

## Chapter V Undergraduate Education

### Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

University of Edinburgh 1961 – 1966

I think I'll let the pictures tell the story with some minor explanatory annotations!



The Beginning 1961/1962

Pete Jackson (centre with pint in left hand) was a bit of a role model. He was in final year and had already completed two years National Service before commencing at the Dick Vet in 1957. He was therefore 5 or 6 years ahead of we 'Freshers'. There were several of these more mature men while we were till 'boys' (18 to 19 years old) by comparison. Pete was also the current captain of the football team and a very good mentor.

This photograph must have been taken in 'The Junction Bar' in East Preston Street which was the Dick Vet student hang out at the time. This later changed to 'The Falcon' in the same street but on the corner closer to College. Alan Irving is at close front left next to Brian Wain. This was a bit of an aberration for Brian who was more constrained as a rule. Larger than life Jim Buchanan is at the back and this was more his scene! Jim took an extra two years to graduate as I recall? I am more contemplative at the back and may be hosting shards of doubt resplendent in my College Tie?

Because we were nearly all 'blokes' the dress was almost standard uniform for Veterinary Students at Edinburgh University. I remember a Dentistry Student Paddy Mornane from Manchester referring to me 'in my farmer's suit'!

### Charities Week Float 1963



Charities or 'Rag' Week was big on the agenda for all undergraduate students at Edinburgh University. It was the one and only time that the 'reclusive' Dick Vet joined with all other student groups within the University. It was really just another excuse for a massive party. Some of the celebrations were not too smart. Two Medical Students with us Dave Campbell and Ken Grant (both es-Fettes) pledged to drink 100 pints of McEwans Draft Export during the week. Dave pulled out in the 80s but Ken made it to 111. He was in hospital for days afterwards!

This photograph depicts my-self well daubed in the centre. Pete Campbell (Sombrero) and Pete Malone (Pirate Hat) are next to me with John Gilmore seated just in front. Hugh Reid is manning the signatory dust bin top defence shield. Coral Tatnell, Linda Barclay (Guitar) and Maureen Valentine were all good sports and represented half the female contingent in our year group. Linda (Shetland Isles) was the most daring and always led from the front! Neville 'Chiz' Turner (Year behind us) is standing with hands in pockets on the RHS of the float. It was Neville who dealt with the situation at their 10 year reunion when Rugby 1<sup>st</sup> XV 2<sup>nd</sup> rower big James Rorrison had become Jennifer Rorrison. No worries!



## Dick Vet Ball 1965



It might seem like the Dick Vet was long five year party which some of it was. The reality is only the social and sporting events were recorded on camera. If you won an academic award it was like 'virtue': its own reward.

The Dick Vet Ball in 1965 features most of the serial culprits including from left to right excluding the ladies some of whom may not have endured:

Eric Jackson, Jim Buchanan, Gordon McKenzie, Pete Campbell. Rob Smith in front with Marianne, unknown, Pete Malone and Brian Wain at the back with Stuart Imray & Pat in front of them, I'm behind, Les Clerihew and an 'affectionate' Hugh Reid seated in front.

It was sometimes a mystery to me why the ladies endured these usually excessively well lubricated occasions? Perhaps it was the opportunity to 'dress up'. As is evident in this photograph Eric Jackson is portrayed as the 'serious one'. This was probably true although Rob Smith was also a contender. Both were great friends and equally top blokes as well. I am proud to include them in any compendium I might like to create. Jim and Gordon probably 'pushed out the boat' more than the rest of us. Sadly Gordon failed to balance the ledger and returned to Caithness without graduating. It's a pity because he abounded in talent.

## Cricket 1<sup>st</sup> XI 1965



Back Row: R. M. Robarts (Umpier), D. E. Marlow, B. R. Borthwick, R. W. L. Cooper, P. G. Gamble, W. Smith, V. A. Bean, R. D. Murray, J. A. Moffitt  
Front Row: T. A. Irving (Scorer), A.M. Heath, W. P. Howey (Captain), Mr P. G. D. Morris (President), L. W. Clerihew (Vice-Captain), J. F. Hepburn (Honorary Secretary) J. Buchanan.

Mr P. G. D. Morris was our Histology Lecturer. He was universally popular. Jim Buchanan had played school cricket with England legend Colin Milburn in Durham. Les also played for senior Edinburgh Club Daniel Stewarts FP and made the Edinburgh Select side as a swing bowler. Alan Heath could really curve the ball but he had a round arm bent-elbow delivery which looked suspicious but nobody questioned. We just kept going. We played some very good Inter-College games the highlights being against Kings College, Newcastle and also Edinburgh Academicals at Raeburn Place. Although we had some talent our results were modest. Lack of assiduous net practice and lack of conditioning probably contributed. Our home ground was at East Fettes Avenue next to the major Private Boys School Fettes College (Tony Blair's alma mater). It was an excellent facility and probably better than we deserved. However active participation in sport at the Dick Vet was about 40% against the University average of c. 15%. We had our own Royal (Dick) Veterinary Athletic Club within the University which regularly fielded three Rugby XVs, two Soccer Xis, two Hockey Xis, two Cricket Xis and a Golf Club. There may have been others. In the 1960s all of these were male teams. It is very different today!



## Football 1<sup>st</sup> XI 1964-65



Back Row: A. G. Burnie, I. S. Imray, A. G. Hunter, W. P. Howey, A. J. Trees, J. Daft, R. R. Lyon, W. S. Imray  
Front Row: J.S. Gilmour, J. D. Pringle, Mr J.A. Taylor (President), J. F. Hepburn (Vice-Captain), T. C. Morton (Secretary).

This was the core group who toured the Orkney Isles the year before. This was a most memorable occasion. We stayed in 'Stromness' and played a total of three matches. I recall we won one, drew one and lost the other. It was an honourable outcome. This was my last year laying football (soccer). In my final year I decided to learn to play Rugby which I did in the 3<sup>rd</sup> XV captained by Pete Campbell. My claim to fame came in a match against the so-called Tropical Veterinary Students; those Post Graduates studying for a Diploma in Tropical Veterinary Medicine DTVM. I crossed for the winning try at inside centre following a choice pass from half back and Captain Pete. I think this was my only score in my entire Rugby Career. I suffered a tear of the medial collateral ligament in my left knee not long after which brought my season to an early close.

I am standing 4<sup>th</sup> left at the back. Next to me on my left is Sandy Trees now Baron Trees of the Ross in Ross and Kinross. I would never have guessed this could happen but you never know when you might be brushed by fame? I think he would rate the title above the Full Colour for football he achieved in 1964-65?

## Baron Trees



Induction in the House



**Alexander John "Sandy" Trees, Baron Trees** (Born 12 June 1946) is a Professor of veterinary parasitology and a Crossbench member of the House of Lords.

Alexander 'Sandy' Trees was born on 12 June 1946 in Middlesbrough and spent his childhood in Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire. He was educated at Brumby Junior School and then at Brigg Grammar School between 1957 and 1964. In 1969, he graduated from Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh with a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (BVM&S) and therefore qualified as a vet.

Upon graduation, Trees undertook a research expedition to Kenya in 1969 to 1970. He then spent a year as a practicing veterinarian in Derby, England. This accumulated into completing a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) on bovine babesiosis. He joined the veterinary pharmaceuticals company Elanco in Rome, Italy. He was veterinary advisor for the Middle East from 1977 to 1979, veterinary advisor for the Middle East, Turkey and Africa from 1979 to 1980, and finally Head of Animal Science in the Middle East and Africa in 1980. In 1980, he joined the University of Liverpool as a lecturer of veterinary parasitology. He was Head of the Department of Veterinary Parasitology from 1992 to 2001. In 1994, he was made Professor of veterinary parasitology and appointed Head of the Parasite and Vector Biology Division at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. He was Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Liverpool from 2001 to 2008. In 2011, he retired from the University.



He was Vice-President of the European Veterinary Parasitology College from 2006 to 2009. He was President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons from 2009 to 2010. From 2011, he is a member of the Executive Committee of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology. He has been Chairman of the Moredun Research Institute since December 2011.

#### House of Lords

On 3 July 2012, Trees was made a life peer as **Baron Trees**, of The Ross in Perth and Kinross, and was introduced in the House of Lords on 12 July 2012, where he sits as a Crossbencher, or independent, peer. He is only the second veterinary surgeon to become a member of the House of Lords after Lord Soulsby of Cambridge.

Baron Trees made his maiden speech in the House of Lords in January 2013 on the Leveson debate.

#### Golf Club 1965



L. Clerihew

W. Howey

M. N. McPherson

R. R. Keddle

J. F. Hepburn

P. Campbell

J. Buchanan (C)

A. N. Christie

W. Smith


Inset: Mr H. Hastie, President

This was a social group made up to contest the annual Dick Vet versus Staff Match at Gullane. Bob Keddie was an International Rugby Player representing Scotland from Watsonians Rugby Club. Jim, Pete and Alastair Christie were the serious golfers. After the match at Gullane we spent a few hours in the Pub now owned by brother-in-law Iain Gray.

#### Half Colours

 <p><b>Royal Dick Veterinary Athletic Club</b></p> <p>SEASON <u>1962</u></p> <p>This is to certify that the following member of the Athletic Club, <u>CRICKET</u> Section, has been awarded a HALF COLOUR.</p> <p><u>WILLIAM PATRICK HOWEY</u></p> <p><u>J. Graham</u> President Athletic Club</p> <p><u>M. C. Adams</u> Captain of Section</p> <p><u>B. Britton</u> Honorary Secretary Athletic Club</p>	 <p><b>Royal Dick Veterinary Athletic Club</b></p> <p>SEASON <u>1962 - 63</u></p> <p>This is to certify that the following member of the Athletic Club, <u>Soccer</u> Section, has been awarded a HALF COLOUR.</p> <p><u>W.P. HOWEY</u></p> <p><u>J. G. Speed</u> President Athletic Club.</p> <p><u>Andrew J. Brown</u> Captain of Section.</p> <p><u>Robert E. Kedge</u> Honorary Secretary Athletic Club.</p>
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#### Full Colours

 <p><b>ROYAL DICK VETERINARY ATHLETIC CLUB</b></p> <p>SEASON <u>1963</u></p> <p>This is to certify that the following member of the Athletic Club, <u>Cricket</u> Section, has been awarded a FULL COLOUR.</p> <p><u>W.P. HOWEY</u></p> <p><u>J. G. Speed</u> President Athletic Club</p> <p><u>Andrew J. Brown</u> Captain of Section</p> <p><u>Robert E. Kedge</u> Honorary Secretary Athletic Club</p>	 <p><b>ROYAL DICK VETERINARY ATHLETIC CLUB</b></p> <p>SEASON <u>1964 - 1965</u></p> <p>This is to certify that the following member of the Athletic Club, <u>Cricket</u> Section, has been awarded a FULL COLOUR.</p> <p><u>W.P. HOWEY</u></p> <p><u>J. G. Speed</u> President Athletic Club</p> <p><u>William P. Brown</u> Captain of Section</p> <p><u>Robert E. Kedge</u> Honorary Secretary Athletic Club</p>
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Diabolical Trifecta 1964



Jim Buchanan   Gordon McKenzie   Bill Howey

Dublin Cordiale 1964



Jim Buchanan   Bobby Fitz-Henry (UCD)   Bill Howey

UK and Ireland Veterinary Students met once year. This was in Dublin with a local leprechaun!

## Matriarch Palmer & Crew 1965



Brian Wain      Bob McCracken

Pete Malone      Mrs Palmer      Bill Howey

After a few false starts Brian, Bob, Pete and I were very fortunate indeed to find lodgings at 45 Warrender Park Avenue, Marchmont, Edinburgh. Mrs Palmer was our landlady. She was a true veteran of the hospitality and service industry having quote: 'served in grand houses in the Borders'. We lived here for the remaining three and a half years of our time at the Dick Vet. The apartment/house was a very large one on the bottom floor of a typical granite stone tenement building. It was a very convenient short walk to College at the south east corner of 'The Meadows'.

Brian became Principal of the large practice in Kelso. Sadly he passed away too early after suffering brain cancer. Pete stayed close to home at Alnwick before retiring to enjoy life at Loch Carron near the Isle of Skye. Bob McCracken was a totally committed Ulsterman who joined Government Service at Stormont in Belfast. He later became President of the British Veterinary Association (BVA) as well as the Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA). He was a Government Advisor to many African and Developing Countries. He met up with colleague and class mate George Akafekwa when on secondment to Zambia. I migrated to Australia after one year in practice in Northern Ireland. Interestingly Bob was probably the least involved of all of us in College and University affairs. His was a total focus on the ultimate objective of graduation. I believe I may lay claim to having contributed most (with John Gilmour) to the everyday cycle and social fabric of College life. John and I served as the Class Delegates on the Veterinary Students Committee all the way through. I was also on the Students Representative Council (SRC) of the University of Edinburgh.



## Dick Vet Rugby Ball 1964



John Gilmour   Unknown   Hugh Reid   Bill Howey   Pete Campbell   Brian Wain

& Partners

The Royal Dick Vet Rugby Club Ball was a 'major' on the social calendar each year. There was a dance at the College very Saturday evening during term. These were very popular venues especially in the situation where male veterinary undergraduates outnumbered female by 10 to 1! We had five women in our year but there was a class before us when there was a single female undergraduate.

The young ladies from Athol Crescent Domestic Science College were sought after partners because they were supposed to be babe to cook! I think for some of them it was a nice easy way to fill in two years of tertiary education.



Mid Way 1963/1964



Back Row:      Bill Howey      Pete Campbell      Les Clerihew

Front Row:      Alan Irving   Alan Heath   Jim Buchanan   Gordon McKenzie   John Gilmour

Sadly Gordon left without completing not long after. Jim took an extra two years to finish. Alan Heath was very bright. He was able to graduate very well although he missed a lot of classes when training and riding his own racehorse 'Zurbaran' at Wolverhampton in the midlands. John Gilmour never lost focus as befitted his Perthshire upbringing in a Presbyterian Manse. John later excelled in research at Moredun Institute before succumbing to Malignant Melanoma at far too early an age. John made more progress with the vexed problem of Grass Sickness in horses either before or since. The rest of us made it over the line more or less in regulation time. I think we enjoyed the best of all worlds: social, sporting and academic.

### Social Finale 1966



This is the whole of our Year in party mode at the Assembly Rooms in George Street. It seems the photograph was taken late in the evening or early in the morning? I won't attempt to dissemble the 'mob' but I am seated at left front. There is a bottle there as well.



## Graduation 1966

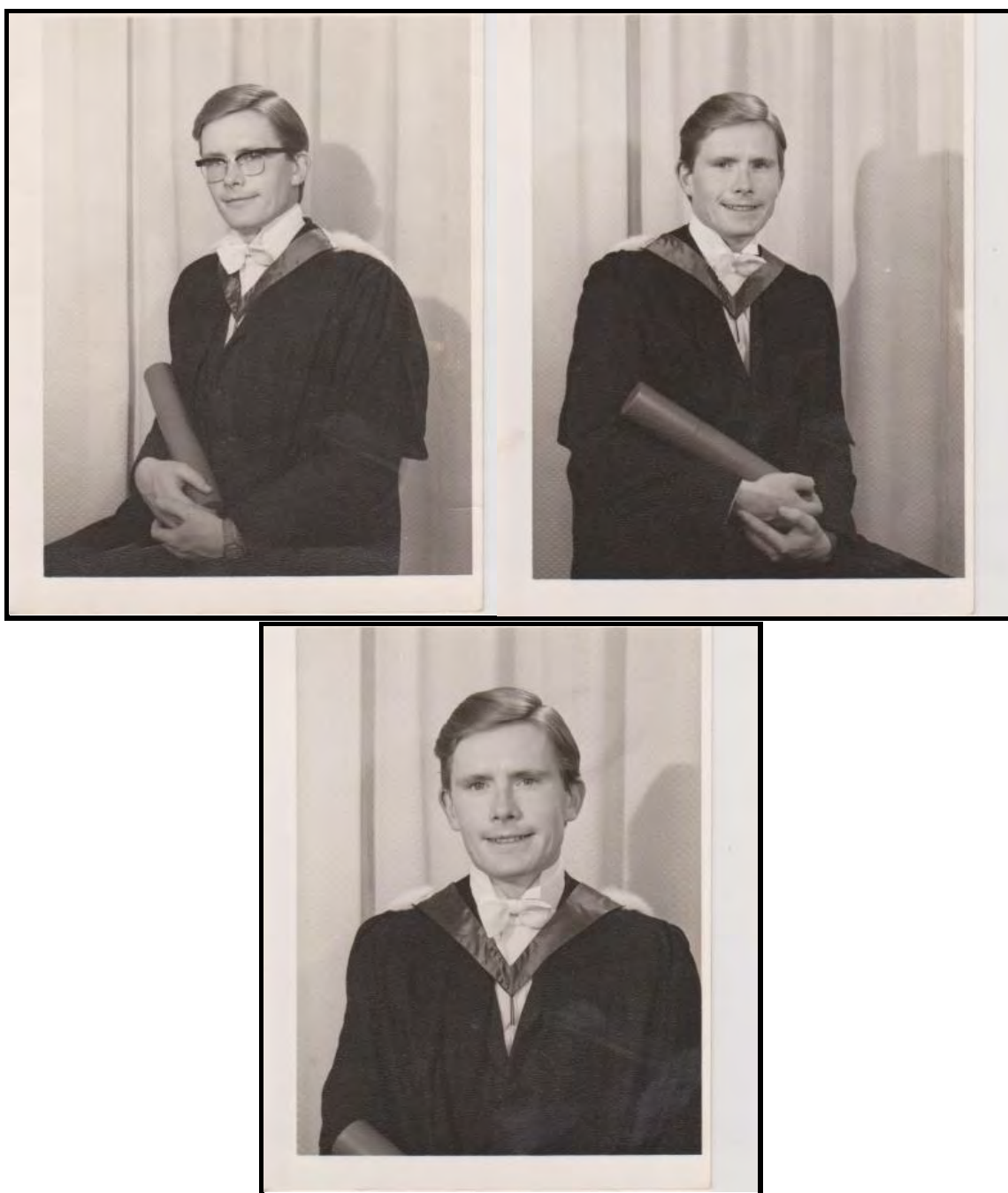


Pete Malone    Bill Howey    Dai Davies    Les Clerihew

Although it appears hedonism and the pursuit-of-pleasure were the prime objectives at College the reality was quite different. Graduation in the regulation five years was always the goal. It was well known that the veterinary degree had more formal classes and face-to-face tuition than any other University course by far. In addition we were required to see as much veterinary practice as we could in our vacation time. I was fortunate in that I came from a farming background. Others had more ground to make up. Here the four of us were lined up in front of the William Dick Statue outside College. Dai had fallen back into our group from the year ahead. We are clutching our Graduation Degree Scrolls except I seem to be debating the whereabouts of mine? At least I'm on the front foot! The College no longer exists at Summerhall. The whole program has been relocated to premises at Easter Bush, Roslin, East Lothian. This was the site of our 'Field Station' where we were introduced to practical classes using live animals. The old autopsy room is now a Bistro for use during the Edinburgh Festival. It is called the 'Royal Dick'. A cynic who will remain nameless has asked who or what would you expect to find there: 'An erectile Prince Harry'?



### Graduation Portraits



I hated these posed portraits; but my mother loved them!

I was admitted to Membership of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (MRCVS) on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 1966. MRCVS was the absolute pre-requisite permitting Member to be licensed to legally practice Veterinary Science in the UK. It seemed a very long way away from 4<sup>th</sup> Form at Ackworth School when Neale Holmes-Smith put the idea in my head. The first lesson I learned was how to spell the word 'veterinary'! Neale became a botanist.

## Mission Accomplished

### ROYAL (DICK) SCHOOL OF VETERINARY STUDIES

#### UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

The following B.V.M. & S. Graduates were admitted to Membership of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons on Saturday, 29th October, 1966.

BELL, Andrew Steven Woodhouse,  
Hillside, Brookfield, Wigton, Cumberland.

CAMPBELL, Peter O'May,  
15 Gean Road, Alloa, Clackmannanshire.

CHEUNG CHIN YAN, Cheung Sheung Siong,  
P.O. Box 221, Port Louis, Mauritius.

CLERIHEW, Leslie William,  
34 Lauriston Place, Edinburgh, 3.

DAVIES, Dafydd Hywel,  
162A Boothferry Road, Goole, Yorkshire.

GARDNER, William Leslie,  
"The Dams", Menstrie, Clackmannanshire.

HOWEY, William Patrick,  
3 Mews Houses, Cockle Park, Morpeth, Northumberland.

INGLIS, David Michael,  
58 Ochil Street, Tillicoultry, Clackmannanshire.

MALONE, Peter,  
c/o Muir & Curry, Veterinary Surgeons, "Nether House",  
Alnwick, Northumberland.

PHILLIPS, James Macfarlane,  
38 Upton Close, Norwich, Norfolk.

RAFFAN, Peter James,  
"Avondale", Derry Road, Strabane, Co. Tyrone,  
N. Ireland.

TAYLOR, Andrew Sloan,  
19 Dean Path Buildings, Edinburgh, 4.

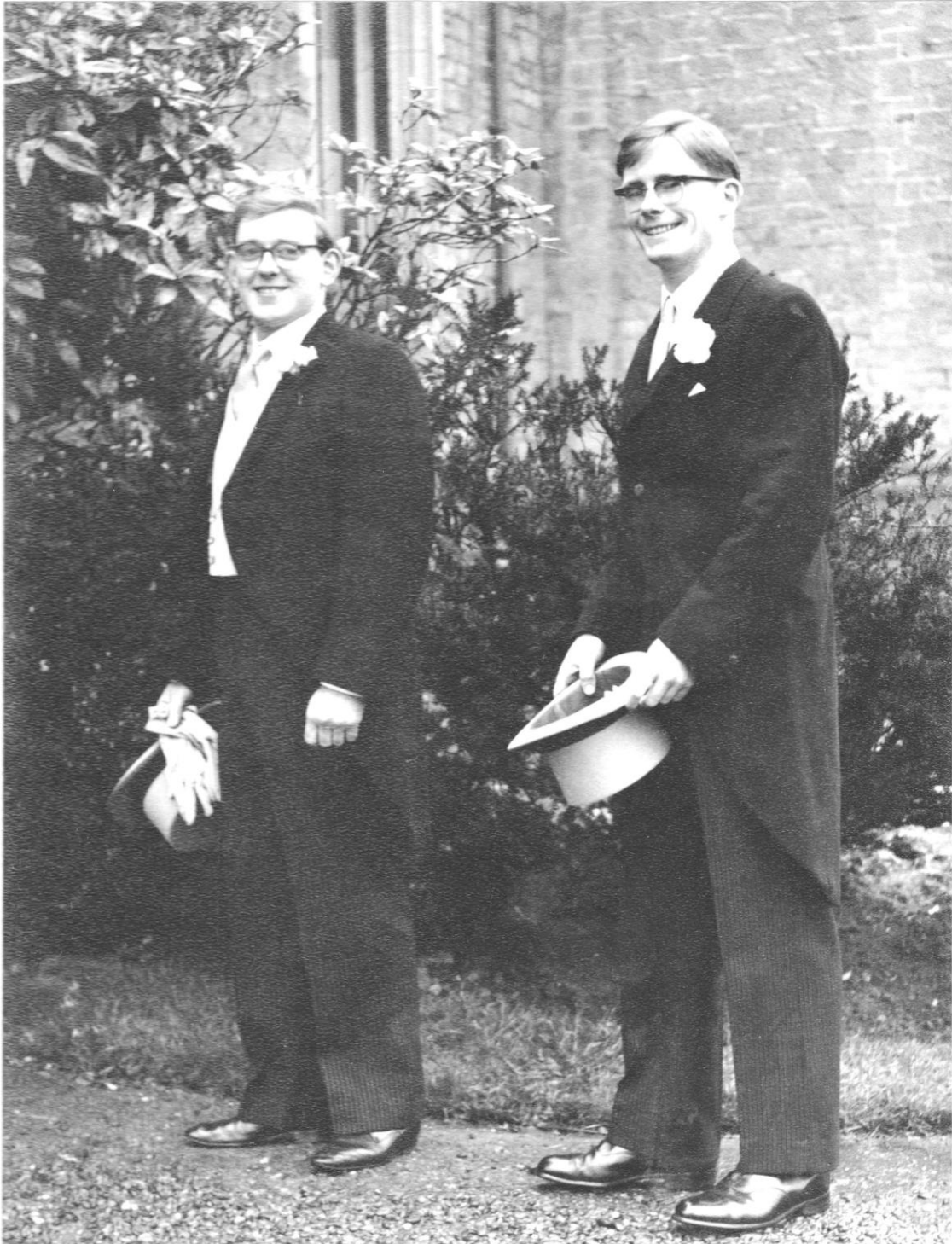
WARNOCK, John Archibald,  
Sandilands Farm, Lanark, Lanarkshire.

WEKESA, Noah Mahalanganga,  
Luandet Market, Kabras Location, P.O. Box 42,  
Broderick Falls, Kenya.

Faculty Office.  
29th October, 1966.

This is an unprepossessing document but it represents the culmination of at least 10 years planning and effort. I was in Australia less than 12 months later which was not pre-planned.

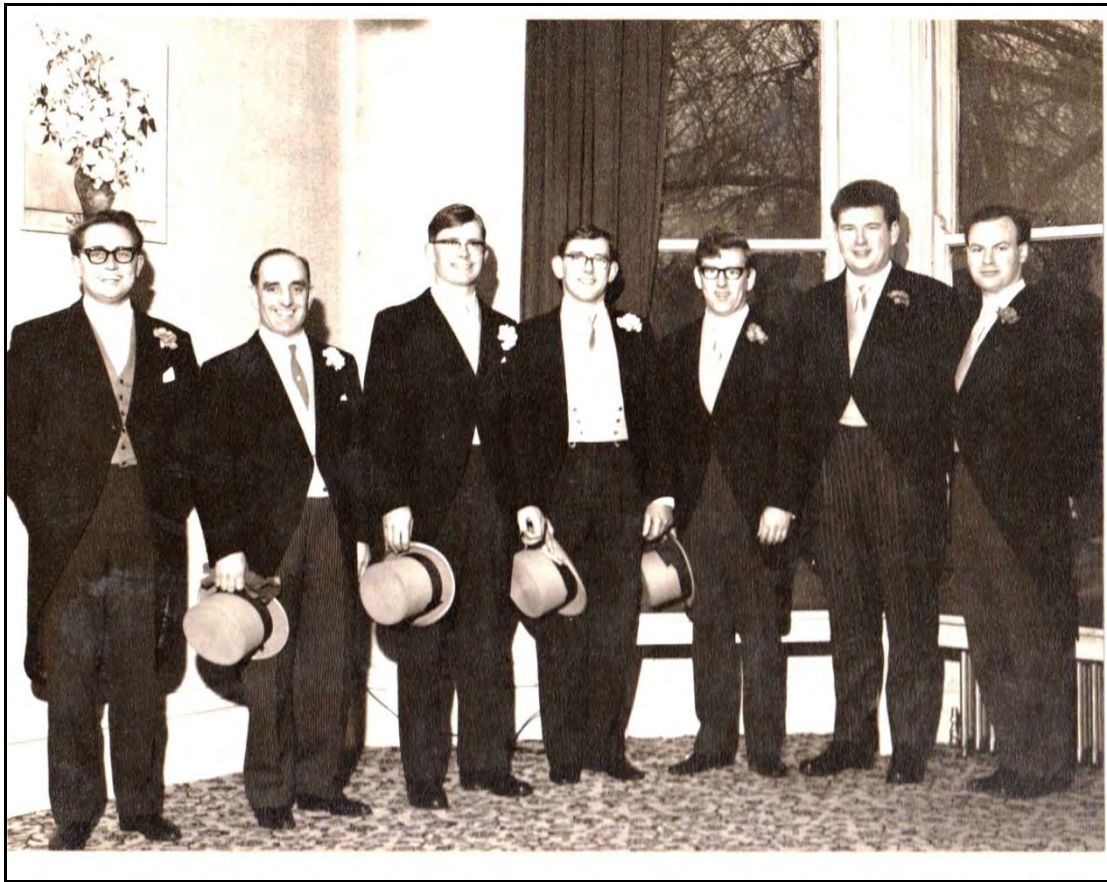
## Malone Wedding



I was very honoured indeed when Pete Malone invited me to be his Best Man at his wedding to Rosemary in 1966. I think I could have improved the position of my hat?



Male Acolytes



Bridal Party



*St. George's Sexton*

*Charles*

40<sup>th</sup> Graduation Reunion 2006

Edinburgh Botanical Gardens

There was an excellent Wollemi Pine growing there.



I spent much of the afternoon pushing Willie Orr around in a wheelchair which I was very happy to do. Some are more equal than others! Pete Malone is standing on the right. The person with Sarah is John Fowlers' second spouse who visited us in Scone on a trip 'down under'. John had been previously been married to class mate Glenys Lambert. *C'est la vie!*



## 40<sup>th</sup> Graduation Reunion 2006

Dinner on the George Hotel, George Street, Edinburgh



I'm seated next to Hon Noah Mahalanganga Wekesa MP who was a Minister in the Kenyan Government. Noah was one of a number of Africans who benefitted from the post-colonial Colombo Scheme. Selected Africans were offered tertiary education at British Universities. Others in my year were Austin Khosa who became Vice-President of Swaziland and George Akafekwa who achieved high distinction in the Government of Zambia.