

Two senior fund-raisers meet across continents after 52 years

On Sunday June 21st at the annual summer Family Fun Day, raising funds for Jewish Care's flagship care home, Princess Alexandra Home (PAH), in Stanmore (London, England) an exciting and unusual side-event took place.



Brian Eisenberg (left) meets his old class-mate Stan Klaff, visiting from South Africa

In addition to the 1700 people (of which 800 were children) having a wonderful day of fun-in-the-sun – where £20,000 was raised –, the leaders of two fund-raising organisations central to the running of the event, who were class mates 52 years ago, met for the first time since leaving high school.

Brian Eisenberg, Chairman of the committee planning the event for 9 months and Stan Klaff, Grand President of the Hebrew Order of David (HOD) International, who were at high school in Johannesburg matriculating in 1962, saw each other again.

The HOD is a fraternal International Jewish male organisation runs significant events raising money for a wide variety of charities and running numerous community service projects both within the Jewish and broader community environment. Members of the HOD, some of whom sit on Brian's planning committee, and other Lodges have been an integral part of running this annual summer event, and specifically manage the parking and running the (delicious) BBQ. It turned out. Coincidentally, Stan, who resides in Johannesburg, was visiting the UK on an annual visit to chair some meetings with HOD executives and hearing about the PAH event wanted to roll up his sleeves and be directly involved.

It was serendipitously that Brian heard of Stan's presence in London and announced that he KNOWS Stan well – they had attended the same high school for 5 years; and although they have been communicating variously through class updates had not met since 1962.

How exiting it was to see them both greet each other and chatter away about the commonality and challenges of fund raising within the Jewish Communities in the UK and in South Africa,

Stan said, "I'm thrilled to be present at this event and witness first-hand the work Jewish Care and Brian are doing and gain first-hand input on the support given by the HOD. Brian was equally delighted to meet and greet a soul-mate after such a long time and said, "I'm ecstatic to meet up with Stan again and delighted at today's success; I know that without the hard-work and support of organisations such as the HOD we would not be able to raise such a large amount of money and exceed our goals".

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