



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER 352 - March / April 2014

A Message from the WA President

I am delighted to say that my Presidential year is looking to be busy! One of the most important events is planned for **Saturday 29th March** - the Inaugural Achievement Award Dinner. Over the years OWs have achieved some pretty significant things in their lives, and we thought it was time for some of these to be officially recognised within the Whitgift community. We have chosen Lt. Col. James Coates OBE of the Parachute Regiment to be the first recipient of the WA Achievement Award. James has had an outstandingly successful military career, most recently in Afghanistan, and is currently advising the Cabinet Office on military strategy. Do come and join us and share in the celebration of James's success. Tickets are available from the WA office or via the website.



Another important WA event is the WA Annual Dinner, now fixed for **Friday 13th June** (we're not superstitious!) and held in Big School at Haling Park. There is no doubt that the WA and the School are now closer together - both psychologically and physically - than they have been for many years, so the time has come for our Dinner to return to the location at which we all become Whitgiftians. The evening will have a relaxed and informal atmosphere, while still preserving the niceties of fine dining. So, Gentlemen, 13th June in your diaries now please! More details soon.

Please keep an eye on the WA Diary of Events - and join in! The active participation of members is the key to the Association's future success.

With best wishes,

David Stranack, President, Whitgiftian Association, 2014

News from the School



Mr Alan Pearson of the Biology Department, has launched a British Bird Identifying app, which can now be downloaded. The ornithologist worked in conjunction with the app design agency WildSide to design the app 'Birds by Colour.' The software features a colour wheel allowing spotters to select the standout colour of the bird in question. Over 250 beautifully illustrated images can be scrolled through to identify the correct bird.

The School Musical this term 'West Side Story', which is being performed over four nights in March, has proved very popular and tickets have already been sold out!

The Finals of the U18 and U16 National Schools' Indoor Hockey

News from the School Cont...

took place at Whitgift in January. The U16 team just failed to make the Semi-Finals, but the U18 team won the title for the third time in five years. The U18 team defeated Millfield in the Final on penalty flicks, after the teams were level 2-2 at full time.

A very wet first half of the Lent Term resulted in many rugby matches being cancelled, but the Nat West games went ahead. The 1st XV lost 6-11 to Hampton in Round 7; the U15s, however, have progressed to the Semi-finals after a hard fought win over Trent College, their next opponents will be QEGS, Wakefield. Henry Cheeseman (UVIth) made his Harlequins 1st XV debut in the LV Cup against Cardiff.

The members of the School fencing team have produced some very good results recently; at the Surrey Youth Fencing Championships seven gold medals were won by Ben Lindsay, Caleb Watson, Adam Dobson, Rudi Bruijn-Yard, Connor Head, Ian Head and Tarriq Roach. Tarriq also won gold in the U13 Leon Paul Junior Series. OWs Dudley Tredger (epee), Greg Allen (epee) and Maiyuran Ratneswaran (sabre) helped England to victory in the 5 Nations Competition held in Edinburgh at the end of last year.

The swimmers continue to have great success. Kunmi Ogunfeibo (LVIth) took part in the Catalonian Championships in Barcelona. He won bronze medals in the 100m and 50m backstroke and helped the London team take bronze in the 4 x 100m Medley Relay. Kunmi's next target is the Commonwealth Games trials in Glasgow. The U12 and U13 teams took 11 out of 12 titles at the Croydon Schools Championships; they also won the Trinity Group Gala. The U11 team won the Surrey Primary Schools freestyle and medley relay titles at Guildford Spectrum. At the Surrey Individual Championships Whitgift swimmers took 5 Gold, 4 Silver and 2 Bronze medals.

In football the U13s have progressed to the final of the ISFA Cup and will play Chigwell at Burton Albion FC in March. The U16s have reached the Semi-finals of the ESFA Cup. Bertrand Traore (OW, left 2013), a Burkina Faso international, signed for Chelsea and is now on loan to Vitesse Arnhem in Holland.

The Badminton team won both the U14 and U16 Croydon Schools' Championship and the Skiers picked up a Silver medal in the Team Slalom and a Bronze in the Team Dual Slalom at the Independent Schools' Championships held at Les Deux Alpes.

There are many exchanges and trips taking place over half-term to Zaragoza, Albertville, Toledo, Paris and Valle D'Aosta. Let's hope the weather improves during the second half of term.

Phil Fladgate

From the Editor

Here's trusting that nobody has been washed or blown away and that everybody is fit and ready to enjoy the forthcoming events this busy Spring period. As you can see we have listed them in the following pages, which highlight the many varied activities of our Association, all of which merit your support and close attention.

Richard Blundell

OW Golf Society

How appealing amidst the storms to consider the pleasures of golf on a summer's day! The OWGS plans a busy schedule of meetings this year at attractive local courses; the major meetings are shown below, although there are matches and other fixtures throughout the season.

24 April, Captain's Day Meeting, Tandridge

10 June, Evening Meeting, Addington Palace

18 July, President's Meeting, Effingham

7 Sept, Autumn Meeting, Royal Ashdown

We tee off with the AGM and Annual Dinner, which take place at the School on Friday 21st March. New members are very welcome at this or at any of our meetings; the annual sub is a mere £20.

Popular with all is the Challenge Cup, a knockout competition taking place

500 Club – "3-for-a-100" Special Draw!

The WA's 500 Club is running a special draw, giving you a 3 in 100 chance of winning a whopping £100! When 100 new tickets have been sold (tickets cost just £1 per month), those tickets will be entered into a special draw, with THREE prizes of £100 each. All tickets purchased will also be entered into the quarterly draws, which have a minimum prize fund of £250. Don't miss out on this fabulous chance to win, win WIN whilst supporting the Association. Please see www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/3-for-a-100 for details.



throughout the season. The first named in the draw chooses the venue and the loser pays the green fee – thus everyone apart from the ultimate winner pays once! This is a great way of playing other courses apart from your own. New entrants are welcome, but we need your entries by Friday 21st March, when the draw takes place.

Whitgift drew Stonyhurst in the first round of the Halford Hewitt, to be played at Sandwich on Thursday 10th April, starting at 10.50am. Supporters

will be very welcome. The full draw can be seen at www.halfordhewitt.org.

Please contact Peter Gale at peterbgale@sky.com for further detail on any of the above.

Livery Club News



More congratulations are due to Adrian Oliver (1967-75) as

this year's Prime Warden of the Blacksmiths Livery and to Alan Longhurst (1965-73) as this year's Master of the Constructors Livery.



Chess Society

The 21st annual chess match against the School saw two evenly matched teams of 9 boards battle for over two hours of hard fought chess, with the eventual result being the first ever draw at 4½ points each. So the Old Boys retain the Leonard Barden Trophy due to last year's 5-3 victory and now lead the series 15½ to 5½. No doubt the School will be looking for revenge next January as they steadily improve their chess.

If you would like to take part in the match from novice to expert standard please contact Nigel Callow on 020 8655 2292 or nigelwcallow@gmail.com.

Nigel Callow

OW Fives Society

Calling all 5s players!

The OW 5s Club always welcomes new or returning players, so why not give it a go?

Social 5s (for the uninitiated it's a bit like squash but with gloves!) is normally played on Thursday evenings and some Sunday mornings at the school courts, with showers and refreshments at the OW Clubhouse afterwards. We also hold matches, competitions and an annual tour to the South West (this year Sherborne and Tiverton on 14-15 March). Do come and give the great game of 5s a go - whatever your age or ability you'd be very welcome, and we'd be happy to lend you some gloves to get you started! For more information contact Nick Woolfenden at nickw5s@hotmail.com.



WA Online Shop

The WA's online shop now stocks a range of OW branded merchandise, from ties to jumpers, tea towels to umbrellas, red wine to books! A selection of best-sellers is displayed to the right. Do take some time to browse the shop and make your selection. We look forward to receiving and despatching your order.



whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/shop



Trivia Trail

One of the more original toasts heard at a recent OW rugby gathering - "I should like to take wine with those members who have played our beautiful game with all three of our current Knights of the Realm" to which a select few past players raised their glasses.

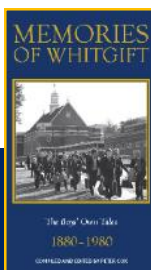


OWs in the City

On 20th February, nearly 40 OWs met at the Market Porter, Borough Market, for another evening of networking and reminiscing about Whitgift, all helped along with a pint or two. Ages ranged from 20 to 58 and new friendships were formed and hopefully career opportunities may follow. The format is simple: we meet near

London Bridge Station after work; create a whip and the youngest there fetches the drinks. All OWs are welcome to attend these quarterly events – look out on Facebook and LinkedIn for the details.

Nick Somers



Memories of Whitgift... Read extracts from every chapter at www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/chapters

Order your copy now, for just £20 plus p&p at www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/shop.



THE WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD, 2014



will be presented to

Lt Col James Coates

at a Dinner to be held in his honour at the School on
Saturday 29th March 2014 at 7:00pm



We are proud to announce that our inaugural Award will be presented to Lt Colonel James Coates, OBE, who attended Whitgift School from 1981-88 and was chosen by *'The Daily Telegraph'* as one of their top ten 'Britons of the Year' in 2011.

James has enjoyed an action-packed and distinguished career in the Parachute Regiment, culminating in his command of the 3rd Para Battallion in Helmand Province. He introduced a new tactic, subsequently named the "Precision Strike", combining high-level intelligence, CCTV camera surveillance and the use of precision missile attacks.

James has been widely praised for devising and implementing the strategy and setting the benchmark in Afghanistan as the exemplar in exploiting the emerging surveillance technology resulting in him becoming known as "Scourge of the Taliban". Since returning to the UK, James has been a regular visitor to the School and a great supporter of the CCF.

He is currently working at the Cabinet Office consulting directly with 10 Downing Street on all matters relating to military strategy and the deployment of service personnel across the globe.

Tickets: £75 for WA members and their partners, £85 for non-members. **Tables of 10:** £700 (booked and paid for by a member, £800 non-members). The price includes a 3-course dinner with wine and entertainment, and the opportunity to learn more about this exceptional Whitgiftian and the war in Afghanistan. Partners and guests welcome.

Dress: Mess Kit / Black Tie with Decorations.

To secure your places or table, please download the booking form, or book online at www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/events. Telephone 020 8633 9926 or e-mail office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk for further information or to check your membership status.



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION



MUSIC SOIREE AT WHITGIFT SCHOOL

THURSDAY 20TH MARCH 2014

Join us for an evening of music, song and drama in the comfortable surroundings of the School Concert Hall. The immensely talented Whitgift pupils, including the new Music Competition Scholars, will be showcasing their extraordinary talents in this concert, organised especially for Old Whitgiftians and other friends of the School.

A light supper will be served during the interval and drinks will be available for purchase. The casual "café style" table seating will enable you to make up a party of your friends for the evening or just come along to enjoy a wonderful evening of entertainment.

Tickets £12.50 (WA Members, staff and parents) or £15 (non-members and guests). Tables of 8 just £85 per table.

Find out more or book online at
www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/events

A TRIBUTE TO



starring

Dick Glynn-Jones, Bob Schad, John Branston & Ken Nicholas

If you were at the School between 1955 and 1995, your life will have been irretrievably influenced by these four remarkable men!

Do you realise how few of us have the opportunity to show our appreciation of those who taught us more than half a century ago? Face-to-face, over dinner - and a glass of wine? Not many - and yet these four indomitable individuals are not only still alive and kicking, but able (with the assistance of their equally remarkable, long-suffering wives) to navigate their way through the bewildering back streets of subtopian* CR2 to the Whitgift Sports Club to be toasted and celebrated by former pupils. If you were at Whitgift during those 'golden' years, then this is your chance to do just that.

Friday 25th April 2014 from 6:30pm

Find out more and book online at www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/events

Tickets from £40 per person for 4-course dinner with wine. Partners welcome.

* "Suburban development that encroaches on rural areas yet appears to offer the attractions of country life to suburban dwellers."
(Thank you, Dick - ed)

News from the Whitgift Sports Club



Operation Remembrance

2014 marks the centenary of the outbreak of World War I, during which 40 players of the OWRFC lost their lives. For some time we have been discussing how best to pay tribute to their ultimate sacrifice.

After much research we have tracked down graves and memorial sites of all 40 and have come to the conclusion that the most appropriate way to honour these men is to visit as many as possible and pay our respects. This is quite an undertaking with the biggest focus being placed on Northern France/Belgium where 31 of our fallen lie. A group of OWRFC members will be making this journey over the first weekend in July, departing from Croham Road on Friday 4th and returning on Monday 7th.

There will be numerous events in the build-up and after the trip. If any OWs have any information that would be useful or if they wish to offer support in any way, please do not hesitate to get in contact with OWRFC Chairman, Sam Barke on sambarke1@doctors.org.uk.

Boxing Day Rugby Success

On 26th December 1913 Old Whitgiftians' RFC played against Old Alleynians' RFC in the first of many Boxing Day fixtures. 100 years on, the latest episode was fought out at a sunny Dulwich.

The first half saw OAs exerting pressure on the OWs but the OWs were equal to the task. Fringe defence around rucks was solid, messrs Coleman, Murray, Hall, Oliveira, Weller and the Petschi brothers all putting in crunching tackles and doing their best to slow down OA's momentum. The centre partnership of Daly and Gunni/King, with the youngest in the line of the Morrison brothers (Ben) at 10, continued to repel the hard running OA backs. The first half ended with honours finishing even at 3-3 (the OW's



penalty converted courtesy of Ben Morrison).

The 2nd half was there for the taking, with vital contributions made by the fresh legs of Sullivan and Joyce and a welcome cameo from Tom Morrison (despite claiming to be only good for bucket and sponge duties). There was an embarrassment of riches, in the backs, with Pelling and Byrne continuing their excellent 1st XV form supplemented by Dr Anomelechi, the young Persaud-Walters and new club member Bruce Carter. Jon Eynon made a valuable contribution at 9, sharing scrum-half duties with old timer Dracoulis.

Outside centre Gunni scored the OW's first try followed by a penalty by Morrison. The OAs gained a quick try in reply putting the match in balance. The last 20 minutes highlighted the OW's determination to win and no. 8 Murray surged over to score. A further penalty put the score line at 21-10 with 10 minutes to go. The OWs held out with some in the pack hitting harder as the match wore on: particularly Blok, Ryan, Riches, Lee and Plinston.

The centenary fixture ended with a 27-10 win to the OWs. Man of the match was Cameron Petschi, back of the match was Miles Daly and forward of the match was Charlie Petschi. Thanks go to the very committed squad consisting of Coleman, Joyce, Ryan, Riches, Weller, Murray, Hall, Petschi (Cameron), Petschi (Charlie), Blok, Plinston, Sullivan, Lee, Oliveira, Pelling, Byrne, King, Eynon, Daly, Gunni, Anomelechi, Persaud-Walters, Carter and Dracoulis (capt.).

Andreas Dracoulis

Dates for the Diary

5-8	March	West Side Story	School	7.30
Sat	8 Mar	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	Clubhouse	12.00
Thurs	20 Mar	WA Music and Drama Soiree	School	7.30
Fri	21 Mar	Founder's Day Service	Whitgift House	07.00
Fri	21 Mar	OWGS AGM and Dinner	School	7.30
Tues	25 Mar	Steinway Concert	School	7.00
Tues	25 Mar	WVRC AGM	Clubhouse	8.00
Wed	26 Mar	King's Men Choristers	Croy Minster	7.30
Sat	29 Mar	WA Achievement Award Dinner	School	7.00
Sun	30 Mar	Mothers Day Lunch	Clubhouse	12.00
Sat	5 Apr	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	Clubhouse	12.00
Thurs	10 Apr	Halford Hewitt Golf v Stonyhurst	Sandwich	10.50
Sat	12 Apr	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	Clubhouse	12.00
Sat	12 Apr	OWRFC Dinner	Clubhouse	7.00
Fri	25 Apr	The Four Musketeers Dinner	Clubhouse	6.30
Sat	26 Apr	1992-95 Leavers' Reunion	School	7.30
Mon	28 Apr	Hockey AGM	Clubhouse	7.30
Sat	17 May	Hockey EOS Dinner	Clubhouse	7.00
Fri	13 Jun	WA Annual Dinner	School	7.00
Sat	21 Jun	Summer Sportsman's Lunch	School	12.00

What's On

Sat	1 Mar	OW Wands XV v KCS Old Boys	H	LG	3.00
Sat	8 Mar	OW 1stXV v Battersea Ironsides	H	LG	3.00
Sat	22 Mar	OW Wands XV v Effingham	H	LG	3.00
27/28	Mar	National Schools Sevens	Rosslyn	Park	
Sat	5 Apr	1 st XV v Old Paulines	H	LG	3.00
Sat	12 Apr	1 st XV v Old Blues	H	LG	3.00
Sun	13 Apr	WVRC LMRA Round 1	Bisley		08.30
Thurs	17 Apr	School 1 st XI v Hurstpierpoint	H		11.00
Sat	19 Apr	School 1 st XI v Chipstead	H		11.00
Thurs	24 Apr	School 1 st XI v Wellington	A		11.00
Sat	26 Apr	OWCC XI v Purley	H		1.00
Sat	26 Apr	School 1 st XI v Epsom	H		11.00
Sun	27 Apr	1 st XI v Willows	H		1.00
Sat	3 May	OWCC XI v Chipstead	H		1.00
Sat	3 May	School 1 st XI v Ardingly	A		11.00
Sat	3 May	WVRC LMRA Vets	Bisley		08.30
Sun	4 May	1 st XI v Goldleaf	H		1.00

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

Recent Deaths

The WA has sadly been informed of the following losses:

Richard Bishopp (1938-45) died 25th October, aged 86

Stuart Shrimpton (1937-40) died 2nd January 2014, aged 87

Brian Botting (1943-49) died 14th January, aged 82

Group Captain Arthur Montagu-Smith (1926-32) died 18th January, aged 98

Submissions for NEWSLETTER 353 covering May / June closes on **Saturday 12th April**. All news and photographs (preferably emailed) should be sent to Richard Blundell at editor@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk, to 7 Peaks Hill, Purley, Surrey, CR8 3JG or via the WA Office at Haling Park. Tel: **020 8633 9926** if you have any queries.