

ROYAL WEDDING

The Chairman and Committee were pleased to send Honorary Club Member, HRH Prince William of Wales and Miss Catherine Middleton loyal greetings on their recent engagement – and received a most generous acknowledgement in return.

On the day of the wedding itself – Friday, 29th April, the Club will be operating ‘as normal’ and Members wishing to reserve accommodations should do so as soon as possible.

A large screen television will be available in the Field Marshals’ Room and complimentary tea, coffee and pastries, will be provided for those Members that would like to take the opportunity to be in London on that day.

Luncheon will be served in the Coffee Room (with a limited choice menu at the price of £30 per person and a special childrens’ menu will also be available at the cost of £15 per head). Bookings should be made with the Secretary’s Office.

THE PRINCES’ CUP – UAE

The Club is once again delighted to sponsor the ‘Cavalry versus Guards Camel Polo Match’ – now in its second year - which will take place in The United Arab Emirates in March. This exhibition game will once again form part of the British Polo Day Middle East on March 18th 2011 at The Dubai Polo & Equestrian Club. The British Polo Day was established two years ago and sees teams from Eton, Harrow, Oxford and Cambridge compete for the Princes’ cup. This is fast becoming one of the region’s most prestigious sporting and social events of the year and more information can be found on the website www.princescup.co.uk

Members who are in the region on that date should feel free to join with friends and family to take advantage of the special ‘alumni’ discounted rate.

MEGA ... AND MECA

Club Member, Jan de Haldevang, sends the following update from the Middle East –

Membership - of MEGA (Middle East Guards Association) has now reached 100 members, and we have opened the Afghanistan ‘account’ and while Dubai can field nearly a platoon, Iraq (thanks to the AEGIS Battalion) has grown to become our largest contingent!

Websites- may I encourage you to join the MEGA Groups on ‘LinkedIn’ and Facebook.

Events 2011 www.princescup.co.uk -18 Mar 2011
- MEGA Dinner in Abu Dhabi –16th June 2011

MEGA Dinner 2010 -our dinner on 17th June 2010 was generally considered a huge success and certainly caused much interest in London. The final attendance of 36, with 5 Regiments and 7 countries represented reflected a huge effort by many and was certainly no less than many of the smaller, regional association branches in the UK.

Middle East Cavalry Association (MECA) - You may be interested to hear that the Cavalry has decided also to form a Middle East network. MECA (not my idea) is looking for the many cavalry men strewn (perhaps lost!) across the Middle East - please do let me know if you meet any and guide them in my direction.

‘THE WIZARD OF OZ’

Unfortunately several of the recent Club theatre outings in 2010 have been poorly supported – but it is hoped that the choice for the outing in March will excite Members curiosity.

Following a television search in 2010 to find the perfect ‘Dorothy’ -it is with some excitement, that the London theatre world eagerly awaits Andrew Lloyd Webber’s new musical – ‘The Wizard of Oz’ - and the Club has been fortunate in securing a limited number of tickets for this new show – on Wednesday 9th March. Places can be reserved (as for all events) with Frances – Membership Secretary.

CLUB EVENTS 2011

January

4th Club reopens after New Year
12th Bridge afternoon

February

2nd Bridge afternoon

March

2nd Bridge afternoon
9th Theatre Visit –‘The Wizard of Oz’
11th Grand Military Meeting – Sandown

April

6th Bridge afternoon
7th Annual Lady Members’ Luncheon
22nd to 25th Easter Weekend
29th Royal Wedding – Luncheon

May

4th Bridge afternoon
8th Cavalry Memorial Sunday

June

8th AGM
11th Trooping the Colour Luncheon
14th to 18th Royal Ascot – Club Tent
30th Cigar & Port Dinner

July

7th Sandhurst Polo Day – Club Tent
20th Summer on the Terrace -An Evening of Gilbert & Sullivan

September

15th Grouse Dinner

October

26th Fine Wine Dinner and Wine Lottery
tbc Theatre visit

November

30th Book Fair – and Authors Lunch

December

13th Sons & Daughters Dinner
15th Members Christmas Lunch
23rd Christmas Closing



THE CAVALRY AND GUARDS CLUB 127 Newsletter

January 2011

CHAIRMAN’S INTRODUCTION

The overriding aim of the Committee is to provide value for money for Members of the Club. I believe that the numbers of Members using the Club’s dining rooms and bedrooms, not to mention Geoffrey’s Bar last autumn, is a vindication of this policy. This, combined with the increasing number of Members holding functions in the Club, has, as you will be aware, allowed us to freeze membership subscriptions (in almost every category) for 2011.

Happily, the increasing usage of the Club by Members last autumn has followed through to January when the bedrooms and dining rooms have been busier than in previous years, ‘despite the snow’!

With regard to bedrooms, many Members may have missed the fact that the Club is now open at weekends when food is now also available in the dining room and in Geoffrey’s Bar. This change resulted in weekend occupancy of bedrooms running at 80% last November (with weekday occupancy of 90%).

On the social front, I am delighted that 120 Members attended the Members’ Christmas lunch this year, a 50% increase on the previous year. The highlight of the quarter was undoubtedly the lunch attended, by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh and our President, HRH The Duke of Kent, to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the founding of the Guards Club. 120 Members of the Club – both former Members of the Guards Club and serving Members from the Foot Guards and Household Cavalry Regiments attended a reception followed by luncheon.

In recognition of the excellent service that the Club staff gave us last year, I am delighted to report that £135,574 (£124,464 in 2009) was distributed this January from the General Goldsmid Fund to 50 members of staff.

656 Members of the Club donated £47,144 (£46,939 in 2009 from 634 Members) with the remaining amount coming from the service charge from

functions and bedrooms. I am pleased that a few more Members contributed to the Fund than in the previous year. However, it is still astonishing to me that 75% of Members did not contribute anything to this Fund, whereas in other London Gentlemen’s Clubs, all Members feel obliged to do so.

Members who have visited the Club will have noticed the impressive painting by Terence Cuneo of HM The Queen riding Doctor, which is now hanging in the hall of the Club. The Club is fortunate to have been loaned this painting from the Royal Collection, which was unveiled by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh on his visit on the 200th Anniversary of the founding of the Guards Club.

Following the extensive refurbishment programme in 2010, I am sure Members will be pleased to know that there will be a hiatus until this summer when it is planned to refurbish the Coffee Room – which was last refurbished in 1997 - and the Serving Pantry to bring it up to modern standards and ensure that the food from the kitchens in the basement arrives hot on your plate!

Finally, I am delighted to report that at 31st December, after taking into account the resignations at the end of the year (numbering 61) the Club had 2,745 Members as compared with 2,653 at the end of the previous year.

I hope that all Members have a healthy, happy and prosperous 2011.

David Rosier
Chairman

2010 - A REVIEW OF THE YEAR

January

The start of 2010 was significantly quieter for the Club than the previous year had been when the works to the 3rd floor bedrooms were commencing. Starting in January, however, a programme of on-going maintenance was, once again, put in place for the year, which would allow for the gradual improvement of bedrooms on the 4th floor as well as those in the basement. Also one of the earlier projects involved the removal of the Night Porters bar that had been built into the doorway of the Writing Room, thereby returning the room to its original dimensions and enhancing further the look of the Hall.

February

In this month, the Club was once again fortunate in being able to ‘showcase’ a lecture by a Club Member when Angus Hay delivered his very interesting

and well-attended talk on the 51st (Highland) Division and St Valery-en-Caux, France 1940. Also in the same month a good number of Club Members took the opportunity to go on the planned theatre outing to preview ‘Love Never Dies’ – although the reviews afterwards were fairly mixed!

March

Back at Sandown Park again on March 12th, 149 Members and guests (the largest number for many years) attended an excellent day’s racing with the Grand Military Cup as the highlight of the afternoon. For the second year running, the organisers offered the Club the use of the Gold Cup Suite on the top floor of the Grandstand, and this excellent venue was much appreciated by all – allowing viewing of both the Paddock and the racecourse from the comfort (and importantly warmth!) of the suite.

This suite will again be available to Members in 2011 (please see the flyer enclosed with this Newsletter).

2010 - A REVIEW OF THE YEAR

March also saw a visit by Club Members to one of our close neighbours – Number 1, London (or Apsley House) – and it was with some sadness that the Club learned later in the year of the death of Her Grace, The Duchess of Wellington, who with her husband had been such a loyal supporter of the Club for many years.

On a happier note, the Club also hosted this month a marvellous evening of the music of 'Flanders and Swann' performed with much gusto and élan by the charming Michael Mates – which was very well received by the capacity audience present.

April

As has become the custom, on or around St Georges Day, the Ladies Committee once again arranged the Annual Ladies Luncheon and at this well attended event (the only one in the year exclusively for Lady Members and their Lady guests) those present were entertained to an after-luncheon speech by Quentin Letts – who was taking a break from the campaign trail for the May General Election – and whose wealth of political and social anecdotes were very well received by an appreciative audience.

Another significant 'building' project that was undertaken this month, was the installation – or indeed, restoration - of the glass lantern above Geoffrey's Bar. As with other projects undertaken in the Club, the Committee were keen to 'return' the Club to its historic past – and as such, the new lantern has received many very favourable comments from Members – most of whom had no recollection of the original, which disintegrated in the early years of Geoffrey's service at '127'.

May

As always, May was a busy month for the Club with the Annual Cavalry Memorial Parade on the first Sunday of the month, and later in the month, the annual Chairman's Dinner at which the Chairman thanks the Trustees, Committee and Advisory Council for their hard work and support during the year and at which he also takes the opportunity to entertain to dinner the Club's Honorary Members.

June

Royal Ascot was again a very successful event for the Club this year and the Royal Enclosure garden, which provides the venue for the Club's Marquee becomes more popular year on year. Members who may not have visited since the extensive changes to the course and grandstands in 2006 might now like to see these very excellent changes for themselves in 2011 – which will be the tercentenary year of Ascot.

July

Once again on the anniversary of the smoking ban (1st July), the Club took advantage of the covered Terrace and held a Cigar and Port Dinner in this elegant venue.

Also utilising the Terrace to its full potential, the 'Summer on the Terrace' event this year was attended by over one hundred and fifty Members who enjoyed an evening of music by Noel Coward (performed by David Benson), whilst partaking of a delicious buffet supper provided by the Head Chef, Paul Farmer and his team.

For the first time in several years, the Committee also took the opportunity to provide a Marquee at a Polo match – this month at Sandhurst for two enjoyable 'military' matches – and although numbers were not large on this occasion, it is hoped that the event can be repeated with greater success in 2011.

August

The main project for 2010 was the installation of air cooling/heating units to

the Basement bedrooms and a full upgrade of the bathrooms on this floor (with the installation of an Edwardian bath 'saved' from the changes to the 3rd floor the previous year – and which had been languishing forlornly on the Terrace for over a year) – and these works commenced in the 'quieter' month of August.

At the same time, the Committee took the opportunity to create a smaller private room at the end of the second floor suite, and, having relocated the portrait of HM Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother (former Lady Patron of the Club), to this room, have designated the room as the Queen Elizabeth Room in her honour.

September

The 'Grouse Dinner' was held again in September and the Chairman welcomed over eighty Members and guests to this 'gastronomic' highlight of the Club's calendar.

Also in September, the Club welcomed back Rob Caskie (last here in 2009) who presented his lecture on 'Rorke's Drift' in his inimitable style – with great personal panache – and to a packed house.

October

During this month, the Ladies Committee held a second annual talk by Helen Plumb, this time on the subject of 'Pearls', and again included the opportunity to enjoy a sumptuous afternoon tea. A final talk in the series – on 'Opals' - is planned for 2011.

A new initiative this month was the holding of a Fine Wine Lottery and Dinner and the Committee is indebted to Wine Member, Mr Nicholas Chamberlin who undertook much of the arrangement of this very enjoyable evening. Although numbers were fairly limited on this occasion, it is hoped that more Members will attend this exceptionally interesting and worthwhile evening in 2011.

November

Traditionally the busiest month for the Club with a plethora of Regimental Dinners, this year we welcomed a good number of serving Members to the Club - many recently returned from duties in Afghanistan and elsewhere overseas.

However, as the Chairman has already mentioned, the highlight of the month – and indeed the year – was the splendid Luncheon given to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the founding of the Guards Club and photos from the event can be seen in this Newsletter.

Also in this busy month, the inaugural Book Fair and Authors Luncheon took place on the first really snowy day of the year (thereby sadly restricting the number of visitors), but it was generally thought to have been very successful – and will be repeated in 2011.

Finally in November, 16 Club Members journeyed by Eurostar for a visit to the Christmas Markets in Bruges – and we are pleased to report that, having been gently shepherded by the Membership Secretary, Frances Watt around the 'high spots' of this city – they are all now safely returned!!

December

The month saw the annual – and well-attended- 'Sons and Daughters' Dinner being held this year in the increasingly popular Field Marshals' Room, and as the Chairman mentions earlier, this was followed in the last week before Christmas by the Members' Christmas Lunch, which this year was very well attended.

A busy year and we trust that 2011 will be equally as enjoyable.

David J Cowdery
Secretary



HONORARY MEMBERS

Following discussions with the Committee and the Vice President, and with the approval of the President, HRH The Duke of Kent, KG, the following have been offered and accepted, Honorary Membership of the Club during 2010 –

HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO SSI (whose father was President of the Club)

General Sir David Richards KCB CBE DSO ADC Gen – Chief of the Defence Staff

Major General J J C Bucknall CBE – Colonel Coldstream Guards

Mr Colin Methven – Chairman of the Club – 2004 to 2007

COFFEE ROOM

As we all know too well, it is a sad indicator of age when the years just flash by, so for some Members it will come as something of a surprise to know that the Coffee Room is to be redecorated this year – as it probably doesn't seem like 14 years since the last time it was decorated in 1997!

On this occasion, the Committee interviewed some of London's leading interior designers and have chosen Mr Woody Clark to undertake the project, who has previously worked on several heritage projects including 'Number 10'.

The works will be undertaken in the summer – July to September – and the scope of the works will include significant alterations to the service Pantry in order that the Club staff are better able to handle the increasing demand for dinners where 'plate service' rather than 'silver service' is requested.

As with other recent projects undertaken in the Club, the works will also include the removal of the old radiators and the installation of air handling units which will provide some cooling in the summer as well as heating in the winter.

BALACLAVA LIBRARY

Thanks to the generosity of Members, the Club's Library has continued to grow over the last three years (since it was restored in 2008), and the Committee is indebted to Club Member, Major Narindar Saroop who undertook the rather daunting task of categorising the books.

This has now been done – and the books are categorised as follows –

- Military and Regimental History
- General History
- Political History
- Fiction
- Biography
- Sport
- Miscellaneous
- Reference

Books that did not fall into one of these categories, or that were duplicates of ones already donated, or were in paperback, have now been moved to bookcases in the basement bedroom corridor and these books are available for Members to borrow.

Further donations are always very gratefully received and the donor is acknowledged in a bookplate.

CHARITIES

As has been mentioned in the Newsletter previously, the Club has been pleased over recent years both to encourage the use of the Club's facilities for charitable events and to undertake various events itself over the course of each year to promote, encourage and donate to a number of charities, particularly those in support of the Armed Forces.

Taking this one step further, the Chairman and Committee decided to formalise an arrangement whereby each year a chosen charity would benefit from a £5,000 donation, to be used in the purchase of Club services and amenities, in a manner and on an occasion chosen by the nominated charity itself, to hopefully raise further significant funds from the event.

The beneficiary for the year 2011 will be **SSAFA** – a charity well-known and supported by Club Members – and the Club looks forward to working with the charity to ensure a successful occasion.

DIRECT DEBIT AND CLUB ACCOUNTS

The Committee is pleased to report that over 80% of the membership now handles all financial transactions with the Club by the means of Direct Debit, and this not only speeds the process by which monies are transferred, but also is a more cost effective method in terms of the time taken by Club staff to verify the transactions.

As mentioned in the Newsletter previously, the benefit of having a Direct Debit in place, also allows the Member to operate a monthly account facility with the Club, which many Members have found useful.

In moving to a 'paperless' banking society in the near future, the Committee would urge all of the remaining 20% of Members to consider setting up a Direct Debit facility at the earliest opportunity. (Forms can be obtained from the Membership Secretary).

BEDROOM BOOKINGS

Under the guidance of Committee Member, Major Peter Scrope, the Club's website continues to expand and develop, and Members are reminded that this now includes the ability to reserve accommodations in the Club, to review membership and personal accounts – and to make settlement of the same - and to highlight companies and services that might be of interest to other Members.

These sections are in the 'Members' area of the website and can be accessed using a personal password (available from the Secretary's office).

Additions to the lists of recommended companies and services are always very welcome – and can be made to the Secretary.

With regard to Bedroom bookings, Members are encouraged to book as far in advance as possible as the demand for bedrooms has grown significantly in the past few years, and although dates are often 'blocked out' for Members Only (for example on the evenings of any Regimental or Club events), the Club still receives more requests than the 37 bedrooms available can accommodate.