

# OLD WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER 342

JULY/AUGUST 2012

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

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tues	3 July	Music Concert	School	7.30
Thurs	12 July	WVRC PSV Dinner	Bisley	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
17/18/19	July	OWCC Cricket Week Lunches	Clubhouse	12.00
Fri	14 Sept	OW Corps of Drums	Clubhouse	8.00
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	Remembrance Service	School	10.30
Fri	9 Nov	OWCC Dinner	Clubhouse	7.00
Fri	16 Nov	1997-2006 Reunion Dinner	Clubhouse	7.30
Thurs	22 Nov	School Music Concert	Fairfield Halls	7.30
12 – 15	Dec	School Production - Little Shop of Horrors	School	7.30
Wed	19 Dec	School Carol Service	Croydon Minster	7.30

## WHAT'S ON

Sun	1 July	Whitgift Mitres v Shrewsbury	A	C Cup	11.30
Sun	1 July	1stXI v Norwood	H		2.00
Thurs	5 July	School 1stXI v Christchurch (Aus)	H		11.00
Sat	7 July	1stXI v Spencer	H	LG	11.30
Sun	8 July	1stXI v John Fisher	H		2.00

Thurs	12 July	WVRC PSV	Bisley		4.30
Sat	14 July	2ndXI v Sanderstead	H	LG	1.00
Sun	15 July	1stXI v Verdayne	H		2.00
Mon	16 July	1stXI v Honesti	H		2.00
Tues	17 July	1stXI v Stoics	H		11.30
Wed	18 July	1stXI v Paralytics	H		11.30
Thurs	19 July	1stXI v Dubai International	H		11.30
Fri	20 July	1stXI v Trinity MidWhits	H		2.00
Sat	21 July	1stXI v Valley End	H	LG	11.30
Thurs	26 July	OWGS Captain's Day	Shirley Park		
Sun	29 July	1stXI v Cuddington	H		2.00
Sat	4 Aug	2ndXI v Bank of England	H	LG	1.00
Sun	5 Aug	1stXI v Catford	H		2.00
Sat	11 Aug	1stXI v Purley	H	LG	12.30
Sun	12 Aug	1stXI v Roan	H		2.00
Sat	18 Aug	2ndXI v Camberley	H	LG	1.00
Sun	19 Aug	1stXI v Hamsey Green	H		2.00
Sat	25 Aug	1stXI v East Molesey	H	LG	12.30
Sun	26 Aug	1stXI v Sutton	H		2.00
Sat	1 Sept	2ndXI v Worcester Park	H	LG	12.00
Sun	2 Sept	1stXI v Flying Ducksman	H		1.00
Sat	8 Sept	2ndXI v Old Rutlishians	H	LG	12.00
Sun	9 Sept	1stXI v Worcester Park	H		1.00
Sun	16 Sept	OWGS President's Cup	Royal Ashdown		

## FROM THE EDITOR

What a busy bunch we all are, with over 120 members travelling from very far and wide (USA and NZ) to be at the Annual Dinner held in the Great Hall of Old Palace, Croydon.



Gen Sir Peter Wall, having recently dropped in by helicopter to the School for the AGI, enjoyed his trip down the Thames at the Jubilee River Pageant with the Middleton family. Jonathan Gill, as part of the JLS group, played the Jubilee Concert outside Buckingham Palace, whilst the six OW P and M members of the HAC paraded at the Mansion House and the Guildhall.

Our Olympic volunteers are busy preparing for the Games with Chris Martin and Mike Thorn both carrying the torch on Friday 20 July. Mike will

also be on Games duty in the Mall before he takes up his next appointment as Rotarian District Governor for local district 1140 – possibly another OW first.

The usual busy autumn events season is not far away with the Sportsman's Lunch and area dinners, but "pay attention at the back" this year the Remembrance Service is on Friday 9 November at the School, and will be followed by a small informal lunch for attending members. Please let the Clubhouse know if you are interested in attending this lunch.

## TRIVIA TRAIL

Our thanks go to Nigel Bowthorpe for producing the framed montage of the School's 1stXV second consecutive victory of the Daily Mail Cup at Twickenham which is now proudly displayed in the Croham Road clubhouse.

## OW GOLF REPORT – Peter Gale

At the time of writing, the pros are battling it out in the second 'major' of the year, the US Open. For the OWGS, the second major competition of the year, after the Halford Hewitt, is the

Grafton Morrish. News of a successful Grafton Morrish qualifying round comes from captain Nic Gates -

'Royal Wimbledon was hotter than in Athens on the day of the rearranged Grafton Morrish Qualifying. The original attempt at qualifying was scheduled for what turned out to be the middle of the wettest drought in history which left the course underwater and unplayable. There was little to no breeze that made playing most uncomfortable at times, and the greens were playing particularly firmly. Whitgift were paired with St John's Leatherhead who all proved to be very good company. The

format for qualifying is scratch stableford, a difficult format around a dry, bouncy, hot course. The first pairing of Gates and Ufton had a strong front nine before the heat took its toll and they faded a little on the back nine, finishing with 25 points, the generally agreed target for the day. The second pairing of Webster and Blundell had the opposite round with a fairly exciting front nine, exploring some of the more exotic parts of Wimbledon, before improving on the back nine for a total of 22 stableford points. Our final, experienced, pair of Hayes and Williams had a good front nine, and despite fading a little in the sunshine (understandable with their combined age of 90!) finished with a very creditable 29 points. This gave the school a total of 76 points which was enough to qualify in joint 5th for the finals in Norfolk in October'.

Well done to all six – the Morrish finals are held on 5th -7th October at Hunstanton and Brancaster.

For the lesser mortals amongst us, who rely on handicaps (significant in some cases), there have been two meetings since the last report. In the midst of heavy rain and storms elsewhere in the south east, Piltdown was miraculously dry for the President's meeting on 20th April; just a little wind to test the participants. It scarcely bothered the top two, Terry Newman and Peter Jones, who both scored 39 points, with Terry declared the winner on countback (a mere 24 points on the back nine!). John Butler again finished third, as he did last year, this time with 36 points. Widely acclaimed as Terry's victory was, strangely it prompted an emergency resolution amongst the members to deprive the winner of this and future events of two shots from their handicap (there is a recession on, and we think the super-talented should bear their fair share of the burden). Many thanks to Mike Spanswick for providing, and presenting, the President's prize.

For those interested in playing, the OWGS is open to parents of Whitgiftians as well as OWs themselves, and it turned out to be parents' evening at Cuddington on 24th May. There were three OW parents in a field of 21 contesting the Hornsey Walker Cup and the Veterans' Cup, and those three occupied all the prize winning places, with Brian O'Lunaigh topping the pile after a 40-point round in which he scored 15 pars. Peter Jones and Peter Kelley followed at a respectful distance with a very commendable 35 points; Peter Jones edged the countback and so won the Veteran's Cup. It was a great evening with glorious weather and a course in top condition - to be revisited maybe in future years!

Good news of the school's golf academy, which OWs will find of interest. Neil Kendrick (head of golf) reports that George Mullins has had his handicap cut to 0.4, becoming the golf academy's first scratch player, at 15 years old. George was part of the academy's first intake when the school started the scheme back in 2008.

Elsewhere, the school has followed up its 6th place in the ISGA finals at Carnoustie by qualifying for the HMC foursomes finals later in the year at Burnham & Berrow. Neil thinks that this is the first time the school has qualified for this since 1995 (indeed, Chris Jones confirms that the school got to the finals in 95-96 with a team comprising Dawton, Bulteel, Atkinson, Jones, Greengrass, and Jarvis. We won the Plate. Brian Griffiths was in charge in those days).

The OWGS received a further reminder of the growing strength in school golf in the annual triangular match against the school and the masters, played at Croham Hurst. Last year the OWs won, but this year, the school team scored a convincing victory, with 19 points against the OWs' 13.25 and the masters' 8.75 (No, I don't understand the scoring either, but 'convincing' appears a suitable description).

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 Shirley Park on 26th July for our Captain's Day meeting?

## **WHITGIFT VETERANS RIFLE CLUB REPORT -**

### **Alan Hunter**

Welcome to Summer?? - or so the calendar says!

Since my last submission, we are now well into our Summer Full Bore season and enjoying(?), the mixed weather conditions experienced these past couple of months. Ironically though, as I draft this report, it is dry and sunny! Sadly the Vets are not competing at Bisley this particular weekend.

To start with though, congratulations are due to our Small Bore 'A' Team, who having won their division, went on to shoot for the Forsyth Trophy, competing against the winners of the other 6 divisions. Our team shot brilliantly and came away victorious, winning the trophy for the first time in some years! Well done to Rob Beere (98), Guy Riches (97), Bruce Barry (97), Jack Furtado (99) and Nick Harman (96).

I should clarify that the figures in brackets do of course refer to scores ex 100 and not to age or IQ!!

On 15 April we shot the first of three rounds in the LMRA League over 300 & 500 yards: finishing in 4th place.

Some weeks later the Vets. competed in the LMRA. PSV Match over 300 & 600 yards. First shot in 1978 having been instigated - and the winner's trophy provided - by the WVRC. The Vets' two teams finished in third and fourth position respectively. The winners were Old Epsomians - no surprises there! - with their impressive membership of over 75, comprising some 20 international shots!

Our leading scorer was Nick Harman with 96.10.

The Surrey PSV was shot a week later, again at 300 & 600 yards: sadly I do not appear to have results for this event, but doubtless the OEs - as above - will have featured!

On 20 May the Vets competed in the 2nd Round of the LMRA League, over the familiar 300 & 600 yards. This time finishing in 3rd place.

The third and final round of the LMRA League took place on 10 June, over 900 & 1000 yards. This was our best showing in the competition and we finished the day in 2nd place, with a final ranking of 3rd place on aggregate over the three rounds. Our best two performers overall were Justin Coo and Paul Nalson.

All credit and thanks to those members who have represented the Vets. so well and who have also made some very early morning starts to several of these Bisley matches.

Namely, Messrs. Graham Clark, Justin Coo, Jack Furtado, Nick Harman, Simon Lacey, Paul Nalson, Adrian Oliver, Robert Price, Ian Todd and John Twyford. With a special thanks to Liz Twyford who stood in at very short notice for one of the matches.

Our final Bisley competition of the season is the National Rifle Association PSV, held on the afternoon of Thursday 12 July with one shoot at 500 yards. We are entering 3 teams of 5 as per most years. This event will be followed by the annual informal dinner at the Artists Rifles club house, bringing our annual FB competition calendar to a convivial conclusion.

The Whitgift Rifle Club maintains its momentum under the excellent leadership of Peter Morrison, with some assistance from the Vets. At the moment though, exams are affecting the weekly afternoon shoots for the obvious reasons.

The Veterans' Small Bore shooting activity takes place every Tuesday evening throughout the year at the school range [19.00 - 21.30 app.] after which some may care to enjoy a beer at Croham Road. Not forgetting of course, the fragrant allures of the occasional Tuesday evening outing of the unofficial 'Veterans Curry Club' - after shooting! - for a bit of a gastro workout, or ring of fire for the brave hearted!

Given the above, if any of you have a yearn to follow up a chance to revitalise old shooting abilities, or indeed 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' [slowly] developing website on www.wvrc.org.uk.

### **NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL – Phil Fladgate**

At the start of term the U18 and the U14 Hockey teams both became National Champions winning their respective competitions at Cannock HC. The U14s beat RGS, High Wycombe 2-0 and the U18s defeated local rivals Kingston GS 2-1 in a very close-fought final. In Fives Ben Ford and Charlie Mabbutt won the National Schools' Championships U14 title at St Paul's. In the Public Schools' Fencing Championships at Crystal Palace, Joshua Miller came 3rd in the U14 Epee and Whitgift came 5th in the overall team event (105 schools participated).

Despite the weather the Boarding House has been going up rapidly and is expected to be open for the start of the Michaelmas Term 2013, but the weather has had a devastating effect on the cricket season; nearly one hundred matches have been called off so far this term. The 1st XI has, however, managed to progress in the National T20 Competition, defeating Alwyn's, Dulwich and Hampton in the early rounds. The Swimming team has had a successful term, especially in the London Schools' Competition. There has also been success in rowing at U 14 level. The golfers (Tom Bloxsome, James Beck, George Mullins, Joe Carmody-Firth, Harry Byers and Chuck Adolphy) have progressed to the finals of the HMC Foursomes, which will be played at Burnham Berrow GC in July.

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra/Whitgift Chamber Orchestra Russian Concert at the Cadogan Hall at the end of April was a great success and played to a large audience. Tim Posner (LV1th), a cellist, gave a solo performance of outstanding maturity and musicality.

Mark Collard (LV1th), who was awarded an RAF Gliding Scholarship earlier in the year, took part in an intensive five day course at RAF Abingdon. He achieved his 'silver-blue wings' on reaching solo status and was selected (one of three) for Advanced Glider Training; he was then awarded his 'gold wings.'

There have been various visitors to the School this term, most notably the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Peter Wall KCB CBE ADC ('65-'73), who acted as the Reviewing Officer for the AGI. He was most impressed with what he saw, especially the Guard of Honour and the Corps of Drums, and the fact that Keith Smith (CO of the CCF) had managed to persuade an Apache helicopter to drop in for the afternoon. Lt-Col James Coates OBE ('81-'88) of the Parachute Regiment and Lt-Col Peter Stitt ('82-'90) of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers were also in attendance.

The Nobel Prize Winner for Literature in 1992, Derek Walcott OBE, visited the School in April and gave a reading from a selection of his poems; he also answered questions from an enthusiastic audience of aspiring young writers.

Violinist Grig Cuciuc ('09-'11), who is now in his first year at the Royal College of Music, returned to the school to give a concert

at the end of May alongside Russian pianist Diana Galakhova. 'An evening of true pleasure,' said Julia Desbruslais (Cellist and Member of the London Mozart Players) in a review.

The author, Andrew Hammond, was invited to the Library in early May and signed copies of books in his CRYPT series – 'The Gallows Curse' and 'Traitors Revenge.'

The end of term is not far away, internal and external exams are nearly over and term ends with the Celebration of Whitgift Life on 6th July. Bob McGrath is retiring after 30 years service to Whitgift; he has been Head of Classics since 1995 when he succeeded John Lee, he was Housemaster of Tate's and coached various rugby and cricket teams.

Events of note during the second half of term are: UV1th Graduation, Big School, 22nd June; the Lower School Play 'The Hound of the Baskervilles,' Big School, 7.30pm, 28th/29th/30th June; the WCO/RPO English Summer Concert, Concert Hall, 7.30pm, 3rd July. Tickets for the Lower School Play and the WCO/RPO Concert are available from the School Office 02086889222 or Rebecca@whitgift.co.uk

**PS** Two Cyprus Rugby Internationals – Kyri (00-07) and George Antoniadis(01-08) – these two brothers recently played against Greece at Paphos (Cyprus) and the match was won by Cyprus 72-5. There was a piece on Total Rugby (Sky Sports) about the Cyprus team; they have only lost one game in 20 internationals since the team was formed in 2007.

### **EAST ANGLIA BRANCH DINNER – John Humphries**

This year's dinner of the East Anglia branch of the OWA will be held on Saturday October 13th at St. Catherine's College Cambridge. We have held our annual dinner at several Cambridge colleges and now we add St. Catherine's to the list. The venue has been arranged by Don Broom, a fellow of St Catherine's, who I am sure many of you will know.

Please reserve this date in your diary and further details will be sent to you later.

### **RUGBY CLUB REPORT – Sam Barke**

It is a pleasure and privilege to write to you in my recently elected role as Chairman of the OWRFC. Thanks must go to Mark Endersby for holding the reigns for the last 2 seasons and I am delighted that he will continue to be involved with the club as Chairman of the Juniors.

We go forward in a reasonably comfortable position on the pitch. Both the 1stXV & Wanderers had good seasons, finishing mid table in Surrey 1 and Surrey Alliance respectively. The 1stXV also made it to the Surrey Shield final but unfortunately came away without the silverware, losing to a well drilled Old Wimbledonians 17 - 31 in horrible May weather. I think it is fair to say the Warriors have struggled this year – certainly not because of any lack of dedication or enthusiasm by those involved, but mainly due to lack of regular players and players moving up the sides because of injuries. I am confident this is something we can rectify in the coming season.

The juniors continue to go from strength to strength. It's fantastic to see Croham Rd covered in red, black & blue on a Sunday morning with over 200 children learning to play on the field of

**NEWSLETTER 343 covering September/October closes Saturday 18 August.** All news and photographs (preferably e-mailed) should be sent to the Clubhouse on clubhouse@owa.org and to the Editor at maryblundell@hotmail.com or post to 7 Peaks Hill, Purley Surrey, CR8 3JG.



dreams. It won't be long until we start seeing the hard work of the Junior coaches pay dividends to the senior sides as players move up through the age groups.

So, to the future. We have an "all change" committee in place and it's great to see some past players getting back involved with the running of the club. Iain Cotton has agreed to become Club President and Jim Mon will be taking on the Club Treasurer role. Les Todd, having been forced into early retirement through injury, is now Club Secretary with Andreas Dracoulis taking his place as Club Captain. All team Captains have agreed to carry on which will hopefully provide a little consistency!

Our main objective for the coming season is to be able to put out 3 full sides, without a struggle, every Saturday. For this to be achieved we need a strong recruitment drive over the summer so I appeal to all members to promote the club to their friends/family/work colleagues.

The club continues to be run by volunteers – all of whom work full time. We are always happy to share out the load a little so if you feel you are able to offer some assistance, no matter how small, please do get in touch. In particular we would love to hear

from willing match-day managers for the 1stXV & Wanderers to take pressure off the captains on Saturdays. On top of this we are, as ever, on the lookout for Club Sponsors to enable the OWRFC to provide the best facilities, kit, balls etc for our players. We would welcome all levels of sponsorship whether you want to have a pitch side advertisement or sponsor the 1XV shorts we will be able to accommodate a deal to suit you.

### **OW CORPS OF DRUMS - Richard Bateman**

The Society played at two venues this summer. Firstly at our old Regimental Museum at Clandon Park, near Guildford, where we were well received again, then at a new venue arranged by our second most senior drummer and distinguished F flautist, John Jacobson. This was at the bandstand at Battersea Park supporting the Metropolitan Police Open Day where clement weather brought out a good and appreciative crowd.

Our next rehearsal is on Friday 14 September at the Clubhouse in Croham Road at 8.00pm. This date has been chosen to accommodate any students before they return to university.



## **SAILING CLUB ARROW TROPHY 2012**



We would like to draw your attention to an event taking place on the 6th/7th October this year. The Arrow Trophy is a sailing regatta for former students of independent schools. It provides an excellent opportunity to take on some old rivals in the form of Wellington, Dulwich, Harrow, Tonbridge, Ampleforth and many more. 2012 will be the first time that Whitgift has ever participated. We plan to establish an Old Whitgiftian Sailing Club which will organise the team for the event annually and arrange events for members throughout the year. The club will be open to novices and advanced sailors alike. To enter the Arrow Trophy we require a group of between 8 and 12 people who are enthusiastic and competitive. No previous sailing experience is required as training will be provided by James Wilkie

So, if you are looking to try something new and this sounds like an event you would like to be involved in then this is your opportunity to take part! The Arrow Trophy takes place in the Solent, starting from Portsmouth, spending a night in Cowes on the Isle of Wight, before heading back to Portsmouth. The racing will be in Sunsail F40 yachts, a fleet of comfortable, yet fast, 40 foot boats. They are identical so the difference is in how you sail them!

For the Arrow Trophy James Wilkie (OW 02-10) will be leading and coaching the team. He is a RYA/MCA

Commercially Endorsed Yachtmaster Offshore and qualified to skipper yachts up to 200 tonnes. After taking up competitive sailing in 2009 he was trained by former Olympic sailor Peter Newlands. Since then he has achieved numerous race wins, including winning the nonstop Sevenstar Round Britain & Ireland Race and first overall at the First 40.7 European Championships. As a racing skipper he regularly competes at industry regattas including; Little Britain Challenge Cup (Construction), Silicon Cup (IT), and also at top events such as Aberdeen Asset Management Cowes Week and the JP Morgan Round the Island Race (the UK's fourth largest participation event).

This year he will represent Great Britain for the second time at the Commodores' Cup, regarded as the highest level of sailing outside of the professional circuit. He says "My goal is to bring as much knowledge as possible to the Old Whitgiftian Sailing Team to ensure a strong result in the Arrow Trophy in 2012."

**We are informed that Laurence Okoye (2003-2010) has been selected by Team GB for the discus at the Olympics, and offer our congratulations, and we will be cheering for him on the day.**