



WHITGIFTIAN ASSOCIATION

Whitgift School, Haling Park, South Croydon CR2 6YT, Tel: 020 8633 9926 www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk

President - STUART WOODROW



Chairman - PIP BURLEY



Editor - RICHARD BLUNDELL

NEWSLETTER 349 - September / October 2013

A note from the President...

Welcome to the latest, new-look edition of the Whitgiftian Association newsletter. I am pleased to say that our new office at Haling Park is up and running, just past the South Entrance opposite the Admissions Office (some of you will remember the location of the old changing rooms!)

All WA members are welcome to visit by appointment (just ring 020 8633 9926) and whether you want to update your membership status, enquire about our calendar of events, or simply track down an old school friend or acquaintance, our staff members, Vicky and Donna, will be pleased to help you. If you haven't visited the school for some time, a tour of Whitgift as it is today can usually be arranged with prior notice.

Do please take a look at the new website at www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk. This has been designed to offer our members easy access to all that the Association offers, including the opportunity to book and pay for events, reunions and dinners online. You will find it immediate and interactive, helping you keep in touch with an increased



programme of activities, as well as acting as a conduit for an expanding network of WA societies and special interest groups. So, whether you wish to meet old friends of your own age, get together with OWs in your part of the world, or find other OWs who share your interests and hobbies, we would like to hear from you.

If you have got to grips with the likes of Facebook, LinkedIn or Twitter, you can also now find us there. They are updated on an almost daily basis and are a great source of news that we trust is of interest to our members.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank our Editor, Richard Blundell for his work in pulling together this newsletter and the many editions that have preceded it.

It is my privilege to be President of the Whitgiftian Association this year and I look forward to meeting up with you at the earliest opportunity.

With best wishes,

Stuart Woodrow, President 2013

Dates for the Diary

Sat	7 Sept	Charlie Hutton Hockey Festival	School	10.00
Sun	8 Sept	OWGS Autumn Meeting	Royal Ashdown	12.00
Sun	15 Sept	OWGS Barnett Trophy	The Addington	12.00
Fri	20 Sept	2000-2003 Leavers Reunion	Clubhouse	7.30
Fri	27 Sept	OW Corps of Drums Meeting	Clubhouse	8.00
Sat	5 Oct	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	Clubhouse	12.00
Fri	11 Oct	1992-1995 Leavers Reunion	School	7.30
Fri	18 Oct	East Anglia Branch Dinner	Cambridge	7.00
15-16	Oct	School Play	School	7.30
Fri	25 Oct	1996-1999 Leavers Reunion	Clubhouse	7.30
Sat	26 Oct	OWRFC Past Players Lunch	Clubhouse	12.00
Thur	7 Nov	Careers Conversazione	School	7.00
Sat	9 Nov	OWRFC Supporters Lunch	Clubhouse	12.00
Mon	11 Nov	Remembrance Service	School	10.30
Sat	16 Nov	Sportsman's Lunch	School	12.00
Thur	21 Nov	School Music Concert	Fairfield Halls	7.00
28-29	Nov	School Play	School	7.30
Wed	4 Dec	OWCC AGM	Clubhouse	8.00
11-13	Dec	School Play	School	7.30
Sun	15 Dec	WSC Christmas Lunch	Clubhouse	12.00
Thur	19 Dec	School Carol Concert	Croydon Minster	7.30
Sat	21 Dec	WSC Whitfest	Clubhouse	12.00

What's On

Sun	1 Sept	1stXI v Worcester Park	H	1.00
Sat	7 Sept	School 1stXV v OWRFC XV	H	2.30
Sat	7 Sept	1stXI v Normandy	H LG	12.00
Sun	8 Sept	1stXI v Hayes	H	1.00
Sat	14 Sept	School 1stXV v Bishop Wordsworth	H	1.00
Sat	21 Sept	School 1stXV v Skinners	H	2.00
Sat	28 Sept	Wands XV v Old Emanuel	H L	3.00
Sat	28 Sept	School 1stXV v Wellington	A	2.30
Sat	5 Oct	1stXV v Kingston	H L	3.00
Sat	5 Oct	School 1stXV v Warwick	H	1.30
Sat	12 Oct	Wands XV v Esher	H L	3.00
Sat	12 Oct	School 1stXV v John Fisher	A	2.30
Wed	16 Oct	School 1stXV NatWest Cup		
Fri	18 Oct	School 1stXV v Sedbergh	A	1.00
Sat	26 Oct	1stXV v Old Walscountians	H L	3.00
Sat	2 Nov	Wands XV v London Irish	H L	2.30

Please visit www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/events for more details of events and to book your tickets online.

From the Editor

A successful main dinner in London and a revived South West branch dinner led the Association into the usual busy autumn season, with the new look year reunions, East Anglia branch dinner and the ever popular Sportsman's Lunch this year supporting the School against the 'old enemy' Dulwich. Please book in with the WA office. *Richard Blundell*

WA Annual Dinner



A full house of 118 joined the President for our 118th Annual Dinner at the glorious setting of The Army & Navy Club 'The RAG' in London's Pall Mall, on 24th May.

The speeches were all excellent with Captain John Jacobsen (Royal Navy) and a former Chairman of the RAG proposing *Floreat Domus*, with a response from the Headmaster who was in inimitable form regarding the latest developments in the ever changing world of the School.

Our guest of honour General Sir Peter Wall proposed the WA whilst entertaining his audience with tales of his schooldays and his distinguished career. Peter particularly enjoyed the reunion that night with his old friends from the school water polo team! The President responded in amusing fashion and compared the School when he left in 1975 to the Whitgift of today. Attendees also heard Alan Cowing launch the *Gerry Bowthorpe Memorial Appeal* (see page 3) and Peter Cox launch his latest book *Memories of Whitgift* before either heading to the Ian Jacob bar for a nightcap or the coach back to Croham Road!

Stuart Woodrow

A memorable evening was enjoyed by all for our first dinner as the Whitgiftian Association. It was encouraging that a significant number of younger OWs (aged under 30) were present. Distinguished guests included Ian Harley and Martin Corney, respectively Chairman and Chief Executive of the Whitgift Foundation, numerous School and Foundation governors, together with the School Captain Jonathan McMillan and his Vice Captain Fritz Kirchner.

South West Branch Dinner

On 29th June, 29 Old Whitgiftians and their wives and partners descended on the Tiverton Hotel for the first South West Area dinner for many years.

This event had long been a regular in the OW calendar but for various reasons it had dropped some years ago. Reviving it proved highly successful.

There is a significant number of OWs living in Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Avon and responses to an initial enquiry put out to them towards the end of last year suggested there could be sufficient interest to justify resurrecting a South West Area event.

Tiverton seemed like a good location, and this certainly proved to be the case.

Somewhat to the organiser's surprise all 29 people who said they were coming arrived at the right time, in the right place, on the right day – and an excellent evening of eating, drinking and socialising was enjoyed by all.

This newly resurrected event was honoured by the presence of all the Association's top people – Stuart Woodrow, President; Pip Burley, Chairman; and Alan Cowing, Chairman of the Whitgift Sports Club.

Each spoke briefly about current events and future plans for both Haling Park and Croham Road – news of particular interest for many of those present who no longer have much personal contact with 'Head Office'.

The evening concluded with the gentlemen standing to sing Carmen, while our female partners sat beside us displaying expressions which ranged from bemused to tolerant.

Well, the evening didn't quite end then because the bar was still open...

David Stranack

Old Whitgiftian Golf Society

The annual trilateral match against the School and the masters took place on 19th June, at Croham Hurst. The school team looked impressive off the first tee, and appeared strong favourites to win. However, the OWGS finished on top, with the masters second. The scoring system, a mystery to most, awards full points for a match win, and fractions for any bye match (*a 'beer match' for cricket enthusiasts - ed*) played after the main match ends. The final result - OWGS 12 5/8; Masters 7 1/8; Boys 4 1/4.

Matches come thick and fast at this time of year, but the annual meeting with the Old Alleynians is always popular, bringing together friendly rivals and numerous memories of exploits on the rugby field or elsewhere. This year at Tandridge each side fielded 22 players, in fourball better



ball format. After last year's humbling 8.5-1.5 defeat, the OWs were hoping for a little revenge, but in the end, had to settle for a tied match, each side scoring 5 wins and one half. But at least that meant the OAs had to buy their own drinks! The evening concluded with another very enjoyable Tandridge buffet.

So close! Agonising is the word to describe it. Read Cyril Gray captain Tony Mason's full account of the 2013 competition at www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk, and you will appreciate why. Regrettably, for the second year running we lost a match that seemed to have been won but foursomes golf is a harsh and unpredictable format where matches can turn on the slightest error. Our luck must change so we look forward to next year with the hope that everyone is fit and that we have a little luck!

Gerry Bowthorpe Appeal

There are few who have made as great a contribution to the Association and the Whitgift Sports Club as Gerry Bowthorpe, whether on the pitch as Captain of the 1st XV or on the touchline in later years, frequently collecting the corner flags after the match.

Now, Whitgiftians of all generations have the opportunity to contribute to a lasting memorial to this special OW. We hope, with your help, to reach our target of raising £30,000 to fund the renovation of the Main Hall at the Clubhouse, which will be renamed "The Gerry Bowthorpe Room". The renovations include the following changes: the outdated laminate wall panelling will go; the ceiling will be lowered; new general and decorative lighting added; the fireplace will be reinstated; big screen, audio visual equipment will be installed and a new and appealing colour scheme introduced.

Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you.

For a pledge form, please visit

<http://whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/news/gerry-bowthorpe-memorial-appeal/>



Celebration of Whitgift Life

This year's ceremony not only showcased the School's many achievements over the past year but also included Old Boys in the proceedings. Chairman Pip Burley was the guest of honour and presented the

main prizes to the boys and then gave an address to the audience. Lawrence Okoye dominated the stage when he presented the sporting prizes of national champion cufflinks to the boys in recognition of their national

honours and titles. To mark the first occasion that the school has won both the Bath Cup and the Otter Medley Relay at the same swimming meeting John Nalson, the event organiser for the past 35 years, and himself captain of the 1966 Whitgift Bath Cup winning team, presented the record breaking team with the two trophies.

Richard Blundell



OW Honoured

Congratulations to Mike Gooderson for his BEM award for services to young people and the community, and to Graham Leeke for his BEM for services to the local community.



After his success in the Veteran's Cup, John Grima repeated the feat in the President's Meeting at Woodcote Park on July 4th. Well done John, although the cries for a cut in handicap might now be irresistible! It was decided on countback, with John and Tony Fuller both on 34 points, closely followed by three players on 33 points, Tony Nowers, who took third place on countback, and Woodcote members Colin Teasdale and David Hughes. A good turnout, with 29 starters, all enjoyed the sunshine and Woodcote's course, which was in very good condition. Their hospitality concluded with dinner and the presentation of the prizes by our President, Mike Spanswick, who generously donated the President's Prize, an engraved decanter and glasses.

KCS retained the Chris Edge Memorial Trophy with a 4-1 win at Royal Wimbledon on 18th July. OWGS Captain for

the day was Robert Hollidge, who reports that Don Anderson and Peter Kelley were our only winners on an enjoyable evening, but adds that in his own match, he and Chris Honner came up against insurmountable odds, in the form of a KCS pair whose better ball score was under par when the match was finally settled on the 17th. Robert and Chris must have played out of their skins to keep it that close!

Tony Harris reports that the Challenge Cup is at the semi final stage, where John Gould will play Martin Down, and Peter Blok will play Nigel Huxtable. Watch this space!

Lastly, regular readers will recall that our Autumn meeting is on Sunday 8th September, at Royal Ashdown, and new members are very welcome to join us. Please contact me for details or visit www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/events.

Peter Gale (OWGS Secretary)

Corps of Drums

The OW Drums' main summer concert was performed this year on Brighton's recently refurbished Victorian bandstand beside the West Pier. The date was Sunday 14th July 'National Bandstands Day', an annual event where the objective is to have a band playing on every remaining bandstand across the country. The date was all the more poignant as it was the weekend of the funeral of Drummer Lee Rigby; a dedicated Corps of Drums musician with the Fusiliers, who sadly lost his life to terrorists in May this year.



In the light of this death of a fellow drummer, we dedicated this year's performance to him. We played from 2pm to 4pm during which time a collection bucket was passed around raising over £200 for Help for Heroes. Fourteen OWs and current students performed, with ages ranging from 15 to 85. We were delighted to welcome back Rutton Viccajee, his first time playing with us since he was Drum Major at the School 40 years ago!

The concert was on one of the hottest days of the year and the following day photographs of Brighton seafront adorned the national press, including the front page of the Daily Express's photograph, taken midway through our performance, featuring the bandstand in the centre (although admittedly several hundred yards away!) Apparently our playing was audible from the West Pier all the way along the seafront to the Palace Pier. The tens of thousands of people

on the beach that day certainly provided us with our biggest ever audience! Photographs from the day and a short video clip, can be seen on our Facebook page 'OW Corps of Drums Society'. Our next meeting will be back in South Croydon at the Clubhouse at 8pm on Friday 27th September, do please come along, even if you've not attended a Whitgift Drums event for over 40 years, we will still be delighted to see you.

Chris Carter-Pegg

OW Rugby Report

It doesn't seem long since I was writing the introduction to the 2012-13 "Blue book", my first as Chairman of the OWRFC. I am pleased to be able to report on a successful 2012-13 season both on and off the pitch.

The 1st XV had a varied season but still finished in a very respectable third position in Surrey 1. A highlight has to be the hard fought 17-10 win at Croham Rd against Farnham, the ultimate league winners. This was one of only two losses that Farnham suffered this season. The Wanderers and Warriors had slow starts to the season (not helped by M25 traffic for the Wanderers!) but both finished comfortably mid-table in their respective leagues.



The juniors continue

to flourish. A number of successful tours and tournaments have left us with plenty of silverware on show in the bar! It was fantastic to see a number of players from the first juniors "intake" playing for the senior sides this year. A sign of exciting times.

A number of clubs in our area are struggling with player recruitment and retention - the end result being that they are unable to honour fixtures and, ultimately, have to reduce the number of teams they put out. Although there is the occasional week when we seem to be short of players we are, on the whole, lucky to not have this problem. I hope this says something of the "Club Spirit" that is thriving at the Old Whitgiftian Rugby Club. Thank you to all of the players who make this possible.

More players are always welcome so please do promote the club to friends, family and colleagues. The rugby club continues to be run by volunteers. On behalf of the club I would like to thank you all for your hard work throughout the season and thank you for agreeing to carry on into 2013-14. Many thanks to our sponsors without whom coaches, physios, balls, kit, etc would be far less freely available. As always, we would welcome any further offers of sponsorship. I look forward to seeing you all at Croham Road during the coming season.

Sam Barke

OW Cricket Report



It is rare enough for one game of cricket to end in a tie but for it to happen twice in one season between the same two teams is remarkable! Old Whitgiftians and Beddington created cricket history on 3rd August at Croham Road when the 1st XI Division One Surrey Championship game

between these two old local rivals was tied. OW had made 212 and with Beddington 210-7, Tom Bevan 100 not out and plenty of overs left, a victory for the visitors seemed a formality. However two quick wickets fell and then a kamikaze run out with the last pair at the crease saw a stunning finish!

This followed the game at Beddington Park in May when OW threw away a seemingly unassailable position needing one run to win with three wickets in hand and seven balls left only to lose three wickets in three balls!

Fortunes on the pitch were high on the weekend of 10th/11th August when all five of our OW sides were victorious. This followed a great win by our U16s a few days earlier at Burgess Park which saw us crowned as champions.

In the league there are now three rounds until the end of the season. The 1st XI are safe in mid table in Division One but the 2s and 3s both have the chance of

500 Club

For only £12 a year per number you win hundreds of pounds in our four quarterly draws! Buy as many numbers as you like!



Summer draw winners were:-

£100 - Mr David Stranack

£50 - Mr Tim Flood

£50 - Mr David Hughes

£50 - Mr John Straw

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promotion. The 2s beat Sinjun Grammarians on 17th August to consolidate their position in second place where they are eight points clear of Oxted in third. The 3's had an excellent win against Valley End and, at the time of writing are in 4th place.

Surrey Championship chose Whitgift Sports Club to host the T20 final on Sunday 28th July. Attended by over 300 spectators, Wimbledon beat Sunbury by six wickets.

Chairman of The Ryman Surrey Championship, Crispin Lyden-Cowan said: "My sincerest thanks to all at the Whitgift Sports Club for their contributions and hard work in making today another memorable day for the Championship." It was a pleasure to be of assistance.

Stuart Woodrow

News from the School

Trinity term finished with a great deal of activity; the production of 'Bugsy Malone', the International Music Competition and the Celebration of Whitgift Life.

The cricket teams completed a successful season, most notably the U13A who won the David English / Bunbury Cup defeating Warwick School in the final at Oakham, for the third year in a row (the 8th time Whitgift has won this national title!) The U15A won the Surrey Cup and the U12A won the 'Joe Hussain 20/20' Trophy.

The 1st XV has just returned from a very successful tour to Hong Kong, New Zealand and the Cook Islands. Results:

- v. Hong Kong U19 Won 14-10
- v. McGlashan College (NZ) Won 28-20
- v. Waimea College (NZ) Won 71-0
- v. Murchinston XV (NZ) Lost 18-24
- v. Cook Islands Won 26-0.

The tour should set up the 1st XV for the coming season.

In golf, Harvey Byers won the Ian Poulter Invitational at Woburn; he carded a superb round of 74 and was presented with the trophy by Ian Poulter, who had finished third in the Open the day before.

The hockey boys have been busy during the holidays: Jonty Griffith and Peter Ellis-Phillips played for England U18 against Belgium and Rhys Smith, Ore Ogunlana and George Oyebode played for England U16 also against Belgium. Luke Taylor played for England A against Scotland and Wales. In August, Luke Taylor and Rob Farrington (OW) helped England U21 to a series win over Malaysia.

There are many other trips and activities that have taken place during the holidays; LV1th trip to Shanghai, Mountain Biking and Wakeboarding



trip to Box End Park, Whitgift SNAP, CCF Adventure Training Camp at Brixham, and U15 rugby pre-season in Barcelona.

Major events at the school during the coming term are: LV1th Play, 15th/16th October; Autumn Collection at the Fairfield Halls 21st November; 'The Piper of Hamelin' 28th/29th November; 'A View from the Bridge' 11th/12th/13th December; Carol Service 19th December. (Details from the School Office 020 8688 9222 or visit the events section of the WA website).

The School enters a new era in September there will be nearly 70 boarders in the Founder's House!

Phil Fladgate

Whitgift Veterans Rifle Club Report

We have competed in our final Full Bore competition of the year at Bisley, the National Rifle Association PSV, with one shoot at 500 yards. Our usual 3 teams of 5 achieved some good results, with our teams finishing mid-field. *Best of the Vets.* on the day and winner of this year's Tankard and the Reed Trophy was Guy Hart with a brilliant 49.06!

As usual, this event was followed in the evening by the annual informal dinner at the Artists Rifles clubhouse. Always an enjoyable occasion and this year attended by more than 45 members and guests, who enjoyed good company, good food and good - but short - speeches! Thanks are due, as usual, to all committee members.

As previously reported, between April and June we entered the three rounds of the LMRA League [London &

Middlesex Rifle Assoc.], shooting at distances from 300 to 1000 yards. Our team of 6 [5 to count] performed well and achieved 2nd place on aggregate in Division 2, up from 3rd place last year.

Some other data regarding our Full Bore matches, not available at the time of my July/August report as follows:- The Long Range Cup was won by Nick Harman with 43.02 - pretty good considering the conditions on the day.

The Donegall Badge for the best Vet. at the Surrey PSV was won by Simon Lacey with 93.07. Simon also went on to claim the Hansell Trophy - awarded to the club shot with the highest aggregate score from the 3 PSV matches - with a tally of 223.12. The Hammond Cup, for the best Vets' score at the LMRA PSV, was



won by Adrian Oliver with 92.10. Well done to the above and all those who shot for the Vets. this summer.

May I remind readers that the WVRC is open to all OWs, plus both former and current members of the teaching and OWA staff ... no health or financial checks! To those of you interested in finding out more about our club please contact Simon Lacey at secretary@wvrc.org.uk or have a look at the Vets' [slowly] developing website at www.wvrc.org.uk. We look forward to hearing from you!

Alan Hunter



WA Chairman and President
enjoy a cruise at Henley

VIP Day Out Henley

A small but select group of Old Whitgiftians and their guests, including WA President Stuart Woodrow and his wife Monique, enjoyed a wonderful day out in the Sun at Henley Royal Regatta on Sunday 7th July 2013. The group enjoyed two river cruises aboard *The Southern Comfort* vessel where they enjoyed Pimm's during the voyages along the racing route. They feasted on a gourmet meal in the marquee at privately owned *Bird Place*, followed by a leisurely stroll around the beautiful gardens on this splendid Summer day. Appropriately satiated, the group returned to their respective residences having thoroughly enjoyed a memorable day out.

For information about similar days out, visit
www.whitgiftianassociation.co.uk/events

Recent deaths - The WA has sadly been informed of the following losses:

John Reginald Bartlett (1934-38), d. 3rd August 2013, aged 92

Captain Ron W New (1954-60), d. 8th August 2013, aged 71

Donald J Williams (1942-47)

Don P Rose, Master at Whitgift 1963-91, d. 5th July 2013, aged 82

Dafydd Stephens, (1952-50), d. 2nd July 2012, aged 70

John Barry Martin (1946-52), d. 19th June 2013, aged 77

Ian H J Cornell (1945-52), d. 12th May 2013, aged 79

David Whitehead (1947-55), d. March 2013, aged 76

If you hear of the passing of any Old Whitgiftians or ex staff members, please do let us know by emailing office@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk or telephoning 020 8633 9926.

Submissions for NEWSLETTER 350 covering November / December closes on Saturday 19th October. All news and photographs (preferably emailed) should be sent to Richard Blundell at editor@whitgiftianassociation.co.uk or by post to 7 Peaks Hill, Purley, Surrey, CR8 3JG. Tel: **020 8633 9926** if you have any queries.