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BIG SUCCESS OF TOM ANDERSON'S LAUGH-IN
Comedy was King at VGS Dinner

Jack Benny once said "I try and get a laugh every seven seconds" Well at the 80th VGS Dinner and Cabaret in November I



believe we broke the record. Captain Tom Anderson and the committee planned to put the accent on comedy for this annual event that attracts

many visitors from the corporate community, anxious to top up on their lunchtime client banter. And what an evening it was. With a sprinkling of celebrities including Roy Hudd, Paul Daniels, Sir Henry Cooper, Roger de Courcey, Dennis Wise, Bobby Davro and King Rat Graham Cole plus many show business stars, guests, outstanding speakers and cabaret artistes; it was an avalanche of relentless laughter for the whole evening.



Captain Tom Anderson welcomed visitors and guests including his long-time friend Sir Henry Cooper. Tom revealed that as a junior he once boxed with young Cooper and admitted that in one bout he had him worried. Henry confirmed that he was worried - he thought he'd killed him!

A droll, golf-coloured speech from Norman Forest, President of The Amateur Golf Union was packed with golf funnies that belied his conservative appearance. He set the tone for this outstanding laugh-in. Then a barrage of Yorkshire one-liners from the master of after-dinner entertainment, wonderful Johnnie Casson, describing himself as an only twin, he was right on top of his form (see page 3). Following that, which wasn't easy was Bob "The Cat" Bevan who noting the huge success of Casson's presentation claimed that the two of them had swapped speeches before dinner! Again The Cat was outstanding and we were swept up in a whirlwind of stories and jokes with the



audience reaching for their handkerchiefs to wipe tear-filled eyes. He truly is the David Beckham of comedy. Cross guest jests followed notably from Bobby Davro and Joe Goodman and the whole evening was M.C.'d by young, tanned Jess Conrad (well he looked young from where I was sitting!)

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NICE TO SEE..... JESS CONRAD



VGS social events attract members who are not always able to make the regular golf meetings. It was therefore great to see and hear in cracking form, Jess Conrad who given a mike and a spotlight can always be relied on to deliver top entertainment. Jess was M.C. for the evening, fitted in between his still busy professional life. At Christmas he was in pantomime at Windsor with Wendy Craig and Emu, was on the Freddie Starr tv show and recently played rock impresario Larry Parnes in a new film "Telstar" now available on dvd. Keep 'em laughing Jess

MIKE CASSIDY

After a long absence from the spotlight due to illness was top comedy magician, member Mike Cassidy looking fit and enjoying social and working life again. He says he had a long time away from the stage but he is now back with his "in your



face" comedy and baffling cups and balls routine with flowerpots. "It's just great to get out in front of an audience again and feel in control with the off the cuff material that I do" he says.

"It's the best therapy I know; the adrenaline flows and you feel terrific once you know you've got them in your hand" Good luck for the future Mike.