

In the 1940's both Richard and I were students attending Beaufort Lodge Preparatory School in New Barnet, Herts. I was a few years older, and so by the time Richard started excelling in classwork there, I had left for another School. However, Richard's athletic achievements soon became known to all – in the Barnet Press in July 1946 it was reported that in the Beaufort Lodge Annual Sports Richard was 1<sup>st</sup> in the Under 9 Sack Race, then in 1947 he came 1<sup>st</sup> in the 220 yds. Handicap race, in 1948 he won the three-legged race for 10 yr. olds and came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 220 yds. In 1950 he came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 440 yds. Open race. The family had these Sports all sewn up during those years, for Richard's sister Diana showed what she could do by winning the Sisters Race, and Richard's parents and his Uncle and Aunt came first in the Family Race in successive years.

Ultimately, Richard moved on to Queen Elizabeth's School in Barnet, and my colleague Alan will in a moment relate his time there.

However, Richard, Alan and I continued to be close friends in the Boy Scouts as whilst no longer at the Prep School we were able to continue in the Troop sponsored by the School. A number of us former Scouts are here today.

Dickie B. - that is how we all knew Richard during the days that we were Scouts together, a little less than 60 years ago. We spent wonderful times, camping, hiking and climbing and Dickie B. was very enthusiastic and participated in all our activities. He became Leader of the Fox Patrol, revealing his leadership skills to all of us. His Patrol won the Lyne Challenge Camping Shield in a competition amongst a large contingent of Barnet Scouts and in mid-Winter we would go off hiking to gain our Pioneer Badge. Dickie B.'s cousin John Girling also joined us in the Scouts.

I well remember those happy days when we went off camping. I would call at 1 Dinsdale Gardens, New Barnet to pick up Richard and there would be his parents and sisters to wish us well and make sure we had packed our toothbrushes and sleeping bags. Richard's father Alec was a leading light on our Parents' Committee and particularly in the planning, setting up and building of our new Scout Hut.

And so we continued together and became Senior and Rover Scouts as they were then called, and just as we were all approaching the day when we would split up, because of leaving school, taking up employment for the first time or starting National Service, we had one final camp together in April 1955 in Branscombe, Devon, led by Ron Green. Richard was there with his cousin, as were some of us here today.

Before we struck camp and made the long journey back home, we agreed to keep in touch and "to keep alive the ideals of Scouting, the traditions we have known in our Scout Group, and the friendships we have made therein".

**I mention this, because that friendship and unique association has continued for 53 years to this day. And even though Richard was for some time overseas in Kuala Lumpur, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and other distant places he always kept in touch, as indeed have 20 of us. Even a Newsletter is still occasionally circulated (sometimes running to 16 pages) summarising our news, employments, achievements, exploits, girl friends, marriages, children and old motor cars. Richard was an eager part of our friendship throughout all these years.**

**Richard – Rest in Peace.**

**Now back to Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet – Alan.**