood and the kindness of the staff around college. Student around here respect each other.' When Lutho finishes school he would like to go on and study law at Rhodes University.



Sophakama has a strong desire to succeed. He enjoys working hard and goes the extra mile in everything he does. He wrote to the Trustees recently: 'I write this letter to thank you for the prestigious honour of giving me an opportunity of a life time to be in a school like St Andrew's College. To be an HBST scholar to me means everything as it has pushed me to a whole new learning and has done a huge improvement in my work ethic.' Sophakama would like to be one of the best Landscape Architecture that has ever set foot in this world and leave a legacy: 'want to make a difference in the lives of people and the in land that the lord gave us.'



Siphuthando lives in Grahamstown with his mum and sister and attends St. Andrew's College. The only thing he enjoys more to spending time with his family is playing sport. He is keen rugby and basketball player and enjoys taking to the football field. St Andrew's College has given him the opportunity to meet different people from all over the world. Siphuthando says 'The school is amazing. I like everything about St Andrew's College. St Andrew's College is the perfect school to take a child to if you want him to have an awesome future.' After he finishes school Siphuthando would like to be a cardiologist.



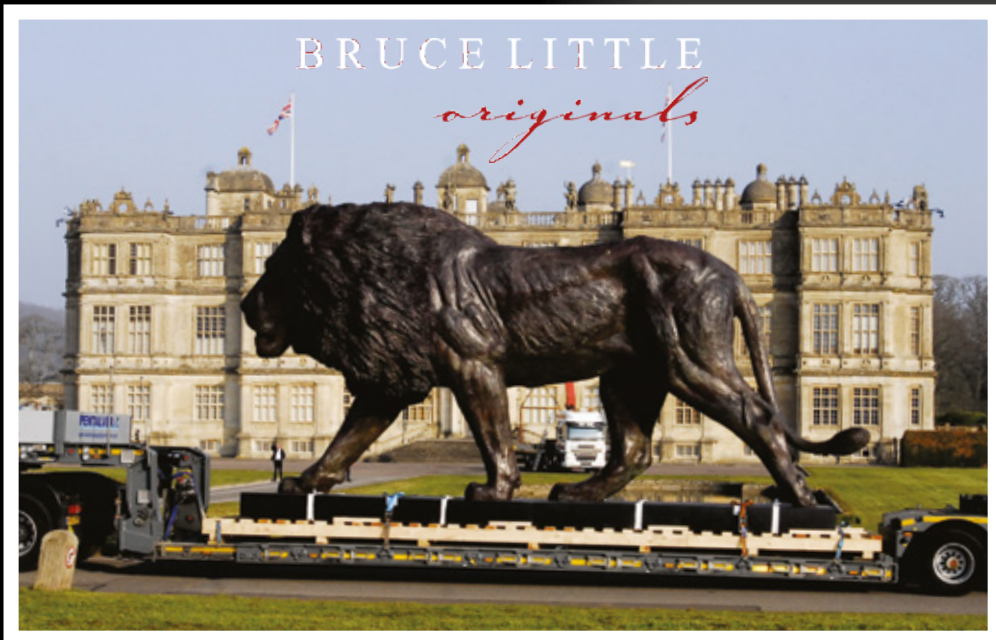
Africa attends St Andrews College. His experience has been amazing: 'I have learnt so much in the few weeks I have been here' he wrote, despite admitting he felt a little bit homesick to start off. His favourite subject is maths and he made it into first set. He was also nominated to write the Olympiad at Rhodes University. On the sports field, he chose to do rowing and tennis and rowed in the SA Champs in Pretoria. 'Thank you once again for giving me a scholarship to a wonderful school filled with many possibilities and opportunities. Thank you very much.'



Sivenathi - I have been at VG for four years now, and have loved every moment! I'm grateful that the Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust has helped me remain at a school of such great quality where I have been able to grow into a confident, independent young woman who is ready to take on the world!



Desmone - I'm grateful to have received the funding to go to a school like Victoria Girls' High. It is a very special school that has allowed me to get involved in activities like Drama, Eco Club and lots of different sports. Thank you to the Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust for selecting me and believing that I can achieve great things.



Internationally renowned wildlife , bronze sculptor, **BRUCE LITTLE**, captures the true essence of his subjects that he has studied most of his adult life, during his work as a conservationist and game ranger.

His sculptures are sold to discerning collectors worldwide through exhibitions and art agents.

Bruce's place of work and residence is in Grahamstown, South Africa, home of the Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust's beneficiaries

"It would be my honour to contribute a portion of every sale/commission received from associates of the HBST to the HBST"

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Victoria Girls' High School

"The HBST is a fantastic initiative that allows pupils from Good Shepherd Primary School the opportunity to grow at Victoria Girls' High School. Without the HBST sponsorship these girls would not have access to the quality teaching and learning that better prepares them to attend tertiary education institutions."

Warren Schmidt, Principal, Victoria Girls' High School



The Dickson School for Girls



ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE

"St Andrew's College and DSG are indebted to the Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust for your continued support. Your annual contributions to our Bursary and Scholarship Funds form a significant component of our overall commitment to offering deserving young people the opportunity of enjoying the College and DSG experience."

Alan Thompson, SAC Headmaster, Shelley Frayne, DSG Headmistress



"The HBST provides deserving students with opportunities that would otherwise not be available to them. We have seen many of these going on to achieve remarkable success in their High School and post-school careers."

Cecile Mager, Principal Good Shepherd EC Primary

Abenathi Gqomo

Transcript of speech made in Grahamstown Cathedral in January 2013 to celebrate the appointment of Mrs Cecile Mager as the new Head Mistress of the Good Shepherd School.

Abenathi is a Harry Birrell Scholar who has recently matriculated with 3 distinctions from Victoria Girls High in December 2012 to start studying for a law degree at Rhodes University in January 2013. She is a former Good Shepherd Primary school learner.

“Good morning to the clergy of the Cathedral; to the Harry Birell Trust Fund personnel; to the SGB, staff, parents and learners of the Good Shepherd Primary school, I greet you all in the name of our Lord. Amen.

The year 2001 saw the first year of what would be a long and fruitful school career for me. I was introduced to the Good Shepherd family at the age of 7 years, and because I was a bubbly and a curious character, it never took me long to capture the minds and hearts of the Good Shepherd staff. There I was taught self-confidence, how to carry myself as a young girl and the firm love that I received groomed me into the young, confident and opinionated woman that I am today. During my stay at Good Shepherd, I fell in love with English and I remember vividly how passionate Mrs Mager was in the classroom. My second love was music – singing in particular – and I also remember how Mrs van der Linde tried, with little success, to get us to sing in key.

When I was in grade 7, I was awarded with a Harry Birell bursary to study at Victoria Girls’ High School, and that is when I met Mrs Birell. Throughout the meetings that we had with the Harry Birell Trust Fund personnel over the past 5 years, I gathered that Mr Birell was a man with a big heart and an even bigger brain that was hungry for education and that he was a man that wanted to see deserving children that came from disadvantaged backgrounds receive an education of good quality.

It was only last year that I learnt how the money that is used to pay for our studies was gathered. Mr Harry Birrell’s younger friends would gather together to partake in marathons and host cocktail parties, their end-goal being to win the cash prize and be able to fund our studies and ensure that our goals and dreams would be realised.

Last year, when I was completing my matric, I thought of the direction that I wanted my life to take and today I am proud to share with you all that in a few weeks’ time, I will be taking my first step towards obtaining a Law degree at Rhodes University, and this is all possible because Mr Birell was selfless and compassionate enough to have a shared vision with younger friends to fund my high school years.



I have big dreams and an even bigger ambition in the pipeline but I will share one dream with you today. In the words of the famous Martin Luther King Jnr, I have a dream of starting a campaign that will ensure that girl-children and boy-children receive an academic education of good quality, that children of both sexes are made aware of their worth in society, their beauty and their intellect. I will work to the best of my abilities to ensure that this dream becomes a reality.

Before I take a seat, I would’ve done as good as nothing if I did not express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to the Harry Birrell Trust Fund, to the Good Shepherd Trust and the staff of Good Shepherd, you have sculpted a bright future for me.

I leave you with the words of Matthew 5vs7: “Happy are those who are merciful to others, God will be merciful to them”

I thank you.

Chairman’s note

When at high school some doubted her ability to do well at Matric. She provided us with a wonderful (and well deserved surprise) by “hitting the ball out of the park” in her exams and getting 3 distinctions in matric, winning a prestigious place to study Law at Rhodes university.

Sinethemba Mafanya

In February of this year, I had the distinct pleasure of reconnecting in person with Stephen Sparrow of the Harry Birrell Trust.

My brother Mila and I were the first two scholars supported by the scholarship and attended St. Andrews College for ten years. It was surreal to stroll through St. James's Park with Stephen surrounded by the beauty and history of the iconic streets, buildings, people of London, 15 years since our last meeting, and nearly 20 years since the genesis of our relationship with the scholarship fund.

My brother and I were fortunate enough to have two parents who believed in the transformative role that a quality education could have for our future, given what education had done for them as doctors. True to form this has manifested itself in an immeasurable way for both Mila and me.

Today Mila holds a Business Science from UCT in Actuarial Science and recently became a business owner of a boutique asset management firm with billions under management, whilst I run a business unit

for Diageo in South Africa, which invests in entrepreneurs, holding a degree in Economics from UCT and most recently a Masters in Finance from the University of London.

Our journey, like most Harry Birrell Scholars, was characterised by the steep contradiction of our native extended family and our fortunate experience at St Andrews, which still today ranks amongst the best times of our lives. I met Harry Birrell on Lower field in 1999, having just won the Eastern Cape Schools 200m during the Hirsh Edwards Shield, and preparing for the decisive 4x100m which we needed to win to take home the coveted shield. Harry caught me off-guard with that meeting, in what would turn out to be my interview for the Scholarship, but in hindsight seems indicative of the unique approach, vision and strategic intent of the man.

“I am eternally grateful for the support that the Harry Birrell Scholarship provided to Mila and myself.”



From the day that I was awarded the scholarship, Harry and the scholarship were shadows on the horizon of every success I had in my formative years: from my days as a 65kg Wing for the First XV rugby team 60 days after from my 16th birthday in 2001, to the culmination of my St Andrews experience in 2002 as the centenary Head of House of Espin in 2002, where my Scholarship mentor Harry would walk into my room periodically for an impromptu conversation, and show deft dexterity in avoiding the clutter to sit on the bed or desk. He always caught me by surprise and as a consequence we had no choice but to have the most genuine of discussions, which has contributed invaluable to my foundations as a person.

I am eternally grateful for the support that the Harry Birrell Scholarship provided to Mila and myself, and I look forward

to seeing more scholars supported by the Scholarship as they overcome the often overwhelming socio-economic circumstances that they are endowed with. That said, I'd like to reference a conversation that I had with a pastor in Southport on my last visit to the UK, who empathized with the socio-political environment that prevails in South Africa and its people, and suggested that it might be in my best interest to move with my young family to the UK if the opportunity arose. The thought that was front of mind at that moment was “Nec Asperra Terrent” – difficulty does not dismay us. I have a suspicion that South Africa will need many more Harry Birrell Scholars to carve out a prosperous future and I intend to be there on the front lines, like Harry Birrell and his younger friends intended.

Chairman's note

“Snaps” wrote to me after Harry told him to get in the gym: “I have trained hard but unfortunately my season has now come to a halt as I broke my collar bone. Mortality: that’s what it’s taught me. PS Mortality: It also taught me that 7kg wasn’t enough!”

ENGAGING AUDIENCES FROM THE GRASSROOTS TO THE BOARDROOM

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

BRAND COMMUNICATIONS

REGIONAL PR

FINANCIAL COMMUNICATIONS

Aviwe Ntshangase

What it has meant to me to be awarded a prestigious Harry Birrell Scholarship.

Coming from a less affluent background, when I received the opportunity to attend The Diocesan School for Girls (DSG) I had joy in my heart.

Not knowing know a single person I was also terrified. I knew I had to make everyone proud, most importantly myself and the people who offered me the opportunity; the Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust.

I have always been a curious child so I therefore did everything I possibly could during my five years at DSG. I joined the choir in grade 8 and I was dancing ballet, something I had only seen on TV. I never limited myself even when I could not do something I never gave up, especially if I had the passion for it. I knew that the Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust had given me wonderful seeds and I just had to plant flowers.

During my 5 years at DSG I was commended in Drama and received my colours for the Chapel choir. I completed the Gold Standard for President Award.

I was part of the Dance Committee; I received a subject prize for Information Technology in 2011. I had half colours in Basketball and Netball, a National Umpires Association Level 2. I was one of the Sacristans at the DSG Chapel. I was Vice President of the Student Council in grade 11; I was Captain of the basketball team. I was the head prefect of Knowing House and the Community Engagement Committee. I also received Honours in Community Engagement. DSG with Harry Birrell gave me an opportunity to know people from different places across the world, treat myself into things I only dreamt about. I had yet another family.

I have recently finished my undergraduate studies in Management and Information Systems at Rhodes University. I am currently doing my postgraduate studies in Information systems. Till this day I think about the beginning of my journey and the wonderful support I received and still receive from those communities. I am still highly involved in the community and have fully immersed myself within the Rhodes University community.



Chairman's note

Was the first girl from a township primary school to be elected head of house and become deputy head girl of the prestigious Diocesan School for Girls. A genuine all-rounder she lead the DSG girls community outreach programme and continues this work as a post graduate studying at Rhodes University.

The Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust and the Power of Enduring Friendships

Written by Andrew La Trobe

Old Andrean, Rhodes Scholar and Founder Trustee

I met Stephen Sparrow in the Teddy Hall front quad in September 1989, newly arrived from Rhodes University (the Oxford of the Veld) in the Eastern Cape of South Africa, and it wasn't long before we were discussing our mutual passion for the game of rugby and Stephen's plans, as newly appointed captain of the Hall XV.

I'm sure many gathered tonight will agree that the paths our lives take, and the friendships we share along the way, frequently appear to choose us. So it was to be in the case of Stephen and I, and the genesis of the Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust. In less than 100 days from our meeting, Stephen was on a plane to South Africa taking up a position as a stooge at St Andrew's College in Grahamstown, my alma mater.

In the early months of 1990, when we had expected to be playing rugby together in the parks of Oxford, Stephen was coaching and playing rugby on the Eastern Cape fields I had spoken of at our first meeting in Teddy Hall. Being the social and engaging person that he is, Stephen was soon forming strong associations and friendships, and none more so than with Harry Birrell, who had read Geography at Oxford and was then in the twilight of his teaching career at St Andrew's. Harry had been a central figure inspiring and supporting my candidacy for a Rhodes Scholarship, and now he and Stephen, as two Vincent's men, were building and enjoying a very special friendship, and frequently "painting the town red" in the process.



Chairman's note

"Laty" is one of those rare characters who whilst never being foolish enough to get in to trouble himself has been like a candle to moths for those needing to get their sails re-set. Andrew undoubtedly was a "horse whisperer" in a past life.

"Tapping into the rich vein of connections between the UK and South Africa, we have slowly and steadily built the foundations for the Trust's sustainability."

By the time Stephen left St Andrew's in August 1990 and made his way back to Oxford, he had acquired a love and dedication to the people of the Eastern Cape that he has never lost. It was this shared commitment, particularly to Grahamstown and its educational institutions, which was the driving force behind our founding of the Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust in a West London pub in 1996. Since that cold night in November, the constant support from friends and family has been humbling: from the gracious response of Harry and Sylvia Birrell and their wider family; then from Oxford friends who got behind the initiative; the UK rugby community led by Finlay Calder who helped launch our fundraising for the charity in 1997; from Roger Sparrow (Stephen's father) who on retirement became the indispensable operating executive of the charity; the

generosity of our patron Peter Phillips; and so it has continued for the past twenty-one years.

Tapping into the rich vein of connections between the UK and South Africa, we have slowly and steadily built the foundations for the Trust's sustainability. By linking the reliable and professional resources of Grahamstown schools and educationalists, with a generous and ever expanding group of Friends of the Harry Birrell Scholarship Trust in the UK, we have been able to build the necessary resources to the point that this year we have fourteen Harry Birrell Scholars.

It was all made possible, and continues to be sustained, by these circles of friendship, for which I'm deeply grateful.

Andrew La Trobe

Adi Birrell, former Ireland Cricket Coach and current Proteas no2 coach

We, the Birrell family, are so fortunate and blessed that our beloved Harry is remembered in having a trust bearing his name.

Harry loved St Andrew's College. He was schooled there and it is where he spent most of his teaching career. He also loved Grahamstown. He was recognised and acknowledged by all the schools for his friendship and support. Harry would be delighted that some pupils are being educated at Victoria Girls High School and Graeme College and he would love Kingswood College to be included down the line as well.

Harry also loved Oxford University, and was very proud of his double blue. He wore his Oxford cricket jersey till it was in tatters. He was very happy that Oxford was the birth place of the HBST. Most of the funds are generated through Oxford University contacts, and these funds are greatly appreciated and are vital in providing precious opportunities to our scholars.

I am also a teacher and always thought I would follow my father into education. My playing career was not very successful but Harry never made me feel that I was a failure. He encouraged and supported me at every turn and thanks to him I have followed my dreams and been very fortunate to have a career in coaching.

I also have a life outside of cricket which is even dearer to me and that involves my wife Susan and my two boys Luke, and Christopher, living on our beloved game and cattle farm outside Grahamstown. My mom Sylvia lives with my sister Debbie and her husband Murray Loggie. They have four daughters Laura-Jane, Kate, Nan and Hannah all of whom were educated at DSG. Harry always emphasised that family was the most important part of life.

“We are indebted to many, especially Steve and Andrew, for initiating the HBST and all the trustees and the Trust's Patron, Peter. However the driving force is Steve.”



The Sparrow family have become family to us through this trust, this binding friendship has given my mom such joy and satisfaction through the years. Sylvia and all the family wish they could have been present at Lords for the dinner and show their appreciation in person. However, I will be the family's representative and look forward to addressing you all.

Harry was a true educationalist and inspired many that came into his contact. He loved to give opportunities to youngsters especially those less fortunate, he was unconditionally generous with his time and energy, and enjoyed following the careers of his pupils. His best impact was not actually in the classroom but on people's lives. All of these ideals are lived out in the Trust.

We are indebted to many, especially Steve and Andrew, for initiating the HBST and all the trustees and the Trust's Patron, Peter. However the driving force is Steve. His energy and drive is incredible matched only by Harry himself. We also recognise and appreciate Roger for his dedication and long service and I look forward to meeting up with all of you at Lords in June.

Chairman's note

Adi pioneered cricket development in the townships of Eastern Province. Until Adi's arrival the only white men in the volatile townships wore military uniform and carried assault rifles. Adi wore cricket whites and carried a cricket bat and ball, his secret weapon was the Birrell smile.

Ollie Cook

It is a huge privilege to be involved with the Harry Birrell Trust.

I spent my 'gap year' in Grahamstown, as a stooge at St Andrews College and as a spare pair of hands at the Good Shepherd Primary School in the township. It was here where I taught the first Harry Birrell Scholars Caleb Burgess and Abenethi Gqomo.

I say taught in the loosest sense because it may be a cliché but it is true. I had the most wonderful time at Good Shepherd where the pupils, the school and the community taught me far more than I ever imparted to them. And quite often very literally, there were a few times when the maths I was writing on the board didn't add up and I would be gently reminded by one of the children.

But more often it was in their daily appetite for life. I have such fond memories of giant duck, duck, goose games played between classes, of reading lessons and of taking the school to the local Arts Festival where I was mistaken, by a young Afrikaner girl, for being Schalk Burger. Of course, after I told her I wasn't, I signed her note pad anyway: 'Skalky xxx'.



The money raised and the opportunities provided by the Harry Birrell Trust could not go to more deserving children.

These children are so funny and full of life; many ferociously intelligent and competitive that given half a shot they will take it and run with it. But many, without any kind of say, are born facing incredible challenges. I had the best year of my life meeting and getting to know the children at Good Shepherd. And it is immensely rewarding to know that the money raised by this Trust is directly helping these children.

A little over six years since I signed a young Afrikaner's notepad I have won both the World Championships and the Boat Race. Both were without doubt in large measure due to the opportunities that I have had through school and university.

The Harry Birrell Trust provides children with these same opportunities to follow their passion. And it reminds a constant source of inspiration to follow the successes of the current Harry Birrell scholars.

Chairman's note

Ollie won Gold Medal at the World Championships for Britain in the coxed pair and added to his trophy cabinet by being the power house in the Oxford boat this year. However, he became the first crew member in boat race history to lose (misfield) his winner's medal in the Thames after executing a celebratory "swallow dive", playfully reported by the Times!

Spend a night under the African stars

"When I was asked by Stephen Sparrow if we could support the Trust's Silver Jubilee campaign, I didn't hesitate. Harry was my brother's House Master and cricket coach, and it was after visiting Adi Birrell in Ireland 15 years ago that I took his advice and proposed to my late wife Britt... definitely the best decision of my life."
[Robert More, CEO & Owner, MORE]



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