



# WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

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President - RICHARD BLUNDELL

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NEWSLETTER 381 - January/February 2019

## EDITOR'S NOTE

A very warm welcome to our new President. He is a chap I have known all my life and it is rumoured that if cut in half not only would he bleed blue and gold but you would find the letters WHITGIFT stamped right through him in his favourite colours of azure, argent, sable and or.

He tells me he is looking forward to his year in office and supporting all the Association's Clubs and Societies as much as possible and that his main Annual Dinner on Friday 24th May will be one of much OW fellowship and attended by as many members as possible back in Big School where it all began.

Congratulations to Rory Burns who not only captained Surrey CCC to the county championship title but enjoyed a successful tour with England to Sri Lanka. Also to Elliot Daly, the current Wasps captain, on his autumn rugby internationals with England, especially his spectacular try against Australia and to Sven Kerneis (2010-15) on his dark Rugby Blue even if it was for only five minutes.

RICHARD BLUNDELL  
OW (1956-63)

## REMEMBRANCE SERVICE



A large contingent of OWs, some in uniform, gathered in Big School for a fortifying cup of coffee before moving onto the Terrace for the usual School Remembrance Service. To mark the significance of this year's event, the Service followed two special early morning Assemblies held for the boys to mark the Centenary of the ending of WW1, during which they were addressed by Col Mike Cornwell OW (1984-92).

Wreaths were laid at the foot of the Grade II listed War Memorial by the Head Boy, Chairman of the Staff Common Room and WA President Lord David Freud (OW). In addition, David Straw (OW) laid a wreath on behalf of the OW Trustees Ltd to mark its role in the



overseeing of the OW War Memorial Fund, initially set up by the OWA to care for the children of the fallen WWI Old Whitgiftians.

Having enjoyed the music from the Corps of Drums, the OWs reconvened in Big School to witness a rare event in the history of the School. Due to the exceptionally good offices of PP Nigel Platts OW (1955-64), the WA obtained the set of War Medals belonging to Lt R.G. Hill OW (1902-04), which having been expertly mounted, Nigel proudly presented to the Headmaster, Chris Ramsey.

Later, after more OW fellowship, a small group of senior OWs adjourned to a local restaurant for a celebratory lunch which commenced with a solemn and heartfelt toast to the 251 Old Boys who did not return home to Haling Park.

### WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

RICHARD BLUNDELL OW (1956-63)



A Great War group of four medals awarded to Lt R.G. Hill, Royal Army Medical Corps, late Royal Field Artillery and Royal Flying Corps, who was killed in action while serving as M.O. to the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards at Houthulst Forest in October 1917. Military Cross GVR, 1914-15 Star, British War, Victory Medal and Bronze Memorial Plaque

# SPORTSMAN'S LUNCH



A small group of OWs met up in the Founders Room for a drink, a chat and to listen to Mr Dan Webb give us an expert overview of the term's rugby at the School. He had kindly rushed back from the ESSA swimming finals at the Olympic Pool and was on his way to care for his 2nd XV team. Dan was able to give us an insight into the workings of the Sports Department and the close links to Croham Road when he mentioned his appreciation of the support received from

the Old Boys at the School's overseas trips, especially his own recent cricket tour to Perth. At this Stephen Brown OW (1965-73), over from Hong Kong, commented that it was always a pleasure for the overseas members to meet up with the School parties and added, "Tell us you are coming and we shall be there!"

There was however still time to present to School Rugby a framed montage of the Winning of the National Sevens title in 1967 at Rosslyn Park some 50 years ago. (It was to have been last year but Dulwich cried off the fixture and captain Chris Saville could not travel over from France.)

Then it was off for a delicious lunch in the new venue of the Private Dining Room in the School Dining Hall followed by the most splendid and exciting game of schoolboy rugby out on Big Side in

wonderful conditions where Whitgift beat Dulwich 33-30 with the winning try coming in final overtime!

On the day, the final result of all matches against Dulwich was won: 16; lost: 5; drew: 2.

During the post-match tea, it was also acknowledged that the Association had seven OW Internationals playing that weekend, 2 rugby, 4 hockey and 1 cricket; a quite remarkable achievement which reflected the high standard of the School's sports departments.

## RICHARD BLUNDELL OW (1956-63)



# THE VINEYARD DINNER

In November, Sir Peter Michael CBE OW (1949-57), kindly hosted a WA Bursary Appeal fundraising dinner at 'The Vineyard', a wonderful hotel and restaurant he owns in Newbury. The Vineyard showcases wines from the Sir Peter Michael Winery in California. On arrival, guests walked through the exposed cellar to enjoy champagne adjacent to the remarkable painting depicting The Judgement of Paris. Sir Peter explained that he had commissioned the work to illustrate the legendary industry event when Californian wines were favoured over French in a blind tasting.

Guests then enjoyed a private dinner matched by wines personally selected by Sir Peter, including the award winning Les Pavots, the flagship red from the Sir Peter Michael Winery. Guests enjoyed a wonderful menu of seasonal and local produce and met the talented chef who explained his approach in the restaurant.

Following dinner, guests enjoyed musical

performances from Whitgift boys, Brian, Theo and Luka who came all the way from school with Head of Music, Rosie Whitfield

and Phil Winter. The standard from the boys was remarkable and showcased a diversity of talent, from vocal, harpsichord and violin performances, reminding OWs of the breadth and range of opportunities provided by the music department.

Headmaster Chris Ramsey, then thanked Sir Peter and the WA for their efforts with the fundraising and shared his plans for the school and fundraising, which was very well received.

WA President Lord Freud introduced our host, Sir Peter, who spoke about his time at Whitgift and his career as an engineer and a businessman. He gave a fascinating insight into his investments and entrepreneurial flair and his passion for the Winery and the Hotel.



After dinner, guests retired to the bar, a beautifully convivial space at the heart of the Hotel, for more drinks and conversation and for most an overnight stay.

Thank you to Sir Peter Michael for his kindness and exceptional generosity in hosting this dinner and his time in sharing the evening with us, which raised in the region of £10,000 for the bursary appeal. All present appreciated the quality and generosity in the food and wine. Thank you to OWs and their guests that made the effort to travel to Newbury and support the event.

The evening included a fundraising raffle with fantastic prizes, in particular gift box of wine donated by the Headmaster and gifts from the school shop, Marion the school nurse and Son flowers in Warlingham. Thank you to all for your generosity.

NAOMI NEWSTEAD



# OW GOLF SOCIETY NEWS

The last issue went to print before I had details of the Autumn Tour, impeccably organised as always by John Gould. I am indebted to John for the following report, but I should warn those of a sensitive disposition that the below contains references to betting, high fashion, and brandies.

"On Sunday, 7th October, 21 OWGS members embarked on the Society's 8th Autumn Tour. This year the New Forest was the destination with Brokenhurst on the Sunday, Bramshaw Forest (and Manor) Course on the Monday, and Stoneham on the Tuesday. The older hands were pleased to welcome new tourists Jerry Hamley, Tony Fuller and John Grima.

Day 1. An anonymous donation of £150 towards the tour committee was enthusiastically received and put to good use prior to an enjoyable ham, egg and chips followed by a leisurely round of golf. The weather was excellent and although it was known maintenance work was being carried out on the course, the condition of the greens was rather unexpected – they had only just been hollow tined and sanded. Despite this, Alan Longhurst, Peter Blok and Don Anderson tied for first place with a commendable 35 points.

Day 2. On the Forest Course, scoring was again low with Tony Mason and Robert

Hollidge both scoring 34 points. Meanwhile, due to no buggies on the Forest Course, Fuller and Gould played the Manor Course and Gould posted an unexpected 37 points. The only person to have bet on Gould was Gould himself, so he scooped the jackpot!

Finally, day 3 at Stoneham and the best weather on the tour; good enough for several tourists to play in shorts. Hollidge had another fine day and scored 41 points with Tony Mason coming second with 38 points.

Overall, Hollidge was the winner of the Eclectic and Brandies (Brodies and Andrews) won the house cup with Hollidge being the major contributor. For sartorial excellence, no one was a match for Peter Blok – purple trousers on day 1, green trousers day 2, and pink shorts on day 3! Alan Scovell also introduced a new tour award for "Alan of the Day"; congratulations to Alan Blok for winning on two of the three days.

My thanks go to Alan Scovell for his bewildering spreadsheet which somehow managed to produce the results; Don Anderson for looking after the betting; Tony Harris for managing finance, aided

and abetted by Nigel Huxtable who managed to keep tabs on all the monetary comings and goings.

The ninth Autumn Tour will be Sunday, 6th - Tuesday, 8th October 2019 and will take place in Suffolk. We are hoping to play Woodbridge, Ipswich and Felixstowe Ferry and will be staying at the White Lion Hotel in Aldeburgh. More news to follow."

The only other outstanding matter from the 2018 season is the outcome of the individual knockout competition, The Challenge Cup. This was won by Howard Beeston, who overcame

Peter Kelley at the chosen neutral venue for the final, Tandridge.

The 2019 society calendar has now been published; the AGM and annual dinner will take place at the school on Monday 11th March, and our four 'open to all' meetings will be at Purley Downs (18th April); West Hill (23rd May); West Sussex (24th July); and Betchworth Park (29th August). Dates for your brand new diaries!

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

**PETER GALE (HON SEC)**



Peter Blok in his winning green attire

## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

*"Life's but a walking shadow,  
a poor player,  
That struts and frets his hour upon  
the stage,  
And then is heard no more. It is a tale  
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,  
Signifying nothing."*

There is more to Macbeth than witches, blood and ambition. As evidenced in the quotation above, it deals with complex existential themes and, as such, is quite

an undertaking for a young school cast. Nevertheless, that is exactly what Whitgift did this term for the senior school play.

With a golden generation of actors having departed with the graduation of last year's Upper Sixth, and a somewhat disappointing uptake from the current Sixth Form at the audition stage, the cast list that was placed up on the drama notice board at the beginning of term

had a decidedly raw look to it. Indeed, many eyes were raised when it was revealed that Fourth Former, Jack Godwin, was to play the eponymous role. Yes, he was outstandingly menacing as Roger in the superb junior production of *The Lord of The Flies* last summer, but he is only fourteen years old! As it turned out, we had nothing to worry about; with a maturity beyond his years, Jack commanded the stage with great authority as the tragic thane, enthralled the audience with his portrayal of a man driven to the pit of despair by ambition.

# NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL CONTINUED

Other notable performances came from Joe Barber, as Banquo, and James Desmier, as MacDuff.

What was most impressive, was the overall performance of the entire cast. Expertly directed by professional Globe actor, Keith Bartlett (who, incidentally, played Polonius in the school's production of Hamlet two years ago), the ensemble made excellent use of the traverse staging and no-expense spared props – a six foot model of the Queen of witchcraft, Hecate, and a fully turfed Big School floor – to totally immerse the audience into the dark and bloody world of 11th century Scotland.

*“Confusion now hath made his masterpiece.”*

Earlier on in the term, Andrew's House claimed the spoils in House Drama with their ingeniously titled self-written play, 'The Play'. It focussed on two budding playwrights (Jack 'Macbeth' Godwin and fellow Fourth Former, Will Allnutt) trying to come up with an idea for a script for a drama competition – how metatheatrical! Whilst they discussed their ideas, the rest of their cast mimed around them wearing an assortment of increasingly surreal costumes to bring their fantasies to life.



This ostensibly simple conceit actually worked incredibly well dramatically and allowed the audience to view some of the acting elite from the Upper Sixth Form in a wholly new light: Charlie Barber skipping around the stage in a full length Edwardian dress with nails painted and lips rouged, and, better still, School

Captain, Ben Goldby, gyrating hypnotically, covered from head to toe in green spandex in his role, dancing alien.

*“When shall we three meet again, in thunder, lightning, or in rain?”*

Whilst Autumn this year brought more than its fair share of stormy weather, this did not put a dampener on the music department's efforts to brighten things up. Indeed, their annual Autumn Collection concert was a joy to behold, with the sunny disposition of the First Form and their renditions of Stevie Wonder's Isn't She Lovely and Bruno Mars' Uptown Funk lighting up Big School. This, combined with the brass ensemble's performances of Gonna Fly Now from Rocky and the Thunderbirds theme tune, really set pulses racing, making for an exhilarating evening which certainly put paid to any early winter blues.

In addition to the Autumn Collection concert, the School presented Lior Navok's musical re-imagining of the well-known tale Pinocchio. The concert was a culmination of musical collaboration between the London Myriad Ensemble (LME), an international prize-winning wind group, and the Lower First boys of Whitgift. The morning workshop began with instrumental introductions and was followed by group sessions during which the boys learned how to use percussion instruments to create incidental music for the evening performance.

Tuesday 13th November saw the return of the Whitgift Woodwind Competition. With three classes catering to a whole range of abilities, the standard of performances was consistently high throughout. Competitors performed a range of challenging repertoire with great confidence and, with detailed feedback and advice given by our adjudicators on the day, the competition once again proved a rewarding experience for all who took part. Winners on the day were:

Lower First Form clarinettist, Joshua Dunaway, in category A (up to Grade 3); Third Former, Rishi Patel, in category B (Grade 4-6); and Sixth Form student, Marian Bozhidarov, in the advanced category C.



*“Give sorrow words; the grief that does not speak knits up the o-er wrought heart and bids it break.”*

On Friday 9th November, Whitgift held a poignant Remembrance Day assembly and service for the School, marking the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. The morning assemblies for Lower School and Upper School were honoured by a visit from Old Whitgiftian Colonel Michael Cornwell OBE, who gave tribute to all the OWs who participated in the First World War. Head of History, Mr Keith Smith delivered an engaging talk on the history of the war, asking half of the boys in the hall to stand up and physically represent the 251 Whitgift boys that went to war 100 years ago. There were also readings by the boys from soldiers who lost their lives. Headmaster Chris Ramsey closed the assembly with some thoughts on how to remember all those who gave up their lives in the line of duty.

After assembly the Lower School congregated in preparation for the





annual remembrance service, opened and led by Reverend Alan Bayes. Members of the CCF performed the role of Flag Party including the tradition of flags at half-mast, followed by the laying of the wreaths by Head Boy, Ben Goldby, History Teacher, Mr Oliver Roberts, and Old Whitgiftians Lord David Freud and David Straw. The Whitgift Corp of Drums did an honourable job of playing at the start and end of the service. The Headmaster was delighted to receive OW Reginald Gordon Hill's set of campaign medals, presented to him by Old Whitgiftian Nigel Platts, who generously donated the medals as a thank you for his time at the School and his 10 years as School Governor. Reginald Gordon Hill lost his life on 11 October 1917 serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps [R.A.M.C.] in France. The framed medals will be displayed in the Whitgift Archive for visitors who wish to view them or learn more. "Stars, hide your fires;"

In science news, Upper Sixth Formers, Freddie Rawlins and Andrew Bonner, have been working closely with Mr Taylor (Physics Teachers and Head of STEM) to build a new computer for the STEM department at Whitgift. Their work began last term, conceptualising the plans and developing the core requirements; the computer needed to be



able to run simulations and edit complex Computer Aided Design (CAD) files. The team's design utilised industry-level components and water-cooling technology; the boys were involved with all elements of the project, from ordering the parts to building and configuring the computer. The new equipment has massively broadened creative potential throughout numerous departments and projects, as well as allowing students to ensure that the size and scale of their modelling is suitable for the real world. Some of our A Level Design Technology and Engineering students plan to use the computer to show a concept design to their clients, enabling them to get much better feedback about their products.

*"I have no spur  
To prick the sides of my intent, but only  
Vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps  
itself  
And falls on the other."*

It seems that the ambition of Whitgift Hockey surpasses even that of Macbeth himself, with another incredibly exciting coach being added to the roster. The school are delighted to welcome back Mr Ashley Jackson; after training the boys last year during the Michaelmas and Lent terms, he is joining the coaching team for 2018/19. Mr Jackson is England and Great Britain's all-time leading goal scorer, and three-time Olympian (Beijing 2008, London 2012 and Rio 2016). He joins the highly experienced coaching team, including National League all-time goal scorer, Mr Tim Davenport (300 Goals) and his brother Mr Wesley Jackson. Dr Karl Stagno, Director for Hockey said, "Mr Jackson will give a perspective unlike any other on the pitch and we look forward to the coming weeks as we welcome such a memorable opportunity."

*"Be bloody bold and resolute."*

And so to conclude, we come to rugby. I stated in the last newsletter that if the school won the rest of its block fixtures, it could claim to be one of, if not the best rugby school in the country. Well, I am

pleased to inform you all that this came to pass. In the block fixtures that occurred after half-term, these were the results: RGS High Wycombe, Won 12 (including all A teams) Lost 4; Dulwich College, Won 16 (including all A teams) Drawn 2 Lost 5; Millfield, Won 6 Lost 2; Cranleigh Won all 9 fixtures!

This really has been an incredible season, with no fewer than seven teams winning all their fixtures – including the U11, U13, U14 and U15 A teams! With the Firsts and U15 sides also going strong in their respective National Cups, it was quite timely that England and British Lions OW legend (and former member of my all-conquering U14 A side!), Elliot Daly, came to visit in the penultimate week of term. In the morning, he spent time with the U16 rugby group and held a kicking clinic with some of the boys, sharing knowledge and working with them individually to improve their technique. In the afternoon, he held a special Q&A for all of the First Form who were keen to ask him questions about his career and were overjoyed to jump into a group photo at the end. It was clear from the expressions on the boys' faces that they were elated to be given the opportunity to meet him. Hopefully he will inspire more Whitgiftians to follow in his footsteps.

**DOMINIC EDWARDS OW (1988-96)**



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

|             |                                    |                   |       |
|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Wed 27 Feb  | Music Concert                      | School            | 19.00 |
| Sat 2 Mar   | School Rugby Tour Ball             | School            | 19.00 |
| Thurs 7 Mar | Music Concert                      | School            | 19.00 |
| Mon 11 Mar  | OWGS AGM and Dinner                | School            | 18.30 |
| Fri 15 Mar  | Charity Comedy Night               | School            | 19.00 |
| Fri 15 Mar  | OW Drums Meeting                   | WSC               | 20.00 |
| 20-22 Mar   | Play "The Sneeze"                  | School            | 19.30 |
| Fri 22 Mar  | Founders Day Service and Breakfast | Whitgift House    | 07.00 |
| Fri 22 Mar  | WA Past Presidents' Lunch          | WSC               | 12.30 |
| Tues 2 Apr  | School Choir                       | Westminster Abbey | 17.00 |
| 7-11 Apr    | Int Music Competition              | School            | 19.00 |
| 11-14 Apr   | Halford Hewitt Golf                | Deal              |       |
| Fri 24 May  | WA Annual Dinner                   | School            | 18.00 |
| Sat 28 Sept | WA South West Dinner               | Tiverton          | 18.00 |

## FIXTURES

|              |                                    |     |              |       |
|--------------|------------------------------------|-----|--------------|-------|
| Sat 5 Jan    | OWRFC 1st XV v Portsmouth          | L   | H            | 14.30 |
| Wed 9 Jan    | School 1st XV v Ivybridge          | Cup | H            | 14.30 |
| Fri 11 Jan   | OW Chess v School                  |     | A            | 16.00 |
| Sat 12 Jan   | OWRFC 1st XV v US Portsmouth       | L   | A            | 14.30 |
| Wed 16 Jan   | School 1st XV v Rochester          |     | H            | 14.30 |
| Thurs 17 Jan | OW Chess v Lewisham                |     | WSC          | 19.30 |
| Sat 19 Jan   | School 1st XV v Harrow             |     | H            | 14.30 |
| Wed 23 Jan   | School 1st XV v Ravenswood         |     | A            | 15.15 |
| Sat 26 Jan   | OWRFC 1st XV v Andover             | L   | H            | 14.30 |
| Sat 2 Feb    | School 1st XV v Hampton            |     | H            | 14.30 |
| Sat 9 Feb    | OWRFC 1st XV v Old Georgians       | L   | H            | 14.30 |
| Sat 9 Feb    | School 1st XV v St Joseph's        |     | A            | 10.30 |
| Sat 16 Feb   | OWRFC 1st XV v Battersea Ironsides | L   | H            | 14.30 |
| Sat 2 Mar    | OWRFC 1st XV v Winchester          | L   | A            | 14.30 |
| Thurs 21 Mar | OW Fives v School                  |     | A            | 19.00 |
| Sat 23 Mar   | OWGS v School                      |     | A            | 12.00 |
| Thurs 28 Mar | School 1st VII National Sevens     |     | Rosslyn Park | 09.00 |

**Congratulations to Brigadier Neil Sexton 1978-85 on his promotion to Major-General.**

## RECENT DEATHS

**TONY J FORSBERG**

OW (1951-59),  
D. 15 NOVEMBER, AGED 77

**JOHN HODGES**

OW (1945-52)  
D. 27 NOVEMBER, AGED 84

**CANON HUGH MELINSKY**

OW (1936-42)  
D. 22 OCTOBER, AGED 94

**D.I. SAUNDERS**

OW (1944-48)  
D. 7TH NOVEMBER, AGED 87

**REV KEN SMITH**

(STAFF 1978-95)  
D. 31ST OCTOBER, AGED 81

**HUGH TIERNEY**

(HEAD PORTER, 1988-2006)  
D. 7TH NOVEMBER

**BARRY TUNNAH**

OW (1950-58),  
D. 10 NOV 2018, AGED 78

## WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION 500 Club AUTUMN DRAW

**1st prize £100**

T Humphries no. 222

**2nd prize £50**

D Tillet no. 5

**3rd Prize £50**

K & S Nicholas no. 108

**4th Prize £50**

A S Westnedge no. 113

Independent Scrutineer James Goatcher  
FCA, OW (1965-1973)

To join the 500 Club and be in for a  
chance to win a quarterly prize, please  
contact

[treasurer@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk).