



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER 392 - NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020

FROM THE EDITOR

Firstly, to inform all members that whilst the School Remembrance Service will go ahead on Wednesday 11th November at 11.00am, it will be a virtual occasion with NO visitors to the School for obvious reasons.

Congratulations to Harry Williams OW (2002-10) in helping Exeter Chiefs win the European Rugby Championship with his try and then also winning the Premiership Title during a monsoon.

Also, to Marland Yarde OW (2008-10) with his win in the

BBC quiz game 'Question of Sport', although he did not answer his home rugby question correctly!

We trust that Victor Moses OW (2004-07) will enjoy his football season-long loan to Spartak Moscow this winter.

I am pleased to report that we have recently received some very kind donations of great Whitgift memorabilia from members and their families. May I remind all OWs that any items of Whitgiftiana will be gratefully received for the Archives.

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



Pursuant to a resolution of the WA membership, passed with near unanimity at our 2019 AGM, WA has now assumed ownership of Whitgift Sports Club Limited ('WSC' or 'Club'), the legal entity which holds the lease of the Croham Road Clubhouse and grounds and serves as an umbrella organisation for the sports clubs for which the site is home.

I wish to express my personal gratitude to the directors of Whitgiftian Association Trust, in particular its Chairman, Lord Tope, for their assistance in bringing this about.

The new ownership structure permits WA to stand behind WSC in financial terms, thereby stabilising its finances at a crucial time, and affords an opportunity

for the strengthening of WSC's corporate governance.

Each of the sports clubs has been invited to serve on the WSC's board, alongside a number of WA appointees. Our hope and expectation is that this arrangement allows for the projection of the interests of each of the sports clubs and of WSC as a whole. WSC has a hugely important role to play in the years ahead and must be robust in the defence of the interests of Club members, present and future.

We in the WA Committee understand that the sports clubs have their own histories, identities, cultures and trajectories; members of those clubs may be assured that no attempt will be made to impose

homogeneity within the Club, either in principle or practice. The new structure will continue to afford the sports clubs with as much autonomy as is possible, within the constraints imposed by WSC's constitution.

**JOHN ETHERIDGE,
OW (1981-88)
CHAIRMAN, WA**

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

Following an unprecedented extended closure of the school due to the Corona virus pandemic, Whitgift opened its doors again to all pupils and staff at the beginning of Michaelmas term in September.

The mood was joyous as teachers and students got back to doing what they know best, all bathed in the glorious late summer sun. Government guidelines were happily adhered to because everyone knew that whilst it meant having to get used to yet another 'new normal', it was significantly better than remote learning. Proper classroom teaching, proper social interaction, just a little spread out!

Boys got used to staying in their zones; indeed, they rather appreciated the comfort of having all their lessons in the same place. For once it was their teachers dashing around the school to get to lessons on time rather than them!

For some reason, I could not get the Crystal Maze theme tune out of my head as I crossed from zone to zone, striding with purpose past six foot signs stating 'You are now entering the Fifth Form Zone', 'You are now leaving the Second Form Zone' etc.

Whilst the full co-curricular programme could not restart due to the regulations we had to adhere to, we have still been able to offer an extensive variety of sports, just without the competitive fixtures against other schools. Right from the start, Games lessons were able to go ahead and Saturdays saw the school full of rugby, hockey and football players participating in training sessions.

For the first four weeks, all the A and B team cricketers were also able to play inter-school games, having missed out on the entirety of the summer term due to lockdown. To pull this off, keeping all the boys in their separate, year group bubbles, was quite some logistical feat for the

sports department and took a heroic effort from the heads of the respective sports, who often were in school from 8 o'clock Saturday morning to 5 o'clock in the afternoon. But it has been worth it to see the joy it has brought to the hundreds of boys participating.

One unexpected treat was that last year's U12 footballers got the opportunity to complete their national football competitions. Just before lockdown, both the U12 A and B teams had made it through to the final and semi-finals respectively of their ESFA tournaments. The U12 Bs played their semi-final against Parmiters School at the start of October and edged the tie 8-7 in a penalty shoot-out thriller. Unfortunately, with Corona cases rising and restrictions tightening, it was decided that the final could not go ahead and so the boys had to share the cup with the side they would have played in the final, Canon Slade School.

The A team were more fortunate in that they were able to play their final, but not quite so fortunate in how things panned out. Up against St Bede's School, the boys played some sublime football to race to a 3-1 lead, only to capitulate in the final ten minutes to 3-3 draw and then go on to lose 5-6 in a sudden death penalty shoot-out.

Sport can be cruel, but when set aside everything else going on in the world at the moment, I'm sure the boys will see it as a blessing that they could play at all.

Music and Drama have not been so lucky due to the unavoidable fact they take place

indoors, where the virus is more transmissible. Individual music lessons were able to take place after a couple of weeks, but cross bubble ensembles such as orchestras and bands are having to wait.

For obvious reasons, plays have not been allowed, but there is hope that House Drama may be able to go ahead with boys recording themselves saying lines on Teams and their performances being edited together by a Sixth Form director. We shall see!

This year's Upper Sixth IB cohort have not let the virus daunt them, being arguably more productive than previous ones. The CAS Project (Creativity, Activity and Service) is a significant highlight in the IB Diploma Programme. Students work independently or in groups to organise a community event, fundraiser or challenge, often with local or international mindedness at its heart.

With overseas travel and social 'zone mixing' largely off-limits at present, students in the Upper Sixth were inspired to arrange a week-long five-a-side football tournament for the whole IB cohort, culminating in a final on Friday 2 October. All players showed their commitment to the cause by playing through very wet weather conditions.

This football tournament CAS Project follows on from IB student Hector Revill's 31 half marathons in 31 days, which has raised over £2,500 so far for Antibiotic Research UK, and Daniel Munks' success





in the Keble College Theology and Religion Essay Competition 2020.

Congratulations should also go to Third Form students Tomaz Geddes De Almeida, Thomas Lofthouse and Richard Zimmern on winning First Prize for the Best Design in the Years 7-11 category of the UKNEST Naval Engineering Competition 2019-20.

The contest, a collaboration between UKNEST and the Royal Navy, promotes the importance of engineering, encouraging innovative technical thinking by pupils. Students were tasked with designing a specialised vessel for delivering humanitarian aid in the aftermath of a natural disaster – very much in keeping with the Royal Navy’s role in responding to such instances. All entries were reviewed by an expert panel of judges who considered their initial concept, proposed design and artwork. Whitgift won with their futuristic vessel, HMS Nightingale!

awareness and money for the UK’s leading charity fighting for children and young peoples’ mental health, Young Minds.

This year’s campaign focussed on kindness, both to one another and to oneself. The entire Whitgift community engaged in ‘Disconnect to Reconnect’. The aim was to spend the whole day ‘mobile phone free’, while making the most of the opportunities to look up and out by removing some of the usual daily stresses of online life.

The morning began with the thought-provoking viewing of a kindness video featuring members of the whole school community. Other in-school activities included a fun-filled photo booth set up in the Junior School Foyer, which had both pupils and staff queuing all through break and lunch (appropriately spaced!) with their own props in hand, ready to have their photo taken.

For a second year in a row, Whitgift staff and students arrived on-site on a grey day in October in splashes of yellow to support the #HelloYellow campaign, aimed at raising

To support the ongoing wellbeing of all staff and pupils, Whitgift now has around 30 Mental Health First Aiders who can be identified by their yellow lanyards and are happy to be approached at any time for an informal or formal chat. A JustGiving page was set up for donations and at the time of publishing over £2,000 has been raised, doubling the figure achieved in 2019. If you would like to contribute please visit:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/whitgiftschool>

Two long-standing members of the support staff bade farewell to the school over the last couple of months. Head Porter, Ian Field, had been part of the fabric of Whitgift for over 40 years and finally retired from serving the school at the end of August. For as long as I can remember, he has been living in the Gatehouse at the front of the school, striding around the corridors to attend to issues, driving boys around in minibuses and manning the front desk as the public face of Whitgift. It is going to take quite some time to get used to him not being around!

Marion Petschi has attended to boys’ and staff’s medical needs as head nurse for 22 years and she stepped down from the role at the end of the first half of term in October. A lot has changed in the world of school medicine over the past 22 years: when Marion started, peanuts were a common snack eaten by



NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL CONTINUED

boys in the playground; by the time she finished, she was administering training to hundreds of staff on how to administer life-saving injections to boys suffering from anaphylactic shock! Marion has coped with all these changes with grace and humour and, like Ian, will be sorely missed!

Last but by no means least is the extremely uplifting news that Whitgift has just been awarded the title of Independent Boys School of the year 2020. The school qualified as a finalist in early September 2020, after being

shortlisted in July. When announcing the award, Jim Massey added it was “a compelling entry that radiated the school’s inclusive and collaborative values in the context of an all boys’ school.”

Headmaster Chris Ramsey said, “We are delighted to have been awarded the title of Independent Boys’ School of the Year 2020. We were amongst some exceptionally worthy finalists and are humbled that the judging panel selected us. This is a wonderful acknowledgement of the inspiring

work of everyone, from the students and staff who make our school what it is, to our hugely supportive parents and alumni.”

The awards scheme is run by the Independent School Parent portfolio of magazines and celebrates the success stories of schools and their students across the independent education sector in the UK. The judging panel was chaired by Dr Helen Wright, international education adviser and past Vice Chair of the ISC, supported by a panel of judges which included leading Head Teachers and representatives of several professional associations.

DOMINIC EDWARDS OW (1988-96)



THE GIFTIAN MENU

The Giftian Menu is now available at the Old Whits clubhouse on Fridays 6-8pm and Saturdays between 3-8pm. On Fridays, we have a special offer of 50% off a second main meal when purchased with another main meal and our bar is open for drinks to accompany your food from 6-10pm Friday and 12 midday to 10pm Saturdays.

AVAILABLE FRIDAY 6PM - 8PM SATURDAY 3PM - 7PM	
BURGERS	PANINI
All served with skinny fries & onion rings	
BURGER (INCLUDING LETTUCE, TOMATO, GHERKIN & ONION)	HAM & CHEESE
£8.00	£3.00
OPTIONAL EXTRAS:	CHEESE & ONION
CHEESE	£3.00
BACON	£3.00
SOUTHERN FRIED CHICKEN FILLET BURGER	CHEESE & TOMATO
£7.00	£3.00
VEGETABLE BURGER	
£6.00	
(INCLUDING LETTUCE, TOMATO & MAYONNAISE)	
SHARING PLATTERS	SIDES
FIERY CHICKEN WINGS, SOUTHERN FRIED CHICKEN FILLETS, SCAMPI, ONION RINGS, BASKET OF CHIPS & 3 DIPS	SKINNY FRIES
£8.00	£1.50
	ONION RINGS
	£1.50
KIDS MENU	DESSERT
SAUSAGE & CHIPS	WARM CHOCOLATE BROWNIE & ICE CREAM
£3.00	£3.00
FISH FINGERS & CHIPS	
£3.00	
ICE CREAM WITH CHOCOLATE SAUCE	
£1.50	

If you can't attend the clubhouse or are shielding then we can now bring the OldWhits bar and our Giftian Menu direct to you! The Whitsaroo service is available between 6-8pm Fridays and 5-8pm Saturday. All ordering can be done via our ordering system. For deliveries, this can be found at <http://OrderTab.menu/whitgiftsports/delivery>.

We look forward to seeing some of our members at the clubhouse or via our delivery service. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to email at manager@whitsports.co.uk.

SOUTH WEST DINNER



WA Vice President, Simon Kennedy OW (1980-88) is planning our next South West Dinner for Saturday 9th Oct 2021 at the usual venue of the Tiverton Hotel Devon.

Although things are by no means certain in these strange times, he would still like to hear from those members who would consider joining him for this most convivial of occasions, so that he can proceed with his plans.

As always, ALL OWs are welcome from far and wide not just the immediate vicinity and of course this is just for information not commitment.

Please contact Simon on tel 07717 532932 or email skennedy@projectconsultants.co.uk.

GOLF SOCIETY NEWS

Our last outing of the season, as it turned out, was at Royal Ashdown on a very pleasant September day. 26 members and guests turned up to play for the Autumn Cup, on Ashdown's West course, which measures a meagre 5,559 yards off the white tees and has no sand bunkers, but provides a true test of golfing accuracy featuring, as it does, tight fairways and the odd water hazard!

This showed up generally in the results, with 33 points ultimately proving a winning score. Peter Blok, a familiar figure in the winners' enclosure, squeezed home on the second countback (being the scores over the last six holes) from Nigel Bradley, with Pip Burley taking third place, on countback from two others, with a score of 32.

The club did us proud, as they always do, providing splendid facilities at a very reasonable price, and they certainly took first prize on social distancing, serving us lunch in twos, seated at either end of long refectory tables. Pass the loudhailer!

Although not amongst the prizewinners, Mike Wilkinson had the distinction of a hole-in-one on Ashdown's 156 yard 9th hole. Mike described it afterwards as 'a shot in a million', being one shot amongst the million others he took during the round! However, his playing partners attested that this was no fluke; they all witnessed its flawless path on to the green and into the hole.

This was only the ninth recorded hole-in-one during a society event, in its 100+ year history, so congratulations,

Mike, and many thanks from all of us for the celebratory drink. Mike is shown in the picture to the right, suitably in possession of a bottle of champagne.

So that is it, pretty much, for the current year, a year full of promise but marred by Covid and the consequent cancellations of many of our normal events.

The Grafton Morrish, the last of the scratch tournaments entered by the school, and normally played in early October, was cancelled,



much to the disappointment of Matt Webster, who had pulled together a potentially strong team.

It is regrettable to report also that the society's autumn tour met the same fate. Things had looked touch-and-go as the Covid statistics in the South Wales region, and nationally, got worse as September progressed, and the coup de grace came at the end of the month when a local lockdown was enforced in the Swansea area.

Nonetheless, the 2021 tour is provisionally booked for the same locality, and of course everyone will be hoping the current situation is but a distant memory by then. On that basis, 2021 will witness several postponed events, including the society's centenary celebration, deferred from June.

The society's individual knockout tournament is however being pursued, albeit with a later timetable than usual. Mark Chatham will play either John Butler or Alan Blok in one semi-final, and Jeremy Stanyard will face either Ian Chicken or Guy Mackey in the other. To be concluded!

New members, from any OW generation, and including staff and parents, are very welcome to join the society, and should contact peterbgale@sky.com to express their interest.

Wishing readers a healthy winter.

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



RECENT DEATHS

CLEMENT J ADKINS

OW (1950-52)

D. 17TH JULY 2020, AGED 86

MAJOR GRAHAM ALLT

OW (1941-48)

D. 28TH JUNE 2019, AGED 89

DR ELLIOT COUPS

OW (1983-91)

D. 21ST JULY 2020, AGED 46

JOHN S DOUGHTY

OW (1947-54)

D. 25TH SEPTEMBER 2020, AGED 84

STEWART FOWLIE

OW (1943-48)

D. 26TH DECEMBER 2019, AGED 89

STEPHEN GAYLER

OW (1987-95)

D. 25TH SEPTEMBER 2020, AGED 43

JOSEPH M HOLMES

OW (1937-42)

D. 8TH SEPTEMBER 2020, AGED 96

CAPT JOHN JACOBSEN RN

(PP 1988) OW (1941-48)

D. 23RD OCTOBER 2020, AGED 90

EWEN KELLAS BEM

OW (1949-56)

D. 8TH JUNE 2019, AGED 80

AJG (TONY) MARK

OW (1947-55)

D. 19TH SEPTEMBER 2020, AGED 83

JOHN CHARLES STALLARD

OW (1946-53)

D. 10 SEPTEMBER 2020, AGED 85

WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

500 Club

AUTUMN DRAW 2020

1st prize £100

K Hopkins, Ticket 66

2nd prize £50

AG Marsden, Ticket 193

3rd Prize £50

Dr PT Warren, Ticket 97

4th Prize £50

DC Hunter, Ticket 42

Independent Scrutineer:

S M Hooker MA

(Staff 1986 – 2015)

Date of draw: 21st September 2020

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

treasurer@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk

WSC SUPPORTS NIGHTWATCH



Over the past couple of years, The Whitgift Sports Club and its members have helped the local Nightwatch charity with leftover food donations.

However, without the usual parties and number of catering functions, this has not been possible.

The Sports Club is hoping that its members and other Old Whitgiftians will help with donations to the charity by either taking in a small food donation, which can be left in the donation box at the front of the clubhouse, or if you are unable to attend the Clubhouse but wish to help, donating money to cover the cost of cooked meals. Lynne and Suzanne have offered to give up their time for free to cook these. Should you wish to donate money please contact Suzanne on manager@whitsports.co.uk.

Suzanne, the WSC Manager says, "Whilst I appreciate these are tough times for all, this charity does vital work in the community and we are always so pleased to be able to help out where we can and this year is no different."

For more information about the charity please visit www.croydonnightwatch.org.uk.

WHITSAROO DELIVERY SERVICE FOOD AND DRINK FRIDAY 6 - 8PM SATURDAY 5 - 8PM

TO ORDER VISIT
[HTTP://ORDERTAB.MENU/WHITGIFTSPTS/
DELIVERY](http://ordertab.menu/whitgiftsports/delivery)



MINIMUM DELIVERY £20

Submissions for NEWSLETTER 393 covering January/February closes 20th December 2020.

All news and photographs should be sent to editor@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk