

OLD WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER 341

MAY/JUNE 2012

PRESIDENT – PIP BURLEY CHAIRMAN – ALAN COWING EDITOR – RICHARD BLUNDELL

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Fri	4 May	Quiz Night	Clubhouse	7.00
Fri	18 May	OWA Annual Dinner	Old Palace	6.30
Sat	19 May	OWRFC AGM and Dinner	Clubhouse	6.00
Wed	23 May	Violin Recital	School	7.30
Thur	24 May	Music Concert	School	7.30
Fri	1 June	1987-96 Reunion Dinner	Clubhouse	7.30
Sun	3 June	Queen's Diamond Jubilee Garden Party	Clubhouse	12.00
Tues	3 July	Music Concert	School	7.30
Sat	14 July	OWA AGM	Clubhouse	11.00
Sat	14 July	OWA Reception and Lunch	Clubhouse	12.30
Sat	14 July	OW Benevolent Society AGM	Clubhouse	2.30
16 – 20	July	OWCC Cricket Week		
Sat	13 Oct	Sportsman's Lunch	School	12.00
Sat	13 Oct	East Anglia Dinner	Cambridge	
Fri	26 Oct	OWA Oxford Dinner	Oriel College	6.30
Fri	9 Nov	OWCC Dinner	Clubhouse	7.00

WHAT'S ON

Sat	5 May	WVRC LMRA Veterans	Bisley	08.30
Sat	5 May	2ndXI v Old Wimbledonians	H LG	1.00
Sat	5 May	School 1stXI v St Bede's	A	11.00
Sun	6 May	1stXI v Giltec	H	2.00
Wed	9 May	School 1stXI v Eltham	H	2.00
Sat	12 May	1stXI v Dulwich	H LG	12.30
Sat	12 May	School 1stXI v St Bede's	H	11.00
Sun	13 May	1stXI v Beckenham	H	2.00
Sat	19 May	1stXI v Cheam	H LG	12.30

Sat	19 May	School 1stXI v Trinity	H	11.00
Sat	19 May	WVRC SRA Veterans	Bisley	12.30
Sun	20 May	1stXI v Gold Leaf	H	2.00
Sun	20 May	WVRC LMRA 2	Bisley	08.30
Thurs	24 May	OWGS Evening Meeting	Cuddington	
25 – 26	May	School 1stXI v Hampton	A	2.00/11.00
Sat	26 May	2ndXI v Valley End	H LG	1.00
Sun	27 May	1stXI v Village	H	2.00
Wed	30 May	OW Golf v School	Croham Hurst	
Sat	2 June	2ndXI v Esher	H LG	1.00
Sat	2 June	School 1stXI v Brighton	H	11.00
Sun	3 June	1stXI v Wimbledon	H	2.00
Sat	9 June	1stXI v Ashtead	H LG	11.30
Sun	10 June	1stXI v Kent Ramblas	H	2.00
Sun	10 June	WVRC LMRA 3	Bisley	08.30
Sat	16 June	1stXI v Brook	H LG	11.30
Sat	16 June	School 1stXI v Bradfield	H	11.00
Sun	17 June	OWA 1stXI v Haileybury (Cricketer Cup)	A	11.30
Sun	17 June	1stXI v Wind and Willow	H	2.00
Sat	23 June	2ndXI v Purley	H LG	1.00
Sat	23 June	School 1stXI v Dulwich	H	11.00
Sun	24 June	1stXI v Addiscombe	H	2.00
Wed	27 June	School 1stXI v MCC	H	11.30
Sat	30 June	1stXI v Beddington	H LG	11.30
Sat	30 June	School 1stXI v Harrow	A	11.00
Sun	1 July	1stXI v Norwood	H	2.00
Thurs	5 July	School 1stXI v Christchurch (Aus)	H	11.00
Thurs	26 July	OWGS Captain's Day	Shirley Park	
Sun	16 Sept	OWGS President's Cup	Royal Ashdown	

FROM THE EDITOR

Founder's Day was again celebrated at the Chapel in Whitgift House when our traditional OWA striped blazer made its welcome reappearance, together with the 'whyte gifte' buttonhole. The blazer is now available in the school shop, together with all the other regular OW items of clothing and equipment.

The School Boat Club now has two more boats named 'Lord Howard' and 'Brygges', which was named after Mr Ambrose Brygges the School's first Headmaster (1600-1601)

Grant Eustace's hour-long maritime-history drama-documentary that he scripted for a producer in Denmark, *The Ship That Changed The World*, has just won a Gold in its category at the 2012 WorldMediaFestival



TRIVIA TRAIL

"It's not an easy task to formally declare a new pub 'open'. However the Deputy Mayor of Kingston, Geoff Austin had the assistance of two OWs, Terry Brown and Jeremy Ray (plus of course their wives) when he cut the ribbon at the formal opening of 'The Watchman', a new Weatherspoons pub in New Malden."

OW FUNDRAISERS

Congratulations to our fundraising members such as Martin Clews, who is sailing around the Isle of Wight, Richard Hunter who ran round New York City in aid of prostate cancer (£3,500) whilst no doubt selling outrageous dummy passes to the locals, and even Ian Watson who will be walking round the Croydon Hilton Hotel – a massive 1.1 miles – on Sunday 20 May at noon in aid of the Red Gates Special Needs School.



Richard Hunter

WHITGIFT VETERANS RIFLE CLUB

REPORT - Alan Hunter

It is with deep regret that I have to commence this report with the news that Maureen, the dear wife of Stuart Ebbutt passed away on 24 March after a short illness. Stuart has been a member of the Vets. since the 1950s, and our sympathy and condolences go out to both he and his family at this very sad time.

“Spring is sprung“...or so they say and as such I have taken the opportunity to sort through my tickets (??) for London 2012 [cough...!]

However, events that can be applied for successfully, and attended, are the 6 shoots of the WVRC Full-Bore season at Bisley, starting in earnest on 15 April with the LMRA Round I shot over 300 & 500 yards. This follows on from a very well attended practice day some 3 weeks earlier, which hopefully will pay dividends in this first match.

The further 4 matches within the time period of this Newsletter are as referenced above, under ‘WHAT’S ON’.

On the 20 March we held our AGM at the OW Clubhouse which apart from the usual agenda mix, saw Des Franklin standing down from the Hon. Secretary role - the result of increasing work commitments - after several years in that most onerous of club positions. Many thanks Des for all the hard work you’ve put in, undertaken in your inimitable style, and welcome to Simon Lacey who has gallantly agreed to take on the role after only a few years membership.

We recently concluded our Winter 2011/12 Small-Bore League Competition, shot over 10 rounds, with our ‘A’ and ‘B’ teams finishing splendidly in 1st and 2nd places within their respective divisions. The ‘A’ team now go on to shoot for the Forsyth Trophy later this month. Well done to all who competed.

Congratulations also to Guy Hart and Doug Stewart for both winning their divisions in the Individual competition, and well done to Justin Coe for finishing second in his division.

You may recall that some time ago, I reported that the Vets. intended adding two new disciplines to their repertoire, namely, Blackpowder and Gallery Rifle shooting, under the expertise of Graham Clark. This intent is now approaching fruition and as such I attach an update from Graham:-

“The main disciplines of target shooting followed by the Vets. over its 115 years have been small-bore and full-bore rifle shooting. We had a period from the mid sixties to the nineties when we had a very active small-bore pistol section, however, this had to be disbanded after the general pistol ban which followed the tragedy of Dunblane.

Many pistol shots switched to firing Cap and Ball pistols and revolvers (using Blackpowder) which were not banned. Additionally, the discipline of ‘gallery rifle’ expanded. The gallery rifle is the term the NRA use to describe under lever carbines that all will be familiar with as the Winchester repeater rifle of Wild West fame: firing, in the main, pistol calibres.

There are now many competitions for such firearms, and to this end the Vets. have obtained two blackpowder revolvers. Namely, a Ruger ‘Old Army’ and a Rogers and Spencer; six shot cap and ball revolvers, both in .44 calibre and stainless steel.

We also have a Winchester Legacy carbine in .357 magnum.

The Club will shortly be holding a ‘dry run’ session in both disciplines at the school range, with instruction being given by a Senior Coach and a Range Conducting Officer, both from the NRA, as well as a Registered Firearms Dealer.

Anyone interested in attending and thus gaining an insight into this most interesting (and cheap discipline) is invited to make contact and will then be kept informed of dates/times”

As usual, and in conclusion, let me remind readers that we are always open to new members - from OWs as well as former and current members of the teaching and OWA staff.

Small bore shooting takes place every Tuesday evening throughout the year at the school range [19.00 - 21.00 app.] after which there is always the option to enjoy a beer at the Clubhouse, plus the occasional curry outing!

Anyone interested in a chance to resurrect old shooting abilities or to give it a try for the first time, please contact Simon Lacey at secretary@wvrc.org.uk or have a look at the Vets’ developing website at www.wvrc.org.uk.

FIVES CLUB REPORT – Nick Woolfenden

As we approach the close of the OW 5s Club 50th Anniversary season, we can reflect back on an enjoyable and successful year.

The season kicked off on a sunny day in October, with over 30 OW 5s players from over the years gathering for a great lunch at the OWA Clubhouse, celebrating 50 years since the Club was set up.

We played eight games this year, with 'local' opposition including Christ's Hospital (masters/old boys and the school 1st four), Old Tonbridgians and the Rugby Fives Association. Further afield we had another enjoyable South West Tour playing at Sherborne, Tiverton and Clifton. Tally for the season so far (with a few games still to come) is six wins and two losses, good results given some very tough opposition along the way.

We had good turn-outs for both our Club doubles and singles competitions, with Tony Hamilton & Peter Ross proving strongest in the former, and Ed Hatton proving a worthy victor in the latter.

We rounded off the season with our AGM at the Clubhouse in mid-April. Looking beyond our own Club fixtures, we were pleased to hear that Tony Hamilton recently reached the National Vintage singles final. At a rather different point on the age-spectrum, it was also fantastic to hear that the Whitgift schoolboy pairing of Charlie Mabbutt & Ben Ford won the national U14 doubles championship, battling through to be victorious in a tough field. Along with strong performances from other Whitgiftians, this is a great sign for the future!

Thank you to all who have played and helped organise the Club’s matches and other activities. We're also pleased to have welcomed a few retuning players during the course of this year - we continue to play socially most Thursday evenings at the school courts (player numbers/matches/court conditions allowing!). New/returning players are always welcome to join our friendly crowd of 5s-lovers, so do please contact Nick Woolfenden (nickw5s@hotmail.com) if you'd like any more information.

OW GOLF REPORT – Peter Gale

Whilst much of OW golf is played on a ‘social’ basis, there is a more competitive side to the society and nothing comes more competitive than the Halford Hewitt. Former pupils of

64 schools contest this annual knockout competition at Deal and Sandwich on the Kent coast, with five pairs representing each school in a foursomes format. The weather this time around was delightful, and the sun certainly shone on the Whitgift team for the first two rounds. Edinburgh were comfortably beaten 4-1 (Whitgift were ahead in both of the two 'halved' matches, which were called off when the match was decided) and Lancing 3.5-1.5. However Charterhouse, who have a formidable record in the competition, were a tougher proposition in the third round and eventually beat Whitgift 3-2 in a desperately close tie. With Stuart Hollins and Martin Hayes winning their match 3&2, and last pair Richard Gibson and Alex Atkinson prevailing by a similar margin, it was down to the fourth pairing of Matt Dawton and Neill Williams to try to get the overall victory. Despite being three holes down with five to play, they fought back to square the match on the 18th after Charterhouse lost a ball with their drive. It is understood that some 30 people were looking for the ball, although no Whitgiftians have been reported as being amongst them! So the match went to extra holes. A monster drive down the first left Charterhouse with an easier approach to the green, and they squeezed through to the next round. They went on to win the competition, beating Epsom, also 3-2, in the final. Whilst Whitgift are still seeking their first Hewitt trophy, for Charterhouse this was their seventeenth success! It's always best to go out to the eventual winners, although to run them so close makes it all the more agonising! However, some consolation was obtained earlier in the same week. The traditional opener to the Halford Hewitt is the Peter Kenyon Bowl, which is a scratch stableford competition played at Littlestone, open to any pair from the competing schools. This year, many congratulations are due to Stuart Hollins and Martin Hayes, who emerged victorious and therefore notched up Whitgift's second win in three years (Nic Gates and Neill Williams won in 2010).

The golf society is always keen to welcome new members. You don't have to have a single figure handicap – far from it! Pupils, old boys or parents who are interested in playing golf with the society are invited to look at the website (<http://www.owa.org/node/50>) where full details of the season's fixtures can be found. How about joining us at Cuddington on 24th May for our evening meeting?

Peter Gale (peterbgale@sky.com) - Secretary

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL – Phil Fladgate

(The building works are now well underway for the new boarding house; the site is where the Memorial car park was, alongside the Water Gardens. This facility will enhance the School's provision, allowing boys to participate in flexi, weekly and full boarding. OWs will now be able to send their sons and grandsons to Whitgift, even if they live outside the area. The boarding house will open in September 2013; information about the build is available on the School's website – www.whitgift.co.uk and includes a time-lapse film to show progress with the build.

One of the highlights of the second half of term was the School Musical 'The Producers' by Mel Brooks; this was a marvellous production and played to full houses for four nights. There were remarkable individual performances, notably from Stuart Nunn and Geddy Stringer in the lead roles and Tom Simpson and Will Tomsett. The orchestra, conducted by Mr Alan Weakley, sounded wonderful, as was

the singing, choreography, scenery, staging and lighting. Mr Lloyd Beecham, the 'producer' was ably supported by a team of staff with many talents; the show was thoroughly entertaining and I am sure that everyone who attended had a most enjoyable evening.

A new academic initiative, focused upon STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), was introduced across all year groups; pupils now enjoy a wide variety of STEM activities both in and out of the classroom. The Whitgift Chemistry team reached the regional finals of the Chemistry Challenge.

On the sporting front the hockey season has continued to go well. The U18s have qualified for the National Finals again and the U12s and U13s have become Surrey County Champions. There is still quite a lot of hockey to be played – both at County and National level. The U13 Football team won the Independent Schools FA Cup, defeating Brentwood School 2-1 at the Burton Albion ground; several of the age group teams are still involved in cup competitions. Reise Allassani, aged only 16, has signed a full contract with Crystal Palace. The rugby 7s competitions have nearly been completed; the U15s won the Surrey 7s and the John Fisher 7s; the U13s reached the semi-final of the National 7s at Rosslyn Park and won the Bedford Modern 7s. The 1st 7 were Runners-up at the Hampton 7s and in the last rugby event of the season, the 1st 7 were Runners-up in the Open competition at the National Schools Sevens at Rosslyn Park, losing in the final to Coleg Sir Gar from Wales. Henry Cheeseman and Seb Adeniran-Olule have been selected for the England U16 XV. (they won both their games – ed.) Frankie Taggart was selected for Ireland U18XV.

The swimmers picked up more trophies at Crystal Palace recently; the 4 x 100m Freestyle relay team coming 2nd in the Bath Cup and the Medley team came 3rd in the Otter Cup. Eighteen Whitgift boys took part in the British Schools' Biathlon Championships at Crystal Palace; Adam Bambroffe won Silver in the Year 6 category and Henry Chong Bronze in the Year 10. In the team competition Whitgift won Gold in the Year 9 and Year 10 events and bronze in Year 7. Basketball has come a long way recently and the U15 team reached the final of the London Independent Schools' Basketball Association Cup, losing very narrowly.

The Comedy Night held in the Concert Hall at the beginning of March featuring, Dom Holland, Hal Cruttenden and Bob Miles, was a great success and raised over £1,500 for the chosen charities – Childreach International and Tapologo.

There was a visit from a delegation from Keio School in Japan during the last week of term; there were also visits from exchange schools in Urawa (Japan) and Zaragoza (Spain). The U3rd CCF Recruits' Camp took place at Longmoor in Hampshire also during the last week of term.

There are various tours, trips and exchanges taking place over the next couple of weeks to South Africa, Iceland, France, Dubai and even Exmoor!!

NEWSLETTER 342 covering July/August closes Saturday 16 June. All news and photographs (preferably e-mailed) should be sent to the Clubhouse at clubhouse@owa.org and to the Editor at maryblundell@hotmail.com or post to 7 Peaks Hill, Purley Surrey, CR8 3JG.

Landmark for Bunn



RECORD-BREAKER: Jon Bunn (centre) set a new appearance record for Old Whitgiftians on Saturday with his 408th game for the club

"ONCE you are an Old Whit, you are always an Old Whit."

This might appear to be somewhat of a cliché, but when you consider the words have come from Old Whitgiftians' prop Jon Bunn, who set a new club appearance record with his 408th game in the win over Old Walcountians, then the phrase carries more gravitas.

Playing in his 24th consecutive season, the 41-year-old overtook previous record holder Gerry Bowthorpe, who made a speech during the pre-match supporters' lunch congratulating Bunn on his achievement.

Bunn was delighted to have reached the milestone and said everything about Saturday was perfect.

"My father said Saturday was my whole career in one game," he said. "It was a lovely day, the sun shone, it was a really good game, we won and I scored a try."

"Gerry (Bowthorpe) made a nice speech

before the match at the lunch, as he kind of handed over the mantle to me. It was a great day – the club gave me a magnum of Champagne and it couldn't have gone any better."

Old Whits won 23-19 on Saturday against a relegation-threatened Old Walcountians, in a game that ebbed and flowed with the lead exchanging hands several times in the first half.

Behind by eight points at half-time, Old Whits were resurgent in the second half, with Bunn's try helping his side overturn the deficit and drive towards victory.

And a firm defence sealed the Surrey League One points, giving Bunn the ideal result on his landmark appearance.

He said: "I am very lucky to have played so many games, as playing as a prop is quite attritional and I have managed not to pick up any serious injuries. Obviously I ache, I am still a bit sore from Saturday, but I love playing for Old Whits. I am very much a one club man – once you are an Old Whit, you are always an Old Whit."

In his 24 years at the club, Bunn has been

part of a number of successful sides and has seen players come and go.

"Saturday was obviously very special and is a great memory, but there are some other ones," he said. "I have won the Surrey Shield a couple of times and I will always remember those times. Having a cup run always brings the team together and is special. The promotions were good also and I have been lucky to have been a part of a team that has had good times."

So what now for Bunn and how long can he keep playing?

"I have two sons, one 14 and the other 15, and they both play at scrum-half," he said. "I would love to play in the same team as them, to run out with them for a match. That means I have to play for another couple of years, which is my aim. I want to keep on playing for as long as I can, take it match by match and keep my place in the team. If I can still do a job for the team, then I will. I love the challenge of going up against a younger prop on the opposing team and being able to use all the little tricks I have."

RECENTLY NOTIFIED DEATHS

Mr B W Atkins (48 -51) in 1977

Mr P D Arnold (49-55) Date Unknown

Mr J M Bates (52-60) on 15/01/12 aged 69

Mr J D Baxter (02-09) on 22/01/12 aged 27

Mr P W Leach (45-52) in Dec 2011

Mr G J Piper (37-41) on 04/02/2012 aged 86

Mr D A Sayers (41-48) on 03/03/12 aged 81

Mr D Staples (46-52) on 19/02/2012 aged 75

Mr R G Tucker (46-52) on 06/03/2012 aged 75

Lord W Wedderburn Fba Qc (43-45) on 09/03/12 aged 84

Sq Ldr P J Veal (49-56) on 19/02/12