

WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER 346

MARCH/APRIL 2013

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

DATES FOR THE DIARY

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 – 16	Mar	School Play – Much Ado About Nothing	School	7.30
Sat	16 Mar	OWRFC Will Coker Testimonial Day	Clubhouse	2.00
Tues	19 Mar	WVRC AGM	Clubhouse	8.00
Fri	22 Mar	Founder's Day Service	Whitgift House	07.00
Fri	22 Mar	OWGS AGM and Dinner	School	7.00
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
Thurs	11 April	Halford Hewitt Golf v St Paul's	Sandwich	10.20
Sat	13 Apr	Hockey – end of season Dinner	Clubhouse	7.00
Fri	24 May	WA Annual Dinner	London	7.00

WHAT'S ON

Sat	2 Mar	Wands XV v Old Wimbledonians	H	LG	3.00
Sat	9 Mar	1stXV v Old Wimbledonians	H	LG	3.00
Sat	16 Mar	1stXV v Surrey Cup	H		
Thurs	21 Mar	School National Sevens	A		
Sat	23 Mar	Wands XV v Battersea Ironsides	H	LG	3.00
Sat	23 Mar	WVRC Practice Shoot	Bisley		08.30
Sat	6 April	1stXV v Croydon	H	LG	3.00
Sun	14 April	LMRA Round 1	Bisley		08.30
Sat	4 May	LMRA Veterans	Bisley		08.30

FROM THE EDITOR

Congratulations to Elliot Daly who when playing for England Saxons found himself up against fellow OW Jaime Stevenson playing for Scotland A. Then on return to his club Wasps he came up against another OW Marland Yarde playing for London Irish.

It is sad to note the deaths of Mr John Felix a Master known to many of us and Mrs Mary-Faith Raeburn the wife of David Raeburn who gave her husband such warm support during his tenure as Headmaster.

For the first time in 30 years Piers Hubbard will miss the Founder's Day service, so all bookings for the breakfast to the editor for this year only please.

TRIVIA TRAIL

Well honestly! You take time out for a sunshine cruise to West Africa and the first people you meet at the Captain's reception are not one but two members resplendent in their OWRFC bow ties. OWs are everywhere!

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL – Phil Fladgate

Yet again the weather has played havoc with sports fixtures this term; the hockey has been especially hit with cancellations and rugby has also had problems.

The 1st XI has, however, been having a good season along with all the other age group teams. The U18 and U16 sides both reached the Semi-final stage of the National Indoor Competitions. Jonty Griffiths and Peter Ellis-Philipps have been selected for the England U18 Training Squad; George Oyebo, Noah Francis, Rhys Smith and Ore Ogunlana have been selected for the England U16 Training Squad. Luke Taylor (UVIth) has been named U18 Hockey Player of the Year 2012 – Luke has not only been a key player in Whitgift sides both indoors and outdoors for several years, but has already represented England U21 and East Grinstead HC. (He has missed much of this season through injury).

The 1st XV and the U15s both went out of the RBS/Daily Mail Cups in the 6th Round. Now attention has turned to the 7s Competitions.

Sam Curry (OW) has been selected for the GB team in Modern Pentathlon at the Senior World Cup being held at Palm Springs, California at the end of February.

The swimmers have continued to have great success in all competitions. Recently the U12 and U13 teams won all 14 events at the Croydon Championships; the U14, U16 and U18 teams won the overall titles at both the Surrey Championships and the Warwick Open (3 new school records were set at Warwick!).

The U13 and the U15 football teams have both reached the ISFA Finals – a remarkable achievement.

The fencers also have been going well; Vinith Elangovan won the U16 sabre and Ian Head the U18 foil at the Surrey Youth Championships.

There has been Whitgift representation in skiing at the Inter-Schools Ski Championships in Les Deux Alpes; Jake Gilkinson won bronze in the Giant Slalom and Whitgift won bronze in the team event.

33 boys and 12 staff took part in the gruelling 'Tough Guy' event held near Wolverhampton; the conditions were appalling, but over half of the Whitgift contingent completed the course, with Jake Gilkinson coming 19th out of 5,000 starters.

While the weather here has been awful, Dominic Sibley has been out in South Africa playing cricket for England under 19s. In the 2nd Test against South Africa Dominic carried his bat through the first innings scoring 112 not out (an innings lasting nearly seven hours). He had scored a half century in the 1st Test.

On the musical front there are several concerts coming up during the second half of term: 'Strictly Come Brassing' on Monday 18th March in Big School, 7.00pm (Free Admission by

ticket only). On Tuesday 26th March in Big School, 7.30pm 'Darkness and Light' WCO/RPO Concert, including Tarik O'Regan's 'Heart of Darkness.' Booking Information for both events: www.whitgift.co.uk/events

On Friday 1st March there is the Charity Comedy Night in Big School, 8.00pm (Dom Holland will be the compere and Matt Lacey(OW) of 'Gap Yah' fame will be performing).

'Much Ado about Nothing' will be performed in Big School on Wednesday 13th – Friday 15th March, 7.30pm (Free Admission by ticket only). Booking information for both events: www.whitgift.co.uk/events

A busy first half of the Lent Term which included a record number of boys sitting the entrance examinations.

GOLF REPORT – Peter Gale

The golf society's AGM and annual dinner will take place at the school on Friday 22nd March. Anybody wishing to join the society is urged to come along; full details can be obtained from Peter Gale at peterbgale@sky.com.

The new season is not far away and the society's 2013 calendar can be found on the OWA website www.owa.org/node/50. Mike Berners Price takes over from John Gould as Captain and he will tee off with his Captain's meeting at Tandridge on 25th April. The spring meeting follows at Cuddington, the President's meeting is at Woodcote Park in July, and the autumn meeting returns to the always popular Royal Ashdown. A tour to Dorset is planned for October, with rounds at three renowned courses, Isle of Purbeck, Parkstone and Ferdown.

Open to all members is the Challenge Cup, a knockout competition taking place throughout the season. The first named in the draw chooses the venue and the loser pays the green fee – thus everyone apart from the ultimate winner pays once! This is a very popular way of playing other courses apart from your own. Many congratulations, and considerable thanks, are due to Tony Nowers, who has organised the competition on our behalf for more years than he cares to remember. Tony beat Robert Hollidge 3&2 in the 2012 final. How fitting that he should win the cup in his last year of organising the competition - Tony Harris takes over from him in 2013.

Whitgift drew St Paul's in the first round of the 2013 Halford Hewitt, to be played at Sandwich on Thursday 11 April, starting at 10.20am. Supporters will be very welcome. The full draw can be seen at www.halfordhewitt.org.

RUGBY REPORT – Sam Barke

It has been a little over a month since the titanic Boxing Day clash at OW HQ and the dust has barely settled.

Both teams arrived in good time for the kick off and so were able to enjoy what decent weather there was during the warm up. In particular, Whits were most enthusiastic in our pre-match touch session employing the 30 or so players at our disposal to good effect - the squad was made up of representatives of all 3 OW teams, plus friends and a healthy handful of spritely OW university players. A fantastic turnout.

The game kicked off soon after 2pm by which time the heavens had well and truly opened - the wet weather continued throughout the game but, to their credit, both sides were intent on a fluid running game as is customary for this festive fixture. Whits started strongly and immediately made inroads in to Alleyns first up defence. However, handling errors were inevitable on both sides and in the end Whits conceded the first

try of the game. With penalties then exchanged by both teams, the score after the first 20 minutes stood at 8-6 in favour of Alleynians.

At this point that the Whits made the first of their many changes and, although the fresh legs from the bench added much needed impetus, changing the entire team over the course of the next 40 minutes was telling in terms of our cohesion and structure.

Unfortunately during this period OAs were able to take advantage and added 3 unanswered tries (one converted) to take a 25-6 lead going in to the final 20 minutes.

Faced with the challenge of making up this deficit, Whits installed themselves in Alleynian's half for much of the last quarter, during which, there followed a ferocious period of play that saw Whits hammering at the OA's more than sturdy defensive line. On several occasions, the Alleynians's excellent loose forwards were able to steal vital possession and relieve the pressure. However, Whits could not be entirely subdued and the pack, led to great effect by Messrs Coleman, Ryan, Mount, Drage, Riches, Blok and Weller with great support from the Petschi brothers (to name but a few) created the space for Whits to score 2 converted tries. With the game entering the very last phase of play, Whits therefore trailed 25-20. In the bar after the game, it was accepted by all that what followed was one of the great sporting spectacles ever witnessed at Croham road. In torrential rain, the Whits pack (with telling contributions from

UPPER FIFTH 1952-53 REUNION – Peter Warren

We became classmates in the year of Her Majesty's accession to the throne and, accordingly, have much enjoyed sharing our Jubilee celebrations with Hers (if I may put it that way?). So, for us too, this was our Diamond Jubilee year and we fittingly celebrated it by holding our annual reunion Luncheon at The School on 23 October 2012, courtesy of the Headmaster and thanks to the unstinting support we received from the Catering Department and many others among the School staff.



(From left to right) Messrs Brian Halfacre, John Trott, Ronald Berners Price, Roger Hilton, David Brewster, Mr Robert Schad, John Sutcliffe, Keith Parkinson, Roger Brasier, John Webb, Ian Brown, John Hamilton, John Hartley (to rear), Kenneth Rokison (to fore), Peter Warren, Mrs Angela Tisdall and Mr Bill Wood

Butcher, Daly, Bradshaw, Mensah and Crane in the backs) pounded at the Alley line under the expert supervision of scrum half Jordan Lewis who recycled the ball time and again, space eventually opened up for young fly half Rob Butcher who forced his way over under the posts. At this point, with the score 25-25 apiece and a conversion to follow in the shadow of the posts, the game seemed in the bag for Whits. However, the gods were against us and Butcher's perfectly struck conversion was blown off course and on to the upright by what can only be described as a freak gale force wind.

At the death then, the score line was 25-25, which was in fact a fair reflection of the abilities and determination of both sides. Honours for the Whits went as follows:- best forward: Cameron Petschi; best back: Miles Daley; Man of the match: Chris Crane.

However, it was the effort of all the Whits' players on the day that made this possible and, in particular, special mention must go to some of the stalwarts of this fixture over recent years including John Coleman, Tom Joyce, Andreas Dracoulis, Jon Weller and James Ryan. Given the fantastic turnout and result this year we now look forward to going one better next year in the return fixture at Dulwich

CHARLIE HUTTON FUNDRAISING

On July 20th 2012, Old Whitgiftians Tom and Sam Hutton lost their younger brother Charlie Hutton, aged 14 and a current

Whitgift pupil, in a tragic boating accident off the Isle of Wight. A talented musician and hockey player, the family were devastated but the two brothers and their parents, Simon and Gill, looked for ways to celebrate Charlie's love of life and raise money for the RNLI. Simon Hutton, also an Old Whitgiftian, says "The RNLI were absolutely amazing in their efforts and so as a family we wanted to show our appreciation by raising money for a fantastic charity devoted to saving the lives of people at sea." Tom Hutton continued: "My brother Sam and I have taken part in multiple events and this will continue during the lead-up to the Virgin London Marathon in April 2013 in order to raise as much Money as we can."

Having already done the great south run, in the process raising more than half of their original target total of £10,000 they have since organised a hockey festival with their father and Whitgift School. Simon said: 'The School has been incredibly supportive during this time. The headmaster, Dr Barnett, and director of sports, Alistair Osborne, and close friends from the clubs were instrumental in helping to bring the festival to life and we hope it will become an annual event on the Whitgift sporting calendar.' Alistair Osborne added: "The day was a tremendous success. Charlie was an incredible hockey player who lived life with a smile on his face."

'The Charlie Hutton Hockey Festival' had its inaugural day on Saturday 15th December 2012, and was a huge success with

We mustered 18 of our extant members (21 out of the original 28). Our guests were three: Mr Robert Schad OW (past Master). Mr Bill Wood (School Archivist) and Mrs Angela Warren; they were warmly welcomed/ toasted by John Trott. Bob is now the sole survivor among the Masters that taught us in 1952-53 and in his response he delivered an exquisite expose of his colleagues of the time; nostalgia at its finest! Bill had kindly provided a Grand Tour of the School before lunch ranging from the highly familiar to the totally unfamiliar (literally for one of us who had not revisited the School since he had left in 1954) and, naturally, including the Archive. Bill rounded this off with a plea (duly responded to) for memorabilia for that growing Archive.

As Lunch began, Ron Bernard, in an unscheduled but greatly appreciated intervention on everyone's behalf, presented your correspondent's wife with a badge and a Certificate of Honorary Membership of the Upper Fifth of 1952-53 in recognition of her being the reunion's hostess on no less than 30 occasions to date! Her response left no room for doubt over the pleasure it gave her to accept membership of such a stalwart, persistently-surviving, companionable and ever-hungry body of men, and we joined with her and Bob in raising our glasses to continuing longevity coupled with the remembrance of all our absent friends.

The day's programme was brought to its completion with three highly amusing sketches from our "Resident Comedian", Roger Brasier, and who, finally, could

have better led us in a vigorous rendition of "Carmen" than Ken Rokison, QC.

But what about the wholly informal components of such occasions? Well the decibels told all. And, as befits a Diamond Jubilee celebration of 60 years of friendship there was much talk of times and Reunions past as well as our hopes for the future.

In preparing for the event your correspondent had unearthed his first public report (a letter to the Editor of *The Whitgiftian*) in 1968 about the 1967 Reunion and its origins in meetings begun by the late John Maynard, in 1956-57 as tea-parties of those of us then resident at Cambridge University. The letter began "*It has come to our notice that a number of Old Whitgiftian groups have reported their meetings in your columns, and not to be outdone we feel the time has come to make mention of our own gatherings which have now been held for the last ten years*". The letter went on to report our pleasure at the presence of Alan Stocks (home briefly from Australia) – this time (2012) too he was with us, but alas only through a telephone link to Brisbane kindly arranged by School staff. The first letter also reported that in the previous year (1966) we had brought together two close friends during their Upper Fifth days, David Brewster and Gerald Haywood, who had not met since leaving School - and we achieved the same again 46 years later with David taking the Chair for our proceedings and Gerald (with Roger Hilton) making it over from Brussels. Plus ca change! And so forgive me, but how perceptive was your correspondent in finishing his letter of 44 years ago, as he does now, with these words: "*For such moments as these we propose to continue indefinitely [well for a while longer, last one put out the light please] these reunions and recommend past and present Whitgiftians to consider doing the same.*"



ard, Gerald Haywood, h Ryde, Noel hn David, Nicholas la Warren. Derek

over £2000 raised. This took the boys fund raising total for 2012 to a staggering £9,783.18.

Andy Rogers, from the England Hockey's junior regional performance centre in Tonbridge, which Charlie attended, said: "The festival was superbly organised, supported and enjoyed by almost 200 hockey players who knew and played alongside Charlie. He was a sensational player with immense ability and potential, destined to achieve great things in the game at the very highest level."

The hockey festival involved 10 school age teams of mixed ages (U14 - U18) playing 7 a side hockey in fast 18 minute games with 2 minute turnarounds... It all started at 10.30am with the final finishing around 5pm. A long day! This was interspersed with adult games featuring 5 teams that included the Whitgift teachers, Oxted (Charlie's club side), two Whitgift old boys teams led by brothers Tom and Sam and SoB (Surrey Old Boys, with international player Darren Cheesman who had taken Charlie under his wing during the summer). SoB played without a goalie but still won the adult final, just beating Tom's team who had been slightly hampered by the fancy dress they had been wearing all day.

The Juniors was won by one of the Whitgift teams, with the Trophy collected by the Goalie, one of Charlie's closest friends, George Oyebode.

And so the boys now prepare for the London Marathon which is taking place on Sunday 21st April 2013. There will be many Old Whitgiftians who know at least one of the Huttons. Those who feel they would like to donate to this very worthy cause in memory of Charlie can do so at <http://bit.ly/RNLIfundraising>

WHITGIFT VETERANS RIFLE CLUB

REPORT – Alan Hunter

Exactly one year ago as I penned this report, Croydon and the surrounding area had just received 6 inches of the white stuff! Fortunately, it doesn't seem likely that we will have a repeat of last February, at least not down here: neither, come to think of it, have the Mayan 'forecasts' come to pass!

An event, however, which can always be relied upon, namely our annual Christmas Shoot, or more accurately The Major Talbot Smith Competition, was held as usual on the last Tuesday before Christmas.

This test of shooting ability and calmness(?) under pressure, comprised consecutive rounds over six different formats, including grouping, rapid fire and Clay Disc shooting... serious stuff and pretty demanding, especially for senior members! Resulting in a well deserved win for Nick Harman [again?] well done Nick, look after the trophy and trust you enjoyed the Scotch.

An excellent evening and thanks to all involved and those members who donated prizes. On this occasion all 16 members who participated came away with a prize!

On Tuesday 19th March we hold our AGM at the clubhouse - details of which will appear in the next newsletter.

The 23rd March will see our first Full-Bore Bisley practice shoot of the 2013 season, which commences in earnest for the Vets. on 14th April with the LMRA League Round 1 at Bisley followed by the LMRA Veterans Match on 4th May, the first two of our 6 Full Bore matches.

The Whitgift School Rifle Club has re-commenced following completion of the required registration etc processes. All credit

to staff member Peter Morrison's dedication, energy and hard work in getting this completed plus maintaining the enthusiasm of the boys from whom some good shots are emerging.

Anticipated new kit etc will be a further positive.

Meanwhile, the Veterans Small-Bore teams are up to Round 8 of the Winter League, with the A Team in a convincing 6th place and the B Team in a very solid 5th position within their respective divisions! Tongue in cheek as you will appreciate and certainly not our finest hour. Especially when you consider we finished 1st and 2nd respectively, last year!

Guy Hart, our St. Andrews Uni. shooting Blue, will shortly be touring South Africa as a member of the Ireland Shooting Team. The Vets have even been given a mention in the official touring book on the strength of Guy's inclusion. Many thanks Guy and good luck on the tour.

As usual, 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.

Shooting experience is not essential as coaching is available in-house. Likewise all the required kit, from elbow pads to rifles, is provided. Even the SB ammo will be free... to start with!

Small bore shooting takes place every Tuesday evening throughout the year at the school range [19.00 - 21.00 app.] after which there is the option of a beer at Croham Road, with the occasional sorties to a local curry house.

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.

CHESS REPORT – Nigel Callow

On Friday 11 January the 20th annual Old Boys v School chess match took place at Whitgift. It was an eight board match and Yang-Fan Zhou, our brilliant emerging chess star, played on the top board a year after playing in the School team. The OW team comprised Yang-Fan, some strong Club players and a number of us who dust down the chess pieces once a year. It was yet again a close match and after two hours of exciting tense chess the match ended with a win for the Old Boys 5 – 3, thus regaining the Leonard Barden Cup.

The 21st match is planned for 4.00pm on Friday 10 January 2014. Anyone interested in playing in the match please contact me on 020 8655 2292.

DEATHS

Mr J Felix (57-86) on 06/02/2013 aged 80
Mr S F D Hailwood (52-61) on 16/02/2013 aged 69
Mr C J Mills (54-61) on 21/02/2013 aged 68
Mr I J Penfold (59-64) in 2008
Mr C Pye (54-62) on 27/01/2013
Mr J H S Shanley (33-38) on 26/12/2012 aged 90
Mr B E J Honey (40-46) on 31/12/2012 aged 83
Mrs Mary-Faith Raeburn on 20/01/2013
Mr P G Figgess (37-44) on 22/12/2012 aged 86
Mr D A Sawyer (32-38) on 25/12/2012 aged 92
Mr A P Johnston (69-76) on 05/11/2012

NEWSLETTER 347 covering May/June closes Saturday 13 April

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