

In memoriam The late Clive Cohen SC

BY WILLEM VAN DER LINDE SC

SUPPLEMENTED BY FANIE CILLIERS SC



Clive Cohen died early on the morning of 25 January 2011. He was buried that afternoon. Clive was born on 19 October 1933 in what was then Pietersburg. He had only one sibling, his younger brother and now well known Johannesburg attorney, Dale Cohen. Clive and Dale were born into a family of lawyers. Their father was an attorney and one time mayor of Pietersburg. Their father had two brothers who were also attorneys, and a brother who was a magistrate. The magistrate later became additional chief magistrate of Johannesburg and was the first regional court magistrate in South Africa. Clive's grandfather on his father's side was an immigrant from Lithuania. Clive's grandfather on his mother's side was Manaschewitz, the first Jewish land surveyor in South Africa.

Clive attended the English Medium Primary School in Pietersburg. His secondary schooling was had at KES where he matriculated in 1950. He then did a BA at Wits, after which he became a judge's clerk to Judge Dowling and sometimes also to Judge Williamson. After a year he joined Werksmans for articles and enrolled for the

LLB part-time. He graduated in December 1958 and after a six months' break joined the Bar in June 1959. Clive took silk on 9 October 1975, a few days shy of his 42nd birthday. When he joined the Bar it was with Group 621, where he stayed until he died, more than 51 years later.

Clive and Ann were married in March 1964. They stayed together throughout his life, through difficult times, including the loss of their son.

Clive had a legendary capacity for loyalty to the people who formed the circle of his life. His loyalty to Ann and the children was self-evident. Over a period of more than 40 years he and his golfing partners played together – in Johannesburg, on the South African coast, in Portugal and Spain. Over the four decades there was never a single ill word or rancour. He was one of those rare people who, once your friend, was a hundred percent friend. So too was his loyalty to his golf partner. The group that he had led for so many years was where his paramount professional loyalty lay. At times the group assumed a life of its own. It was the training ground for many great lawyers of our time, many of whose faces still stare down at us from woody portraits; and Clive was justifiably proud of its achievements. Clive had a burning intellect, and a gift for brevity; these qualities made him a formidable trial lawyer. Even right at the end, when his generation in the group (except Dan) had long gone, Clive remained ever-present at lunch and tea, with a ready smile, pipe in hand, and a story to tell.

Like us all, Clive had weaknesses. Ambivalence and self-doubt were not among them. He was a strong and innovative leader who had the guts to stick to his convictions. Yet he had the sense too to realize when the time had come to step down, and he himself initiated it with grace. For that, and his huge contribution,

he will live on for many years in the collective memory of Group 621.

The late Allan Horwitz SC

BY AYESHA TIRY

No phrase adequately expresses Allan. Allan Horwitz SC bid us adieu on 3 April 2011. Our Bar was home to this Klerksdorp offspring since 3 April 1971. Uncanny that he left us on the same day and same month exactly forty years since he joined the Bar. Stylish to the end, our Allan.

Before he joined us he snapped up a BCom LLB from the University of Witwatersrand grabbing an LLM (Banking and Bourse Law) from the then Rand Afrikaans University along the way. He then practised as a public prosecutor in the magistrates' courts for three and half years followed by a year in the Attorney-General's office (DPP). His leadership was officiated on 1 September 1989 when he was conferred silk. On numerous occasions he answered the call to serve the judiciary by accepting acting judicial appointments. He was active in many ways at the Bar. Just a mention of his contributions brings to mind his involvement in pupillage and his tasks as an election official. He distinguished himself as a leading commercial silk never losing the ability to engage with juniors.

Allan leaves behind his wife, son and daughter. They have our heartfelt condolences and we are appreciative to them for sharing him with us. Rest in peace, Allan, and thank you for your forty years of sterling service to our Society. May your Spirit dwell in heavenly light.

The Prize of Peace

Les Morison SC, a member of the Johannesburg Bar, has written a play, *The Prize of Peace*, to be staged from 2 September 2011 at 20h15 at the Old Mutual Theatre on the Square, Sandton City. The play is directed by Clare Stopford who also contributed substantially to the writing.

Sponsored by Thrupps, Mont du Toit Wines and the Arts and Culture Trust the play is set in Oslo, December 1993. The architects of South Africa's peace dine privately in the Grand Hotel. It is the eve of their joint Nobel Peace Prize Award ceremony. Mandela has urgent business to discuss with FW de Klerk, who has his own agenda for the private meeting. They engage as leaders and vulnerable men, while women assassins scheme close by. Mandela

(to be played by Owen Sejake of *Tsotsi* fame) and FW De Klerk (to be played by Eric Nobbs, South Africa's new *Oom Schalk Lourens*), share memories of South African boyhoods, the challenges of internal revolt - and develop a reluctant intimacy. Whispers from the past lure them back to the ways of war with promises of individual glory and goads of 'traitor'.

This is a non-profit project. All proceeds are utilised for the production, ie to pay cast and director, theatre staff, etc. [Pretoria Bar members can use the Gautrain if it's running in September as the theatre is right on the doorstep of the Sandton Gautrain station.]

Bookings through:

www.theatreonthesquare.co.za Tel: 0118838606

www.stictlytickets.com Tel: 082 553 5903/ 073 725 7381

www.prizeofpeace.co.za