



# WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER 368 - November/December 2016



## WHITGIFT VETERANS RIFLE CLUB REPORT

**Normally I commence my reports with an update of how the Veterans have performed over the previous couple of months, however on this occasion it seems right to cover an event which is of credit both to the school and more especially our club.**

Cast your minds back if you would to that year in La Belle Epoque, namely 1896. Indeed a year to conjure with, including as it did Baron de Coubertin's realization of the first of the Modern Olympics. Ok, I apologise to those sports historians amongst us who will forever raise the issue of the earlier games at Much Wenlock, but that is for another time...

It was also a year in which Yorkshire scored 887 against Warwickshire....

However, dwarfing these illustrious events was the formation in that year of the Whitgift Veterans Rifle Club, 120 years ago! That makes it one of the oldest clubs in the WA.

To commemorate this occasion, a 120th Anniversary Dinner was held at the

Whitgift Sports Club (The "Clubhouse") in October, attended by nearly 50 members and guests and Lord Graham Tope CBE OW (1953-61), President of the WA, as our principal guest.

The dinner was presided over by our Chairman, Jack Furtado OW (1951-56), in whose safe hands an excellent evening was guaranteed – he did not disappoint. After The Loyal Toast, Jack called upon Graham Clark OW (1952-59) to address the assembled and as the Club's Archivist he provided a brief but very interesting account of the Veterans history. Graham's knowledge and enthusiasm over some 55 years of membership is legend as is his service to the Vets. with 12 years as Secretary followed by Chairmanship.

Similarly is Graham's acknowledged generosity to the Club over the years, further enhanced at the dinner by his presentation of a Chairman's Badge hanging from a blue ribbon. The 6cm diameter hall-marked badge bears the WVRC logo on one side and is appropriately and beautifully engraved on the obverse by Royal Warrant Holders, Thomas Fattorini. All this at Graham's personal cost and to be worn by the Chairman at 'official' functions. Incredibly generous!

Jack continued by thanking the various officers of the Club for their dedication to the Vets, especially Simon Lacey OW (1979-87) who is relinquishing the very demanding Honorary Secretary role after 5 years which he has undertaken in exemplary fashion: Mark Collins OW (1979-86) is bravely taking over at next year's AGM... good luck Mark! Many thanks are also due to Simon for organising the evening's dinner amongst his many other tasks.

Likewise much gratitude to Bruce Barry OW (1976-84) for all his Treasury work which he has now passed on to Rob

*Continued overleaf*



## WHITGIFT VETERANS RIFLE CLUB REPORT CONTINUED

Beere OW (2000-05), to whom obvious appreciation also. Not forgetting our international shot, Guy Hart OW (2000-07), who will be taking over a sizeable amount of Graham Clark's Bisley Fullbore organisation and involvement.

On more general topics, it is to be hoped that changes within Whitgift next year could maybe assist in re-instating the school competing for the Ashburton Shield at Bisley each July. From 1878 until 1995 it was the custom for Whitgift to compete in this event as well as other National and County

Competitions, but alas not since 1995! Maybe the school could also see fit to re-instate the role of a dedicated shooting coach for the CCF, as was the case for many, many years prior to 1995.

Certainly the enthusiasm is there amongst the pupils, as evidenced

by the continuing and growing support within the Whitgift School Rifle Club so ably administered by Peter Morrison and his colleague Tom Stead. Very usefully assisted by young Henry Parritt OW (2009-16), our most recently appointed committee member and already a valuable asset to the Vets.

The Chairman brought the formal aspect of the dinner to a conclusion with particular thanks to Lord Tope and his wife Margaret for sharing the evening with us.

I hope that as the mere scribe, I have been able to provide in abridged form some flavour of this excellent evening. Not forgetting of course, the excellent food!

Back to a more usual format in my next report, but may I take this opportunity to wish you all (very) early Seasons Greetings.

ALAN HUNTER OW (1952-59)

## OWs IN THE CITY

On Thursday 20th October, around 30 OWs gathered at the Market Porter, Borough Market for an informal evening of drinks and conversations. Ages ranged from 21 to late 50s and topics covered included the incoming Headmaster, Whitgiftian Association Trust fundraising and various employment opportunities for the university leavers.

As ever, all were pleased to see Fladders in attendance particularly as he probably taught all who were present!

Details of future gatherings will be promoted via the Facebook and LinkedIn pages as well as on the WA website.





WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

SAVE THE DATE

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



# NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

Following the record-breaking set of IB Diploma results detailed in the last edition, I am delighted to inform you that Whitgift has been ranked as the number one all boys school in the UK's 2016 IB table! A Level boys achieved equally high standards (with 89.2% of all the grades awarded being at A\*-B) bringing the A\*-B rate for A Level and IB combined to 90.2%. The school is also in rude academic health in the lower years, with the GCSE A/A\* rate once again breaking through the 80% barrier – no mean feat considering the amount and variety of subjects that the boys take.

In rugby, the First XV have enjoyed an extremely promising start to the season, winning the President's Cup at Esher on the first weekend and, more recently, cruising through the second round of the Natwest National Cup with a 60-0 victory over Eltham College. Ironically, competition has been much more fierce and the results tighter in the 'friendly' fixtures, with victories over Skinners and old enemies John Fisher being counterbalanced by incredibly close losses to Sedbergh and Warwick. The tightest match of all, however, was the magnificent 15 – 14 win over Wellington College, who have swept the floor with every other school they have played. Extra significance was attached to this fixture as it was designated as a memorial to Sebastian Adeniran-Olule OW (2006-2012), a Harlequins player of immense potential who had attended both Whitgift and Wellington, and who tragically died earlier on this year in a road traffic accident. The event was well attended and a raffle was held to raise money for the Sebastian Adeniran-Olule Charitable Fund, which has been established to provide educational and sporting opportunities for boys who wouldn't normally be able to access them.

In hockey, the Charlie Hutton Testimonial match was won 7 – 3 by the First XI in a game of pulsating action and high skills

that is a continuing testament to Charlie's incredible but all too short time at Whitgift. In other results, the Firsts remain unbeaten, with notable victories being against Millfield, 7-0, and Oxford University, 3-2.

Whilst the school's golfers could not quite recreate the glorious scenes from last year of winning the highly prestigious HMC Foursomes on the last hole of the competition, they have, nevertheless, still enjoyed a great deal of success. The first team was victorious in the HMC singles competition at Berkshire Golf Club on October 4, and three of that team – Sixth Formers Harvey Byers, Alfie Fox and Harry Plowman-Ollington – have been selected to play in the Friendship Trophy, an annual quadrangular golf match between Surrey and a provincial representative team from Catalunya (Spain), Midi-Pyrenees (France) and Nordrhein Westfalen (Germany). This is a highly competitive tournament, which Surrey has won for the last three years. They will be defending their title in Spain, at the El Prat Golf Club, at the end of November.

Upper Fifth Former, Tarriq Roach, started the fencing season on a high, competing in the second part of the U17 British fencing ranking series, in Canterbury, at end September. He performed outstandingly and won the competition against 48 competitors from across the UK, moving up into 1st place in the Cadet Epée rankings.

Another boy flying high in a specialist sport is Upper Sixth Former, Piers Bellman, who has

been called up to the Welsh national skiing team. Piers, who had never considered ski racing seriously until he came to Whitgift, aged 11, took up the sport with the school's Outdoor Education co-curricular programme. Fast forward a few years and Piers was starting to win medals at the annual Independent School Ski & Snowboard Championships, in which the School participates annually in the French Alps. Now, the 17-year-old is looking forward to his first national competition at the Welsh Championship, in Champéry, in January. Maybe we have a future Winter Olympian in our midst?

From one potential Olympian to a fully-fledged one... Old Whitgiftian, Joseph Choong (2008-13, pictured below), visited the school earlier this month to share his recent Rio Olympics experience. Although still considered a junior athlete, he was selected to represent Great Britain and was the youngest member in the Team GB pentathlon quartet. He performed outstandingly on his Olympic debut, securing a top 10 finish. During a day which included taking his first-ever assembly, signing shirts and fielding a Q&A session, Joe took some time out to be interviewed by Whitgift modern pentathletes, Josh Coniglio (Upper Sixth Form) and George Simpson (Lower Fifth Form). If you are interested, there is a link to the full interview on the school's website.





## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL CONTINUED

In what has been a rather sport-heavy report, I am pleased to finish with a couple of cultural highlights. National Poetry Day, which fell on Thursday 6th October this year, was launched in 1994, and has gone on to inspire millions of people throughout the United Kingdom with poetry through a range of live events and web-based activities. To celebrate it this year, Whitgift invited performance artist, Talia Randall (pictured below), to the school. Talia's work is about speaking the unspeakable and capturing moments that we all share but find difficult to communicate. She gave an excellent assembly to Fifth and Sixth Form students, and a poetry performance to Third Form students in Big School. This was followed up by poetry workshops throughout the day and an informal meeting with students in the

Raeburn Library at lunch time. The boys gained a huge amount from this experience and work that was produced as a result of it will be published in a school anthology later on in the year.

And last but not least, a very interesting reunion (pictured right)... On 17th September 2016, relatives of Manfred von Richthofen, the 'Red Baron', and his first victims were brought together for the first time, at Remembering 1916 – Life on the Western Front, Whitgift's major First World War centenary exhibition. One hundred years ago to the day, the Red



Baron, the 'ace of aces' of aerial warfare in the Great War, shot down a British plane in the skies above Northern France, piloted by Old Whitgiftian, Lionel Morris, with Tom Rees as Observer. To mark the Centenary of the aerial dogfight, relatives of the three airmen came together to remember and respect this historic event at a special commemorative dinner: Jill Bush, cousin of the 19-year-old pilot, Lieutenant Lionel Morris; Dr Meriel Jones, great-niece of 21-year-old Observer, Tom Rees; and Baron Donat von Richthofen, great-nephew of the Red Baron (who was just 24 years old in 1916). The poignant meeting of the relatives of these historic figures was covered by ITV London Tonight, BBC Radio 4's Today programme, BBC Radio Wales, The Telegraph, The Times and the Daily Mail.

DOMINIC EDWARDS OW (1988-96)



## BUY YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFTS NOW!

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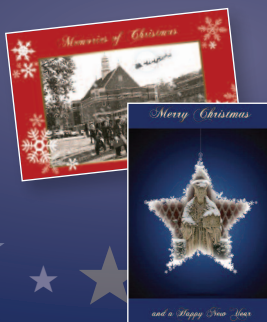
Available online at [www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/shop](http://www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/shop) or phone the WA Office on 020 8633 9926 to place your order.



### 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 UMBRELLA



### WA BLAZER



### WA FLEECE





# OW GOLF SOCIETY NEWS

September and October represent the final two months of our season and they are always quite busy, especially since the introduction of the 'Autumn Tour', initiated by John Gould OW (1960-68) five years ago. More of that later.

Even before the school term started, the boys were out in force to avenge last year's rare defeat by the OWs in the Barnett Trophy match, now regularly played at The Addington. Avenge it they did, with the school's leading pair recording a better-ball score in the low 60s, and an overall 3-1 victory in the match.

The society holds four main meetings in the year and the last of them was the Autumn Cup meeting at Royal Ashdown, on their West Course. There are no bunkers on the course but there is still plenty of trouble for the unwary; never mind the golfers, the Sunday dog walker or stroller needs to keep an eye open for stray golf balls too. This particular occasion saw David Hughes OW (1965-72) avoid the hazards and score his maiden triumph in the golf society; the first of many, no doubt. His early morning practice



*Mike Spanswick presents the Autumn Cup to David Hughes*

clearly paid dividends, and his 34 points successfully fended off the close challenge of Nigel Huxtable OW (1969-76) and new member Howard Beeston OW (1964-72), who finished second and third respectively.

The last of the major scratch tournaments of the year, for serious golfers, was the Grafton Morrish, played at Hunstanton and Brancaster on the North Norfolk coast. Whitgift has had a fairly mixed run of late in these tournaments and unfortunately this was no exception; a first round win versus Nottingham was followed by a second round loss to Rugby, who are rapidly becoming a formidable golf school. They also beat us in last year's Halford Hewitt.

The society's sixth Autumn Tour teed off at Hunstanton a week earlier than the Morrish. 21 OWs made the trip to Norfolk, the largest attendance yet for what has become an increasingly attractive finale to the season for many members, and we were rewarded with some fine weather and spectacular golf courses.



*Ken Anderson tees off at Hunstanton*

Hunstanton is a worthy and tough venue; as if to emphasise the point, their stroke index 18 hole, supposedly therefore the easiest, is a blind, 210 yard, par 3. Don Anderson OW (1965-72) recovered from a poor start to his round to come out top on the day. The following day, we were at Sheringham, just along the coast; with the stereo attractions of a tourist steam train on one side and cliffs on the other.



*David Hughes and Nigel Huxtable on Sheringham's signature fifth hole*

Mike Berners Price OW (1962-70) took the honours here. Cromer was our final venue before the trip home; another very scenic course around the lighthouse and along the cliffs. Despite a 2-shot 'tour cut' from his victory at Sheringham, Mike Berners Price finished first again, and, not surprisingly, took the overall first prize for the tour as a whole.

Thanks are due not only to John Gould, who organized the trip, but also to Tony Harris OW (1964-72), who organised the finances, and to Alan Scovell OW (1970-77), who managed to keep track of all the individual scores, the team scores on each day, the house scores (Mason's were the winners), and ran a book on the side. Those of us who backed Mike BP were especially grateful for this last element.

Anyone wishing to join the society should contact the secretary at [peterbgale@sky.com](mailto:peterbgale@sky.com).

**PETER GALE OW (1963-69)**  
**HONORARY SECRETARY**

Photo: AWOL Media Production



## OW HEADS FOR SOUTH POLE

On 27th October, Ollie Stoten OW (2000-08) began an amazing adventure! Ollie is part of "SPEAR 17", a group of soldiers who plan to finish the last epic adventure started by Henry Worsley, the explorer and former SAS officer who died this year trying to cross the Antarctic.

The group, all aged between 24 to 27, will be travelling to the South Pole and then traversing Antarctica. Ollie and his team mates will need to ski 1,100 miles to complete the expedition, which has only ever previously been accomplished by six others (half as many who have walked on the Moon!) The expedition is due to last 80 days, taking the men across some of the toughest terrain on Earth, where temperatures drop as low as minus 50C and winds can hit 90 miles per hour.

Ollie's team are raising money for "ABF The Soldiers' Charity".

Good luck to Ollie, who will surely be the first OW to the South Pole.

Fifty years ago, two young men took up the reins at the head of the School for a successful year which included securing the Nation Sevens Title for the first time, much to the delight of the coach, Welsh International Gerwyn Williams, and also retaining the Modern Tetrathlon Inniskilling Cup



Michael Hieatt and Peter Skeen

As pictured not too much seems to have changed except perhaps the colour of the hair!

## OW "HOBOS" VISIT KINGSTON MAYOR

Geoff Austin OW (1958-66), who is currently serving as Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames invited fellow OWs, collectively known as "the Hobos" to join him for drinks in his 'parlour'.

The Hobos are a group of OWs who all played rugby for OWRFC (rather a long time ago now) who are celebrating their 40th anniversary this year. The Hobos meet a couple of times a year.

Thirty OWs enjoyed the Mayor's hospitality and listened to an entertaining talk by the Town Sergeant on aspects of

Kingston's history. Most then moved on to a nearby restaurant for a pleasantly social supper.



DAVID STRANACK OW (1949-55)

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?**





## 1996 REUNION REPORT

45 Old Whitgiftians from the class of 1996 met for their 20-year reunion at School, at the end of the Summer.

The group assembled on the Terrace and posed for a photo by the War Memorial (pictured) before heading up the Old Library for an informal buffet-style dinner where all were able to "mingle" and catch up at their leisure.

After a delicious meal, delivered by the School's caterers, the group travelled up to Whitgift Sports Club ("The Clubhouse") to continue their reminiscing in the bar culminating in a rousing rendition of the school song.

Thanks to Stephen Deadmon (1988-96 and School Captain), (Dominic Edwards (1988-96) and Andreas Dracoulis (1991-96) for organising a splendid event. One OW commented, "Apart from being horrified at how poor my memory is... it was a brilliant evening - really enjoyed meeting up again with so many people after all these years. Thanks for the opportunity to come back to the school."

If you would like to organise a reunion for your year group, or any other group of Old Whitgiftians, please contact the WA Office on 020 8633 9926.

## WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION BURSARY APPEAL

*"At Whitgift, I think I can achieve something I never thought possible" Ryan, Lower First*

Whitgift has a tradition of educating boys who show promise, ability and a love of learning, regardless of their background. It has evolved into one of the country's leading independent day schools, offering remarkable opportunities to boys who are fortunate enough to attend. Bursary provision is however increasingly limited with the result that fewer boys from low-income families are able to benefit from a Whitgift education.

*"The teachers are just fabulous and extremely clever. Sports at Whitgift are just the best. I had never picked up a hockey stick before but now thanks to the coaching I am in the C team. I just love Whitgift and everything about it" Go Whitgift! Miles, Upper First*

The Whitgiftian Association has set up a Bursary Appeal to raise funds to provide financial assistance to local boys that have met the high admission standards but whose families cannot afford the fees. Given the extraordinary co-curricular and enrichment opportunities the School provides, it is vital it remains accessible to talented and gifted youngsters from Croydon.

*"This time last year I was dreaming of coming to Whitgift and now my dream has come true" Brook, Lower First*

With your help, a deserving Croydon boy can realise his dream of a Whitgift education. We have raised nearly £40,000 to date from the generosity of Old Whitgiftian's. Please join them by making a donation online [www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/giving](http://www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/giving) or calling Naomi on 020 8688 9222 x2371.

We would love to hear from you if you could contribute to a successful fundraising event by donating high quality auction prizes or hosting an event at your club or home.

  
 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

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 26 Nov	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	WSC	12.00
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	OWRFC Christmas Dinner	WSC	19.00
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
Sat 17 Dec	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	WSC	12.00
Sun 18 Dec	WSC Childrens Christmas Party	WSC	14.30
Sat 31 Dec	WSC New Years Eve Party	WSC	19.00
Fri 6 Jan	OW Chess v School	School	16.00
12-18 March	School Opera- Eugene Onegin	School	19.30

## FIXTURES

Sat 5 Nov	OWRFC 1st XV v Old Amplefordians	L H	14.30
Sat 5 Nov	COWHC 1stXI v Southampton	CHS	14.30
Sat 12 Nov	School 1stXV v High Wycombe	A	14.30
Sat 12 Nov	COWHC 1stXI v Andover	JHS	1300
Sat 19 Nov	OWRFC1stXV v Purley John Fisher	L A	14.30
Sat 19 Nov	School1stXV v Dulwich	A	14.30
Sat 19 Nov	COWHC1stXI v Hamble	CHS	14.30
Sat 26 Nov	OWRFC1stXV v Old Wimbledonians	L H	14.30
Sat 26 Nov	School1stXV v Millfield	A	13.30
Sat 26 Nov	COWHC1stXI v H.A.C.	JAGS	14.00
Sat 3 Dec	School1stXV v Langley Park	A	10.30
Sat 3 Dec	COWHC1stXI v Sunbury	CHS	14.30
Sat 10 Dec	OWRFC WandsXV v Bec Old Boys	L H	14.00
Sat 10 Dec	COWHC1stXI v Camberley	Kings College	11.30
Sat 10 Dec	School1stXV v Cranleigh	H	14.30
Sat 17 Dec	OWRFC1stXv v Old Mid Whits	L H	14.00
Mon 26 Dec	OWRFC 1stXV v Old Alleynians	H	14.00
Sat 7 Jan	OWRFC1stXv v Old Freemans	L A	14.00
Sat 7 Jan	School1stXV v Ravenswood	A	10.30

## RECENT DEATHS

**DUNCAN BRIDGE OW (1968-76)**  
D. 4TH SEPTEMBER, AGED 58

**DUDLEY JAMES CLAPHAM**  
OW (1930-39)  
D. 27TH AUGUST, AGED 95

**ANGUS DUKE**  
OW (1943-50)  
D. 22ND SEPTEMBER, AGED 83

**ERIC GREGORY**  
OW (1938-40)  
D. 12TH SEPTEMBER, AGED 89

**RICHARD HUNT**  
OW (1953-61)  
D. 21ST SEPTEMBER, AGED 73

**MICHAEL RICHARDSON**  
OW (1945-51)  
D. 13TH SEPTEMBER, AGED 82

**CHRISTOPHER SMITH**  
OW (1954-62)  
D. 15TH AUGUST, AGED 73

## REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Old Whitgiftians are welcome to attend the School's Remembrance Day Service on Friday 11th November. The service will commence at 10:45am with tea and coffee served from 10:30am in Big School. Please RSVP to [alumni@whitgift.co.uk](mailto:alumni@whitgift.co.uk) or telephone 020 8688 9222.

Whilst visiting, OWs may gain free entry to the Remembering 1916 – Life on the Western Front exhibition. Remembering 1916 has been featured on ITV News, BBC TV, in a wide range of national newspapers and also live on the BBC Today programme. So far it has welcomed 20,000 visitors, including 5,000 schoolchildren, and attracted critical acclaim from historians, specialists and members of the public alike. The Exhibition will run until 16th April 2017.