



Vincent's 150th Anniversary

Dear Fellow Members,

Many of you already know that this year marks 150 years since W B Woodgate founded Vincent's. Recent Club Presidents and the Vincent's Appeal Trust Company (VATC) decided that this great milestone should be marked by worldwide celebrations and a major effort to lay the foundations for another 150 glorious years for the Club. You will find within the website information on the many celebratory events we are organising, and details of a major initiative to lay secure foundations for the Club's future. We call it V150.

I urge you, first, to look at the many events, starting this autumn, which are intended to celebrate 2013 but also, and even more important for the long term, to reconnect the Club with its alumni. Our motto is "once a member, always a member", but many of you seldom, if ever, hear from the Club because the database has been hopelessly out of date. That has been rectified. Over 5000 of you will have received the pack sent out in October 2012. I draw your attention especially to the "Decade Dinners" this Spring and urge you to sign up soon. Invitations to other events will go out in due course. From now on you will receive regular information about the Club and about V150.

If we have your email address you will also recently have received a draft register of members. Please help us correct this, bring it up to date, and ensure it is as accurate as possible before publication later this year. It will be added to the members' only section of this website for your future use.

Please read very carefully the V150 Blueprint for the Future, which lays out a strategy for the Club's future. The Club continues to flourish, but with a maximum of 150 members, cost inflation has made its business model unsustainable. It has for many years relied on annual donations by some of you to make ends meet. With the increased involvement of VATC (the Blueprint explains what it is) and alumni, bolstered by a successful campaign to raise the funds to underpin this initiative, the Club's ethos and reputation will be secure. In addition it will have a constructive role in the future of Oxford sport, backed by an award scheme and an outreach programme which the resident members launched two years ago. The Vice-Chancellor has given his strong support.

A small number of you have already given extremely generous support, for which we are most grateful. I now have no hesitation in asking you all to back our efforts by making a capital gift, however small, to mark the 150th Anniversary, and also to set up a direct debit for an annual donation with gift aid to help sustain the Club indefinitely.

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Melville Guest".

Melville Guest

Chairman V150. Club President, '65-'66