



IRM (Dick) Suter (1951-54)

Dick was born in Uxbridge in 1937. Although he had been christened Richard, for most of his life he was known by his close family and friends as Dick. He had followed in his father John's footsteps by attending St Paul's in West Kensington. Both of them were boarders in Colet House, Gliddon Road, which was pulled down early in 1958 to make way for the Cromwell Road extension. So his younger brother Robert (1957-61) only had to endure the Autumn term of 1957, before moving in to School House.

Dick was put into B Club, whose President was "Buster" Reed. Unlike his father, who enjoyed playing cricket, rugby and other team sports, Dick preferred individual sports such as tennis, and, especially after leaving school, squash. When at prep school, he had learnt to box and at St Paul's, he was encouraged by Mr Reed to enter the Green Cup, which was an inter-Club boxing competition and eventually went on to represent the School at boxing. In the summer term, Dick opted to row, although he was happier when he was sculling than as part of a crew.

He also joined the CCF, moving later into the RAF section, as his father had served as a Flight Lieutenant in the RAF in World War II. A school trip to Italy had given him the desire to learn Italian and other languages and, eventually, to work overseas.

After leaving St Paul's, Dick went to work for Austin Reed, men's outfitters in their Fenchurch Street branch, as part of his training in retail, prior to joining the Suters' family department store group, when he reached 25.

At 18, he was called up for two years National Service in the RAF, ending up at Northolt for 18 months. His last month consisted of a fire-fighting course at Moreton-in-Marsh, where all the trainees were asked if any of them had passed their driving tests. The handful who had become the drivers of the Green Goddesses for the whole month. This was apparently a much better option than working with hoses full of foam. It was fine until the hose burst, which was a regular occurrence, when those operating the nozzles could get covered by the foul smelling substance.

After demobilisation, Dick decided to enter the world of advertising and marketing. Initially working in London for Armstrong Warden and then Napper Stinton and Wooley, who were both advertising agencies, he progressed

to AB Felix, a Swedish frozen food firm, working in both Sweden and England. In 1962, he joined Suters Ltd at the Slough branch, running the sales promotion operation. However, within 18 months, Italy called and, after learning basic Italian at Perugia University, he joined Colman Prentis and Varley, an international advertising agency in Milan. After three and a half years in Italy and six months in Belgium, he rejoined the family business. At this time, he met his wife Ginny, who worked for BEA, a forerunner of British Airways.

In 1978, Suters sold out to Owen Owen Ltd, a Liverpool-based department store group and all the family had to resign from the business. Dick had already secured a position with Champion Spark Plugs in Belgium, as Sales Promotion Manager for Europe. Part of his role was to plan promotions and arrange advertising at Formula 1 events around Europe. In this way, he could combine his love of motor sport together with work. In his late teens and early twenties, he had owned a series of sports cars, such as a Turner with a fibreglass body and an Austin Healey Sprite. For a number of years, he was a member of both the British Automobile Racing Club and the British Racing Drivers Club. When he was working in Milan, he was also the Italian correspondent for *Autosport* magazine.

In the late 1980s, Champion closed down their European base in Belgium, deciding to run everything from USA, so Dick became self employed as a journalist and magazine editor working in Belgium for *Internationals* and *PlugIn*. He was



also a translator of technical books and instructions, helped by his excellent French and Italian plus some German. As retirement age was on the horizon, Ginny and he decided to retire to the south of France, to be near their elder daughter and her family and later by his second daughter and her family. This was a very convenient location for keeping up his Italian, by being able to drive over the border in just over an hour for lunch. He carried out charity work and taught Italian.

In September 2010, he was diagnosed with leukaemia and, despite putting up a great fight, died in Mougins, France on the 21 March 2013. His wife, Ginny, who had suffered from various cancers for a number of years, died six weeks later. They are survived by two daughters and three grandchildren.

Robert (1957-61) and Philip Suter (brothers)

Benedict H B Whitehouse (1992-97)

Benedict Harry Beckwith Whitehouse died on 31 July 2013. He was born in Hammersmith in 1978. He went to Colet Court and St Paul's where he enjoyed English with John Venning and Joe Sutcliffe. After School he went to the University of Exeter and, despite his dyslexia, he took a 2.1 in English. His first plan had been to go into environmentally sustainable property and he worked in various jobs including the modernisation of a listed cottage in Dorset. He then had an epiphany during an Alexander Technique lesson and he decided to qualify as an Alexander Technique Teacher.

Part way through the first of three years on the course, he had a major

convulsion and was diagnosed with incurable brain tumours. He decided to finish his training, even though he knew he would not live very long. He underwent radiotherapy and successfully completed his studies, qualifying in April 2013. At that stage he was in a period of remission and he married Rachel Gibbons. On their honeymoon in Cambodia the symptoms returned. Back in the UK he began the first of a series of chemotherapy treatments. He showed indomitable courage throughout his illness. He never complained once. He was 34 years old when he died in his home near Bristol, lovingly cared for by Rachel and a team of palliative care nurses.