

LOUGHBOROUGH REVISITED

This year Loughborough is celebrating 100 years of education and innovation. In 1909 Loughborough Technical Institute welcomed its first intake of students, and provided evening classes in science, engineering, commercial and domestic subjects and art. Herbert Schofield was appointed Principal in 1915 and transformed it into an institution with an international reputation. It became a College after World War 1.

Part of this reputation was gained by the sporting successes that Loughborough students achieved and also the establishment of the School of Athletics between the two World Wars that offered a Diploma Course. After World War 2 a Teacher Training College was formed and a Diploma in Physical Education was awarded to those successfully completing the 3 year course.

In 1966 Loughborough College attained University status and was named The Sunday Times University of the Year in 2008, and also received the Queen's Anniversary Prize amongst other awards. Loughborough has also topped the university sport rankings for three decades, and before that had an enviable sports record as a College.

As part of this year's Centenary Celebrations, Loughborough has decided to award Honorary Bachelor Degrees to those students who gained Diplomas at a special ceremony on Saturday 18 July. This is an unprecedented event in U.K. academic circles.

One of those students was Douglas Coghlan who attended Loughborough 1949 -52, after 6 years at Collyer's School (1940 – 46), and National Service in the RAF. John Birch, whose mother was headmistress at a Horsham school, also attended Loughborough and will also be capped on 18 July.

Doug taught at Welwyn Garden City Grammar School and returned to teach at Collyer's 1954 -56 before obtaining a post at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa, in the Physical Education Department, which later became the Dept. of Human Movement Studies. Doug retired in 1991 and now lives in Somerset West, near Cape Town. Like many Loughborough students, Doug had to further his studies outside UK as there were no courses available, and in 1967 gained an MA degree at the University of Western Kentucky, USA, and later a PhD at Rhodes

University. He eventually specialized in Sports Psychology and Teaching and Coaching Methods.

Throughout his life Doug has always been keen on teaching and coaching, and gained great success in coaching athletes. Malcolm Spence was 3rd in the 1960 Rome Olympics in 45.5 secs. And many of his athletes gained national and international honours. This interest was sparked by Bob Grosse, the charismatic force behind the successes of Horsham Blue Star Harriers in the 50's and 60's. Doug was Sussex one mile champion in 1952, and also the Loughborough College record holder (before John Disley). He represented Sussex and English Universities at one mile and cross country. His other role model was the English National Athletics Coach Geoffrey Dyson who pioneered Biomechanics.

After retiring, Doug took up bowls following an elbow injury which prevented him playing golf, and once again decided to turn his hand to coaching. Living in Knysna, he coached the Southern Cape teams to medals at the South African Provincial Championships, and is today still active in Western Province, and has helped the WP under 19 team to gold medals.

Doug and his South African wife, Rita, will be in Horsham from 18 to 23 June and would love to meet old friends. They will be staying with the their long-time friend Shirley Glaysher. From there they will be with John and Merle Miller at Pulborough.