

WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER 344

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2012

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

DATES FOR THE DIARY

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
Sat	24 Nov	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	Clubhouse	12.00
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
Sat	15 Dec	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	Clubhouse	12.00
Wed	19 Dec	School Carol Service	Croydon Minster	7.30

WHAT'S ON

Sat	3 Nov	Wands XV v Mayfair	H	LG	2.45
Wed	7 Nov	School U15 XV v Howard of Effingham	A	DMC	2.15
Sat	10 Nov	School 1st XV v RGS High Wycombe	A		2.30
Wed	14 Nov	School 1st XV v Ravenswood	A	DMC	2.30
Sat	17 Nov	School 1st XV v Dulwich	A		2.30
Sat	24 Nov	1st XV v Cranleigh	H	LG	2.30
Sat	24 Nov	School 1st XV v St Benedict's	H		11.30
Sat	1 Dec	School 1st XV v St Joseph's	H		11.00
Sat	8 Dec	Wands XV v KCS Old Boys	H	LG	2.15
Sat	15 Dec	1st XV v Farnham	H	LG	2.15
Sat	15 Dec	School 1st XV v Bishop Wordsworth	A		1.00
Sat	22 Dec	Wands XV v Croydon	H		2.15
Wed	26 Dec	1st XV v Old Alleynians	H		2.00
Sat	5 Jan	Wands XV v Esher	H	LG	2.15

FROM THE EDITOR

Following the division of the Association Whitgift Sports Club Ltd is up and running and whilst the postal address and telephone number remain the same the email has changed to office@whitsports.co.uk and the website to www.whitsports.co.uk. However, the

alumni office at the School is still a work in progress and all contact should still be made through the Clubhouse.

Our professional sportsmen are on the move again with Danny Cipriani coming back from Melbourne Rebels to Sale Sharks, Richard Thorpe has changed from London Irish to Leicester Tigers,

and Ross Broadfoot is now playing in Jersey. Victor Moses has moved from Wigan to Chelsea for a £10 million fee, and meanwhile Lawrence Okoye has deferred his Oxford entry so that he can continue his discus throwing for the World Championships in Moscow in 2013.

TRIVIA TRAIL

Not only did Alex Goward (he of OWCC fame) marry the delightful Laura Hamilton (she of Dancing on Ice fame) but he found himself spread across seven pages of Hello! Magazine covering the marriage in Chipstead and the reception at his parents home in Purley.

EAST ANGLIA DINNER – John Humphries

Our 24th annual dinner was held at St. Catharine's College Cambridge on 13th October. The invitation to hold the dinner at St. Catharine's was made by Professor Don Broom (53-61) who gave us a brief introduction to the college followed by a tour round some of the ancient and historical buildings. Pre-dinner drinks were held in Don's room which provided a cosy setting for the 25 members plus their partners including President Pip Burley and Chairman Alan Cowing. This year we had a number of members attending for the first time.

The dinner took place in the Senior Combination Room which was a perfect size and setting for the numbers attending. The college catering staff provided an excellent meal which was enjoyed in a very friendly atmosphere. After the loyal toast and while we were sipping coffee, our President was able to inform us of the successful changes in the constitution that he had foreseen when he addressed us at last year's dinner at Queens'. The Whitgiftian Association was now up and

running and would have much closer links with the school which bode well for its future success. The Whitgift Sports Club had been established and would provide a sporting centre of excellence, not only for OWs but for the local community as well, which was fully in line with our founder's philosophy. The toast was to the Whitgiftian Association, coupled with the School and the Whitgift Sports Club.

The formalities of the evening were completed by our robust rendering of Carmen. While the chorus and early verses were generally recognisable, the descant seemed to have a variable key! Members and their ladies then took the opportunity to reminisce over the past while finishing off their port. It is hoped to hold next year's dinner at a Cambridge college and if a member with a direct connection is able to provide an invitation it would be appreciated.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL – Phil Fladgate

The Michaelmas Term is well and truly underway and as we approach half-term many varied activities have already taken place.

The Lower 1st have been away for a week at Lake Garda; there have been Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze and Silver Qualifying Expeditions to the Surrey Hills and North Devon; a VIth Form Biology Field Course at Juniper Hall, Dorking; a Vth Form Geography trip to the Sussex Coast;

theatre trips to see 'King Lear' at the Almeida, 'Les Miserables' at the Queen's Theatre, 'War Horse' at the New Theatre, London and 'Yes, Minister' at the Trafalgar Studios Theatre, Whitehall. The Upper 1st have been to the Tower of London; the Lower 3rd have been to the Globe Theatre and St Paul's Cathedral and are also going to Hampton Court before half-term.

There are several performing arts events coming up this term; the VIth Form play 'The Innocence' takes place on 16th/17th October; the Fairfield Concert on 22nd November, will include the world premiere, of Tarik O'Regan's Chamber Suite from 'The Heart of Darkness,' for narrator and chamber orchestra. The Upper School musical is 'Little Shop of Horrors' on 12th/13th/14th/15th December. The Carol Service is at Croydon Minster on 19th December. For booking information for 'The Innocence,' 'Little Shop of Horrors' and the Carol Service, please visit the school website www.whitgift.co.uk and click on the WisePay icon on the homepage to use the online booking service or call the School Office on 02086889222. For the Fairfield Concert, please book through Fairfield Hall www.fairfield.co.uk or 02086889291.

On the sporting front, the U13 cricket XI won the Bunbury National Cup at the beginning of the summer holidays and the U15 XI were Runners-Up in the National T20 Final, at Arundel, early in September. Dominic Sibley (LVith) has been awarded a summer contract for the next two years with Surrey CCC. Dominic and Jack Winslade represented England U17 this year.

The rugby season is now well under way and there have been some very good results in the block fixtures against Stowe, Skinners, Wellington and Warwick. Henry Cheeseman (LVith) has been selected for the England U17 Training Squad. The 1st XV and the U15 team have both progressed to the 3rd Round of the RBS/Daily Mail Cup with victories over Caterham and Reed's respectively. The 1st XV beat John Fisher 11-10 in a very tight game in front of a large crowd on Bigside; there was considerable OW support following an excellent lunch in the Old Library.

At the World U18 Modern Pentathlon Championships in Hungary Tom Lees (OW) came 6th, the highest ranked GB competitor, and Joseph Choong (UVIth) 14th. Joseph came away with a Silver medal, in partnership with Eidlih Prise, in the mixed pair competition.

The Swimmers participated in the Surrey Team Relays, winning five out of six events; the successes came in the U18 Medley, U16 Medley and Freestyle and U14 Medley and Freestyle.

The 1st XI hockey team played Oxford University recently, losing 2-3 to a strong Oxford side, which included OWs Joe Mills and Tom Mullins.

The Boarding House is going up very rapidly and is set to open next year. Any OWs who wish to find out more about boarding at Whitgift should contact the Head of Boarding, Adrian Norris boarding@whitgift.co.uk.

The Open Morning (22nd Sept) and Open Evening (9th Oct) for prospective parents were both well attended.

Over the half-term period there are many more trips, exchanges and expeditions: the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and Childreach Expedition to Nepal; the VIth Form Charity Trip to Tsholofelo, South Africa; Upper School Theology Trip to the Holy Land; exchanges to Valencia, Verona and Urawa (Japan); CCF (Naval Section) Sailing Taster course, CCF (RAF Section) Flying Trip to RAF Benson, CCF (Army and Naval Sections) Training Camp at West Malling.

A very busy programme of events!

GOLF REPORT – Peter Gale

'You should get out more!' they say. Well, we did; Tony Harris reports below on an eventful autumn tour to the West Country.

"Following a very successful 3 day tour to Suffolk in 2011, the OWGS headed to the opposite side of the country for 3 days in September/October 2012. A party of 12 travelled down the M4 and M5 to join Burnham resident Tony Mason.

First up was a match against Burnham and Berrow at their magnificent links course. The golfing highlight of the tour didn't take long to materialise, with Robert Hollidge striking an eagle two at the par 4 first, playing long into the trademark Burnham wind! Courtesy of one win and two hard-fought halves, the overall match was halved 2-2. A very convivial dinner was enjoyed, and John Gould made a small presentation to Tony Mason to thank him for organising this first part of the tour.

After a traditional hearty breakfast the next day, the party travelled into North Devon to the equally awesome Saunton links course, and enjoyed another memorable round, miraculously escaping the rain once again, and feeling pleased to have chosen the very forward tees in the strong wind. Quite

Our members still continue to enjoy each others' company with the 1948/49 prefects leading the way with their lunch at the RAF Club in town. The 1952/53 Upper Fifth met for lunch at the school, as did some fifty members at the Sportsman's Lunch including the newly elected Vice Presidents. But the most poignant reunion followed on from the Steffen Cranmer article in the last newsletter when Stuart Ebbutt, Ian Todd and John Horlock were able to arrange to travel down to the Cotswolds to meet up with him again after some 60 years apart and remember old School days with relish.



Pictured the Sportsmens Lunch Reunion

incredibly, Peter Blok nearly repeated the first hole feat of the previous day by sticking his second stone dead on the long par 4. There were some good scores in the conditions; the winner on countback was Brian O’Luanaigh with 33 points (Peter Blok was a close second). Thanks to Peter Kelley’s natural exuberance, a locker room conversation with a local revealed that the person was in fact a golf playing Old Whitgiftian! Regrettably the captain had no ties to sell but email addresses were exchanged and we have a prospective new member.

In order to break the journey home on the Tuesday, we travelled to play Salisbury and South Wiltshire; a fine parkland course. Once again we pretty much escaped the rain, though ironically found an even stronger wind than on the coast, making 6 of the holes well out of reach in regulation. However, it was a pleasant change to see each hole fully, and scoring was a bit easier, the winner this time being Alan Cowing with a creditable 35 points.

By some amazing feat of Aristotelian logic a ‘tour score’ was calculated that combined match play, 2 individual rounds, and a team event. Don Anderson took the accolade with a bit to spare. Many thanks to John Gould for flawless planning and execution, and a great 3 days of golf and companionship. "

The society’s autumn meeting this year was held on a Sunday, 16th September; not a common occurrence hitherto. This was to encourage some new faces to join us, perhaps those who work during the week (perish the thought!), for what was also a celebration of our having two current presidents in our number; Mike Spanswick (OWGS President) and Pip Burley (OWA President). The two challenged each other to a match at Royal Ashdown Forest, with teams of 16 representing each of them. Eight intrepid fourballs set out, and miraculously all eight found their way back, albeit with a lighter load in the golf ball section of their bags. Yes, the heather was tough, and the carries were long, but no matter the level of difficulty, everyone appreciated a fabulous golf course with some great scenery. The OWGS team narrowly prevailed 5-3. The two presidents presented all those taking part with medals (it is Olympic year!), and also presented the OWGS captain John Gould with a trophy for future use, in honour of a special occasion.

The OWGS achieved a hard-fought draw in the annual challenge for the Barnett Trophy which was played against the School at The Addington on Sunday, 9th September. Hewitt players Matt Webster and Stuart Hollins were victorious in the

top match against School golf coach Tim Trodd (Scratch) and School Golf Captain Joe Firth (2 handicap). The School won the 2nd match although the OWGS were delighted to welcome Richard Murray, the new Head of the new Boarding House, to the Society and the Old Boys' team. In the third match, Mike Berners Price and Don Anderson were unable to cope with the prodigious hitting of the school's two 16-handicap players (several drives measured more than 300 yards) and lost their match on the last hole. However the overall match was saved by the last pair, Peter Blok and Peter Kelley, who defeated the boys, also at the last hole. The halved match means that the School retains the trophy for another year.

By the time this report goes to print, the society’s season will have ended with a match versus Croham Hurst on 19th October, but anyone interested in participating next year should contact the secretary, Peter Gale, at peterbgale@sky.com, to obtain details of what is planned in 2013. We welcome new members, and can provide social and competitive golf for all members, whatever their handicap.



RUGBY REPORT – Sam Barke

At Croham Rd the cricket season is now a distant memory. The posts are up, the lines are painted, the bar is re-stocked (and the weather has improved!) and we’re now 3 weekends into the league season. Pre-season preparations went ahead at full pace over the summer and the hard work training culminated with an impressive 55-10 win to kick off the season for an Old Whitgiftian Club XV against Old Mid-Whitgiftians in our only pre-season friendly.

The 1stXV have started strong, winning their first 2 matches against Croydon and Kingston. A disappointing run-out against Old Cranleighans, knocked us off our early position as league leaders but we still sit comfortably in the top half of the table. The Wanderers also made a big impact in their first game, destroying Camberley 53-0 (a team who had beaten us by a similar margin last season). An unfortunate incident involving an afternoon being spent on the M25 rather than the rugby field by a number of players meant we couldn’t really compete against Esher a week later but a win against a young



Guy's Hospital side last weekend have put things back on the right path. It has been a slow start for the Warriors who struggled to get a full team together in the first few weeks of the season (other teams in the league have had similar issues). However, last weekend saw a spirited squad of 23 pitch up to Croham Rd to take on Chobham 4thXV. It is fair to say the OW Warriors XV were out played by a fitter, and much younger(!) side but played with great spirit and gave an admirable performance in the bar after.

As always, all the teams would be delighted to have as much support as possible pitch-side. We will be running Supporters' Lunches prior to all home 1stXV games – the next will be on Saturday 24th November prior to the Cranleigh match. All

can be booked by contacting the clubhouse. Each lunch will be chaired by one of our Vice Presidents and I would like to remind you that all spectators are welcome to attend.

As ever we would be delighted to hear from any past players who recognize that they would now like to give something back to the club!

NEWSLETTER 345 covering January/February 2013 closes Saturday 15 December.

All news and photographs (preferably e-mailed) should be sent to the Clubhouse on office@whitsports.co.uk AND to the Editor at maryblundell@hotmail.com or post to 7 Peaks Hill, Purley, Surrey, CR8 3JG



CORPS OF DRUMS

– Chris Carter Pegg

At the recent practice meeting in the Clubhouse the newly emblazoned full

set of nine parade drums was displayed to the 25 assembled members (which pleasingly included some current schoolboys) who now look forward to more successful outings such as the

recent visit to Battersea Park for the Metropolitan Police Open Day. The next meeting will be on Friday 4 January 2013 at 8.00pm in the Clubhouse.