

MEETING MR MANDELA

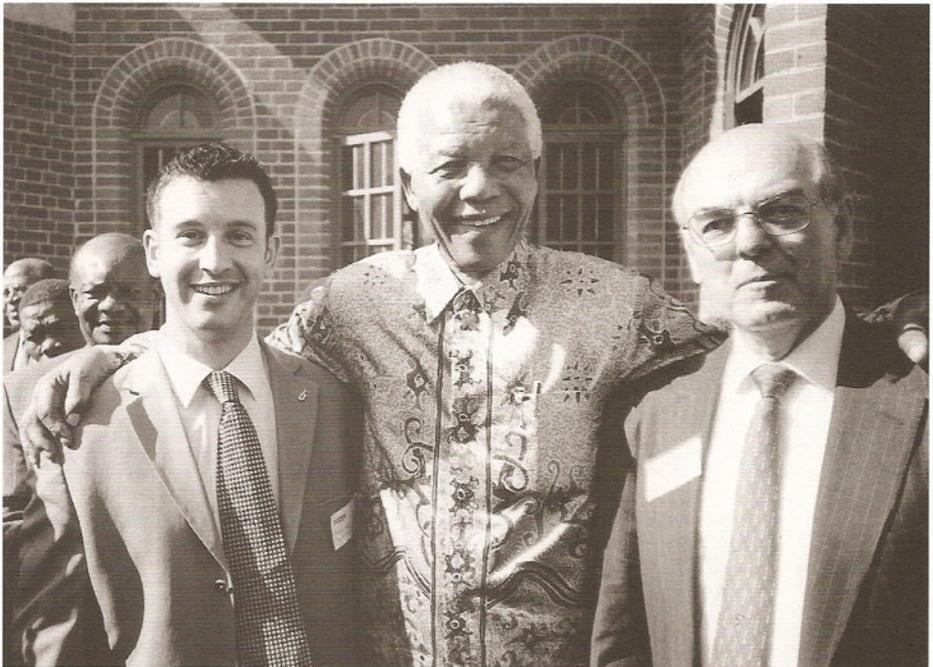
RFA committee member Robin Nagy, who teaches maths and coaches Eton Fives at the City of London School, ran in the 2001 London Marathon to raise most of the £2,000 needed to upgrade and ship 21 computers no longer required by his school to Inanda Seminary, a school near Durban in South Africa.

This act of generosity led, through a series of responses in the same spirit from a number of people in both South Africa and Britain, to Robin flying out to Durban during the summer half-term. The purpose of his visit was to attend the re-opening ceremony of the school, saved from closure by a two-and-a-half million rand donation from SAPPI, a local paper manufacturer.

Inanda Seminary, a mainly black girls' school which had fallen on hard times, has a long and distinguished history, having been opened by the American missionary Mary K Edwards in 1869 as the first high school for African girls in South Africa. It also has a wonderful motto: "Shine where you are", and no less a person than Nelson Mandela was coming to re-open the school.

Robin had letters from his Headmaster and the Lord Mayor of London to pass on to Mr Mandela and hoped to be able to meet the great man, but it looked as if the schedule was too tight for this. Nevertheless, after Mr Mandela's 35 minute speech, as he was coming down the chapel stairs towards his car, Robin was introduced to him, was able (just) to say a few words and was photographed for posterity, together with Mr Mandela and Eugene van As, the Executive Chairman of SAPPI.

Robin is leading a party of eighteen City of London boys and five adults on a land and sea safari to South Africa in July and August 2001. They will visit Inanda and look forward to seeing the computers up and running.



*Robin Nagy, Nelson Mandela, Eugene van As at Inanda*