

OLD WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER 343

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2012

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

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Sat	8 Sept	WSC Summer Ball	Selsdon Park	6.45
Fri	14 Sept	OW Corps of Drums	Clubhouse	8.00
Sat	22 Sept	Open Morning	School	9 – 1.00
Sat	29 Sept	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	Clubhouse	12.00
Sat	13 Oct	Sportsman's Lunch	School	12.00
Sat	13 Oct	East Anglia Dinner	Cambridge	6.00
Thurs	18 Oct	School Music Collection	School	7.30
Fri	26 Oct	OWA Oxford Dinner	Oriel College	6.30
Sat	27 Oct	OWRFC Past Players Lunch	Clubhouse	12.00
Thurs	8 Nov	Careers Conversazione	School	7.00
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
Tues	4 Dec	OWCC AGM	Clubhouse	8.15
Sun	9 Dec	Christmas Lunch	Clubhouse	12.00
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

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	9 Sept	OWGS Barnett Trophy	The Addington		1.00
Sat	15 Sept	School 1stXV v Stowe	H		3.15
Sun	16 Sept	OWGS President's Cup	Royal Ashdown		
Sat	22 Sept	Wands XV v Camberley	H	LG	3.00
Sat	22 Sept	School 1stXV v Skinners	A		2.00
Sat	29 Sept	1stXV v Kingston	H	LG	3.00
Sat	29 Sept	School 1stXV v Wellington	H		2.30
Sat	6 Oct	Wands XV v Dorking	H	LG	3.00
Sat	6 Oct	School 1stXV v Warwick	A		2.30
Sat	13 Oct	School 1stXV v John Fisher	H		2.30
Fri	19 Oct	School 1stXV v Sedbergh	A		1.00
Sat	20 Oct	Wands XV v Arioeh	H	LG	3.00
Sat	27 Oct	1stXV v Old Walcountians	H	LG	3.00
Sat	3 Nov	Wands XV v Mayfair	H	LG	2.45

FROM THE EDITOR

After 106 years the Association moves onward. Formed on the 1st April 1906 the OWA will now split on 1st October 2012 into the Whitgiftian Association, basing the alumni section at the School,

and leaving the sporting sections at Croham Road as the Whitgiftian Sports Club Limited.

The Association has achieved much over the years with OWs taking prominent roles in public, business and sporting

life, all of which our founder John Whitgift would have been very proud. With the School driving forward on all fronts the future looks bright, and we all eagerly await the next chapter of the Association.

TRIVIA TRAIL

The informal mini reunions continue apace with Ian Lucas coming over from Auckland to celebrate a significant birthday with his family, and meeting up for lunch with his contemporaries John Lindblom and John Bartram, followed by a tour of Haling Park which surprised Ian with all the changes and improvements since his last visit.

Our Gap Yah writer, Matt Lacey or "Orlando Charmon", has continued his exploits with an article in the Daily Telegraph detailing his volunteering experiences in the Ukutula Game Lodge Lion Park in South Africa where he found the whole experience very rewarding and gave a glimpse into the very real connection that humans can have with animals.

What goes around comes around. OW theatre director Jonathan Busby of the Aporia Theatre Collective has given his former drama teacher Dr Chris Range the part of Helveticus in the new production of Cardenio at the Rose Theatre in London.

AUTUMN FUNCTIONS

The Association tries to cater for all its members by arranging

different functions and this autumn is no exception. There is the usual Sportsman's Lunch at the School and the application form is enclosed, last year some people were disappointed so please book early for the limited places available.

The East Anglia Branch Dinner is being held in Cambridge again this year and to even things up we have a new function of a dinner in Oxford at Oriel College. There are still places available at Oriel and it is open to the local Branch members, undergraduates, Oriel alumni and all other OW members. Our man on the inside, Alistair Lack, is happy to conduct a tour of the Colleges on the Friday afternoon prior to the dinner.

There is also the Rugby Past Players Lunch and the Cricket Dinner, as well as a suggested informal lunch at the School following the Remembrance Service which may be of interest to those travelling a distance, and members who may wish to tour all the developments at Haling Park.

The School continues to present excellent music and drama productions to which we are all invited with applications going direct to the School as opposed to OW functions which should be booked with the Clubhouse.

WHITGIFT VETERANS RIFLE CLUB

REPORT - Alan Hunter

A golden summer eh? Most certainly in the medal sense, but weather wise, sadly not!

As a personal postscript to the acclaimed success of London 2012, it is interesting to note that the WVRC was founded the same year as the first of the Modern Olympiad - 1896 - and still going strong. What a year.

I read recently that a crowd of some 120,000 gathered to watch the end of the 1896 Marathon in Athens. I imagine that could have created quite a transport problem!

plus ca change...? I also discovered that the third place Marathon finisher on this occasion - one Spyridon Belokas - was subsequently disqualified for covering part of the course in a carriage! That's the way to do it!

Likewise on a more relevant sporting note... the 1896 games included 5 shooting disciplines, for which Greece entered 51 competitors, compared to GB(2) and the USA(3)... needless to say Greece won most of the medals in these events.

I digress however; since my last report, the Vets have competed in the final competition of our 2012 Full Bore season, namely the National Rifle Assoc. PSV. Shot over 500 yards, in conditions this year that can only be politely described as "extremely damp".

We fielded 3 teams under the management of Full Bore Captain Graham Clark, and overall we shot extremely well, considering the strength of opposition - which amounted to upwards of 40 teams.

Our leading scorers in the A, B, and C Teams respectively, were John Twyford 49.8, Ian Todd 49.4 and Max Gennari 47.2. With an overall average score for all of our 15 shooters of 46.3. Excellent, considering the conditions.

For those of you who enjoy the stats. - The A Team finished 28 ex 42, the B Team 10 ex 27 and the C Team 8 ex 18.

After this shoot, the evening continued with the usual excellent and informal Vets' dinner at the Artists Rifles club house. Some 35 members and guests - including Pip Burley and Ken & Mo Garside - enjoyed a first rate meal, with speeches to the same high standard from both our Chairman, Jack Furtado and Pip Burley replying on behalf of the guests. This brought our summer Full Bore calendar to its usual convivial conclusion.

Moving across to the ongoing Surrey Small Bore Summer League, we find the A Team - last winter's Division winners - doing very well after 7 ex 10 rounds, having only lost one match to date. Unfortunately the B Team have only won one round so far, but they did finish an excellent 2nd in the Winter League. There are still 3 more matches left to shoot in this league so plenty of scope for both victory and improvement, respectively.

A mention here of Guy Hart, our St. Andrews University rifle shooting Blue, who has again competed in the Imperial Meeting at Bisley in July. He has - as last year - distinguished himself by appearing in the prize lists of a couple of the matches, and missing a third by just one V-bull! Terrific shooting Guy, well done.

The Whitgift Shooting Club is alive and well and will recommence in mid-September under the continuing leadership of Peter (PJ) Middleton, with a little help from the Vets.

As mentioned in a previous report it is intended that in the near future, presentation and instruction into the skills and

mystery of Black Powder and Gallery Rifle shooting will be given, under the guidance of Graham Clark.

Which leads me in to my usual conclusion: Small Bore shooting takes place every Tuesday evening throughout the year at the school range [19.00 - 21.30].

To those of you interested in this and other aspects of the WVRC, please contact Simon Lacey at secretary@wvrc.org.uk or have a look at the Vets' developing website at www.wvrc.org.uk

OW GOLF REPORT - Peter Gale

Let me start with a recruitment drive. OW golf is alive and well, as evidenced by the report below, but the society always welcome new members. In order to provide a taste of what is on offer, we have planned our next meeting - our Autumn meeting - for a weekend date, Sunday 16th September 2012, at Royal Ashdown, so that OWs, teachers and parents who work during the week, or are otherwise engaged, can turn up and enjoy some golf and stimulating company (or maybe just the golf? - ed). More details are included at the foot of this section.

The society offers a mix of social golf and also some pretty serious competition for those who want it. For the over-50s, the annual Cyril Gray tournament is about as serious as it gets. It was hoped that the Plate-winning team from 2011 would move on to greater things at Worplesdon this year. Sadly, it was not to be, as Captain Tony Mason reports below.

"In the 1st round match against Bishops Stortford, the first two pairs started with some pretty average golf against opposition who were not particularly strong. Both Mason and Hayes at 1 and Scovell and Leonard at 2 should have been well up at the turn but had only slender leads. Blok T and Down in the third match were up all the way but never by more than 2 holes.

Refreshment at the 10th improved the team's fortunes (the Pimms was excellent!) and with a run of six holes in one under par, Mason and Hayes pulled away to win 5&4. Leonard and Scovell were not far behind, closing the match out 4&3 on the 15th hole. The last match was called in from the 14th for a deemed half but they were two ahead and looking certain winners.

The match the following day was against King's Canterbury with tee off at 10.20am and the prospect of the 3rd round match after lunch. Although the first pair (alright, to be accurate - Mason!) was not firing on all cylinders to start with, the putts started to drop and a strong run of pars and a birdie around the turn saw Mason and Hayes win by the same margin as they had the previous day.

At that point the other two matches were 3 up and 2 up respectively so it was all looking good - the sun had come out to chase away the showers and the prospect of an afternoon encounter with Merchant Taylors' was looking more than a possibility. Foursomes is, however, a peculiar game and things can turn around very quickly, and sadly they did for both pairs. Down and Blok P contrived to lose 5 holes on the trot to lose on the 16th, whilst Scovell and Leonard had lost their way on the greens and the putts resolutely refused to drop. They came to the 18th tee all square. Tim hit a great pressure drive, following the opposition down the middle. Kings were on the green in 2 having played first but Alan's second, although well struck, went through the green. Tim's recovery from a difficult position was not close enough to force the match to the 19th. So in the end it was a disappointing demise - a defeat clutched

from the jaws of victory!"

Elsewhere however, there was better news to report. The school team finished as runners-up to Millfield in the HMC foursomes competition held at Burnham, by some distance the best result achieved by the school so far and yet further evidence that the academy is bearing fruit. Also a runner-up, in what was clearly a very close-run race, was Neill Williams in his defence of the English mid-amateur title (for over-35s) that he won last year. Playing this year at Saunton, Neill only lost at the second hole of a playoff, having tied the lead after the allotted 54 holes. Congratulations to Neill and to the school - both fantastic achievements.

Clearly, our Captain has a way with the weather; it was another glorious scene at Shirley Park for the Captain's Day meeting on 26th July. So glorious in fact that some local gypsies decided to have a kickabout on the 6th tee in honour of the Captain's arrival; fortunately the object of their attention was a football rather than John himself. Unperturbed, all 33 players completed the course and enjoyed steak and chips in the clubhouse after the golf. Playing honours went to Alan Scovell, who won the members' event with 34 points, closely followed by a host of others on 33, with Alan Longhurst taking the runner-up spot on countback. Tom Bloxsome and John Whitefield won the schoolboy and guests' prizes, respectively. Our thanks to Robert Hollidge for organising the day and to John for organising the prizes.

Rumour has it that we lost the match against Old Alleynians, played at Tandridge on 25th June, by 8.5-1.5. Everyone enjoyed the company, the food and the wine, so much so that details of the golf are hard to come by, except that our captain believes that he and Alan Longhurst were the only OW winners. Another defeat, closer this time, came in the July match at Royal Wimbledon, which resulted in a 3-2 win for the KCS side.

Now then, those details of the meeting on Sunday 16th September. The meeting is also to celebrate the fact that we have two presidents this year in the OWGS membership, not only Mike Spanswick, who is the OWGS President, but also Pip Burley, who is President of the OWA. The two of them have therefore challenged each other to a 'Presidents' Cup' match, and have secured Royal Ashdown (Old Course) as the venue, starting at 1.15pm.

The match will be contested between two teams of pairs, playing each other in two-ball, better ball format. Teams (and individual matches) will be chosen from those who enter in such a way as to ensure, so far as possible, that members partner, and play against, other members with similar handicaps. It is an opportunity to play on a great course in good condition, and for newcomers to sample the delights of OW golf. The cost is £55, which includes prizes and a two-course meal after the golf. Please contact Peter Gale (address below) if you wish to participate.

Peter Gale (peterbgale@sky.com) – Secretary

OW EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH DINNER

- John Humphries

I confirm that this year's dinner will be held on Saturday 13th October at St Catharine's College which is located in the centre of Cambridge. We are indebted to Don Broom, a fellow of St. Catharine's, for inviting us to his College and making the arrangements. We again welcome Pip Burley to our dinner. Pip is continuing as President pending the new constitution for our association.

Don has invited us to participate in a short tour of the college commencing at 6.00 p.m. which will be followed by pre-dinner drinks in his room at 6.45 p.m. and dinner at 7.30 p.m. which will be held in the Senior Common Room. Partners are, of course, cordially invited. The cost of the dinner, including pre-dinner drinks and table wine, will be £45.00 per head. The dress code is lounge suits.

I do hope that you will be able to come to the dinner this year and if so would ask you to reply to me at john.humphries@springrise.co.uk, or telephone 01462 742475. Please respond as early as possible if you wish to participate but in any case by Friday 21st September, together with your cheque.

Many of you will have stayed in Cambridge before and have preferred hotels. However, I can provide further information about the Cambridge hotels if necessary. The nearest hotel to St. Catharine's is the DoubleTree by Hilton, telephone number 01223 259988.

I look forward to seeing you at the dinner.

OWCC CRICKETER CUP REPORT

- Stuart Woodrow

The newly christened Whitgift Mitres were successful in this year's Cricketer Cup 1st round match at Haileybury as we beat the Hermits by 67 runs. Skipper Adam Clarke, with a very good 50, was the main contributor in our 185 although a bigger score was anticipated as the young Surrey professionals Rory Burns and Tom Lancefield walked out to open our innings. Both were successful with the ball as our young side bowled out the hosts for 118.

Our reward for this victory, (only Whitgift's 15th in the 45 year history of this illustrious competition), was an away trip to Shrewsbury who turned out with Ben Williams, the current captain of Oxford University and James Taylor of Nottinghamshire who has now made his full England debut in the second Test against South Africa. Whitgift Mitres included two pro's of our own in Laurie Evans (Warwickshire) and Freddie van den Bergh (Surrey) but our score of 123 was well under par and Shrewsbury won by 8 wickets. Shrewsbury have since progressed to the final beating Malvern and Bradfield. They face Harrow at Shenley on 14 August.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL - Phil Fladgate

The second half of the Trinity term was only four weeks long and a great deal had to be fitted in during this period. Two of the highlights were the Lower School production of 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' and the WCO/RPO concert 'English Summer Classics'; both events were very well attended. The Upper VIth Graduation and Ball took place on 29th June and the Celebration of Whitgift Life, at which Tarik O'Regan (OW) presented the prizes, brought the term to an end.

Many trips/tours/exchanges took place in the last week of term and in the holidays - to South Africa, Spain, Germany, France, Belgium and various parts of the UK.

There was some cricket played in the second half of term,

NEWSLETTER 344 covering November/December closes Saturday 20 October. 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.

after the appalling weather for most of the summer. The 1st XI had a notable victory over Harrow by 8 wickets; the U13 won the National Cup again and the U15 side have reached the finals of the National T20 for the second year running. The finals are in September!

The golfers have had remarkable success this year; the Senior team (Tom Bloxsome, Joe Carmody-Firth, James Beck, George Mullins, Harry Byers and Chuck Adolphy) reached the HMC Foursomes Finals (8 Regional winners) at Burnham Berrow GC. The team reached the Grand Final where they lost to Millfield at the 17th, a tremendous effort. The team has been to South Africa during the holidays playing in a World Schools' tournament at Sun City.

The IB and A2 results have just been published and have been very good this year; the GCSE results come out on 23rd August.

Sadly, a couple of weeks into the holidays, came the news of

the death of Charlie Hutton (Yr 9) in a tragic boating accident. He was a very talented hockey player and gifted in many areas. His father, uncle and two brothers are all OWs.

DEATHS

- Mr B H Adams (37-44) on 18/06/2012
- Mr R Barnes MBE(57-65) on 21/07/12
- Mr A A Brooks (41-48) on 25/05/2012 aged 81
- Mr C J R Froom (46-53) on 04/08/12 aged 77
- Mr R D Hollands (37-44) in Dec 2011 aged 85
- Mr R F A Hutchinson (22-27) on 16/05/12 aged 101
- Mr C W Johnson (44-49) on 20/07/2012 aged 81
- Dr B Millbarrow (47-54) on 29/05/12
- Mr K Pennington (48-56) on 09/04/12 aged 74
- Mr M Tweed (54-59) on 04/05/2012 aged 71
- Mr K C Sutton-Jones (30-37) on 10.08.12 aged 92

OW OLYMPIANS



Steffen Cranmer - Veteran Olympian

Many congratulations to Lawrence Okoye in reaching the Olympic final of the Discus with a qualifying throw of 65.28m where he was up against much more experienced athletes and even the loud support of members watching on the big screen at the Clubhouse could not produce a medal with his best throw of 61.03m.

Meanwhile our last Olympian paid a surprise visit to Whitgift organised by his daughter, Sarah, which was the first return for 60 years of Steffen Cranmer who attended the School from 1946 to 1952, the year he was a contestant representing Great Britain in the Helsinki Olympics as a one-man shooting team. Steffen was the youngest entrant in the Olympics at just 17 years of age.

Steffen was invited to attend the British Olympics this year at the invitation of the British Olympics Association; he was there on 3 August and on their return journey to the Cotswolds where he and his wife Yvonne and Sarah now live, stopped off

at Whitgift to have a tour of the School, Grounds and of course, the Sports Centre where he was amazed by the facilities offered, so different to how it was when he was here. Following a serious stroke in 2006, he was now confined to a wheelchair but was able to see as much as possible during the afternoon.

School Archivist, William Wood had the honour of showing him the changes that have taken place over the years; the beaming smile hardly left Steffen's face throughout!

Steffen has won numerous medals and awards at Championship level for his shooting since leaving Whitgift – he won a medal whilst in the CCF in 1952, in the "Forces Day" .22 rifle shooting competition – he was in the 1956 Melbourne and 1960 Rome Olympics finally retiring from competitive shooting in 1960, moving to Copenhagen, Denmark a year earlier with his work, returning to England in 1987.