NEWS

CHESS

Argument goes on at Agro hotel

By Malcolm Pein

THE finals of the European Cup at the Hotel Agro, Budapest, saw another controversy as the random draw paired the two Croatian and the two Russian teams together in the semi-finals. Both Kazan and Novosibirsk appealed in vain to the organisers. In two tight matches, Kazan and Vukovar made it to the final.

Kazan won the bottom two boards against their Siberian opponents whose second board, Sergei Rublevsky, must have regretted his decision to offer a draw in time pressure against Rustam Dautov when he stood better.

The match between Croatians Osijek and Vukovar was tighter and ended in a 3-3 draw with Osijek eliminated because their sole victory was on board six while Vukovar won on board four.

European Club Cup semi-finals: Novosibirsk 2-5-3-5 Kazan (Khalifman draw Dreev; Rublevsky draw Dautov; Sakaev 1-0 Kharlov; Goldin draw Bologan; Fminsh 0-1 Ibragimov; M Makarov 0-1 Tseshkovsky).
Vukovar 5-3 Osijek (Bareev draw Epishin; Tukmakov draw Kozul; Hulak draw Sermek; Palac 1-0 Cvitan; Dizdar draw Cebalo; Zelecic 0-1 Sale).

The fourth game of the challenge match between Jeroen Piket and Joel Lautier at Monaco was also drawn leaving the contest at 2-2 at the half-way stage.

Iceland organised an Internet Championship recently played at a time limit of four minutes a game plus an extra two seconds a move; here is a game from the winner:

T Vigfusson — K Edvardsson
Icelandic Internet Ch (8)

1 d4	Nf6	2 c4	e6
3 Nc3	Bb4	4 Qc2	a6?!
5 Nf3	c5	6 e3	cxd4
7 exd4	d5	8 Bg5	Nbd7
9 cxd5	exd5	10 Bd3	Qa5
11 0-0	0-0	12 Ne5	h6
13 Nxd7	Nxd7	14 Bh4	Bxc3
15 bxc3	Qc7	16 Qb3	Nb6
17 Bg3	Qc6	18 Rac1	Nc4
19 Qd1	Be6	20 Qb5	f5
21 Rfe1	Qd7	22 Be5	Rf7
23 Bxc4	dxc4	24 f4	Bd5
25 Re3	Be4	26 Rg3	Qe6
27 Rg6	Qd5	28 Qxh6	Qd7
29 Re1	Re8	30 Re3	Kf8
31 Bxg7+	Ke7	1-0	

Edvardsson

Vigfusson
Final position

BRIDGE HAND

Auction to remember

By Tony Forrester

Dealer South N/S VUL

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT(1)	Pass	5♣(2)
Pass	7♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

(1) Key Card Blackwood
(2) 2 Aces and ♠Q
Contract 7♠
Declarer South
Opening Lead ♠5

THE third BBL Premier League is under way, with a couple of matches played earlier this month. Whichever team wins this event is liable to be selected to represent Britain in the 1997 European Championships.

On the above deal, few of the pairs managed to reach the excellent grand slam, despite the fact that South invariably opened the bidding with 1♠.

It seems hard to believe that most North players, although hearing their partner held two aces and a rebiddable spade suit, still settled for 6♠.

The auction above was one of the only two successful efforts, and frankly should have been duplicated by all competitors at this level. With hearts failing to divide evenly, it looks as though 7♠ will prove to be a difficult affair, but careful timing will see declarer safely home.

West led a trump, the traditional defence to a grand slam, taken in dummy with the Ace. A heart ruff was followed by a trump to the King and ♥ A K were cashed. East showing out while South pitched two clubs. A second heart ruff was taken before ♠A was played.

Then successive diamond and heart leads finally established a winner in North's suit, the vital 13th trick. With one trump remaining in dummy, declarer could ruff a diamond and claim his just reward.

● The top three seeds are all through to the quarter-finals of the Gold Cup, Britain's most prestigious event, **writes Patrick Jourdain, Bridge Correspondent.**

The holders, led by Derek Patterson, are to meet the London team, led by Bernard Teltscher. The final stages are to be played in Peebles next month.

Quarter-final draw, with seeding of winners: 1, D Patterson (Kent) v B Teltscher (London); 2, Mrs N Smith (London) v A Macnair (Home Counties); 3, A Dyson (London) v B.C Best (Berks and Bucks); 4, A Southwell (Sussex) v M Brunner (Manchester).

OBITUARIES

Michael Bentine

Founder member of the Goons whose flights of fancy brought an innovative and surreal twist to British humour

MICHAEL BENTINE, who has died aged 74, was an innovative comedian in the zany, surrealistic vein, and, off-stage, a genuinely good-humoured man afflicted with more than his share of tragedy.

Bentine was one of the founder members of *The Goon Show*, first broadcast in 1951. In fact he could claim to have been the first Goon, since *Picture Post* published a feature on him in 1948, when he was appearing at the Hippodrome, under the heading "What is a Goon?"

The Goon Show evolved from an evening which Bentine and Harry Secombe spent at the Grafton Arms in Strutton Ground, Victoria. They took Spike Milligan along to meet the scriptwriter Jimmy Grafton, whom they later introduced to Peter Sellers. At first the show was to be entitled *Crazy People*, but better counsels prevailed.

The Goons were all ex-Servicemen — Secombe had met Milligan at Monte Cassino — and no doubt their wild anarchic humour was partly developed in reaction to the military. The show was a wholly new departure, and became one of the most successful in the history of British broadcasting.

But for Bentine it involved considerable strain. At the time he was doing 12 shows a week in variety, and after appearing in (say) Manchester on Saturday night he would have to drive overnight to London to rehearse *The Goon Show* at 10 am. He left the programme after 41 episodes.

Bentine attempted to transfer the Goons' humour to television in two shows, *Trial Gallop* (1951) and *Goonreel* (1952), but his first success on the small screen was in another style.

In 1954 he devised, wrote and designed a 13-part series for puppets called *The Bumblies*. These were pear-shaped beings from outer space who landed in the garden of an absent-minded professor of astronomy in order to learn the games of the Earth children. Bentine claimed with justice that the idea anticipated *ET*.

In 1957 he was again teamed with Peter Sellers in *Yes, It's the Cathode Ray Tube Show*. But it was in another series, *It's a Square World*, which he wrote and directed between 1960 and 1964, that he reached his peak.

In it, Bentine invented a new genre of jokes based on cartoon and silent movie techniques. In one scene, for example, two ships-in-bottles opened fire upon each other, and one of them sank. Such ideas were still considered original when *Monty Python's Flying Circus* took them up in 1969.

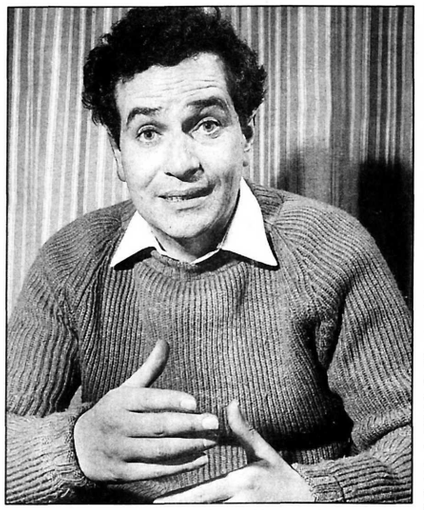
In 1964 a sequence from *It's a Square World*, in which a Chinese junk sailed up the Thames to attack the Houses of Parliament, was banned by the BBC because it was considered dangerously political at the time of a general election.

In 1966 Bentine left the BBC for ITV to launch a follow-up series called *All Square* and, later, *Michael Bentine's Square World*. In 1972 he returned to children's programmes with *Michael Bentine's Potty Time*, which featured puppets with constantly changing wigs and moustaches. Bentine provided all their voices, and interspersed the narrative with goonery.

By that time the first shadow had fallen across his life, for in 1971 his son Gus had been killed when the aircraft he was flying crashed. Bentine, who was fascinated by the paranormal all his life, had foreseen the accident 12 weeks before, and warned Gus. But, as he reflected, "sons don't listen to their fathers".

In 1983 Elaine, his daughter from his first wife, died of cancer, and four years later the same illness killed Marylla (known as "Fusty"), the eldest daughter of his second marriage. No wonder Bentine believed in the Long Banana skin, always in place to trip up those for whom things seem to be going too well. Even so, he was immune from despair.

He was born Michael Bentin on Jan 26 1922 at Watford — where the by-pass now runs — the son of a Peruvian aeronautical engineer and an English mother. His grandfather, Don Antonio Bentin Palamerra had been vice-president of Peru, and at his death the president-elect.



Bentine (1957): undaunted by tragedy

When Michael was a year old, the family moved to Folkestone where his mother became an avid bridge player, putting her winnings towards her sons' education at Eton. At school Michael was a contemporary of Humphrey Lyttelton, Ludovic Kennedy and Patrick MacNee, later of the *Avengers*.

In contrast to his adult life the young Bentine was shy, introverted and suffered from a bad stammer. His tutor recommended a speech therapist who cured the boy, at first by making him put an "n" before each word. But by the time he could talk properly Bentine had developed an effective line in self-deprecation.

Emulating his father, who was fascinated by the occult, Bentine devoted his holidays to research into the paranormal, in particular to exposing fraudulent mediums, one of whom called up the spirit of "Victoria Regina".

On leaving school, Bentine made 17 attempts to join the RAF but was rejected on grounds of his nationality. When his call-up papers were eventually issued they failed to reach him, and he was arraigned as a deserter.

While he was making one of his first theatrical performances, for Robert Atkins's Shakespeare Company, he came off stage to be arrested by two military policemen, one of whom prudently confiscated his sword. After explanations had been made, Bentine was admitted to the RAF.

Before he began flying training he was almost killed by an injection manufactured from a batch of faulty serum. But since this experience rendered him unfit for operational flying, the mistake may have saved his life.

At 21 Bentine was commissioned as one of the youngest Intelligence officers. He delighted to tell how a portable lavatory accidentally dropped on Berlin led the Germans to accuse Britain of using bacteriological warfare.

In 1945 Bentine was among the first of the Allies to enter Belsen. Even before that, though, he had been traumatised by what he called his "hideous gift of foreknowledge". Sometimes, as he was looking at his fellow airmen, their faces would dissolve into skulls, an infallible sign of their approaching death.

After the war Bentine formed an act with Tony Sherwood called Sherwood and Forrest. In 1946 they were signed up at the Windmill to fill intervals between the nude shows. So was another comedian, Harry Secombe.

After appearing on television on Christmas Day 1946 Bentine and Forrest went their separate ways. Bentine accidentally hit on a new routine when his brother picked up the back of a broken chair in a manner that — quite accidentally — made it look like a submachine gun. Within minutes Bentine's fertile mind had created further scenes, in which the chair-back appeared as a comb, a plough, a guillotine, prison bars, a road drill — whatever.

This routine won Bentine a place in *Starlight Roof*, a Vic Oliver show at the Hippodrome, Leicester Square, where he met a dancer who became his wife. After that, with the beginning of *The Goon Show*, his life was set.

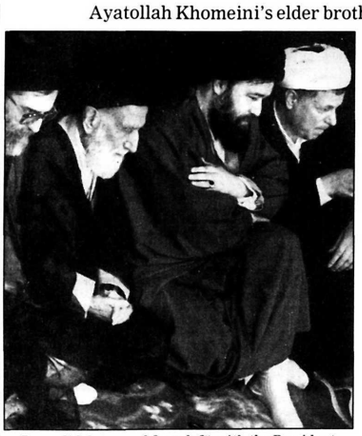
In 1966 Bentine starred in a film, *The Sandwich Man*. He wrote three autobiographies: *The Long Banana Skin*, *The Door Marked Summer* and *The Reluctant Jester*. Among his 11 other books were *Doors of the Mind* and a novel about the Conquistadors, *The Condor and the Cross*.

Though Bentine was diagnosed in 1993 as suffering from prostate cancer, he remained determinedly cheerful. "I've got an indolent carcinoma," he jested, "a lazy bugger like me."

Michael Bentine married first, in 1941, Marie Barradell; they had a daughter. They divorced after the war, when Bentine married Clementina Theresa Gadesden Stuart-McCall; they had two sons and two daughters.

Ayatollah Morteza Pasandideh

Ayatollah Khomeini's elder brother who helped to pave the way for his return from exile to lead the Islamic revolution and rule Iran



Pasandideh (second from left) with the President of Iran, Khomeini's son and the Speaker, 1989

AYATOLLAH MORTEZA PASANDIDEH, who has died aged 100, was the elder brother of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Shi'ite cleric and leader of Iran's Islamic revolution in 1979.

Less politically active than his better-known younger brother, Ayatollah Pasandideh was a respected divine in his own right. He consistently supported his brother's policies both before and after Khomeini became Iran's de facto head of state. But occasionally he took advantage of the immunity afforded by their close relationship to dissent from the excesses of Khomeini's more radical supporters.

Morteza Pasandideh was born on April 1 1896 in Khomein, a town about 200 miles south of Teheran, to a religious family. His grandfather had lived as a trader in Kashmir, acquiring the surname al-Hindi, and established himself as a cleric in Khomein, where he married.

Al-Hindi's son, Seyyid Mostafa, Pasandideh's father, was also a clergyman, noted for the severity of his religious judgments. He had three daughters and three sons, Pasandideh being the eldest son. Seyyid Mostafa was murdered in a dispute over irrigation rights when Pasandideh was seven years old and Khomeini five months. The children were left in the care of their mother and an aunt.

In a volume of memoirs published in 1986, Pasandideh recalled that the Iranian countryside was so unsafe in the early part of the century that he and his younger brother would sit on the roof of the family house at night armed with guns to defend it from bandits.

He also recalled how he encouraged his younger brother to perfect his skill as a wrestler, and how pleased he was when Ruhollah became village champion.

Pasandideh had a traditional Islamic education, studying literature, logic, theology and (Ptolemaic) astronomy. As a young man he pursued religious studies in Isfahan. There he acquired the equivalent of a doctorate in theology. He returned to Khomein, where he became Imam of a mosque and established a schoool of theology, training mullahs and traditional reciters of funeral elegies.

Pasandideh's role as guardian of his younger brother and sisters increased when their mother and aunt died within a year of each other. He taught the teenage Khomeini at his school for four years in Islamic theology and jurisprudence.

He took the name Pasandideh in 1929, when the modernising government of Reza Shah required that people take family surnames, preferably Iranian in origin rather than Arabic or Islamic. While his younger brother named himself after his native town, Pasandideh's name is the Persian for "pleasing".

After his brother's exile from Iran in 1964, Pasandideh assumed responsibility for Khomeini's immediate family. He was also a central figure in the network of clerics who opposed the government of the Shah and supported Khomeini.

Money was collected in Khomeini's name and passed on to Pasandideh, then based in Qom. The money was used to support clerics, mosques, seminary students and Islamic cultural activities, but also to fund opposition political movements.

After 1964 Pasandideh was ordered by the Shah's government to return to Khomein, where his house was put under surveillance. This and the surveillance of other religious leaders were lifted in 1978 as part of an unsuccessful attempt by the government to appease growing religious opposition.

Before Khomeini returned to Iran in 1979, Pasandideh helped his brother to consolidate relations with moderate clerics. Politically, he was conspicuously more liberal than his brother, declaring publicly that he had not expected the Islamic revolution to be successful, and expressing his outrage at the excesses of the notorious judge Sadeq Khalkhali, who had sent thousands of Iranians to the firing squad for minor offences.

He also complained of cheating and intimidation of voters in the elections of the following year by zealots of Khomeini's Islamic Republic Party. In a telegram of protest to President Bani Sadr he wrote: "I am grieved to declare that at no stage in history have acts such as these been perpetrated. People did not expect the Islamic government to act in this way."

Ayatollah Khomeini did not favour members of his family with political office, and Pasandideh was content to lead a contemplative and regular existence in the cloistered atmosphere of the city of Qom.

He was married and is believed to have had two sons and two daughters.

Bernard Rose

Colourful, single-minded choirmaster who achieved unrivalled standards at Magdalen College, Oxford

BERNARD ROSE, who has died aged 80, was from 1957 to 1981 organist and Informator Choristarum at Magdalen College, Oxford, where his predecessors had included Henry Purcell's brother Daniel and, in the 19th-century, John Stainer.

Rose inspired a revival in the reputation of Magdalen's choir, and established it as one of the leading interpreters of Tudor music and early 17th century verse anthems, as well as of the Victorian and modern repertoire.

By his own admission a "rough diamond", with interests far beyond music, Rose brought a fiery, unpredictable temperament to his dealings with faculty, choir and college. He made enemies as well as friends.

In the main he was well supported by the college, which provided generous funding for the choir. Even so, in the early years especially, Rose was party to some incandescent rows. But he would simmer down as quickly as he flared up, and always remained fiercely loyal to those colleagues and pupils with whom he formed a bond of mutual respect.

Choir practices could be dramatic, with boys and undergraduates alike being alternately bullied and cajoled. It was possible to sense when a storm was in the air by the way Rose plied his cigarette in cloisters before Evensong. But the results he achieved were a revelation.

The origins of many of the ensembles which are today responsible for Britain's preeminence in the performance of choral music can be traced to Rose's influence. Peter Phillips was inspired to found The Tallis Scholars partly by the Magdalen chapel services. David Wulstan, the director of the Clerkes of Oxenford, and Harry Christophers, founder of The Sixteen, were both Academical Clerks under Rose. So were David James of The Hilliard Ensemble and Ex Cathedra's Jeffrey Skidmore.

Bernard William George Rose was born on May 9 1916 into a Hertfordshire farming family. His father died when he was three and he moved with his mother to Dinton, near Salisbury, where six years later he became a chorister in the cathedral. He was soon acknowledged as one of the two outstanding English boy soloists of the day — Ernest Lush being the other.

After studying at the Royal College of Music, Rose won an organ scholarship to St Catharine's, Cambridge. Extremely sociable, he was determined to take full advantage of university life, not least in sport.

He only missed becoming president of the Footlights by a whisker. In addition he performed as a scat-singer, winning particular renown for his rendering of 'See that spider crawling up the wall'.

Though committed to his music studies — he won the John Stewart of Rannoch scholarship in Sacred Music — he sat part one of the English Tripos.

In 1939 Rose became a music tutor at Queen's College, Oxford. The next year he was commissioned in the Northamptonshire Yeomanry. After a corporal asked him whether it was right that they should be cleaning vehicles with petrol when the corporal's brother, a merchant seaman, was risking his life to bring it across the Atlantic, Rose took the point up with his CO. He received a very dusty answer, for which he repaid the CO with some hard truths, which were not relished.

Soon afterwards Rose decided to transfer to the 3/4th County of London Yeomanry (the Sharpshooters). He fought in the North Africa campaign and crossed to Italy before being laid low with jaundice.

Back in Britain he trained for the D-Day landings in Normandy. By now an Adjutant, he recalled that when the regiment was concentrated near Harwich they had the task of waterproofing all vehicles with Bostik and French letters, the latter being fitted over the injectors in their tanks.

The regiment had a difficult journey across the Channel but succeeded in landing all their tanks. Soon afterwards they were sent by Montgomery through Villers-Bocage, where they were ambushed by the 12th Panzer Lehr Division. All the tanks of their leading squadron were destroyed by two Tigers cunningly sited in a sunken lane.

Rose's tank fired at a Tiger from a range of eight feet, but the shell from the 75-pounder on their Cromwell tank merely bounced off it. When the Tiger replied the results were very different, and Rose gave orders to "abandon tank". He hid that night in a French henhouse, but was captured the next day and spent the rest of the war as PoW in Germany.

After the war Rose returned to Queen's, and in 1954 was elected the college's first fellow in Music. With Eglesfield Choral Society he gave, in the Sheldonian Theatre, the world premiere of Vaughan Williams's *An Oxford Elegy*.

After his election to Magdalen in 1957 Rose immediately set about replacing the remaining lay clerks with undergraduate lower voices (Academical Clerks), and radically sharpening up standards.

He made disappointingly few records with the Magdalen choir, though those he did — of Tomkins, Stanford and Wood — were landmarks. He preferred to concentrate on perfecting the music sung daily at Evensong, especially the Psalms.

He always insisted on clear enunciation, and encouraged what he termed "good, open singing", which sounded natural in performance.

Rose's publications included an edition for the international Handel-Augabe of the opera *Susanna*.

Rose was a capable composer in his own right, favouring a gentle, contrapuntal style. His Preces and Responses sold well across the world. These and other works — his three Addison anthems, his setting of the Evening Canticles and his exquisite *Feast Song for St Cecilia* (1975) — bear witness to his belief that "singability" should come first.

After the war Bernard and Molly Rose bought Appleton, a 13th-century building of great beauty, and spent much energy and money on its restoration. They also worked indefatigably to raise funds for good causes, particularly for the local church.

It was not uncommon to find 50 to lunch at Appleton, while a dozen people staying would be made so comfortable that they did not even feel themselves to be guests.

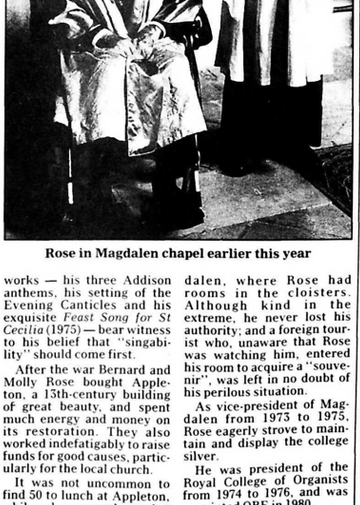
Entertainments at Appleton were matched by those given for undergraduates and donnish friends in Magdalen, where Rose had rooms in the cloisters. Although kind in the extreme, he never lost his authority; and a foreign tourist who, unaware that Rose was watching him, entered his room to acquire a "souvenir", was left in no doubt of his perilous situation.

As vice-president of Magdalen from 1973 to 1975, Rose eagerly strove to maintain and display the college silver.

He was president of the Royal College of Organists from 1974 to 1976, and was appointed OBE in 1980.

When, in his last years, emphysema took its toll, Rose bore his troubles with military stoicism.

He married, in 1939, Molly Marshall; they had three sons.



Rose in Magdalen chapel earlier this year

Sir George Farmer

Last chairman of an independent Rover

SIR GEORGE FARMER, who has died aged 88, was chairman of the Rover Car company in its last years as an independent manufacturer.

Farmer's chairmanship of Rover from 1963 to 1973 was a period of considerable success for the company, both for its saloon cars — with the introduction of the Rover 2000 range — and for the rugged Land Rover, one of the most enduring designs of the post-war era.

Rover was not under financial pressure to seek a merger, but the trend of the industry was towards concentration, and Farmer feared an unwelcome takeover unless Rover joined a larger group. In 1973 Rover joined Leyland and Triumph in the British Leyland Motor Corporation, and Farmer (having served as group deputy chairman during the merger period) stepped down.

An accountant rather than an engineer, always impeccably turned out, Farmer had a keen eye for detail, a calmly logical approach to business problems and a genuine concern for the welfare of his workforce. It is a tribute to the quality of the Rover brand name which he built up that it was in effect the only part of the British Leyland conglomerate to survive the upheavals of the following decades.

Lovedin George Thomas Farmer was born at Bridgnorth, Shropshire on May 13 1908. He was educated at Oxford High School before qualifying as a chartered accountant.

During the early 1930s Rover was in some difficulties and, at the instigation of the company's bankers, Farmer's accounting firm was appointed to oversee its financial affairs. In 1940 Farmer joined Rover as assistant secretary, taking control of finance and accounts.

Since 1936 Rover had been part of the "shadow factory" scheme introduced by the Air Minister, Lord Swinton, in which aircraft production capacity was multiplied by using motor manufacturers to produce aero engines on assembly lines which duplicated those of the original engine makers; thus the Rover shadow factory at Solihull produced Bristol Mercury engines for Blenheim bombers and many other vital components. Farmer was in charge of negotiations with the Air Ministry, coordinating the output of several other factories.

Farmer became company secretary in 1945 and joined the board of Rover in 1952. He built up a sales network for Land Rover which eventually reached 180 countries. At home, he had the foresight to acquire all the available land around the Solihull plant to provide for future expansion. He also introduced the first pension scheme for Rover employees. He became a joint managing director in 1957.

He was a past president of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, and served on many other public bodies promoting Midlands industry and exports. He was also a director of ATV and pro-chancellor of Birmingham University. He was knighted in 1968.

Farmer was keenly interested in drama, having acted as an amateur at the Loft Theatre in Leamington Spa of which he was later president. He was a governor of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre at Stratford upon Avon and chairman of its executive committee from 1966 to 1975.

He retired to the Isle of Man whose population, he liked to observe, was smaller than Rover's workforce in his heyday. There he was a founder-director of the local subsidiary of Rea Bros bank, was much involved in charitable work and enjoyed fishing and golf. To the end of his days he maintained a meticulous account of his personal affairs in handwritten double entry ledgers.

George Farmer married first, in 1938, Editha Fisher, who died in 1980, and secondly in that year, Muriel Pinfold.

"Ayatollah Morteza Pasandideh." Daily Telegraph, 28 Nov. 1996, p. 29. The Telegraph Historical Archive, link.gale.com/apps/doc/IO0700937544/TGRH?u=tou&sid=bookmark-TGRH. Accessed 9 July 2024.