

*It's a Centenary  
Celebration for*



*Thomas Joaquim Lobo  
(known to many as T.J. or Tom)*

*Over the  
years.*



## **100 Not Out!**

Thomas Joaquim Lobo, known to many as 'TJ' or 'Tom', will be celebrating his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2009.

He was educated in Goa and completed his studies as a boarder at St. Stanislaus High School in Bandra, Bombay. After working for a short time in Bombay, TJ left Indian shores in 1930 for a new life in Kenya, as part of a contingent of young Goans who were recruited from India at that time to assist with the establishment of Kenya, then under British rule. TJ, like many of his friends, distinguished himself in the administration and accounting functions in the government. Some of his colleagues were recruited by the East African Railways and several banks and these men, along with TJ, helped to shape Kenya's positive development. He was attached to the District Office in Nairobi, which resulted in postings to outlying regions of Kenya, such as Embu, Isolo, Nyeri, Marsabit and Machakos.

In 1941 he married Leonie Braganza, beginning a period of great happiness in Kenya, travelling on safaris, enjoying the wildlife and forging many lasting friendships especially in Nairobi where he was stationed with the District Commissioner's Office.



Daughters Mavis, Maureen and Betty were born in the years following this, and a little while later, son Neil arrived. During the 1950's he lived through the Mau-Mau uprisings and was present at the brief trial of Dedan Kiamathi, the head of Mau-Mau. In 1961 he also witnessed Jomo Kenyatta being set free from prison and becoming the first President of Kenya. Later, TJ was transferred to work in Kiambu, the constituency office of the President.

Most people would think of TJ first and foremost as an accomplished sportsman, and it was during his days in Nairobi that he first became very involved in sports. He played cricket, football, hockey, badminton, tennis and took part in athletics for both the Goan Institute of Nairobi (GI) and the Railway Goan Institute (RI), receiving many accolades for his achievements. But it was for cricket that he was most celebrated. TJ was more than just a medium-pace bowler and hard-hitting middle order batsman, representing the GI, captaining many teams and later becoming a fair yet encouraging umpire. He also became a committee member for the GI and organised many sporting tours around Kenya.

In 1973, TJ and his family moved to England to establish a new life in North London. He worked for Burroughs Ltd and National Opinion Polls Ltd (NOP), continuing to work well into his seventies. He and Leonie enjoyed getting involved in church activities, attending social gatherings locally and across London and did not take long to strike up friendships in the community. His love for travel took him and his family on several trips around Britain, Spain, Portugal, France, Canada and India.

TJ and Leonie travelled back to Mombasa, Kenya in 1991 to renew their wedding vows for their golden wedding anniversary. TJ lost his beloved Leonie in April 2004, following 63 years of marriage together. He still resides in North London and often attends mass at St. Mary's church. He manages everything in his house from the cooking to the gardening and enjoys watching sport on TV, sometimes sneaking in the odd visit to the pub. TJ remains a great letter writer, is meticulous about keeping records and still keeps abreast of day-to-day life. He is a remarkable man: generous, kind and sociable, with a charming smile and twinkle in his eye!

If anyone would like to send a birthday greeting or memory about TJ Lobo, please send it to Neil Lobo via email address: [neil-lobo@o2.co.uk](mailto:neil-lobo@o2.co.uk) or to 5 Cowper Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 5NF.