

# WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER 345

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2013

PRESIDENT – STUART WOODROW CHAIRMAN – PIP BURLEY EDITOR – RICHARD BLUNDELL

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Fri	11 Jan	Chess v School	School	4.00
Sat	12 Jan	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	Clubhouse	12.00
Wed	23 Jan	OWCC AGM	Clubhouse	8.15
Sat	26 Jan	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	Clubhouse	12.00
Thurs	14 Feb	Music Concert	School	7.30
Sat	16 Feb	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	Clubhouse	12.00
Fri	1 Mar	Charity Comedy Night	School	7.15
Sat	2 Mar	WSA Barn Dance	School	7.00
Sat	9 Mar	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	Clubhouse	12.00
13 – 15	Mar	School Play – Much Ado About Nothing	School	7.30
Sat	16 Mar	OWRFC Will Coker Testimonial Day	Clubhouse	
Fri	22 Mar	Founder's Day Service	Whitgift House	07.00
Tues	26 Mar	Grand Music Concert	School	7.30
Sat	6 Apr	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	Clubhouse	12.00
Sat	6 Apr	OWRFC - end of season Dinner	Clubhouse	7.00
11 – 14	Apr	Halford Hewitt Golf	Deal	
Sat	13 Apr	Hockey – end of season Dinner	Clubhouse	7.00
Fri	24 May	WA Annual Dinner	London	6.30

## WHAT'S ON

Sat	5 Jan	Wands XV v Esher	H	LG	2.15
Sat	12 Jan	1stXV v Old Cranleighans	H	LG	2.15
Sat	12 Jan	School 1stXV v Ravenswood	A		10.00
11 – 13	Jan	National Hockey Finals	School		09.00
Wed	16 Jan	School 1st XV v Hampton	Esher	Cup	1900
Thurs	17 Jan	School U15XV v Dulwich	H	Cup	2.00
Sat	19 Jan	Wands XV v Old Alleynians	H		2.15
Sat	19 Jan	School 1stXV v St Benedicts	A		12.00
Sat	26 Jan	1stXV v Old Tiffinians	H	LG	2.15
Sat	26 Jan	School 1stXV v Portsmouth	A		12.15
Sat	2 Feb	Wands XV v Warlingham	H		1.30
Sat	2 Feb	School 1stXV v Brighton	A		2.30
Wed	6 Feb	School 1stXV v Hartpury	H		2.30
Sat	9 Feb	Wands XV v Old Emanuel	H	LG	2.30
Sat	16 Feb	1stXV v Old Freemans	H	LG	2.30
Sat	2 Mar	Wands XV v Old Wimbledonians	H	LG	3.00
Thurs	17 Mar	School U15 XV v Dulwich	H	Cup	2.00
Thurs	21 Mar	School National Sevens	A		

## FROM THE EDITOR

A warm welcome to our new President Stuart Woodrow who takes over the association from Pip Burley who, having finished his extended tenure, moves into the Chairman's hot seat. Whilst Stuart becomes the first President of the newly constituted Whitgiftian Association he is in fact the 71st different President since our formation in 1906.

The run of Russell Bailey's famed re-union lunches and dinners has recently finished its latest cycle and the main committee feel it is the right time for a lull in proceedings with a fresh look at the arrangements. Perhaps more specific functions, or with

different time intervals, but as always the view of the membership would be welcome.

The Remembrance Service at the School was a little different this year due to the boarding house building works, but all will be well next year with, of course, the 2014 Service being of special significance when the Headmaster is planning an exhibition and appeals

to the membership for family photographs and memorabilia of WW1 to be loaned to the School.

Following the untimely death of Alan Carter, our very own OWRFC touch judge, he of the famed striped blazer at the Twickenham Sevens, and the only non-playing proud owner of the Honours tie, a thanksgiving service was held recently at his church, St John's in Old Coulsdon. There many kind tributes

were paid to him by family and friends when many of his other interests and hobbies in his busy life were mentioned, and finally Alan Cowing summed up his Croham Road career on behalf of the Association and the strong representation of attending members.

## WHITGIFT PREFECTS OF 1948/49 – Roy Lewis

The Prefects of 1948/49 continued their series of re-unions with a luncheon at the Royal Air Force Club on 11 October, where they were accompanied by their ladies. A total of 26 sat down to lunch, including our guests the Headmaster and Laura Barnett, Anne-Marie Tilly (Chris's widow) and Sabine Tilly (Chris's daughter). Messages were received from those other 48/49ers who were unable to be present, including John Lovis who made it very clear in his letter how badly the earthquake had affected Christchurch, New Zealand, where he now resides.

The Headmaster told us of some of the countless activities now undertaken at the School, leaving us in no doubt that Whitgift is in good hands and achieving remarkable standards in so many fields. When he described some of the financial issues and how they had been resolved one or two of us wondered if he felt like a spell in HM Treasury.

After lunch we discussed the future of our re-unions. We have enjoyed (in every way) a long innings since our appointments in 1948 but our numbers are diminishing and not everyone is fit enough to attend. Sadly that situation can only worsen. We decided therefore that next year, 2013, will be our last re-union. The Headmaster very kindly offered to host

### 500 CLUB RECENT WINNERS 13th October 2012

David Earl	£700
Alan Cowing	£250
Alan Older	£50
David Caygill	£50
Robin Holt	£50
Richard Greaves	£50

our gathering at the School and even said that those requiring overnight accommodation would be welcome to make use of the new boarding house. Back in 1948 who would have thought that to be possible?

Sixty five years. We shall be proud to leave that as a target for future Prefects. Perhaps the current School Prefects will note that means they will catch us up in 2077!

### NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL – Phil Fladgate

In the Michaelmas half-term break twenty three VIth Form students experienced a life-changing trip to Rustenberg, South Africa. They were hosted at Tapalogo by Brother Joseph and Sister Georgina, who have been working at the Catholic mission for thirty three years. The mission is an HIV outreach centre and hospice, which provides crucial support to the local area though medical treatment, education and services. One area of focus for the trip was to visit schools, church groups and adult education centres so that the Whitgift students could teach the ‘Six Thinking Hat’ de Bono skills. The pupils represented themselves and the School superbly in this role and there was evidence of possible future teachers in the ranks!

The other main aim was to try and make a difference for children and families based in squatter camps in the Rustenberg area. The students spent a number of days working in the ‘Caesar’ settlement, cleaning and painting shipping containers for conversion into a crèche and classroom.

Through charity fund raising at Whitgift a donation of £5,650 was made to help with various community initiatives; many of the students are already planning possible ways for them to return in the future.

The Nepal Charity Expedition was an unforgettable experience according to Alastair McWilliam (UVIth). ‘Trekking through the Nepalese region of Ghorepani on the Annapura Circuit left us awestruck by the natural beauty as we encountered waterfalls, exotic wildlife and suspended rope bridges over stunning rivers, not to mention a few terrifying cliff edges! Getting up in the

early hours of the morning in order to scale Poon Hill for the sunrise was a particular highlight for me, because the 360 degree view of all the surrounding mountain ranges was spectacular. At night, the tea houses we stayed in provided some much needed warmth in the cold evenings, and a comfortable night’s sleep helped us to re-energise after a challenging day’s trekking.

After the trek we took a short bus journey to Pokhara, the second largest city in Nepal, where we undertook our charity project for five days. The project involved painting an ICT centre which had been paid for by the fundraising of Whitgift students from the year before. The hard work we put in translated into a great sense of pride and achievement that was shared, not only within the group, but with Childreach Nepal and Sindhartha Club as well, the two charities working with Whitgift on the project. The evenings in Pokhara also gave us an opportunity to relax and explore a vibrant city with a unique culture. Upon returning to Kathmandu for our final day, we explored the city, dodging motor-bikes, cows and street vendors as we went.

Nepal is a fascinating country and throughout the trip we were made to feel very welcome. The local people were incredibly hospitable and always shared a smile as we passed, making our trip even more enjoyable.’

There has been considerable sporting success during the second half of term. The Swimming Club had five teams qualify for the ESSA National Relays at Coventry; the U18 Freestyle team was knocked out at the semi-final stage, the U14 Freestyle and Medley squad (Freddie Benians, Finn Slattery, Charlie Goriup and Will Ward) won silver in both their events. The U16 Freestyle and Medley squad (Kunmi Ogumfeibo, Rhys Warner, Fred Biggs and Henry Choong) went one better and won gold in the Medley and the 4x50m Freestyle – a remarkable double! Whitgift had never won a National title an Open English Schools Event and now has two!

The hockey season has been going very well; the U14 Indoor team won the Divisional Championships defeating Trinity 3-2 in the final. Both the U18 and U16 sides have qualified again for

the National Indoor Finals which are being held at Whitgift in January. On Saturday 15th December a Hockey Festival was held at Whitgift in Charlie Hutton’s memory; all money raised on the day has gone to the RNLI, the School’s charity this year, and further donations can be made via the website [www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/hutton](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/hutton)

The U18 Squash team has reached the knock-out stages of the National Championships and the U13 Football team has again reached the Semi-finals of the ESFA Cup.

The rugby season has again been a very successful one at all levels. The 1st XV has had notable wins over John Fisher (twice), RGS High Wycombe, Stowe and Warwick.

The 1st XV has reached the 6th Round of the Daily Mail and will play Hampton School in the New Year for a place in the Quarter-finals. The U15 XV has to beat Dulwich College to reach the 6th Round, where the opponents will be St. Paul’s. Will Smith (‘02-‘10) gained a blue on the wing for Cambridge in this year’s Varsity match and Richard Russell (‘03-‘10) played in the U21 match for Oxford.

An impressive Dinner was held in Big School at the end of November to launch the Whitgift International Music Competition; this competition is open to young string players from the UK and around the world and has several major prizes, the Grand Prize being a Scholarship to the School. The evening was attended by many OWs involved in the Arts and Music.

The School musical ‘Little Shop of Horrors’ was a tremendous success, playing to sell-out audiences over four nights. There were some outstanding performances from the cast of Whitgift boys and girls from Croydon High.

### WHITGIFT VETERANS RIFLE CLUB

#### REPORT - Alan Hunter

Welcome dear reader, to this the final report for 2012 from the WVRC. Can another year have passed so quickly? Encompassing as it did the unqualified success of the London

Olympics and Paralympics with the attendant ‘feelgood’ factor, remember that? but which now seems such a distant memory.

However, the WVRC now entering its 117th year with new members and our involvement in the re-vitalisation of school shooting moves positively onward.

That apart, this is traditionally a relatively quiet time of year for the Vets’ shooting commitments, especially on the Full Bore front which drew to a close in mid July, although on one particularly cold Sunday in late October, some dozen or so of our ‘finest’ gathered at Bisley for the final Practice Day of the year. Naturally the weather did nothing to aid good scores, but several members did get into the 47s [ex 50] excellent considering the conditions. It is hoped that for 2013 this shoot can revert back to the more usual and temperate date in September.

It is worth mentioning here that amongst the squad were two recently joined members, neither of whom had shot for a great many years, namely David Westnedge and Jeremy Ray: hopefully conditions on the day will not have put them off! Some 18 members have shot Full Bore in either a practice or match during the 2012 season which is more than for some years and as such raises the possibility of entering 4 teams in the National Rifle Assoc. PSV in July 2013.

On the Small Bore front, probably the less said the better about the final placings of both our A and B Teams in the Summer League! At least we can only do better in the Winter League which is now into the 4th round ex 10... One can but hope!

Our Shooting Blue [St. Andrews] Guy Hart, has recently competed in the European Long Range Championships as a member of the Irish Team, coming second to England and beating Scotland, Wales, Jersey and Germany.

On the home front it is good to report that the following, namely, Graham Clark, Nick Harman, Guy Hart, Simon Lacey and Peter [PJ] Morrison are now added to the list of club members qualified as NRA Range Conducting Officers, having passed the two day RCO course at Bisley.

### WHITGIFT PREFECTS 50th anniversary reunion- 1962

On the 3rd November 27 out of the 39 incumbents of Room 27 during 1961-62 met for lunch at this small, but select hostelry in Belgravia, to celebrate our 50th anniversary, and although many of us had not seen each other since leaving school, conversations flowed instantly and easily, with pauses only for further refreshment. The decision of nine of us who attended the 1961 reunion to return to the Horse and Groom, despite the larger number to squeeze in to this small but select hostelry in Belgravia, proved to be the right one as we were fed and watered very well. Unfortunately six were unable to attend, including Robert Kibble our senior professional who hoped to return for the third time but nevertheless still generously donated the prize for the trivia quiz, whilst six others could not be traced. The assembled gathering hailed from Canada (Gordon Brackstone), Spain (Iain Aitken), France (Graham Hill) and from all round the UK, and, perhaps as a consequence of following very diverse careers, had travelled and worked in many parts of the globe.

The academic strength of our predecessors in 1961 continued – but not necessarily as first choice. Tony Stockwell swapped the Inland Revenue for a PhD in Malaysian history, having previously taught in Sarawak with VSO, before becoming a professor in Asian and Imperial History at London University, whilst Richard Elliott after 31 years with ICI, is now a visiting Fellow at Cranfield School of Management. Michael Symes nurtured a specialist interest in garden history, eventually founding an MA course in Garden History in 2000, having written many articles and books on the subject.

A few who had started in finance soon decided other opportunities were more appealing. After 2 years as a banker Jerry Hartley became a professional scuba diver and spent 2 chilly years based on North Sea gas rigs before moving to Cape Town to work in warmer waters looking for diamonds and oil. David Elliott left Barings to pursue his love of the performing arts by joining the English National Opera as Finance Director, before moving to The Royal Albert Hall to oversee the building restoration project in the 1990s.

Time spent in the school cadet force under the eagle eyes of Major Thomas and



**From the left: Seated:** Grant Eustace, Brian Councill, Mike Wilkinson, Paul Champness, Ken Ellis, Richard Nelmes, David Penfold, Peter Souster. **Standing:** Richard Elliott, Graham Hill, Gordon Brackstone, Iain Aitken, Stuart Lord, Tony Bairstow, Mike Smith, Duncan Murray, Trevor Grant, Allan George, Chris Smith, David Goodwin, Ray Knight, Robin Jenkin, Peter Cox, Robin Holt, David Elliott, Tony Stockwell, Nigel Carter. **Unable to attend:** Brian Allison, Pip Burley, Jerry Hartley, Robert Kibble, John Spanswick CBE, Michael Symes.

Commander Hall clearly encouraged some to consider the armed forces – although with varying objectives. Grant Eustace spent 11 years in the Royal Navy – five as a helicopter pilot – before becoming a writer of video scripts and of plays for radio, whereas Mike Wilkinson and Stuart Lord used their time in the RAF and the Navy to qualify as a dentist and doctor respectively. Paul Champness and Brian Councill joined the HAC, with a varying degree of commitment; it may be pure coincidence that both have earned their living subsequently in the drinks industry.

In very different professions, Duncan Murray and Iain Aitken have applied their skills extensively overseas. As an engineer Duncan worked on projects in rural pre Ceausescu Romania, followed by 18 months in Nigeria immediately after the Civil War, and then Hong Kong to stabilise mountain slopes and help construct the Mass Transit Railway. Iain, a medical man, has spent the last 50 years helping developing countries to improve their quality of health services, working in Sierra Leone, Papua New Guinea and Afghanistan to name but a few – with an interval teaching at Harvard thrown into the mix.

Apart from Robin Jenkin, now a man of the cloth, Iain was almost the only one still in full time employment, although those in academia clearly find it more difficult to stop than those who had worked in large commercial organisations. Whilst formally retired Richard Nelmes continues to work with his research group at Edinburgh University developing new neutron and x-ray techniques for high pressure research – a process he describes as ‘we squeeze things to see what happens and there have been several surprises and a few loud bangs!’. On the other hand Allan George oversaw the computerisation of a government pension payments system when working for Crown Agents and managed to secure a pension package for himself more than 20 years ago!

But as well as catching up with the last 50 years, Peter Cox entertained us by jogging failing memories with reminiscences of our time at Whitgift – many of those present whose exploits were uncovered by Peter’s research were clearly hoping these would not be made public in his forthcoming publication, The Whitgift Memory Book. Our group included two OWA presidents –regrettably Pip Burley, current OWA President and Chief Barker of The Variety Club in 1999, could not be with us but Mike Wilkinson (2005 President), and the only one of us to have played representative sport at both Lords and Twickenham), stood in and updated us on developments at the school and in the OWA.

The remarkable achievements of the boys at Whitgift now are testament to the outstanding development of the school since 1962, so no doubt future OWs will also look back on their time at the school with the same affection and gratitude as we do for the education and opportunities that were given to us 50 years ago.

Relative to our membership numbers this is an excellent qualification ratio for a smallish club like the Vets.

In preparation for next years Full Bore season and to keep us more competitive, the club have sold two of our Swing target rifles and invested quite heavily in two Musgraves - considered to be a superior firearm, especially given the various problems we have suffered with the Swings - time will tell.

The Whitgift Shooting Club would now appear to be on a regularised footing and should be re-commencing at the beginning of the Easter Term. All credit to Peter [PJ] Morrison and his colleagues at the school for the work put in getting the necessary approval and budget factors sorted.

Not only has PJ passed the RCO course as above, but has also qualified as an NSRA RCO which grants him the official authority to cover the .22 school shooting in the range as well as a welcome addition to the list of RCOs for the Vets. of which he is now a member.

On a final and festive note, the club's Christmas Shoot - competing for the Talbot-Smith Trophy - is set to take place shortly after this report has been submitted.

Organised by Graham Clark, this event will comprise some 6 disciplines ranging, amongst others, from Rapid Shooting through to Clay Disc with a Sling-Free shoot along the way. Quite a challenge for some of us more 'mature' shots!

Prizes as usual will be of the usual 'festive cheer' variety, plus this year a pair of .308 cufflinks to the winner, in addition to the trophy - a good turnout is anticipated.

In conclusion, as always, to those of you interested in a chance to revitalise old schooldays shooting abilities and join in our various activities, please contact Simon Lacey at secretary@wvrc.org.uk or have a look at the Vets' developing website at www.wvrc.org.uk.

## RUGBY REPORT – Sam Barke

With Christmas fast approaching and the half-way point of the season almost upon us I thought it would be a suitable time for an update on the goings-on of the OWRFC.

The 1st XV are sitting comfortably in the top half of Surrey 1. After a very strong start to the season there was a 3 week 'blip' leaving us at won 3, lost 3 at the beginning of November. The break in the league season for the Autumn Internationals at Twickenham seems to have reawakened the side who have since recorded two strong wins against Cranleigh and Old Wimbledonians.

All is going well, too, for the Wanderers who are enjoying being

top of the league. A storming win against Mayfair Occasionals has to go down as a highlight where a mix of Wanderers old-timers and young recruits came together to produce an incredible 72-5 victory.

The Warriors continue to play with great spirit. Momentum has gradually been gained and after a few very close losses against tough opposition they recorded their first win against Sutton & Epsom at the end of November.

With many clubs, and the school, having to call off matches due to waterlogged or frozen pitches over the last few weeks, we have been shown how lucky we are with the quality of our pitches at Croham Rd. The investment in good drainage and underground heating (!) has paid off and, not only have no matches been cancelled, we have also been hosting school matches in the mornings so that they can continue to play.

Yet again my thanks go to all the committee, team captains & managers without whom the club would, quite simply, not be able to function. As always we are always happy to accept offers of help from those who feel they may have something to add.

## OXFORD DINNER

The first Oxford dinner for a long time was held at the end of October in the Champneys Room at Oriel College where a total of 45 members and guests enjoyed a convivial meal in pleasant surroundings. The local area members enjoyed meeting up with each other and their Croydon compatriots and were joined by a few (real live) undergraduates. The event made an interesting start with a tour during the afternoon of the town led by our very own blue badge guide Alastair Lack, and concluded with Pip Burley updating everybody with the developments at Croham Road.

## DEATHS

Mr Buttfield (21 – 28) in Nov 2008

Mr A F Carter (45-51) on 20/11/12 aged 77

Mr D G Clarke (49-54) in 2012 aged 75

Mr A G Entwistle MBE (33-38) on 29/11/2012 aged 92

Mr G A Prately (44-49) on 20/11/12 aged 80

Mr J G Roscoe (53-61) on 13/11/12 aged 68

Mr R Spratt (52-58) on 20/11/2011 aged 69

Mr Treagus (45-50) on 7/11/2012

## NEWSLETTER 346 covering March/April closes Saturday 16 February

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

## SAILING REPORT

The inaugural Old Whits entry into the Arrow Trophy on the first weekend of October went swimmingly, fortunately not literally. Our team made an impressive display in terms of



spanning many decades of experience, although special thanks must go to our youngest colleague who also happened to be the organiser, James Wilkie.

Blessed with glorious sunshine, but sadly cursed with not quite enough wind to keep the sails full,

our aim quickly became to simply make the best of what we had – despite the cancellation of one race on the Sunday morning due to the fact that the tide was pushing everyone backward faster than the wind was moving us forward, the competitiveness between the schools taking part was evident in the number of close shaves (and occasional impacts – there must have been more than one damage deposit forfeited) and mostly good-natured shouting from one boat to another.

Our motto quickly became "It's not the winning that's important, it's the not coming last" – on which we delivered 100%. James's valiant efforts as a tactician and experienced racing hand, and everyone else in the team's clear willingness to muck in and take on different tasks, kept us going and in a better position than many for most of the racing; but the Solent tides and unpredictable winds meant that at one point, we were actually gaining by having our anchor out and standing still!

Consensus at the end of the weekend was that it was an excellent learning experience and had been a pleasant way to meet fellow OWs, and we're hoping to better our performance and come back with a stronger entry for next year's Arrow Trophy.