

## Tribute to Pat Simons

Kathy, Corone, Debbie, Alison and Samantha, thank you for allowing me to pay tribute to your husband and father at this celebration of his life. I deem it a great honour. My association and friendship with Pat grew out of what we did together at Wynberg Boy's High school. He was very proud of his old school and as a result made a considerable contribution to the school. I am going to concentrate my tribute today to this area of his life.

Pat matriculated in 1953. His two major achievements were being the Drum Major and the opening bat for the first cricket team. I am told on good authority that he was very hard to dismiss – as we know when Pat takes on a task he does it thoroughly. To quote the 1953 magazine – In a match against Grey, Port. Elizabeth “Simons in a careful knock of 41 contributed to a total of 148” However, as the Drum Major, he must have been the envy of every boy at the school. The band used to regularly go on parade around the Wynberg village and would always end up in Church Street – the road that went past the girl's school. I am sure the marching became more brisk and the music more hearty and there was Pat leading them, head held high, swinging the mace Once again from the 1953 magazine “mainly due to the untiring efforts of P. Simons and E. Henkel a high standard has been set”.

I first met Pat in 1984 when I was privileged to be appointed as Headmaster to Wynberg Boy's high and Pat was on the Old Boy's Union committee. He was elected President for the period 1985/6. It was in this period that the Old Boy's decided to build a pavilion, consisting of two glass backed squash courts, changing facilities and a large utility room. It was to be opened before 1991 when the school was to celebrate 150 years. Pat chaired this sub-committee until completion. Pat approached Mendal Kaplan one of his classmates of 1953 who donated a considerable sum of money to the project and it was soon that other donations from other old boys and the two schools made the project possible. Pat continued in the role of project manager, together with Chris England. For the period it was being constructed, I am quite convinced he checked every brick that was laid and every tap that was fitted. It was completed and opened in 1990 and named the Bill Bowden Pavilion.

Pat was elected for the second time as President of the Old Boy's Union for the period 1991/1992. He became very involved with planning of the Old Boys side of the 150 celebrations such as Old.Boys Sports days, dinners in various major cities and the big annual dinner in Cape Town. Pat and I plus Hugh Killops [Junior School Headmaster] then attended all these functions. His contribution to the celebrations was immense.

May I go back to 1988. When Mendal Kaplan was asked what we could do for him in return for his donation to the Pavilion. He requested we organise a good class reunion for the 1953 class due in 1993 [40 years] A committee consisting of Pat, John Boonzaaier [a 1953 classmate] and myself was established and we started meeting once a month, for lunch, to set up the reunion which was a great success. {Pat also organised the reunions in 2003 and 2013}. After 1993 the lunches carried on and other old boys and ex teachers were invited to join the group until we had a membership of approximately 20 – some have left us and others joined – the number is still around 20. These lunches will continue and Pat will be

missed. Pat has over all the years been the unofficial chairman and coordinator – 25+ years. A service by Pat which has been appreciated by both its members and the school.

My friend. Pat will be first to tell you –“I don't like rubbish” and like a good batsmen he plays “straight down the line”. He was a man of high standards and integrity. To be his friend you had to earn his respect and in return he set out to earn your respect. Once this had been established he became your friend for life. I am honoured to have had Pat as my friend. Go well my good friend.

Supera Moras