



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

Whitgift School, Haling Park, South Croydon CR2 6YT, Tel: 020 8633 9926 www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk

President - DAVID STRANACK



Chairman - PIP BURLEY



Editor - RICHARD BLUNDELL

NEWSLETTER 354 - July / August 2014



A Message from the President

Deciding to hold this year's WA Dinner on Friday, 13th June was perhaps tempting fate, but in the event the gods were kind to us, and 100 Old Whitgiftians and their partners enjoyed a splendid evening in Big School at

Haling Park.

There are some OWs who are not hugely enthusiastic about returning to the School for the Annual Dinner, but perhaps that's because they believe the place hasn't changed since their own school days many decades ago. They couldn't be more wrong. On 13th June Big School had been transformed into a dining venue which equalled and surpassed anything else available to us anywhere in London – and it has the additional and unique element of nostalgia.

The catering has moved on a bit as well. Forget the meatless meat pies and congealed mashed potato of school dinners from long ago. Catering at Whitgift is now of the highest

quality. We were served with a meal that any top chef would have been proud of.

I had consciously decided to adopt a slightly more relaxed style for the evening and this was delivered very ably by the two toast proposers, Clive Doig OW and Ian Watson OW who both succeeded in keeping their post prandial audience not only awake but amused.

Considerable thanks are due to the Headmaster for allowing us to return to Haling Park for our dinner, and also for responding so ably to the toast of Floreat Domus. His account of current events and future plans for Whitgift confirmed to the audience that the House does indeed flourish.

And also a big thank you to WA Chairman, Pip Burley, and to WA Secretary, Vicky Burley, for all the hard work they put in to making the event so successful.

David Stranack, WA President



A note from the Editor

Congratulations on their recent awards to Lt Col Jonathan Swift, Royal Fusiliers, for operations in Afghanistan, the OBE, and to Hallam Carter-Pegg for services to the scouting movement, the MBE. Also to three of our younger members Marland Yarde and Danny Cipriani who played rugby for England on the recent New Zealand tour, and Victor Moses who played football for Nigeria in the World Cup.

News from the School

Nearly at the end of another year, the examination season is in full swing and the school seems rather quiet at the moment. There has been some cricket this term, but the weather on Saturdays has not been kind and many cricket matches have been called off. The 1st XI has, however, managed to play quite a few games and has won 9 out of 11. The team has made good progress in the National T20 Cup. Dominic Sibley (U6th) played for Surrey CCC in four first-class matches at the start of the season.

The Hockey sides completed the season in great style, the U18s retained their National title with a convincing 5-1 win over Canford School in the final at Cannock; the U13s also became National Champions defeating Dean Close Preparatory School 3-1 on penalties after the match ended 0-0. The U14s were a very creditable 3rd in their competition.

The golfers won the ISGA National Finals, for the first time, at Carnoustie at the end of April. The team was George Mullins (L6th), Joe Carmody-Firth (U6th) and Harvey Byers (L5th); George came 2nd in the individual competition. There has been continued success on the golf course during the course of this term.

The U16 Football team lost in the final of the EFSA Cup, at the Britannia Stadium, Stoke, to St Francis Xavier's College, Liverpool. In an exciting game Whitgift pulled back from being 0-3 down, to take the lead 4-3, but the opposition drew level and the game went into extra-time. The score remained 4-4 and the match was then decided on penalties.

The Swimming teams (U18, U16, U14, U12) ended a very successful year winning the Overall trophy at the London Schools Swimming Association Championships. In March the Bath Cup and Otter Medley Cup were retained with record times.

Piers Brown (U3rd) competed in his first National Diving Finals and came 19th in the 14-18 age group. In Judo, James Johnson (U3rd), competed in the Ippon Trophy in Antwerp and secured a bronze medal and David Saran (U5th) won the Welsh National title in the Cadet U60kg class in Cardiff. The Whitgift judo coach, Szandra Szogedi, will compete for Ghana in the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Originally from Hungary Szandra qualifies to represent Ghana



Old Whitgiftian Neil Sexton (1978-85) inspects cadets at the Annual General Inspection

because her husband, a fellow judoka, is Ghanaian.

In the Modern Pentathlon, Henry Choong came 28th in the U18 World Championships in Hungary. His brother, Joseph Choong (OW) along with Sam Curry (OW) and Tom Lees (OW), made up three of the four man GB team at the U21 World Championships in Poland. The U15 and U13 teams both won bronze at the recent Triathlon Championships.

Henry Cheeseman (U6th) has been playing for the England 7s team in the European Grand Prix Series. There was a big Whitgift representation at Twickenham on County finals day; the England XV match against the Barbarians also took place on the same day, Elliot Daly (OW) played for England. In the County Championship Division 2 Plate final Kent beat Durham 31-23; Rob White (OW) and Matt Gallagher (L6th) played alongside Tom Stradwick, the captain, who is the Rugby Development Officer at Whitgift, in the Kent XV. The Kent team was coached by Chris Wilkins, Director of Rugby at Whitgift. James Caddy (OW) played in the winning Surrey XV in the County Championship Shield final.

The AGI took place in the first week in May - the inspecting officer was Brigadier Neil Sexton (OW) and Whitgift CCF was delighted to welcome Sergeant Johnson Beharry VC as one of the guests of honour for the day. Lt-Col Matthew Birch (OW) was also in attendance. Some 40 boys had a flight in a 'Squirrel' helicopter and the day ended with a platoon attack and the Corps of Drums 'Beating the Retreat' on Bigside.

The Headmaster, Dr Barnett, was awarded the Chevalier dans l'ordre des Palmes academiques, by the French Ambassador, His Excellency Bernard Emie, for services to French Education. The School has strong Section Francaise and Bi-lingual course.

The U6th Form Graduation and Ball took place on Friday 20th June; the Lower School Play 'Lady Macbeth' took place in Big School for three nights Wednesday 25th, Thursday 26th and Friday 27th June. Guy Johnston with the RPO and WCO Orchestral Concert took place in Big School on Sunday 29th June.

The term ends on 4th July with the 'Celebration of Whitgift Life.'

Phil Fladgate

OWs in Queen's Honours

Three Old Whitgiftians and an ex-Whitgift master were named in The Queen's Birthday Honours:-

Gerry Grimstone (1960-67), Chairman of asset managers Standard Life, received a knighthood for public service to defence and business.

Roger Lambert (1953-60) received the British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to the community in Tiverton Devon. (Cullompton, Devon)

Hallam Carter-Pegg (1945-50) was awarded an MBE for services to young people in Croydon through the Scout Association (London)

Dr Anthony Seldon (ex- Whitgift master 1983-89) has become a Knight Bachelor.

OW Corps of Drums



We were delighted to be invited to play at the reception for this year's Annual Dinner and were very pleased to be able to turn out 17 players for the occasion (many thanks to all for making themselves available at 6.30pm on a Friday evening).

The F flute section comprising Phil Williams, John Jacobsen and Simon Wermig was quite possibly the strongest I have ever heard it in the 37 years that I have listened to the Whitgift Drums playing (my brother Nick joined the School Drums when I was just 3 years old so I think by now my hearing has been properly indoctrinated).

Our second and final concert for this summer will be taking place on Sunday 3rd August from 2pm-4pm on the Victorian bandstand on Brighton's sea front, close to the remains of the West Pier. Last year our performance there was on the hottest day of the year and we played to an estimated 100,000+ on the beach...and most of them were still there even after our playing! If you are free on 3rd August and would like to attend as either a player or spectator, we would be very pleased to see you there.

Chris Carter-Pegg

OW Golf Society Report

Whitgift have qualified for the finals of the Grafton Morrish. Playing at Royal Wimbledon in mid May, Nic Gates' team finished in seventh place out of sixteen, the final qualifying position in the London pool, and will be one of 48 schools represented in the knockout stages at Hunstanton and Royal West Norfolk in the autumn. Nic has expressed the view that the Morrish is becoming harder to win than the Halford Hewitt. In that context, it is interesting to note that several prominent Hewitt schools did not make the cut this year, among them Eton, Dulwich, Fettes, Epsom, and Repton. Congratulations to Nic and his team.

Robert Hollidge reports a drawn match 2-2 against the Old Mids at Shirley Park in late May, a result which leaves the trophy in OW hands, since we were previous year winners.

The annual 'evening meeting' was held in June. Beautiful weather for golf, and Addington Palace in great condition; a perfect combination for 23 entrants chasing the Hornsey-Walker and Veterans' Cups. In the end, victory went to our host for the evening, Nigel



From left: Nigel Huxtable with the Hornsey Walker Cup, vice captain Tony Harris, who presented the trophies, and Veterans' Cup winner David Hughes

Huxtable who, on his home course, scored 36 points and won the Hornsey-Walker on countback from David Hughes, who nonetheless took the Veterans' Cup.

Captain Mike Berners Price finished third, after a level-par back nine left him on 34 points. Only three participants out of the 23 were not old enough to win the Veterans' Cup; we might have to reconsider the age limit!

Last but not least, a first. Whitgift reached the finals of the Royal Wimbledon schools putting competition

this year, having not played for the last three years after we were relegated in 2010. Our late call up to the competition this year was answered by the team of Nic Gates, Matt Webster, Chris Blundell, and Nigel Huxtable, who, we believe for the first time, topped their qualifying group of eight schools, including Charterhouse. This led to the unexpected task of turning up for finals day, when the shortened holes did not play to our strengths and we finished seventh out of the eight finalists.

Peter Gale (Hon Sec)

OW Heads Up Club Cricket Conference



Paul Hooper (OW 1954-61) has, this year, been appointed the 99th President of the Club Cricket Conference, which is responsible for club cricket south of 'The Wash'.

A landmark agreement has been recently signed with the ECB. to form a new National Club Cricket Conference to strengthen the bond to promote the amateur game countrywide for all age groups of men and women. It is significant that the President next year for the centenary will be the current ECB Chief Executive, David Collier.

Paul, who joined the CCC in 1985 as Surrey Representative, has arranged a special match on Sunday 7th September at Croham Road, when the CCC will play the Paralytics CC with an 11:30am start.

The Paralytics CC was originally formed in 1964 by three Old Whitgiftians, Jim Brewer, Malcolm Pilcher and Paul. Paul took over the administration from 1970, and at the turn of the eighties he re-energised the Club to promote the Competitive but social identity which has survived to this day with currently 76 members (not all current players!) including nine OWs and three Whitgift Masters! The annual match in the OW cricket week is always well attended but, weather-permitting, there will be a second gathering for the special encounter on 7th September.

Veterans' Rifles

Since my last submission, we have nearly completed our Summer Full Bore season having enjoyed favourable weather conditions which does make a change!

In mid April we shot the first of three rounds in the LMRA League over 300 & 500 yards: finishing in 2nd place. Some weeks later the Vets entered two teams in the LMRA. SV Match over 300 & 600 yards. First shot in 1978 having been instigated - and the winner's trophy provided - by the WVRC. The winners - as usual - were Old Epsomians, no surprises there! Our 'A' Team finished in 2nd place with the 'B' team coming 5th. The leading scorers were Guy Hart and Simon Lacey for the 'A' and 'B' Teams respectively, with scores of 95.8 and 89.3.

For the first time in over half a century the Vets were unable to compete in the Surrey SV due to a last minute change of date, clashing with previously made commitments.

On 18th May we shot the 2nd round of the LMRA League, over the familiar 300 & 600 yards, again finishing in 2nd place. The third and final round took place on 8th June, over 900 & 1000 yards. We again finished the day in 2nd place

(there seems to be a pattern developing here!) behind Parthians but as per last year, beat East Barnet and Old Haberdashers.

Well done all, especially John Horlock who won the Long Range Cup with a very creditable 43.3 at 1000 yards in sunny but tricky wind conditions.

All credit and thanks to those members who have so far this year represented the Vets so well in the Full Bore events having also made some early morning starts to several of these Bisley matches. Namely, Graham Clark, Jack Furtado, Nick Harman, Guy Hart, Bob Jackson, Simon Lacey, Paul Nalson, Ian Todd and John and Liz Twyford.

The Whitgift School Rifle Club maintains its momentum under the excellent leadership of staff member Peter Morrison, with some assistance from the Vets. New equipment, namely slings, gloves and the latest design in shooting jackets are enabling the boys to move up a gear in their shooting experience and technique.

With regards to Small Bore shooting, we are up to Round 4 in our division within

the Surrey County Small Bore League.

Like all clubs and societies, the Vets' longevity [117 years] and continuance relies on a loyal and supportive membership, but as both *anno domini* and circumstances inevitably dictate, we need to encourage new members to our sport other than just current pupils.

With this in mind, I should like to remind readers that the Vets is open to all OWs, plus former and current - full or part time - members of the Teaching, CCF and WA staff, including family members thereof.

The Veterans' Small Bore shooting activity takes place every Tuesday evening throughout the year at the school range [19.00 - 21.00]

If you yearn to follow up a chance to revitalise old shooting abilities, or indeed give it a try for the first time, please contact Simon Lacey at secretary@wvrc.org.uk or have a look at the WVRC entry in the WA website under Affiliated Societies.

All equipment is provided along with coaching and advice!

Alan Hunter

OWCC

After a slow start to the season results for the 1's and 2's have picked up of late and both sides are now 8th in their respective leagues. The 1st team travelled to Farnham on 14 June and returned victorious by 4 wickets, the following week securing a winning draw against Malden Wanderers at Croham Road with Harshil Shah making 50's in both games. Adam Clarke is leading run scorer with 202 including a top score of 77 against Esher. The second team won at Purley chasing down 208 in just 39 overs to record their second win of the season and leapfrog local rivals Addiscombe and Sanderstead in the table. With the university and school term about to finish the prospects for the rest of the season are promising. Colts cricket continues to thrive with excellent numbers and an innovative coaching set up involving 121 sessions from our own and occasional guest coaches such as Gordon Greenidge, the former West Indies Test player and Saqlain Mushtaq, the former OWCC, Surrey and Pakistan off spinner and inventor of the doosra.

Cricketer Cup

The Whitgift Mitres played host to the Radley Rangers at Haling Park on Sunday 15 June and were beaten by 8 wickets by a side captained by Jamie Dalrymple who played for England in the 2007 World Cup. Dalrymple scored an unbeaten 75 of his sides 132-2 to overhaul our total of 131 all out. Whitgift X1: Sam Woodward (captain), Rory Caines (wk), Harry Hanford, Aman Shinwari, Adam Clarke, Shahnawaz Malik, James Pearce, Nav Chaudhry, Raj Chatwal, Harshil Patel, Kenneth Stewart.

Stuart Woodrow



OW is YouTube hit!



'Beastie' - The OWRFC Hobos anthem has now gone viral on YouTube with over 800,000 views! The official

press release was as follows:

Kent chartered surveyor and strawberry grower Martin Clews of Stonepitts Farm Seal Chart finally owned up to leading passengers in a song or two on the 12.07 Ashford bound train from London Victoria last Friday.

He said:

"I had been celebrating the release of my son Dan's new single "That's Enough For Me" over a glass or two of champagne with friends in London. It seemed to me that like minded 'bon-viveurs' in my carriage might enjoy a jolly song on their way home. So I chose a lively number called "Beastie" which has become somewhat of a favourite in my rugby club and this went down well with the passengers."

You can find the video by going to YouTube.com and searching for "Sing-a-long on a train".

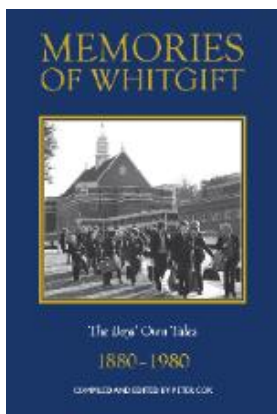


THE WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

THE WA SHOP Now Available Online

The online WA Shop now stocks a large range of OW branded items, from silk ties, silver cufflinks, blazers, fleeces, T-shirts and more. Also available to purchase is the specially selected WA Claret (by the dozen or half-case of 6) and Peter Cox's fabulous work, "Memories of Whitgift".

If you have not visited the WA website recently, please go online and browse the products now available.



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

OXFORD DINNER

THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER

in the Great Hall, Jesus College, Oxford

Jesus College, the only Elizabethan College in Oxford, has beautiful quadrangles tucked away in the heart of Oxford.

Tickets just £58 per person or £45 for OW undergraduates

Price includes: Pre-dinner drinks from 6.30pm in the Harper Room, a fine paneled room which is part of the lodgings of the Principal of Jesus, Lord Krebs and a three-course meal at 7.30pm, including wine, coffee, mints and a glass of port.

Dress Code - Black Tie (preferred) or lounge suits. Partners welcome.

Accommodation at the college is available at the cost of £70 for a single room or £90 for a double, inclusive of breakfast. Please contact: simon.smith@jesus.ox.ac.uk quoting 'Dinner No: KX20551.'

Please book online at www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/events. Tickets will be issued in due course. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the office on 020 8633 9926 or by e-mail to: office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk
All applications should be received no later than September 2nd, 2014.



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

SUSSEX DINNER

FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER

The Birch Hotel, Haywards Heath



The location, close to both the A23 and A272, is convenient for those living in and around Sussex. The hotel has excellent parking and is reasonably close to the station.

The ticket price (which will include pre-dinner drinks, a three-course dinner with wine, and coffee/tea & mints) will be confirmed in due course.

Please indicate your intention to attend by the end of July by writing to Alan Cowing via office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk

OWRFC WW1 War Graves Visit

Members of Old Whitgiftian RFC are visiting the graves of more than 30 former players who lost their lives in the First World War in Northern France and Belgium. A team of 10 OWs will make the trip on July 4th to 7th covering more than 750 miles across 25 burial sites to lay wreaths at each grave of the former pupils of Whitgift School in Croydon.

The school's archives reveal that many of the OWRFC players were recognised for their bravery in battle with three Military Crosses and one Distinguished Service Order awarded as well as seven soldiers mentioned in Dispatches.

In total, 40 players from the rugby club gave their lives. The other Old Whitgiftian rugby players who lost their lives in the First World War are buried in locations including Egypt, Gallipoli and Jerusalem.

The club's commemorations will begin on July 3rd with a memorial service at the school's War Memorial to remember the 248 Old Whitgiftians who died in World War One. The service will be followed by a dinner in the school's Old Library.

Contact the WA Office if you would like to attend the memorial service.

A specially-commissioned Gilbert rugby ball based on the design used in 1914 and featuring the names of the 40 players has also been produced. One ball will be presented to the Rugby Football Union while another will be displayed at the Whitgift Sports Club in Croham Manor Road.

Sam Barke, OWRFC Chairman, said: "A simple wooden board in our clubhouse commemorates the 40 OWRFC players who laid down their lives in the First World War. That's equivalent to nearly

three full rugby teams. 100 years on, we wanted to learn more about these brave young men who went to the same school and played for the same club as us but gave their lives. We worked with the school archivist to learn more about each player's contribution and wanted to pay our respects to our fellow players by visiting their graves. Links between Whitgift School and OWRFC are stronger than ever and it is important that we recognise that a considerable number of our club members, many of whom had recently left the school, made the ultimate sacrifice."

Jon Bunn



500 Club

For £12 a year you could win hundreds of pounds in our quarterly draws! The Summer draw took place at the WA Annual Dinner. The winners were:-

£100 - Nigel Platts (who kindly donated his winnings back to the fund)

£50 - John Branston

£50 - Stuart Woodrow

£50 - Michael Wall

For an even greater chance of winning, check out details of a Special Draw now at www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/3-for-a-100.



Dates for the Diary

Thurs	3 July	OWRFC WW1 Graves Dinner	Old Library	7.30
Fri	4 July	Celebration of Whitgift Life	School	11.00
Wed	9 July	1951-53 Leavers Reunion Lunch	School	12.00
Thurs	10 July	WVRC NRA.SV and Dinner	Bisley	5.00
Sun	3 Aug	OW Corps of Drums Concert	Brighton	2.00
Sat	20 Sept	Whitgift Open Morning	School	9-1.00
Thurs	2 Oct	WA Oxford Dinner	Jesus College	6.30
Fri	10 Oct	Darling Buds of May Concert	School	7.30
Sat	11 Oct	WA Sportsman's Lunch	School	12.00
	15-16 Oct	Lower Sixth Play	School	7.30
Fri	24 Oct	Sussex Dinner	Birch Hotel	
Sat	8 Nov	WSA Dance	School	7.30
Tues	11 Nov	Remembrance Service	School	10.30
Thurs	20 Nov	Music Concert	Fairfield Halls	7.00
	10-12 Dec	The Importance of Being Earnest	School	7.30
Sat	13 Dec	WA AGM	Old Library	tbc
Tues	16 Dec	School Carol Service	Minster	7.30

What's On

Tues	1 July	Whitgift 1stXI v Domini CC	H	4.00
Wed	2 July	Whitgift 1stXI v Langley Park School	H	1.00
Sat	5 July	2 nd XI v Worcester Park	H L	1.00
Sun	6 July	OWCC XI v Flyng Ducksman	H	2.00
Sat	12 July	1stXI v Cranleigh	H L	11.30
Sun	13 July	OWC C XI v Verdayne	H	2.00
Sat	19 July	2ndXI v Addiscombe	H L	1.00
Sun	20 July	OWCC XI v Wallington	H	2.00
Mon	21 July	1 st XI v Honesti	H	2.00
Wed	23 July	1 st XI v Paralytics	H	11.30
Fri	25 July	1stXI v Mid Whits	H	2.00
Sat	26 July	2ndXI v Egham	H L	1.00
Sat	2 Aug	1stXI v Cheam	H L	11.30
Sun	3 Aug	OWCC XI v Worcester Park	H	2.00
Sat	9 Aug	1stXI v Normandy	H L	12.00
Sun	10 Aug	OWCC XI v Roan	H	2.00
Sat	16 Aug	2 nd XI v Purley	H L	1.00
Sun	17 Aug	OWCC XI v Hamsey Green	H	2.00
Sat	23 Aug	2ndXI v Sanderstead	H L	1.00
Sun	24 Aug	OWCC XI v Sutton	H	2.00
Sat	30 Aug	1 st XI v Farnham	H L	12.00
Sat	6 Sept	1 st XI v Beddington	H L	11.30
Sun	7 Sept	CCC Presidents XI v Paralytics	H	11.30
Sat	6 Sept	School 1 st XV v Sedbergh	H	11.00

More details at www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/events

Recent Deaths

The WA has sadly been informed of the following losses:

Peter Andrews (1929-38) died 4th June, aged 94

John Jekyll (1946-48) died 22nd May, aged 82

Stephen Yeo (1968-1975) died 23rd February, aged 56