



# WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER 387 - JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020



## PRESIDENT'S BLOG #77

Firstly a visit to the Clubhouse to host the Vice Presidents' Lunch, a most convivial event although only enjoyed by some 20% of the possible attendance, which only came to an end when one certain VP requested to leave so that he could cast his important vote in "that other place".

Then back to WSC for the OWRFC Past Players Lunch and a chance to check out the revamped roof spectator area whilst supporting the first XV in their local league match unfortunately

abandoned due to a serious player injury, a situation handled very professionally by the WSC staff all the while running a full, busy clubhouse and organizing a birthday letting.

11:11:11 one of the highlights of my year, attending the Remembrance Service at the School with the honour of laying the OW wreath at the listed stone cross memorial in memory of those Whitgiftians who did not return home and later a much simpler ceremony of laying a Whitgift

remembrance wooden cross at the Sportsmens' Copse memorial at Croham Road and observing the Two Minute Silence 100 years on from the first official occasion.

Then into the School PAC for the Careers Convention and to support the

30 OW advisers giving their time and expertise to the boys followed by a trip to London for the AROPS AGM and dinner with a re-branding to its new name of The Schools' Alumni Association.

Into Croydon Minster and back to Big School for the funeral service of a senior OW, Court and School Chair Governor



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with the boys fully supporting the proceedings.

Then into the School Founder's Room for drinks and a resume of School rugby and other sports before enjoying a fine Sportsman's Lunch in the Old Library and then supporting the School first XV playing Millfield down on South Lower in a close fought but ultimately unsuccessful excellent game of schoolboy rugby.

Back into the School Old Library for the AGM of the WSPA and an admin meeting with the HM concerning OWTL and the WMF grant scheme.

Then up to Chipstead for the thanksgiving service of a rugby propping OW and to discover yet again the intertwining of Whitgift connections amongst families and into the Raeburn Library for the Friends winter get-together then up to the Ritz for afternoon tea and listen to the School Choristers singing a delightful selection of Christmas Carols.

Back into the tiered seating of Big School for the most amazing production of 'Hairspray' and enjoy the spirited

performances of the energetic cast of pupils followed by more music this time in St George's Church, Mayfair from the School Chamber Choir and Orchestra.

Into the clubhouse Marlar Room for the WA AGM with a very good attendance and a full, frank, open discussion on the current and future position of the WA with the School and WSC and another year in the Chair with a new look Main Committee.

To the Croydon Minster for the School Carol Concert and an enjoyable sing-along to the carols with the congregation and up to the City for a Christmas Lunch with the HOB group of retired OWRFC players before calling into the farewell party of a popular, well respected member of the School Staff and to wish her 'bon voyage' in her new endeavours.

Unfortunately, up to Sanderstead for yet another Memorial Service of a senior OW who in his quiet way greatly helped with the organisation of WA events and lastly watching Whitgift boys singing live on BBC TV at the Croydon Minster Christmas Eve midnight service.

**RICHARD BLUNDELL OW (1956-63)**  
**WA PRESIDENT**

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Following the exploits of Elliot Daly in coming second with England at the Rugby World Cup in Japan, it has been the turn of the OW cricketers with the new pairing of Dominic Sibley and Rory Burns opening the batting for England at the test matches in New Zealand and South Africa and with Laurie Evans playing for the English Lions in Australia and Nayeem Young playing for West Indies U19 against Sri Lanka in Antigua.

A warm welcome to our new Chairman, John Etheridge, and the other members of the main committee who have the important task of taking the WA forward in a new era of relations with the School.

With the sad loss of Piers Hubbard, for this year I will be taking on the role of organizing the OW Founder's Day Service and breakfast on Friday 20th March 2020 at 7:00am. I would like to see a larger participation of OWs this year who could surely spare one early morning in the memory of John Whitgift. This year's charity recipient from the collection will be St Raphael's Hospice. Bookings please via the usual channels or my home tel 020 8660 2171.

## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

Whitgift's theatrical production this term was the 'big and beautiful' popular musical, *Hairspray*. Best known for the 2007 film version starring John Travolta and Michelle Pfeiffer, the story follows the adventures of a larger than life Baltimore schoolgirl in the 1960s who just loves to dance. However, for what seems like a rather lightweight premise, the show is actually rooted in subject matter that is surprisingly hard-hitting, as is alluded to in the directors' note in the programme: "segregation, prejudice, racism and body image stereotypes... Its 'heroes' are earnest and courageous; its 'villains' are deliciously detestable; and its ultimate message of inclusion, we hope, is one you will find irresistible when we reach the show's famous final number." So, another bold choice for the school's performing arts team!

As ever, cast and crew rose to the occasion to put on yet another feast for the eyes and ears. Fresh from playing *Macbeth* as a fourteen year old last year, Fifth Former, Jack Godwin, took on the iconic drag role of Edna Turnblad. Wearing multiple padding, sparkly dresses and high heels must have been quite a challenge for someone more used to running down the wing in rugby boots for the U16A rugby team, but Jack pulled it off with aplomb to bring the house down on several occasions. He surely is a talent to watch for the future.

The other standout performance came from Old Palace Sixth Former, Olivia O'Sullivan, who absolutely nailed the main part of Tracy Turnblad, singing and dancing with such confidence and poise, that one might have thought oneself in the West End rather than Big School.

Directors, Mr Sami Michael and Mrs Faye Carter, praised the talent, humour and dedication of the whole cast, as well





as highlighting the “troupe of formidable musicians who helped bring the production to life.” It seems that when Whitgift boys collaborate with girls from local schools, there really is no limit to what they can achieve!

Dramatic productions are not the only opportunities Whitgift boys get to work with girls: earlier on in the term, it was our turn to host the annual Upper Sixth Symposium with the girls from North London Collegiate School (NLCS). The symposium is designed to support independent learning by providing students with opportunities to conduct and collaborate in research and learn beyond the curriculum. It aims to promote Scholarships by offering students the ability to present, defend and evaluate ideas.

Whitgift students had been working with a partner student from NLCS since the start of the Michaelmas Term, identifying a topic to discuss from a range of disciplines such as science, medicine, history, economics, politics and engineering, in which they located cutting edge research before preparing a presentation on it. On the day of the Symposium, the students gave their presentations in pairs and then participated in open discussions with a wider group.

The Symposium is a great opportunity to practise skills that will benefit them not only at university, but also in the workplace while working collaboratively with a partner or group. This initiative

has been in place for quite some time, but something new that is being trialled this year which is also intended to push the boys out of their comfort (testoster) zone is a Sixth Form book group with the girls from Woldingham school. The inaugural

meeting was at Whitgift in November to discuss Sally Rooney’s *Normal People*. With 27 attendees, word has spread and more are expected at the second, this time at Woldingham, to discuss Donna Tartt’s *The Secret History*. Would it be too soon to say we have a millennial Bloomsbury Group on our hands?

On the music front, the term finished with a trio of choral delights. On Saturday 30th November, the Chamber Choir made their annual pilgrimage to The Ritz Hotel to serenade the guests with carols to get the festive season off to a proper start.

On Friday 6th December, they joined up with the String Orchestra to perform the Christmas Concert at Hanover Square. Last but not least, there was the traditional Carol Service at Croydon Minster, which saw a variety of singers from across the school belt out seasonal favourites – a perfect way to bring on the end of term.

Inspired by the efforts of the boys, a group of around twenty five members of staff (including yours truly) mustered on the steps of the Concert Hall at 7.45 in the morning on the last day of term to welcome the boys walking up the drive by singing them carols. What started off as a low-key affair gradually became more raucous, and by the end, we were showcasing our wit by substituting words – ‘Do your to-op button up / Tuck your shirt in ple-ase’ works very well for Good King Wenceslas.

We were particularly proud of how we managed to time things so that we started Ding Dong Merrily On High exactly when Ding Dong started to chime. Teachers’ humour – you can’t beat it!

On Wednesday 20th November, the English Department held its annual Junior Literary Festival. So whilst the Sixth Formers were meeting with girls to discuss and debate the most pressing



## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL CONTINUED

themes of Sally Rooney and Donna Tartt, the First Formers were witnessing a Samurai sword demonstration from Chris Bradford, the author of the Young Samurai series; learning about Rhythm And Poetry by rapping along with Karl Nova, Hip Hop artist, author and poet; and discovering the intricacies of chessboxing in a workshop run by Stephen Davies, author of *Survivor: Titanic* and *Chessboxer*.

Anything to further the boys' love of literature! Indeed, these were just three of several activities which the boys partook in over the course of the day. All told, six authors visited the school and by the end of the day, over 150 books had been purchased!

In sport, the U13 swimming team achieved a first in November by winning the ESSA 4 x 50 Freestyle and Medley relays at London Olympic Park. To become National Champions, the boys had to break the school record for both events. They were naturally elated and the sports department could not be prouder of the team.

In another first for the school, Third Former, Cameron Oakley, won a national silver medal for the Whitgift Archery Club.

On more familiar territory, the rugby 1st XV progressed through to the semi finals of the National Cup with a convincing 50 point home victory over Simon Langton Grammar School in the area knockout final and more tense 45-31 away win against Abingdon School in the national quarter final. They are now set to face Sherborne School at Saracens' home ground, Allianz Park, on Wednesday 4th March. The team's results this season – Played 22,

Won 19, Lost 3, Points For 883, Points Against, 198 – should provide them with a great deal of confidence. Indeed, their run in the second half of term included some very special performances, including a 31 – 10 away victory over Dulwich College and 62 – 0 home win over St Joseph's College.

The only disappointment – a close 18 – 23 loss to Millfield – unfortunately coincided with the President's Sportsman's lunch. The Whitgift back line outplayed their illustrious counterparts (including Will Joseph - younger brother of England centre, Jonathan Joseph), but as was the case against Sedbergh and Wellington earlier on in the season, the forwards were outmuscled and lost the set-piece battle.

With the new year bringing in a new decade, there are a raft of exciting changes which await the school community as part of the development plan which I outlined earlier on this year, but one change occurring earlier than expected is the fact that the school will be seeking new patronage. In the official press release, Headmaster, Mr Ramsey, stated, "Following the Duke of York's decision to stand aside from public duties, a decision has been made by the School and with the approval of the Court of Governors, to seek new patronages in the future."

Whoever takes on the role will find a school which is not prepared to rest on its laurels, but rather press on into the new decade with verve and dynamism. Here's to the next ten years at Whitgift!

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

## GOLF SOCIETY

Readers will appreciate that this is the close season for the golf society, but planning is well underway for 2020.

As reported in the last edition, 16th June 2020 marks exactly 100 years since the society's first meeting after WW1, and we will be holding a centenary meeting to celebrate. Largely for logistical reasons, we have decided now to hold the event at Croham Hurst, which of course has a longstanding relationship with golf at the school; it is where many of us started to play. The golf will be followed by a reception and gala dinner, and proceeds from the day will be in aid of the charity Variety Golf, which runs a programme Golf for Disabled Children. Society members will shortly receive formal invitations to the event but any other OWs, or indeed other OW societies, are invited to get in touch if they are interested in participating in what will be a special day.

The major dates on next year's society calendar are as follows –

### **March 1st**

Scratch Cup, Royal Cinque Ports, Deal

### **March 9th**

AGM and annual dinner, School

### **April 2nd-5th**

Halford Hewitt Cup,

Royal Cinque Ports, Deal

### **April 28th**

Captain's Day Meeting, West Hill

### **May 21st**

Hornsey Walker Cup Meeting, Cuddington

### **June 16th**

Centenary Meeting, Croham Hurst

### **July 22nd**

President's Meeting, Kingswood

### **September 11th**

Autumn Cup Meeting,

Royal Ashdown Forest

If you wish to participate in our events, and/or join the society, you should contact the secretary at [peterbgale@sky.com](mailto:peterbgale@sky.com).

**PETER GALE (HON SEC)**  
**OW (1963-69)**



# NEWS FROM THE WHITGIFT VETERANS RIFLES CLUB



Apologies for our time in the dark recently. Since my last submission life has, as it tends to, got in the way of our writing but we are back! We're bringing in the New Year with festivities and new announcements that we hope will excite you!

However, first, our results this past year have been exciting. We have successfully fielded two teams for each season this year, our results have been good with exceptional note-worthy scores from Duncan Samuel who has had the highest team average in the A team, and Bruce Barry who had the highest team average in the B team, both from our Summer 2019 results. We still await news from the Winter's shooting but hopefully we will hear some good news soon!

Our Full Bore shooting has seen some wonderful results this year. Our LMRA League results have been fairly

consistent with some notable scores. Nick Harman has been shooting exceptionally well coming 3rd in total in Division 2 with an aggregate score of 277.15 while the team as a whole came 3rd in Division 2. Special congratulations must also go to Nick who won the Long Range Cup due to having the highest score in the LMRA league on the 3rd Round!

Our PSV results were admirable, we successfully put forward two teams to this Year's PSV with the A team scoring 234.21 and the B team scored 221.9. Our LMRA PSV results were also not too shabby with Ian Todd scoring a total of 87 and 4 V Bulls.

Unfortunately, however, we were beaten to the high scores and came 4th this year with a very respectable team total of 307 and 20 V Bulls.

In the middle of December, we had our Christmas Shoot which had a good turnout! Thanks to the dedication of Mark Collins we had some excellent (albeit small and incredibly difficult to hit) targets comprising of aliens, snooker balls and a dart board. Our winner was the one and only Duncan Samuel who scored an Impressive 297 point with Charlie Collins only a small step behind with 250 points.

We then proceeded to enjoy the festive feast prepared for us by none other than the wonderful Nick Hart where Henry Parritt and Chris Beard proceeded to jointly win the Christmas Jumper Competition. We successfully raised money for charity too as part of the shoot thanks to everyone donating! Our deepest thanks to Mark and family for organising the event and Nick for the wonderful banquet!

As ever we see in the new year with reflection, thinking about all the new faces we've seen this year and hope to see in the future. With our eternal thanks to James Stremes who has kept the school shooting club running strong and brought back the house competition.

If you feel like taking up the rifle once again or for the first time please contact [secretary@wvrc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wvrc.org.uk). It would be wonderful to see some of you down at the range.

**HENRY PARRITT OW (2009-16)**



# NEWS FROM THE HOCKEY CLUB

The hockey section has had a busy first half of the season. There have been varied results with most teams ending the year in middle of the table positions.

A number of notable items so far this season include our new Ladies 3rd team playing their first games of competitive hockey. This team has been setup to encourage ladies to get back into the sport or to try something new and has been hugely successful in attracting new

players. We are still looking for more players so if there are any ladies in your lives that might fancy giving hockey a go for the first time or playing again get them to email [join@cowhc.co.uk](mailto:join@cowhc.co.uk) for more details and come down to training on a Tuesday night.

Our Men's second team recorded a rather satisfying 7-1 win over local rivals Trinity Mid-Whitgiftians. Always a volatile game it was especially pleasing to win with such



a comprehensive score line.

The highlight of the season so far has been the performances from the Men's Indoor team. At the qualifying heat they

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 15 Feb	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	WSC	12.00
Wed 26 Feb	Music Concert	School	19.00
Sat 29 Feb	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	WSC	12.00
Mon 9 Mar	OWGS AGM and Dinner	School	18.30
11-13 Mar	School Play "French without tears"	PAC	19.30
Wed 18 Mar	Music Concert	Royal Festival Hall	19.00
Fri 20 Mar	Founder's Day Service and breakfast	Whitgift House	07.00
Sat 28 Mar	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	WSC	12.00
2-5 Apr	Halford Hewitt golf	Deal	
Tues 16 June	OWGS Centenary Celebrations	Croham Hurst GC	

## FIXTURES

Fri 10 Jan	OW Chess v School	School	16.00
Sat 11 Jan	OWRFC 1st XV v Kingston	L H	14.00
Sat 18 Jan	OWRFC 1st Xv v Old Haileyburians	L A	14.00
Sat 18 Jan	School 1st XV v Harrow	A	14.00
Wed 22 Jan	School 1st XV v Ravenswood	H	14.30
Sat 25 Jan	OWRFC 1st XV v Law Society	L H	14.00
Sat 1 Feb	OWRFC 1st XV v Purley John Fisher	L A	14.30
Sat 1 Feb	School 1st XV v Hampton	A	12.00
Sat 8 Feb	School 1st XV v St Joseph's	A	10.30
Sat 15 Feb	OWRFC 1st XV v Old Walcountians	L H	14.30
Sat 22 Feb	OWRFC 1st XV v ChipsteadL	A	14.30
Sat 29 Feb	OWRFC 1st XV v Old Freemans	L H	14.30
Wed 4 Mar	School 1st XV v Sherbourne	Cup Allianz Park	

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beat Burnt Ash 3-2, London Academical's 7-2 and Horley 7-1, finishing top of the group.

The team then went on to play at finals day. Coached by Rob Smith OW (1992-2000) and managed by Jon Foley OW (1975-80), the team played against a number of teams many of whom play in much higher outdoor leagues. In the group stages the team beat Marlow 5-2, Bournemouth 3-0 and lost narrowly to Havant 2-1 meaning they qualified to the knockout stages.

The quarter finals saw them beat Indian Gymkhana 5-4 in a nail-biting battle to the end. This was followed by a

phenomenal effort against outdoor National League giants Old Georgians in the semi-final, but unfortunately at the final whistle the score was 7-4 in Old Georgians favour.

A truly memorable day that the team can be proud extremely of. Plans are already underway for preparation for next year's competition.

Both the Men's and Ladies sections are looking for new players to join us. If you, or any OWs that you know, friends or family are interested in playing hockey then look no further! Old/young, male/female, experienced player or just want to try something new - we pride ourselves on offering hockey for all as well as a great social scene. Running 5 Men's,

## RECENT DEATHS

### VINCENT D'OLIER

OW (1951-1958)

D. 1ST NOVEMBER 2019, AGED 79

### PIERS HUBBARD

OW (1944-52)

D. 12TH DECEMBER 2019, AGED 85

### KEITH JOHNCELINE

OW (1937-1943)

D. 12TH DECEMBER 2019, AGED 92

### ROGER MARTIN

OW (1948-53)

D. 15TH NOVEMBER 2019, AGED 82

### NOEL W PARKINSON

OW (1948-1954)

D. 18TH JULY 2019, AGED 81

### BARRY WILLIAMS

OW (1945-1953)

D. 8TH DECEMBER 2019, AGED 85

3 Ladies and a Mixed team there really is something for everyone.

Our current membership includes nearly 40 OWs from over the last 5 decades (and also a number of OMWs)!, so there is a high chance that you will know someone.

If you are interested in becoming involved please contact [join@cowhc.co.uk](mailto:join@cowhc.co.uk). Training will recommence in early January with the Ladies section training at Monks Hill Sports Centre on Tuesday evenings, 20:00-21:30 and Men's at Whitgift School on Wednesday evenings, 19:30-21:00.

SCOTT NETHERWAY OW (1990-97)

Submissions for NEWSLETTER 388 covering March/April 2020 closes Saturday 22nd February 2020.

All news and photographs should be sent to [editor@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk](mailto:editor@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk)