

Harvey Rosenfield - President 1989 -1992

I remember arriving at shule full of enthusiasm for my first Rosh Hashanah as President. It was 8.15 am, the start of the service, and nobody else was there. However by 12 o'clock the shule was packed, and It wasn't long before I received my first complaints.

About half a dozen men came and told me that the Shule was "too hot". Before I had time to speak to the caretaker several Ladies via their husbands) informed me it was "too cold".(welcome to the Presidency Harvey).My solution to the problem was to do absolutely nothing.

That first Rosh Hashanah we changed the seating arrangements for the Ladies by bringing them closer to the Bimah, along the left

hand side of the old Shule. The aim was to make the ladies feel more part of the service. That day my wife Anne & I were invited out for Lunch. When we returned home I found 5 letters that had been hand delivered addressed to me as President, waiting for me.

After Yomtov I discovered these letters were from 5 ladies who objected to the change in the seating arrangements. They did not appreciate being closer to the Bimah. They felt they were "too near the Rabbi and wouldn't be able to talk."Ah those were the days!!"

In fact, back then AGMs were REAL AGMs. In those days there were votes to get on council. This was because one year we had more people standing for council than council places. I had in fact asked

some friends to stand and they didn't get in (how embarrassing!!!).

Finally, who can forget the "VOTES FOR WOMEN" AGM, when a certain Lady of our community stood against a Man for the Executive post of Honorary Secretary and won by one vote. What a night that was. It's funny how no other Lady has stood for the post since. Come on Ladies you're all more than capable. I'm sure any future President would be delighted to have a Lady stand for Honorary Secretary, provided it wasn't his wife.

Seriously though, I had a great 3 years in office and felt privileged to be President of such a Vibrant community with such a Dynamic Rabbi. It's been lovely to watch the Shule prosper over the years and see it grow from strength to strength.



This is the executive at the time Rabbi Portnoy was appointed - from the left of the picture they are Sidney Cohen - Chairman Charles Lewis - Secretary Colin Gee - President Jonathan Avery-Gee - Treasurer Harvey Rosenfield - Warden also on that executive was Ernest Elias - Warden who is unfortunately not in this original photograph