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Newmarket Journal

Thursday, July 20, 1972

WEDDING RINGS

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Apprentice jockey died because he took drugs

Eighteen-year-old apprentice jockey Gordon Little took drugs. If he had not taken them he would be alive today a Newmarket inquest jury were told on Friday.

Gordon had been apprenticed to Sam Armstrong since he left school at 15. He was a promising rider.

To help lose weight he often went without food and to forget his hunger he would lie in bed and watch television in his bedroom at 19 Lisburn Road, the home he shared with his widowed father.

CHOKING

It was there at about 2 a.m. on May 27 that Mr. James Little found his son choking.

Dr. Colin Walker and an ambulance crew tried heart massage and mouth to mouth resuscitation for about an hour after he stopped breathing but they failed to revive him.

"Without the methadone I think he would have been alive today," said Dr. Dean.

Mr. Little said his son had been taking drugs but he was certain he had given them up. "I know at the time he died he was not taking drugs. I could tell by his reactions. He

was a normal boy," he said.

P.C. Anthony Hunnibell said inquiries had been made among the boy's friends but no trace of where or from whom he had got the drugs had been found.

A forensic report showed that Gordon had taken the drug methadone in a preparation called Physeptone. The amount of methadone was probably a lethal dose in itself.

Pathologist, Dr. J. H. Dean, said the lad died after food blocked his air passages.

COUGHING

Normally a coughing spasm would have cleared the food even though he was asleep. "But methadone, said Dr. Dean, depresses the breathing and coughing reflexes.

Stephen Dyball, another stablelad at Sam Armstrong's who had been a friend of Gordon's for about two years, saw him in the Market Street fish and chip shop at about 10.50 p.m., a few hours before

he died.

"His last words to me were, 'See you in the morning'," said Stephen. "I never saw him again."

The jury returned a verdict of "misadventure."

Service centre plan

The Jockey Club hopes to build a service centre, incorporating two garages, a restaurant, picnic areas and perhaps a motel just off the new Newmarket by-pass where it runs near the race-course.

Newmarket Urban Council has asked for the views of the Department of Environment before making any recommendation to West Suffolk County Council.

The Jockey Club will lose about 45 acres of heathland when the by-pass is built.

Lions must quit pitch

Soham Lions F.C. are now almost certain to quit the Cambs. Sunday League. Their application for the use of Qua Fen Common has been turned down by Soham United who refuse to give their reasons for doing so.

The club's chairman Mr. Ian Hobbs said his committee had advised him "not to make further comment at the moment."

Lions, who originally refused to pay United's price for the ground, then decided to provisionally accept United's terms and made their application.

The side hoped to get land from Soham Parish Council for their own ground but would not have time to prepare a pitch for this season.

Lions are now faced with temporary closure.

If they re-join the League after this season they would almost certainly be forced to re-start in the bottom division.

Since their formation three seasons ago they have climbed to Division 4.

* * *

Soham United have made two new signings for the coming season and more are expected to follow.

Phil Parkes, who lives at Bury St. Edmunds, will prove a useful addition to the first team squad.

John Barney who was one of United's best players in their run in the amateur cup a few seasons ago has re-joined the club after a spell at Burwell.



Pupils at the last speech day of Soham Grammar School at which headmaster Mr. E. Armitage was presented with a clock and a pair of statuettes by his deputy Mr. E. Tabraham.

THE FINAL SPEECH DAY

"A momentous day in a most momentous term in the life of a school that has served this area well for nearly 300 years," was the way headmaster Mr. E. Armitage described Soham Grammar School's last Speech Day on Tuesday.

Mr. Armitage confessed he had difficulty in finding words that would do justice to the occasion.

He described the "special atmosphere" of Soham Grammar and paid tribute to the masters who have "stayed with the school and helped to make it great".

He commented, "I am understandably delighted to be able to demonstrate fully to everybody's satisfaction that we are handing over a going concern."

Looking back, he explained how "gaiety" should be the key note of the school's last year.

"Instead of doing less we were to do more and with obvious enjoyment," he added.

PRaise

There was also praise for the achievements boys won in the last year — both academically and in athletics.

Mr. Armitage referred to the school's greatest triumph when one of his predecessors mobilised all the school's

resources into an emergency first aid post to cope with the Soham train disaster in 1944.

His account of the school's history included a mention of the guest speaker, Mr. J. Browning, an old Soham Grammarian — a fitting choice to present the prizes at the last Speech Day.

HISTORY

After writing the History of Soham Grammar School for the Festival of Britain Celebrations in 1951, Mr. Browning moved on to be Headmaster of Heartsease School, Norwich.

Mr. Armitage emphasised the need to look forward.

Quoting from Jerome's "Idle thoughts of an idle fellow", he concluded: "We must press on, whether we will or no, and we shall walk better with our eyes before us than with them ever cast behind."

(Next term the Grammar School amalgamates with Soham Village College under comprehensive education plans).

Prize list

Lower School: First Forms, English, M. W. G. Humphry; French, M. W. G. Humphry; M. J. Knott; German, R. C. Murfitt; S. L. Eden; science, S. L. Eden; mathematics, M. G. Bucknell; history, R. C. Murfitt; geography, M. J. Knott; art, I. M. Gillett; music, N. D. Parker.

Second Forms, English, M. R. Hilton; French, R. G. Wiseman; German, R. W. Atkins; science, L. K. Gattward; mathematics, M. R. Hilton; history, O. K. Crisp; geography, J. Wade; art, S. L. Layer (runner-up); Scout Prize, G. P. Taylor.

Third Forms, English, M. G. Hawes; languages, G. P. Taylor; social studies, D. G. Jones; mathematical sciences, J. Patterson; natural sciences, D. E. Pickersgill; creative studies, P. N. B. Sanigar; technical studies, P. A. Knights; verse speaking, R. J. Stonebridge; public speaking, R. M. Turner; Platt Merit Prize, K. G. F. Grant; J. Patterson (runner-up); Scout Prize, G. P. Taylor.

Fourth Forms, English, C. J. Hambridge; languages, R. J. Medlock; social studies, K. A. J. Lancashire; mathematical sciences, G. R. Double; natural sciences, B. J. Capper; creative studies, A. J. Noble; verse speaking, S. J. Seymour; public speaking, N. J. Richardson; Rae Prize (given by Mrs. M. M. Rae), R. A. Yeomans; The Stubbs Cup, S. B. Thorclaringbold; Platt Merit Prize, N. J. nhill; The Bacon Cup, B. King.

Lund, G. R. Double (runner-up); Scout Prize, S. H. Oakley; A.C.F. Prize (Middle School), D. G. Jones.

Upper School: Fifth Forms, English, G. Snuggs; languages, S. J. Glover; social studies, M. D. Bays; mathematical sciences, P. R. Gregson; creative studies, S. J. Glover; R. J. Hillman; natural sciences, P. R. Gregson; technical studies, R. M. Handlip; Platt Merit Prize, W. Diver; G. M. Layer (runner-up).

Special Prizes: The Everett Prize for languages, A. T. Murkin; Social Studies given by Mrs. S. C. Bobby, S. Salmon; The Fisk Prize for Mathematical Sciences, N. J. Howard; Natural Sciences given by Mr. C. J. Ford, D. R. Downing; The Leonard Prize for Creative Studies, S. L. Murfitt; Technological Studies given by Messrs. Fyson, Soham, T. M. McHugh; Platt Merit Prize (Lower Sixth), M. S. Davies.

Special Awards: Army Cadet Force, P. A. Bolton; Venture Scout, S. C. Wynn; Divinity (Wright Memorial Prize), P. J. Jaggard; Drama (Hockley Memorial Prize, given by Mr. C. W. Crouch), I. E. Allen; Library (Hansworth Award), M. M. Potashnick.

Major Awards: Parents' Association Prizes, P. A. Bolton, D. Crabb; Old Boys' Prizes, S. L. Murfitt; Headmaster's Merit Prizes, S. C. Wynn, S. J. (given by Mrs. M. M. Rae), R. A. Yeomans; The Stubbs Cup, S. B. Thorclaringbold; Platt Merit Prize, N. J. nhill; The Bacon Cup, B. King.

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