



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER 367 - September/October 2016



JOE CHOONG - THE WHITGIFT OLYMPIAN

Choong, who now studies at Bath University, secured his place in the team by reaching the qualifying standard with a seventh place finish at the European Championships in 2015.

The former European Under-16, GB Open and British Junior champion appeared to be hitting peak form at just the right time, finishing fourth in a World Cup Event in April. With that being just four months before the Olympics, the signs were positive for the young athlete.

One of the youngest competitors in the competition, Choong was up against



Team GB sent a strong contingent of 366 athletes, competing in 25 different sports, to Rio for the 2016 Olympic Games. Among them was 21-year-old Old Whitgiftian Joe Choong (2008-13), who was one of four men and women selected to take part in the Modern Pentathlon.

several seasoned veterans and many world-class athletes. This didn't seem to affect his performance and he got the games off to a great start, sitting in eighth place after the fencing phase.

Next up was swimming and things got even better for Joe. Teammate James Cooke set a new Olympic record to win the round but Choong wasn't far behind in third place. A good Fencing bonus phase was followed by a solid Show Jumping performance and the Old Whitgiftian found himself occupying the silver medal position, with just one phase to go.

Things were going great and a surprise medal looked on the cards. Unfortunately, a mix of inexperience, pressure and tiredness led to a disappointing shooting performance. This slowed him down and he slipped down the field, with more experienced athletes overtaking him.



Choong didn't give up and managed to finish in tenth place overall, which put him as top British male in the Pentathlon. This was four places above Cooke, who had won Gold at the World Cup a few months before, and only 17 points behind the bronze medal winner. It was his best ever finish in the combined event and there were plenty of positives to be taken from it.

He may have missed out on a medal but it was a performance full of talent, tenacity and brilliance of which he and the whole of Great Britain can be proud of. This year, at the Olympic games and in the lead up to it, he has shown the world he is an extremely talented athlete with a great future ahead of him.

Joe Choong is definitely a name to watch out for in the world of Modern Pentathlon, with the potential to be a true great in the sport. Who knows, in four years he may even be the Olympic champion.



DUTCH KNIGHTHOOD FOR OW OWERS



picture above, for his "continuing support and work, especially as treasurer, of many social organizations". The official title in Dutch is "Ridder in de Orde van Oranje-Nassau". No sword was involved and it is not clear whether Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth gave her permission!

In his birthday honours at the end of April 2016, His Majesty, King Willem-Alexander of The Netherlands made five new knights on the island of Curaçao, a far-flung part of the Dutch Kingdom. One of the five was not a Dutch national at all but "our man in the Caribbean" for over 35 years, Antony Owers OW (1961-69), seated on the Lady Governor's left in the

Owers was with the accounting firm KPMG for 30 years in London, São Paulo, Brazil and Curaçao where he has lived since 1984. From 1997-2013 he was the UK's Honorary Consul to the Dutch Caribbean islands (not exactly a hardship post but for example, he made more than a hundred visits to the prisons and police cells in that time to help ensure British

and Commonwealth citizens who had been detained were reasonably treated).

Always a keen sportsman and wishing to see sport flourish, he succeeded Lord Weatherill as Patron of Croydon Harriers in 2007; Owers was track captain of Croydon Harriers in the mid 70s and retains a close friendship with his former coach, former Whitgift sports teacher, and a pillar of Croydon Harriers for some 50 years, Mike Fleet. On visits to the UK, Owers still turns out occasionally for the OW Fives Club (when overseas players are permitted!). He and his great friend Tony Hamilton OW (1963-69) (who remains a prominent Vs player) reached the schools Vs final in 1969, and they are hopeful that a Whitgift pair will go one better soon.

MOCKFORD REUNION



(left to right):- Peter Pringle (good friend of OWs), Peter Hieatt, Ed Andrews, Keith Towers, Peter Gale, Sean O'Farrell, Peter Chesterton, Jim Mon, Adrian Figgess, Dale Mockford and Gordon Scott

What started as a lunchtime meeting a few years ago between OWs Peter Chesterton, Keith Towers and Dale

Mockford (all 1962-70), has become a twice yearly reunion! On the 11th July, our latest get-together had grown to 11 old friends & classmates (Rowley Waters gave his apologies on account of spending the day with his mother who was celebrating her 100th birthday!) A great time is always had with much banter and reminiscing.

Until now, the Skimmington Castle on Reigate Common

has proven a popular venue but with the rapidly increasing numbers, a different hostelry may need to be found for the Winter meeting.

Anyone who left the school around 1970 would be most welcome and actively encouraged to come along. If you are interested, please do contact me on 07718 904223.

DALE MOCKFORD, OW (1962-70)



A chance meeting became an OW reunion when Kingston Mayor, Geoff Austin OW (1958-66), pictured here with Old Palace alumni, Deputy Mayor Rowena Bass, visited Kingstonn Fire Station on the afternoon of Sunday 7th August and was greeted by the Station Manager, Justin Coe OW (1982-87).

OW COCKTAIL PARTY WITH INSANITY PARTIES



Friday 26th August saw a new era of event at the Whitgift Sports Club with a marquee cocktail evening hosted by Insanity Parties. Insanity Parties is run by two OWs, Raj Sukul (2006-14) and Dom Clark (2006-14), who decided to bring an event to the clubhouse, along with some encouragement from Nick Somers OW (1984-89), to bring Old Whitgiftians and their friends together for an evening filled with Fun, Music and Cocktails.

Guests were greeted with a red carpet leading up to the cocktail lounge – a

space to get a cocktail from the marquee's own bar, and relax on some sofas whilst enjoying the background music.

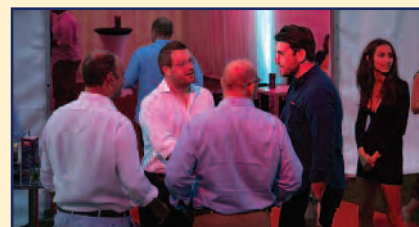
The Insanity Parties catering team then served up a mouth-watering BBQ including gourmet burgers and hot dogs.

As the evening went on and people had a chance to try more of the cocktails on offer, the dance floor filled up with many thanks to our Insanity Parties DJ.

The evening was a great success with everyone present having a great time! We hope to be able to bring more events of this type to the club so watch this space for the next one!

If you are having a party and require event services, why not get in contact with Insanity at events@insanityparties.com or 020 3637 5747.

DOM CLARK (2006-14)



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

SAVE THE DATE

WA ANNUAL DINNER 2017
26TH MAY - ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL



Photo credit: Danny Fitzpatrick

Over the past few years, what with the Eastern European and Japanese scholar programme, the opening of the boarding house and, most recently, the International Music Competition, the school has become an increasingly multi-cultural place; it should, therefore, come as no surprise that when Whitgift ran its own European Referendum on that fateful Thursday back in June, both boys and staff voted overwhelmingly to remain in the EU, with the final winning margin being 73% to 27%. In the run-up to the big day, a series of debates and lectures were put on for the boys and were incredibly well attended. Mr Keith Smith should be congratulated for overseeing the whole thing. Seeing so many young boys genuinely enthused and passionate about politics was most encouraging and bodes well for our country's future.

The big theatrical production for the Summer Term was the Junior School play and this year, they went nautical. Indeed, Big School was transformed into a pirate's galleon and the audience was thrust into a rollicking adventure on the high seas, as a huge cast performed Stuart Paterson's adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*. Current thespian celebrity, Kit Connor (he of BBC's *War and Peace* fame), starred as young swashbuckler, Jim Hawkins, who embarks on a high stakes adventure when a treasure map falls into his hands following the death of an old sea captain. Other notable performances came from Sumatera Saragih-Simarmata, as

fabled pirate, Long John Silver, Henry Griffiths, as Captain Smollett, Alex Painter, as Squire Trelawney, and Joe Eve, as Doctor Livesly. Director, Mr Hugh Trimble, commented, "I'm immensely proud of our talented and dedicated cast. The boys have given a huge amount of their time and energy to this production, and have ended up with a thrilling show which I really believe shows school drama at its very best."

Not to be outdone, the music department also finished the year in spectacular fashion, with the extravagantly named, "25 Years of Whitgift Music" concert. A glittering host of old boys - both Eastern European scholars and home grown - reassembled to put together an incredible programme that culminated with the

swaggering vocals and silky piano playing of Anthony Strong OW (1996-2001) and his magnificent touring band, who played into the early hours of the morning. For those not familiar, Anthony is an extremely talented jazz pianist and singer, and one of Whitgift's most successful musical alumni, having released several critically acclaimed albums and toured all over the globe. The evening was effortlessly organised and compered by Director of Music, Mrs Rosanna Whitfield.

One of the things that marks Whitgift out as a school is its diversity and balance. Indeed, whilst the final evenings of the term were notable for their jovial and celebratory tone, as evidenced by all the concerts and productions, balance was provided during the day by things such as the aforementioned political focus and other, more solemn occasions, such as the moving ceremony to commemorate the Battle of the Somme that took place on the morning of Friday July 1st. At 7am, a small number of staff and pupils gathered on the terrace to watch Whitgift's Corps of Drums playing *It's a Long Way to Tipperary*. The Revd Canon Boswell, Vicar of Croydon, and the Headmaster, Dr Barnett, gave short speeches, and British, German and French flags were raised as a mark of respect to all of those that gave their lives during one the bloodiest battles in history. At 7.30am, everyone assembled



Photo credit: Danny Fitzpatrick

to observe a one-minute silence in Whitgift's First World War exhibition, Remembering 1916 – Life on the Western Front. As the bugle sounded to mark the end of the minute, all remained silent and took their seats in the Edwardian-themed room. Dr Barnett gave a talk on the First World War and included the names of the eight Old Whitgiftians who lost their lives on this day, 100 years ago. As part of the remembrance, a photo call captured CCF boys, French, British and visiting German children, from The German School, Richmond, in the carefully-crafted British, French and German trenches that provide a focal part of the exhibition.

When reading through these pages, it is often easy to forget that Whitgift is a school, and ultimately, most schools' reputations are judged by their academic results. On that note, I am pleased to report that the IB boys did not let us down, with their results breaking many school records. The average points total, of 41 points, is the highest ever at the school, and two thirds of the cohort scored 40 points or more, putting them in the top 5% of candidates worldwide. Six students scored 44 points, a feat only achieved by the top 1%. Almost all the boys have already confirmed their first-choice university places at top Russell Group universities and all our Oxbridge candidates have successfully achieved their offers.

Whitgift has long been known for the peacocks that inhabit the grounds, and more recently, we have added cranes and wallabies into the mix, but you may be surprised to hear that one student has recently been accosted by dragons and lived to tell the tale! 15-year-old, Arminster Dhillon, recently braved the perils of BBC 2's long-running show, Dragon's Den, and in doing so, became the youngest person ever to win an investment on the programme, after securing three lots of £20,000 from 'Dragons' Touker Suleyman, Deborah Meaden and Peter Jones for his 'Boot Buddy', a gadget that can clean muddy boots in minutes. Arminster was only 11 years old when he came up with the idea, after getting fed up with the time he had to spend washing his boots after playing football. Now it is already on sale with retailers including Amazon for £14.99. If they ever sell out, you can always purchase one in the School shop!

In cricket news, the First XI enjoyed another successful season, winning twelve out of sixteen fixtures, but were ultimately thwarted in their quest for national glory, losing out to Cranleigh in the regional final of the HMC T20 competition. The U15 team went one better, however, beating Epsom College in the regional final of their ESCA T20 competition, meaning that they are now through to the Nationals. The U13s also won a limited overs competition, beating Trinity in the final of

the Watcyn Evans Trophy.

The guest speaker at this year's Celebration of Whitgift Life was Lord Graham Tope OW (1953-61), President of the Whitgiftian Association 2016, and he was an inspired choice, tapping into the political zeitgeist that had been stirred up within the boys by the previous month's referendum. They were fascinated by the inspirational story of his journey from Whitgift schoolboy to House of Commons to House of Lords, and listening to them talk after the ceremony, I can confidently predict that at least one of them might, ultimately, join him in the revered ranks of Westminster by "doing some good" and "making a difference", as he so eloquently put it in his address. Other highlights of the event were the crowning of Cross's as House champions, breaking the Mason's stranglehold on the competition, and the fond farewell issued by the Headmaster to four Whitgift stalwarts: School Chaplain, Canon Colin Boswell; junior school librarian, Mrs Trish Moody; Mr Discipline himself, Mr David Elvin, and, longest serving of all... chemistry teacher, multiple trophy-winning rugby and cricket coach, and, most importantly of all, 'Sticky Rock' front man, Mr David Williams. Put together, their service to Whitgift extends well over a century and they leave a huge hole to fill. But if there is one school that can rise to the challenge...

DOMINIC EDWARDS OW (1988-96)

BUY YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFTS NOW!

10% off all online purchases with code WAMem15*

Available online at www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/shop or phone the WA Office on 020 8633 9926 to place your order.



WA CLARET

The specially selected WA claret is available for the 3rd year running. Just £65 for six bottles, or £125 for a case of 12

CHRISTMAS CARDS



WA BOW TIE



WA SILVER CUFFLINKS



WA BLAZER



WA FLEECE



INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA RESULTS

Congratulations are due to Whitgift's Upper Sixth Form International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma graduates, whose results on 6 July broke many School records. The average points total, of 41 points, is the highest ever at the School, and two thirds of the cohort scored 40 points or more, putting them in the top 5% of candidates worldwide. Six students scored 44 points, a feat only achieved by the top 1%.

Almost all the boys have already confirmed their first-choice university places at top Russell Group universities and all our Oxbridge candidates have successfully achieved their offers.

'Both staff and students are thrilled with these results, the fruit of two years' hard work, and the joy of seeing so many smiling faces whose university ambitions have now been fulfilled made this a special day for all of us,' said Mr Paul Dinnen, outgoing Head of International Baccalaureate. 'Impressive as they are, the outcome of the IB Diploma can never be summed up in mere

numbers. The strength and depth of character which the programme cultivates will see these young men succeed far beyond their time at university. It has been a privilege to work with such a talented and committed group, and I wish them all the brightest of futures.'



A LEVEL RESULTS

Following a record-breaking set of IB (International Baccalaureate) Diploma results, with an average points total of 41 this summer, many congratulations to the Upper Sixth Form A Level students who received their results on Thursday 18 August. The students have excelled once again, with 89.2% of all the grades awarded at A*-B. The A*-B rate for A Level and IB combined is 90.2%.

The Headmaster is delighted that so many pupils fulfilled their potential and secured their places at top universities. Whitgift is very proud of all the students and commend them for their hard work and endeavour.

GCSE RESULTS

The Year 11 students followed up the A Level successes with an excellent set of grades at GCSE and IGCSE. The School is pleased to report an A*/A success rate of 81%.

A total of 42 boys achieved 9 A* grades or better, of which 16 pupils obtained straight A*s in all of their subjects. The strength of the year group as a whole can be seen by the 82 students who managed to achieve a straight set of A*/A grades.

The majority of subjects are now examined through the rigorous IGCSE papers, and with most Whitgift students taking at least 10 GCSEs, these results really highlight the all-round ability of our boys.



The Headmaster and teaching staff would like to warmly congratulate the students on their success. They can be very proud of their results following so much diligence and dedication.

OWCC REPORT

The 1st XI at one stage reached 3rd place but a losing streak of four games saw them tumble down the table. The OWs possess a strong bowling attack, but the team's fragile batting has struggled to score sufficient runs as batting becomes easy in late summer. Star performers in recent weeks include two young batsmen Shaz Rana and Aamir Raza, and captain Mo Raza has taken five wicket hauls in recent weeks.

The 2nd XI are currently 4th in their division, however promotion is no longer an option as the top two teams are already promoted. Arun Ramamurthy has struggled to keep a consistent team which has meant they have been inconsistent with both bat and ball.

The 3rd XI are currently top of their league with three games left



to play. Star performers with the bat have been Captain Abhinay Raj, Neel Dudhia (OW) and Jon Higgins OW (1986-94) while the wickets have been shared around the side.

Finally, the Sunday Development side, which aims to introduce young cricketers (U18s and below) to adult cricket, have reached the semi-finals of the competition.

DAVID HAGGER OW (2000-08)

OWGS REPORT

The OW Golf Society played its annual match against KCS in July at Royal Wimbledon. This is always a pleasure to play, and this year was no exception. The opposition is tough, however, and KCS retained the Chris Edge memorial salver with some ease, although two of the four matches were lost only on the 18th.

Early August and a field of 28 took to the heather-lined fairways of Hankley Common, near Farnham. This is a super course, one of the best in Surrey, and we had weather to match; brilliant sunshine. Hankley has added some subtle touches to the normal golf experience; for example, the

white crosses marked on certain trees are not there to signify some arboreal disease requiring felling, but instead to act as a visual guide to help golfers such as ourselves track a stray shot into the trees and heather, and help to locate the ball. Several of our members might be recommending similar assistance at their own clubs.

This event was to contest the Hornsey Walker Cup, now in its ninetieth year, and, for the over 65s, the Veterans Cup. Thanks to last year's winner, Robert Hollidge OW (1957-64), the Hornsey Walker Cup has been skilfully refurbished, and will now rest in the tender care of Martin Down OW

(1960-64), who blew away the opposition with a score of 39 points, five clear of the field. After a slow start, Martin scored level par over the last fourteen holes. Second, and winner of the Veteran's Cup, was Paul Champness OW (1958-63), with 34 points, and on the same score but third on countback was Alan Scovell. Many thanks again to John Gould who masterminded the organisation of the day.

We play our last main meeting of the season at Royal Ashdown on Sunday 25th September. Anyone wishing to join the society should contact me (peterbgale@sky.com).

PETER GALE OW (1963-69)
HON SEC, OWGS


WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION
invites you to
SPORTSMAN'S LUNCH
SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2016, 12 NOON

Closing date for bookings is Monday 5th December.
Tickets are £35 per head for members of the WA, staff and parents of current Whitgiftians, £25 per head for students and £40 for all others.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 9 Sept	OW Corps of Drums Meet	WSC	20.00
Sat 24 Sept	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	WSC	12.00
Sat 24 Sept	Open Morning	School	09.00
Sun 25 Sept	OWGS Autumn Meeting	Royal Ashdown	09.00
Sat 8 Oct	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	WSC	12.00
19/20 Oct	VI form School play	School	19.30
Thurs 20 Oct	Autumn Music Concert	School	19.00
Sat 29 Oct	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	WSC	12.00
Sat 5 Nov	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	WSC	12.00
Fri 11 Nov	Remembrance Service	School	10.30
Thurs 17 Nov	Careers Conversazione	School	18.00
Sat 3 Dec	School Christmas Carols	The Ritz	15.45
4-10 Dec	School Play Hamlet	School	19.30
Fri 9 Dec	School Christmas Concert	Hanover Square	18.30
Sat 10 Dec*	WA Sportsman's Lunch	School	12.00
*(note change of date)			
Mon 12 Dec	WA AGM	Old Library	19.30
Wed 14 Dec	School Carol Service	Croydon Minster	19.30
Fri 26 May 2017	WA Annual Dinner 2017	Royal College of Surgeons	

FIXTURES

Sat 3 Sept	OWCC 1st XI v Valley End	L	H	11.30
Sat 10 Sept	School 1st XV v Sedbergh		H	12.00
Sat 10 Sept	OWCC 4th XI v Sanderstead		H	13.00
Sun 11 Sept	Surrey Trust Finals		H	
Sat 17 Sept	School 1st XV v Skinners		A	14.00
Sat 17 Sept	Charlie Hutton Testimonial Hockey Match		School	12.00
Sat 17 Sept	OWRFC 1st XV v Old Mid Whits	L	A	15.00
Sat 24 Sept	OWRFC 1st XV v Old Freemans	L	H	15.00
Sat 24 Sept	School 1st XV v Wellington		H	14.30
Wed 28 Sept	School 1st XV v Caterham	Cup	H	14.30
Sat 1 Oct	School 1st XV v Warwick		A	12.00
Sat 8 Oct	School 1st XV v John Fisher		H	14.30
Sat 15 Oct	School 1st XV v Chislehurst		H	10.30
Sat 29 Oct	OWRFC 1st XV v Old Georgians	L	H	15.00
Sat 5 Nov	OWRFC 1st XV v Old Amplefordians	L	H	14.30

RECENT DEATHS

BOB CRANE OW (1946-53), DIED .
6TH AUGUST 2016

WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION
500 Club
AUTUMN DRAW

1st	David Westnedge	£100
2nd	Ian Macdonald	£50
3rd	Raman Subba Row	£50
4th	David Caygill	£50

WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION
WA AGM
MONDAY 12TH
DECEMBER, AT 19:30PM
THE OLD LIBRARY

The WA Committee hope to see as many members present as possible. If you haven't been before, why not come along?

NEW - THE WA WINE CLUB

**In time for Summer
- and in very good time for Christmas!**

FOLLOWING the great and continuing success of our 'Own Label' WA Claret, we are delighted to announce the launch of the WA Wine Club.

In association with renowned fine wine importer, Ellis of Richmond, founded in 1822 and still controlled by the Ellis family, the Club's philosophy will be to source and offer exclusive wines from all over the world whilst being constantly on the look out for new and innovative wines that you will not find on the high street.

There is no joining fee, nor do you have to sign up to purchase on a regular basis. Just keep an eye on the WA website

(www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk) for current offers and order when it suits you.

**Our Introductory offer to you ...
A Tasting Case containing two bottles
of each of these excellent wines**

RED

WA Claret - Maison Sichel, Bordeaux,
2014 Malbec - E.S Vino, Finca Sophenia,
Mendoza, Argentine, 2014/5 Rioja -
Crianza, Bodegas Ramon
Bilbao, 2012/3

WHITE

Chardonnay - Bon
Vallon, De Wetshof
Estate, Unwooded,
Robertson, South Africa,
2015/6 Sauvignon Blanc
- Touraine, Domaine
Bougrier, 2015



Gavi - Cortese Tenuta Neirano, Piedmont, 2015

The WA Wine Club is able to offer you these twelve very nice bottles as a 'Tasting Case' for only £120 (inc delivery* and VAT) and the wines will be far superior to other mail order offerings.

Vintages correct at the time of going to press but we reserve the right to offer the best alternative vintage should a wine be no longer available.