**THE HISTORY OF THE ‘13’ CLUB AND THE TROPHY**

The details of the origin of the ‘13’ Club are obscure but the essential facts are clear. The Club was formed by a group of King’s Engineers of the 1928-32 period who during their college years shared many adventures with a growing spirit of comradeship. When the time came to go down, these Beers, 13 in number, decided that the association they had formed as a group and valued highly should not end.

Thus, the ‘13’ Club was formed. The idea of a committee or any formality was abhorrent: all that was needed was that someone who could be relied upon to call the members together at least once a year. For many years Freddie Cator, one of the most enthusiastic and active founders of the Club, served in this capacity, and till his death in 1959 continued to be an inspiration and mainspring. The Club flourished, acquired new members of contemporary period and similar outlook, and met not only once a year, but, in addition, on many special occasions which included Ladies’ nights.

At the 1959 Annual Meeting of the Club, the discussion, usually reminiscent of Common Room proceedings, became serious when the Club’s future was considered. After the possibility of keeping the Club alive by the election of new members had been discussed, it was agreed that a better plan was to ‘hand on the torch’ to the younger generations of King’s Engineers. Means for doing this were settled and the President, P. R. Reid, was asked to make a proposal to the King’s College London Engineers Association.

The following is an extract from P. R. Reid’s letter to R. L. Triggs, President of K.C.L.E.A.

‘Most Beers have heard of the ‘13’ Club, a reminder of whose lively existence appeared on p. 33 of the 1958 ‘King’s Engineer’. I believe members of K.C.L.E.A. will agree that the continuing activity of the Club, 27 years after its inception, is a tribute to the spirit of friendship which stems from King’s. The ‘13’ Club members have found that their many reunions have been a source not only of enjoyment but also of encouragement throughout post-graduate life. The Club’s activities have not detracted from support of the K.C.L.E.A. Indeed a number of ‘13’ Club members, for example A.S.D. Barrett, V.A.R.French, V.H.F.Hopkins and W.O.Skeat have filled offices in the K.C.L.E.A.

The ‘13’ Club members are conscious that they cannot live for ever! They believe that among the younger generation of Beers there will be many who are imbued with the same spirit that led to the formation of the ‘13’ Club. With a view to encouraging such a spirit, the Club puts forward the following proposal for consideration by the K.C.L.E.A.:-

The ‘13’ Club proposes to present a trophy, to be named ‘The ‘13’ Club Trophy’, to be awarded to the ‘finals’ year, either past or to come, whose record of reunions at K.C.L.E.A. functions and at special gatherings of its members is judged to be the best during the preceding year. The trophy will be a statue of ‘Reggie’ suitably mounted on a pedestal.’

At the 1959 Annual General Meeting of K.C.L.E.A. the proposal was announced and unanimously accepted.

The conditions of award of the Trophy were later finalised and circulated by K.C.L.E.A. to its members in the following form:-

Conditions Governing the Award of the ‘13’Club Trophy:

1. The ‘13’ Club Trophy is awarded to the ‘Group’ of old King’s Engineers whose record of reunions during the preceding year at K.C.L.E.A. functions and special gatherings of its members is judged to be the most meritorious.
2. A ‘Group’ may consist of a number of Engineers who were of the same Year at King’s, or a number of King’s Engineers residing in the same locality, e.g. a town or county or a foreign country.
3. The award is made annually by the K.C.L.E.A. Committee whose judgement is final.
4. The Committee takes into account not only the number of meetings held and the attendances, but also the degree of initiative and enterprise shown.
5. A Group wishing to compete for the Trophy prepares a written statement showing the number of meetings held, with the names of the persons attending and describing the type of each meeting and any special features. For the first year of operation, this statement is presented to the Honorary Secretary of the K.C.L.E.A. before 1st October 1960 and covers the Group’s activities during the twelve months ending 24 September 1960. The corresponding dates for subsequent years are decided by the K.C.L.E.A. Committee.
6. The Trophy may be awarded to the same group year after year, if no successful challenger appears.
7. The Honorary Secretary of the successful Group accepts responsibility for the safe-keeping of the Trophy during the year and for its return to the Honorary Secretary of the K.C.L.E.A. in time for presentation to the same Group or a successful challenger at the next K.C.L.E.A. Annual Dinner. The Honorary Secretary of the Group is further responsible for returning the Trophy to the K.C.L.E.A. Committee when requested at any time.

In donating the Trophy, the members of the ‘13’ Club express the earnest hope that this symbol of the ‘13’ Club spirit will encourage many generations of Beers to maintain throughout life the close friendships formed at King’s.

The ‘13’ Club.

Frederick Lumley Cator (1928-32)

Philip Edward Barnes (1925-27, 1930-32)

Arthur Stephen Denis Barrett (1927-30)

Harold Francis Charrington (1929-32)

John Henry Moore Cooke (1928-30)

Vernon Alfred Robert French (1928-31)

Frederick Arnold Herbert Frey (1929-32)

Derek Handley (1929-31)

Victor Henry Frederick Hopkins (1928-30, 1931-32)

Louis Klemantaski (1929-31)

Cyril William Lawson (1929-32)

Peter Gillespie Mallam (1927-32)

Wilfred Percival Mansfield (1930-32)

John Henry Marsh (1929-32)

Wilfrid Edward Walter Nicolls (1929-32)

Patrick Robert Reid (1928-32)

William Oswald Skeat (1929-32)

Herbert Cyril Shirley

Philip George Taigel

Alexander Hyde Webster (1928-32)

Edwin Peter Littlejean Wilders (1926-32)