

FAREWELL AND THANKS TO OUR RETIRING PRESIDENT, SIR JOHN "ROBIN" IBBS (1939)



October 1998 - Former Headmaster, Kim Duce, Sir Robin Ibbs KBE (1939) and Michael Pratt QC LLB (1946) at the opening of the Centenary Building

In 1995 **SIR ROBIN IBBS (1939)** accepted an invitation to become our President in succession to **STEPHEN LLOYD (1920)**.

He and Lady Ibbs took part in the centenary service at Birmingham Cathedral and wittily proposed the toast to the School. No one present on that occasion could be in any doubt as to his loyalty and affection for the School which he had already demonstrated over the years and for which we are all grateful. He also opened the Centenary Building in 1998.

Sadly, he wrote to say that he had decided that the years were beginning to take their toll on him. He also indicated that he was rarely able to get up to Birmingham these days and that was a further reason for him giving up the Presidency.

After West House School he went to Gresham's School and then Upper Canada College in Toronto, a further continuation of the association with the other side of the pond.

He graduated MA in mechanical sciences from Trinity College Cambridge.

He then served in the Royal Navy as an Instructor Lieutenant, then worked for C A Parsons & Co. Limited while also reading for a career as a Barrister.

He was called to the Bar in 1952.

He joined ICI and was a director from 1976 to 1980 and again from 1982 to 1988 serving two intervening years on secondment as head of the Central Policy Review Staff in the Cabinet Office.

From 1983 to 1988 he was also a part time adviser to Margaret Thatcher on efficiency and effectiveness in government.

It is recorded that Gordon Brown, who was later to make a name for himself, asked the Prime Minister whether her efficiency adviser had the status of a temporary civil servant and what were the terms and conditions of his appointment including the salary being paid. The response seems to have been typical, that is to say that he was not a civil servant, his appointment was a part time one and he was unpaid.

He was appointed as Chairman of Lloyds Merchant Bank Holdings in 1989, continuing until 1992, and was simultaneously Deputy Chairman of Lloyds Bank, Canada from 1989 until 1990. He was Deputy Chairman of Lloyds Bank from 1988 to 1993 and Chairman from 1993 to 1997. He was also Chairman of Lloyds TSB Group Plc from 1995 to 1997 – having negotiated the merger with Sir Nicholas Goodison at TSB.

He was appointed KBE in 1988 and holds a Doctor of Science and a Doctor of Laws Degree.

His first wife died in 2005 and in 2006 he married Penelope Ann Buckland.

AND WELCOME TO OUR NEW PRESIDENT, DAVIDSON TAYLOR GORDON (1957)



Davidson Taylor Gordon (1957) and Clive Smith (1957), Chairman of WHOBA

DAVIDSON TAYLOR GORDON (1957) – an introduction to our new president who had been Chairman of WHOBA, which he effectively started, and of which, more recently, he has been a vice president.

He was born in Aberdeen, Scotland in 1944 (narrowly missing being born in Egypt, where his parents were then serving). He arrived in



Davidson Taylor Gordon