

The Sykes Trophy.

This one of our few solid silver trophies – an elegant rose bowl. Not as old or full of history as the May Mug, but a fine piece nevertheless. David Pettitt (sadly no longer with us) had a clear memory of the trophy in 1960, and he said that then it was presented in a fine varnished oak box with a green baize lining. It also had a silver grid across the top, which must have been a great help to flower-arrangers. In 1961 and '62 it was awarded to Doug Green, and in '64 to Malcolm Goodwin. We don't know who had it in '63. Malcolm says he remembers the grid but not the box. Later in the 60's it was awarded to Alan Brooking, John Best and Les Meadows. In 1980 Les said he definitely remembered the grid, but there was no box. So, sometime between 1960 and '64, the box went missing, and some time between 1968 and 1980 the grid similarly vanished. Perhaps they were not wanted when displayed on the proud winner's sideboard, and were put away in the loft, only to be overlooked when it was time to send the trophy back for its annual polish and presentation to a new lucky winner. Or maybe they arrived at the Annual Dinner, but never got taken away – the winner probably too busy supping champagne from the bowl. Possibly in a cupboard at the George in Colchester, the box awaits reclaiming, but somehow I doubt it. When we moved from the old clubhouse above the British Legion in 1994, we had a careful look around in case the box and grid were hiding in some dark corner – but as far as we could see, they weren't.

If anyone has any ideas (or feels like making a new box), I'm sure the commodore would like to know. Our trophies are quite vulnerable to bumps and dents when they are being collected up, distributed or sent for engraving, and a nicely made case would be practical as well as decorative.

Alan Tyne. 27.1.04