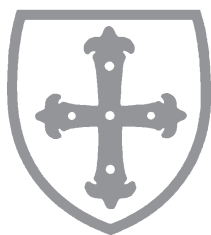


# WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER 347

MAY/JUNE 2013

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

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Fri	3 May	Annual General Inspection	School	2.00
Thur	9 May	OWCC Pre Season Party	Clubhouse	7.30
Thur	16 May	OW Fives v School	School	7.00
Sat	18 May	WVRC SRA Vets	Bisley	12.30
Sun	19 May	WVRC LMRA Round 2	Bisley	08.30
Fri	24 May	WA Annual Dinner	London	7.00
Sat	8 Jun	Whitgift Foundation Heritage Day	Croydon	
Sun	9 Jun	WVRC LMRA Round 3	Bisley	08.30
Thur	13 Jun	OWGS Evening Meeting	Cuddington	
Sat	15 Jun	WSA Summer Ball	School	7.00
Wed	19 Jun	OW Golf v School	Away	4.00
Fri	21 Jun	FRL Function	School	7.00
27 – 29	Jun	School Play – Buggy Malone	School	7.30
Sat	29 Jun	SW Branch Dinner	Tiverton	7.00
Sun	30 Jun	WW1 Memorial Plaque Dedication	Ypres	6.00
Thur	4 Jul	OWGS President's Meeting	Woodcote Park	
Fri	5 Jul	Whitgift Life	School	11.00
Thur	11 Jul	WVRC NRA PSV Dinner	Bisley	4.00
16 – 19	Jul	Surrey CCC 2ndXI v Kent CCC 2ndXI	School	11.00
22 – 26	Jul	OWCC Cricket Week	Home	
Sun	8 Sept	OWGS Autumn Meeting	Royal Ashdown	
Sat	16 Nov	Sportsman's Lunch	School	12.00

## WHAT'S ON

Sat	4 May	LMRA Veterans	Bisley	08.30
Sat	4 May	1stXI v Spencer	H	1.00
Sat	4 May	School 1stXI v Ardingly	H	11.00
Sun	5 May	1stXI v Norwood Exiles	H	2.00

Wed	8 May	School 1stXI v Eltham	H	2.00
Sat	11 May	1stXI v Dulwich	H LG	12.30
Sat	11 May	School 1stXI v St Bede's	A	11.00
Sun	12 May	1stXI v Beckenham Wizards	H	2.00
Sat	18 May	2ndXI v Oxted	H LG	1.00
Sat	18 May	School 1stXI v Wilsons	H	11.00
Sun	19 May	1stXI v Goldleaf	H	2.00
Sat	25 May	2ndXI v Camberley	H LG	1.00
24 – 25	May	School 1stXI v Hampton	H	11.00
Sun	26 May	1stXI v Village	H	2.00
Sat	1 Jun	1stXI v Valley End	H LG	12.30
Sun	2 Jun	Trust XI v Streatham	H	1.30
Sat	8 Jun	2ndXI v Pyrford	H LG	1.00
Sat	8 Jun	School 1stXI v Brighton	A	11.00
Sun	9 Jun	1stXI v Mpingwe	H	2.00
Sat	15 Jun	1stXI v Leatherhead	H LG	11.30
Sat	15 Jun	School 1stXI v Bradfield	A	11.00
Sun	16 Jun	1stXI v Spencer	H	2.00
Sun	16 Jun	Whitgift Mitres v Eton Ramblers	A C/Cup	11.00
Sat	22 Jun	1stXI v Ashtead	H LG	11.30
Sat	22 Jun	School 1stXI v Dulwich	A	11.00
Sun	23 Jun	1stXI v Surrey Antilles	H	2.00
Wed	26 Jun	School 1stXI v MCC	H	11.30
Sat	29 Jun	2nsXI v Ashford	H LG	1.00
Sun	20 Jun	Trust XI v Sutton	H	1.30
Mon	1 Jul	School 1stXI v Felstead	A	11.00
Sat	6 Jul	2ndXI v Egham	H LG	1.00
Sun	7 Jul	Trust XI v East Grinstead	H	1.30

## TRIVIA TRAIL

The traditional 'whyte gifte' flower made an appearance at the recent Founder's Day service held in the Whitgift House chapel when the service started by Rev MHH Mason in 1913 celebrated its 100th anniversary. Probably the major difference was that in those days the cost of the subsequent breakfast was one shilling!

Chris Unwin recently came across a wine investment plan which seemed 'too good to be true', and sure enough following further research with the help of the Daily Telegraph money section it was. But, like any self respecting OWRFC prop he resolved the problem by drinking the lot.

## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL – Phil Fladgate

The end of the Lent term came very quickly with a flurry of activity. On the music front the main feature was the concert by the Whitgift Chamber Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The combined orchestras performed 'Heart of Darkness' an orchestral suite written by Tarik O'Regan (OW) and commissioned by the school. Pip Burley (OW) was the narrator. Gustav Mahler's Symphony No4 concluded the second half of the programme. An outstanding evening's entertainment.

Earlier in the day Whitgift Lower 1st Form pupils joined forces

with pupils from Elmhurst and Howard schools, as part of the RPO's education project, 'RPO Resounds', for a musical extravaganza. The afternoon session was watched by HRH the Duke of York, who spent some time talking to the children involved.

The Upper School play 'Much Ado About Nothing' received rave reviews from all who saw it. The play was set in a Harlem Jazz bar in New York during the last months of 1945. A clever combination of Shakespeare, Jazz and a superb set in Big School, wowed the audiences over three nights.

Two lucky Whitgiftians, Ramon Agbaje and David Gordon-Dixon, who are members of the Journalism Club, had the opportunity to ask David Cameron and Lord Coe questions about the Olympic legacy and the government announcement of investment in school sport. This was part of a BBC News Report initiative.

On the sporting front the swimmers hit the headlines at the end of the Lent Term. At Crystal Palace the Senior Swimming team (Marlon Gasparotto, Joseph Choong, Freddie Biggs and Henry Choong) won the Bath Cup (4 x 100m relay) for the first time since

### 500 CLUB

#### RECENT WINNERS

R Goward	£100
A Older	£50
I Watson	£50
J Straw	£50

1974 in a record time; this was especially pleasing because several of the organisers of the event are OWs who were in the teams that won in 1966/7 and 1973/4. The success continued at the meet when the Otter Medley Relay was won for the first time by Whitgift. Two U5th Formers (Kunmi Ogunfeibo and Rhys Warner) came into the squad for this event. The previous evening the team had won the Eight Schools Cup.

The footballers had an excellent end of term too. The U15 and U13 teams both qualified for the ISFA cup finals. The matches both took place at Burton Albion's Pirelli Stadium. The U15 side defeated Brentwood School 3-1 and the U13 side won the cup for the third year running defeating Priory School 5-0. A wonderful double!

At the start of the Trinity term the Biathletes were in action at the British Schools Championships. Joseph Choong won gold in the U18 category and Adam Bambroffe won the Year 7 gold. Adam was joined by Konrad Zielinski and Jamie Regan in the Year 7 team event, in which they also claimed the gold.

Joseph Choong also produced a superb result in Modern Pentathlon when he won the British Mens' Open at Solihull; he beat many established senior GB internationals.

The hockey teams have excelled again; the U13s, U14s, 16s and U18s all qualified for the National Finals at Cannock HC. The U14s were Runners-up to Kingston losing 2-1 in the last minute of the game. The U16s were also Runners-up, they drew 0-0 with Repton, but lost 4-3 on penalty flicks. The U18s were National Champions again beating Cranleigh. 3-0. The U13 Finals have not taken place yet.

The cricket season got off to a good start with fixtures against Charterhouse and Dulwich. The sun shone for once, unlike last year when over one hundred fixtures were lost to the weather before half-term.

The Lower School musical is 'Bugsy Malone' – 7.30 pm Big School, Thu 27th June, Fri 28th June and Sat 29th June.

On 30th June there is a Recital by Remus Azoitei and Eduard Stan to celebrate the International Music Competition, Concert Hall, 7.30pm.

## WHITGIFT VETERANS RIFLE CLUB

### REPORT - Alan Hunter

The Veterans' Full Bore programme was due to commence with the usual Practice Shoot at Bisley on Saturday 23 March, but due to the near blizzard conditions, sub-zero temperatures and poor visibility, it was decided on the day after a 'pitch inspection' to postpone until a later date...any old excuse then!!

This shoot was reconvened successfully some two weeks later with 8 members attending: everyone had two shoots at 600x followed by an excellent lunch at the LMRA clubhouse.

The first of our regular matches - the LMRA Round 1. - will take place on 14 April and comprises shoots at 300x and 500x for which we have entered our team of 6. Hopefully the weather will be as good as forecast.

This match is followed some 3 weeks later by the LMRA Public Schools Veterans event over 300x and 600x for which we are entering two teams of 4.

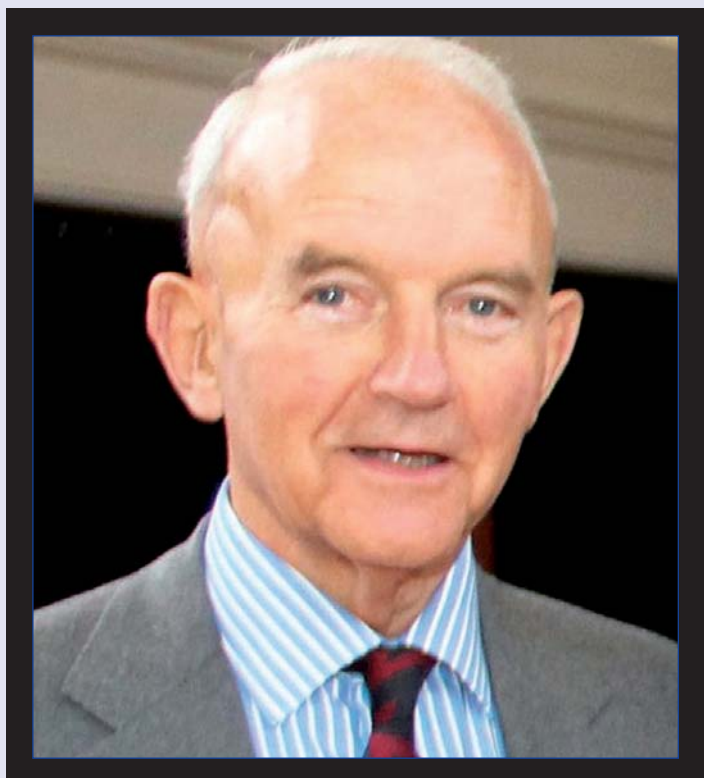
The remainder of our summer shooting calendar is listed in the above 'Dates for the Diary' section.

In March we held our AGM at the Clubhouse, as usual a well attended and positive event, with the usual mix of admin. and update discussion with presentations plus the added attraction of proximity to the bar!

We are now at the start of the summer Small Bore competition for which we have entered our usual two teams of 5 in the Surrey County Small Bore Rifle Association league, together with 8 shooters signed up for the Individual League. We can but hope for some greater degree of success than was achieved by our teams in the Winter League: namely 5th ex 6 for the A Team and 6th ex 6 for the B Team!! We can at least only do better this time??

Guy Hart - our international shot with the Irish team - did however pick up a Silver Medal within his Individual League pool.

For the first time in over half a century it was decided to set up a Rifle Fund - under the management of Graham Clark - to enable the Vets. to purchase some much needed replacement Full Bore



### GERALD BOWTHORPE

Gerald Bowthorpe, who died on 30 March 2013 at the age of 74, was the most loyal and committed of Whitgiftians. His presence on the rugby pitch during the period of OWRFC supremacy was a key element in the achievements of those great teams but, after his playing days were over, he also added so much by way of leadership in the Rugby Club and the Association as committee man, Chairman and President. Gerald, who had thrilled spectators with his unquenchable love for rugby and his appetite for tackling and try scoring, seemed just as content to put out corner flags, start up and establish the mini rugby section, act as duty officer and chair the Benevolent Society. Indeed, the outstanding attribute that Gerald demonstrated throughout his life was a sense of altruism and a great interest in helping those not as fortunate as he. Gerald joined Whitgift in September 1949 and by the time he left in December 1956 had enjoyed a glittering career. Of course, he was an outstanding rugby player (1st XV for three years, Surrey, London Counties and England), but he also represented the School at athletics, tennis, hockey and swimming. He was a Senior Prefect, House Captain of Dodd's and a Warrant Officer in the CCF. After School, in the manner of the time, he spent his National Service in the army and was commissioned into the Royal Artillery. It was after his time in the army, part of which was spent on active service during the EOKA emergency in Cyprus, that he began to play regularly for the OWRFC and to develop his

rifles without incurring a hefty drain on our finances. Thanks to Graham's hard work, contacts and the generosity of club members and supporters, a very useful sum has been raised. This has enabled us to purchase 2 excellent Musgrave FB rifles to replace the 3 somewhat troublesome Swing rifles - which have now been sold on - as well as some further relevant equipment updates, plus a useful addition to the Vets' bank balance. Many thanks to all who have so far donated.

Whitgift Shooting Club - now a junior section of the WVRC - moves forward with a firm membership of some 18 boys under the management of staff member Peter [PJ] Morrison. With three shooting sessions a week and the prospect of purchasing Shooting Jackets and slings in the Summer, enabling the boys to move up a gear in their shooting development, the future looks good.

PJ will of course be starting the new term rejuvenated after the Easter break and his recent matrimonials!

Like all clubs and societies, the Vets' longevity [117 years] and continuance relies on loyal and supportive membership, but as anno domini and circumstances inevitably dictate, we need to encourage new members to our sport.

With this in mind, I should like to remind readers that the 'Vets' is open to all OWs, plus both former and current members of the teaching and OWA staff. No medical checks are required!

Small Bore shooting takes place every Tuesday evening throughout the year at the school range [19.00 - 21.30 app.] after which some may care to indulge in a tincture or two, plus join in the occasional local 'Ruby' outing.

To those of you interested in following up a chance to revitalise old shooting abilities please contact Simon Lacey at secretary@wvrc.org.uk or have a look at the Vets' developing website at www.wvrc.org.uk

### **CALLING ALL FENCERS**

With the help of the WA and the coaches at Whitgift School, we are about to start an OW Fencing Club from sometime in April. It will be from 6pm - 8pm, initially on Fridays, on the 1st floor of the sports centre at the school. You can bring your own gear,

but we will have access to the fencing equipment if required. You will need to be a member of the WA and there will be a small monthly charge for hiring out the hall, depending on numbers.

So brush off the cobwebs from your rusty blades and do join us!

Contact RAZA TOOSY on raza@toosy.net or 07811345333

### **1966 OW INFORMAL GATHERING**

- **Howard Bairstow**

On February 27th 2013 John Bowerman Davies, David Munns, Chris Palmer and Howard Bairstow met for the first time together for nearly 40 years.



John was visiting the UK from Kentucky USA where he now lives, David Munns travelled from Suffolk, Chris Palmer came up from Devon and Howard Bairstow arranged for the meeting at Newbury where he lives.

It was a wonderful meeting of old friends and though the years have flown by the camaraderie and affection of old friends lived on.

### **WHITGIFTIAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY -**

**Andrew Pickering**

The Society is alive and flourishing but very much wishes to provide assistance to as many of its potential beneficiaries as it can reach. The Society's objects as set out in its Constitution are " the relief of distressed Old Whitgiftians, members and former members of the teaching and other staff of Whitgift School, staff of the Whitgiftian Association, their widows or widowers, their children and their other dependants, present Whitgiftians and any other distressed persons with a connection with Whitgift School which the Committee in its absolute discretion considers enables them to be entitled to be benefitted by the Society".

The net has therefore been widely drawn and we interpret "distress" not merely in the financial sense but in a pastoral vein as well.

career with the OCS Group, of which he eventually became Executive Chairman. In a period when the Club was playing at a very high standard and travelling extensively for its fixtures (from Plymouth to Gosforth via New Brighton and Manchester) his durability and skill were celebrated. Gerald was also a member of the remarkable OW Seven-a-Side team that reached the Middlesex Sevens Finals at Twickenham for six consecutive years, still a record for a junior club. It was only last year that his record of 407 appearances for the Club 1st XV was exceeded. Gerald had the ability to play at the highest level and, no doubt, could have moved to a more fashionable club to reach the top of the tree but his sense of loyalty and comradeship would never have permitted such an action. Gerald played with and against internationals but was happy to take the field with his friends in a highly successful, but nationally unremarked, team.

#### **Family**

Gerald had the benefit of a strong family life: he was happily married to Diana ("Didi") for 44 years and they had two children, Nigel (OW 1982-89) and Kim, who has worked at the School for the past nine years. As Diana's sister Wendy was married to David Priest, another member of the 1960s OW rugby team, the comprehensive nature of the commitment of the Bowthorpe family to all things Whitgiftian can be seen.

Gerald and Didi were members of Sanderstead United Reformed Church for many years and, as with the rest of his life, Gerald

threw himself into all aspects of Church activity. It is this sense of doing good for all, fetching, carrying, ferrying, delivering or whatever was required that most epitomises the man. Perhaps his life can be best summed up in a sentence from the report of the 1st XV game against Dulwich in 1956: "the other personality of the match was Bowthorpe, who was here, there and everywhere in defence ... and who still retained sufficient breath to score the two decisive tries in the second half".

Gerald was a man of ceaseless energy, with simple habits and traditional views, whose sheer goodness shone through and who never shrank from any task, however seemingly insignificant. This is the splendid and much loved man who is mourned now by his family and a host of friends.

\*Following his private funeral where six OWRFC team mates acted as pall bearers a service of thanksgiving was held at Gerry's church in Sanderstead. Between 400 and 500 people, many clad in OW colours at Gerry's request, filled the church, the hall and everywhere else to pay their respects to this much admired Old Whitgiftian and witness a remarkable service where tributes were paid by friends and family to cover all aspects of his very active life.

Afterwards a splendid reception was held in Big School of his much loved Whitgift where the Rugby Club flag flew at half mast and the sunshine flooded this beautiful setting to mark the passing of a great man. Ed



We usually find that we have a goodly number of School cases being referred to us for consideration but we would gladly welcome more cases in respect of Old Boys and their dependant families who are in distressed circumstances so we are asking all Old Boys who read this Newsletter to bear the Society in mind and either mention our existence to any Old Boys who might need our help or let one of our Committee members know of any Old Boy who might need our help. The same comment applies of course to anyone in the other categories of beneficiaries mentioned above.

On the other side of the coin if any Old Whitgiftian would like to become a subscribing member of the Society we would be very glad to hear from you as well, thereby providing us with the resources to help a greater number of beneficiaries.

The Committee members to contact are Andrew Pickering – 020 8660 5636, and Mark Allanson – 01737 245683.

### GOLF REPORT – Peter Gale

First round success for the Whitgift team came in the Halford Hewitt at Royal St George's. St Paul's were beaten 4-1 with convincing wins in the early matches for Hedges & Stracey, Williams & Blossome, and Hollins & Hayes. An encouraging start, especially for new recruit Tom Blossome, who played with Neil Williams and enjoyed a 3-3-3 start in his first Hewitt match. Unfortunately, the team's success was not repeated in the second round and Repton took the honours by 3.5 to 1.5. Williams & Blossome again won their match. Eton beat Tonbridge 3-2 in the final of the competition.

The Golf Society's 2013 AGM was held at the School on Friday 22nd March, followed by an enjoyable annual dinner. 31 attended in the end, despite grim forecasts for the weather. Mike Berners Price was unanimously voted in as the new Captain.

Early mention should be made of the Autumn Meeting. This is to be held on a Sunday to attract new members who may not be in a position to come to the midweek meetings earlier in the

year. There will be a choice of the West course at Ashdown, for those who do not want to tackle the carries on the Old Course, and the entry fee will be very reasonable. Bring a friend!

The golf society is always keen to welcome new members. You don't have to have a single figure handicap – far from it! 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 society's activities can be found.

## WHITGIFT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

# HOLLYWOOD BALL

The WSA invites you to a night of glamour, dancing and razzmatazz at our Hollywood themed Summer Ball.

A champagne reception, live music and serious frocks! If you have been to previous WSA Summer Balls, you will know that this is a very special night.

Old Whitgiftians are invited to join the festivities by taking a table

Tickets are available from Mrs R Clarke % The School 020 8688 9222.



**SATURDAY 15TH JUNE 2013**  
**BLACK TIE & GLAMOUR**  
**TICKETS: £65**

**Hooray for Hollywood!**

**NEWSLETTER 348 covering July/August closes Saturday 15 June.** All news and photographs (preferably e-mailed) should be sent to the Clubhouse on [office@whitsports.co.uk](mailto:office@whitsports.co.uk) AND to the Editor at [maryblundell@hotmail.com](mailto:maryblundell@hotmail.com) or post to 7 Peaks Hill, Purley, Surrey, CR8 3JG

**It's been a good**, enjoyable - albeit at times frustrating - season so far for the OW Fives Club. We've won 6 of the 7 matches played. Highlights include our annual tour to the South West, winning 3 out of 3 tour fixtures, and enjoying the hospitality of OW Patrick Marsland-Roberts and his wife Annie in Sherborne.

## Fives Winning Performance

Our club doubles competition was won by Mssrs Butlin & Woolfenden (pre-tournament pre-exhaustion photo below!), and the singles competition is imminent at the time of writing.



Dramatic climatic changes on the eve of several games have however been the cause of much frustration, causing sweating (ie condensation) on the courts and the postponement of several fixtures. However, we push on regardless and look forward to getting at least some, if not all, of these games rearranged during the (hopefully) rather more stable spring climate!

We continue to play social 5s at the school courts on most Thursday evenings. We've welcomed several new/returning players onto the courts over the last year, and more are always welcome to help swell the ranks. Do contact Nick Woolfenden ([nickw5s@hotmail.com](mailto:nickw5s@hotmail.com)) for any more info.

Pictured: L-R are Mssrs Andrews, East, Woolfenden, Butlin, Dalman, Hamilton, and Roddie (not pictured, taking the photo!)