

CLUB VISIT TO FROGMORE HOUSE

20th September 2011

Frogmore House is located in the private Home Park of Windsor Castle and has been the country residence of various monarchs since the 17th century. Although no longer a residence, the house is renowned for its beautiful landscaped garden and 18th-century lake. The interior of the house reflects the interests and talents of several generations of The Royal Family and some of Queen Mary's collection of Royal Family souvenirs is on display.

The Club has arranged a private tour of Frogmore House (with a glass of champagne on completion), on the evening of September 20th, preceded by a tour of Savill Gardens. A coach will be leaving from the Clubhouse at approx. 2pm – and will return to Piccadilly in the evening. Members may like to take lunch before departure, or dinner upon return – and both these options are included in the prices available from the Membership Secretary – Frances Watt – who will be taking bookings and co-ordinating the visit.

OLYMPICS

July 27th to August 12th Olympics – London 2012

Members will doubtless be aware from all the recent media attention, that tickets for the 2012 Olympics in London have now been issued and the organisers have been over-whelmed by the demand for these tickets – so attendance at all the events, both those taking place in London and elsewhere in the UK should be exceptionally good.

With that in mind, the Committee has decided that Members should be given priority to make bedroom reservations in the Club for this period next year (dates as above) and to this end, the Club will be accepting bookings from Members only (with a maximum of two rooms per Member), Members are encouraged to reserve at the earliest opportunity. This year, any surplus rooms will then be offered to Members of our reciprocal Clubs on a first-come basis (at a special 'Olympic guest rate').

THE SAS WAR DIARY

In November the SAS celebrates the 70th anniversary of its first operation and to mark the event, the SAS Regimental Association is publishing a special Anniversary Edition of The SAS War Diary 1941-1945. Given the close relationship with The Brigade of Guards, the Association is keen that Club members are aware of this.

The original Diary itself is massive, in every sense of the word! It is over 600 pages long, measures 17" x 12" x 4", weighs well over 25 lbs., and is bound in leather "liberated" from Nazi Germany. It was compiled in 1946, shortly after the end of World War II when the SAS had been disbanded and there were no plans to resurrect it. The Diary was an

attempt to record the history of the SAS before it was consigned to a mere footnote in military history and it is the first ever history of the SAS, from formation to war's end, produced within the secret world of The Regiment and in its own words, including the Top Secret Order for the first operation, subsequent orders and reports, maps and photographs (many taken behind the lines) following the SAS from North Africa, through Sicily, Italy and France, and into Germany. The Diary is the only place where most of these documents exist.

But The Diary is also remarkable for a second reason: for over half a century its existence has remained a secret – even within the SAS itself. Now, however, to mark the 70th anniversary of the first operation, and to raise funds for its welfare activities, the SAS Regimental Association is producing a unique anniversary limited edition series of The War Diary. Each edition replicates the original Diary – over 600 pages long, all 17" x 12" x 4", weighing over 25 lbs. and bound in leather. The Association Edition of The Diary, available only to members, has already sold out. The Association is planning a Public Edition. Before the public launch however, the Association has decided to issue a special Services Edition, limited to 1000 copies at a special price of £975, for Services personnel and their families. The Services Edition, like the Association Edition, contains an additional section on the SAS War Crimes Investigation Team, charged with hunting down Nazis responsible for the torture and murder of SAS men behind the lines, and is therefore distinct from the standard Public Edition.

Given the historic link between the two organisations – a number of Club members have served with great distinction in The Regiment and the SAS was, of course, founded by a Guards officer with many of its original members coming from the Brigade of Guards, the SAS Regimental Association is keen that members of the Cavalry and Guards Club have first option on this Services Edition of The Diary.

Details can be obtained from info@saswar diary.co.uk or from Extraordinary Editions Limited, PO Box 66721, London NW5 9DW.

GUARDS POLO CLUB - POLO AT SMITHS LAWN SUNDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER

We are delighted that once again The Guards Polo Club have offered our Members and their guests complimentary admission to attend the final of the Major-General's Cup (0-2 Goal) at Smiths Lawn on Sunday 4th September.



Guards Polo Club is set in the beautiful surroundings of Windsor Great Park at Smiths Lawn and there is a restaurant, bar and 10 playing grounds.

Play will commence at 11.00 am and Members wishing to attend this event should contact Frances Watt on 020 7659 0906 to book their places.



THE CAVALRY AND GUARDS CLUB 127 Newsletter

June 2011

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

As I said at the AGM it is a great privilege to take on the mantle of Chairman of our excellent Club. Having been Vice-Chairman to David Rosier for the past four years I am only too well aware of the time and effort which he expended on behalf of the Members during that period. I hope to build on all that he has done in the many years that he has been involved in the Club's business to provide a suitable environment for all our Members.

Nothing stands still and in many ways dealing with the decoration and fabric of the Club building and rooms is akin to painting the Forth Bridge! The major project for 2011 is the refurbishment of the Coffee Room and the adjacent Pantry, which will take place from mid July to early September. Further details are given later in this Newsletter. I am confident, together with the Refurbishment Committee, that the designs and works will produce a stunning room, complete with 'comfort cooling'. The aim is to have the whole project completed in time for the annual Grouse Dinner on 14th September.

Lesser works this year include new carpets for some of the bedrooms on the 4th floor as part of the ongoing upgrade of those rooms, a new boiler to

provide increased hot water capacity and an additional members' loo on the 2nd floor. Even with all of this going on, the programme of Club events continues throughout the year. The Club Marquee at Ascot proved particularly popular, perhaps due somewhat to the inclement weather and we are looking to extending it in 2012. A visit to Frogmore House is planned for September and as well as the Grouse Dinner the Club will hold the 2nd Fine Wine Dinner and Wine Lottery on 26th October. We are also looking forward to a busy year in 2012 with Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in June and the Olympic Games in July and August.

All in all a busy time for our Secretary David Cowdery and his staff and I look forward to working with all of them. I am also grateful for the support of the Committee, all of whom give up their time for the benefit of the Club.

Finally as your new Chairman I hope to meet many Members in the Club during the coming months.

Christopher MacKenzie-Beevor
Chairman

INCOMING CHAIRMAN'S AGM ADDRESS

On their appointment as Chairman I suspect that most, if not all, of my predecessors have said how privileged and proud they have been to have been elected as such – and indeed I have exactly the same sentiments. Having served as David Rosier's Vice Chairman for 4 years, I can honestly say that a great deal of the Club's recent success is thanks to his untiring dedication as Chairman (and as Vice Chairman to Colin Methven before that) and I am in no doubt about the importance of building on the legacy which has been passed on to me by David and his predecessors. David, as you said in 2007 when you took over as Chairman, you were "signed up" for the Club on joining our Regiment, when I was a somewhat more senior Subaltern – neither of us knew then that the roles would be reversed when I took over here from you as Vice Chairman! You have worked on behalf of the Club and its members for 15 years, 7 as a member of the Committee, nearly 8 as a Trustee of '127 Piccadilly', 4 as Vice Chairman and as Chairman for the last 4 years. You have steered us through a most successful refurbishment of the 3rd Floor bedrooms (which have proved to be so popular) and ensured that our financial position has improved even in these straightened times. Our Members owe you a great debt of gratitude and I am only too aware of the boots I have to fill!

The Cavalry and Guards Club has become an institution in which its Members can have enormous pride, with a marvellous building which continues to be improved, and also for now being a Club on a very sound financial and business footing whilst maintaining the

ethos and atmosphere which has always been prevalent. Despite a shrinking military pool in which to recruit our core members, membership numbers have increased due, in no small way, to getting this balance right. During the 6 years in which I have been on the Committee, we have striven to ensure that the essential balance is struck between traditional values and the need to provide up to date facilities for all our Members. This has been one of the themes of David Rosier's chairmanship, and its success can be judged not - only by the declining number of resignations - but also by the increasing number of younger members and "rejoiners". It is a great pleasure to see now how much the Club is used at the weekends, mostly by those younger members, whereas in the past '127' was virtually a "ghost building" from Friday afternoon until Monday lunchtime.

Much of the success in maintaining and, indeed, increasing our membership numbers falls to Martyn Pocock who has been responsible to the Committee for this area since James Rucker's retirement. I am delighted that Martyn has agreed to become the Vice Chairman whilst continuing with his membership role. I am also delighted that the other members of the Committee have agreed to continue to serve, apart from Sandra Nelson who has to retire under the Club rules. Sandra has been an invaluable member of the Club Committee and a dynamic Chairman of the Ladies Committee, in which role I am happy to say that she has agreed to continue. I am also much looking forward to working closely with

CLUB EVENTS 2011 & 2012

July

20th Summer on the Terrace -
An Evening of Gilbert & Sullivan

September

4th Polo – Guards Club – Final of the
'Major-General's Trophy'
(by kind invitation of the Guards Polo Club)
14th Grouse Dinner
20th Visit to Savill Gardens and Frogmore House

October

12/13th Theatre Outing
26th Fine Wine Dinner and Wine Lottery

November

3rd Talk by Helen Plumb – 'Opals' – with
Afternoon Tea

29th Club Speaker Dinner – General Sir
David Richards, Chief of the Defence Staff
30th Book Fair – and Authors Lunch

December

14th Sons & Daughters Dinner
15th Members Christmas Lunch
23rd Christmas Closing

January

3rd Club Reopens

June 2012

2nd to 5th Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

14th Club Summer Ball

July 27th to August 12th 2012

Olympics – London 2012

the Advisory Council who represent a broad spectrum of the membership and help the Committee's deliberations on a number of subjects.

I mentioned earlier the continuing improvements to the Club building and I am pleased to report that plans for the refurbishment of the Coffee Room and the adjacent pantry and kitchen area are now well advanced. This work will take place in August and part of September, which I realise, will cause some disruption – but by scheduling it over the summer break I trust that this will be minimal. More details will be provided in the next Newsletter. We also have to undertake some essential work to the ceilings in the main kitchens, which will be done at the same time. Finally I must reiterate what an honour it is to have been selected to serve as Chairman of this superb Club and I am looking forward to working with the Committee, the Trustees, the Advisory Council, our excellent Secretary David Cowdery and his staff to continue to provide an establishment of which we can all justifiably be proud.

OUTGOING CHAIRMAN'S AGM ADDRESS

Before starting on the business of the meeting, I wanted to discuss the timing of it. Last year, in order to help those Members who live in the country, we decided to have the meeting at lunchtime, and 31 Members attended. This year, we moved the timing of the meeting back to 6pm in the evening in order to accommodate those Members who work in London, and are unable to get here at lunchtime. It is interesting to note that again, we have 31 Members attending! As to the timing of next year's meeting, I leave this knotty problem to my successor as Chairman, Christopher Mackenzie-Beevor.

You will all have had the opportunity to read my report for 2010, which this year has been included in the new format of accounts. However, I wanted to amplify a couple of points made in my report and to bring you up to date with trading so far in 2011.

With regard to 2010, Members should be aware that with the help of our auditor, Simon Wilks of haysmacintyre who audit 16 of the major London clubs, we have benchmarked our performance against that of the other London clubs. It is pleasing to note that where we want to be in the top and second quartile, we are - for example, at 89% for bedroom occupancy Monday to Friday, we are in the top quartile and at 63% gross profit margin for our food, we are in the second quartile. However, perhaps more importantly, we are in the third quartile for gross profit for drinks, and with an average subscription of £270 (which compares with over £1,200 per annum at Boodles) we are again in the third quartile.

With regards to Membership, I am delighted that at 2,732 we have 63 more Members than this time last year. We also now have a waiting list for 3(d) Members – those who have never served in our qualifying regiments, nor are related to an existing Member.

As far as trading in 2011 is concerned – and this used to be called “insider information” in my line of work – profits to the end of May at £95,000 are 53% ahead of budget and 15% ahead of last year – this is obviously good news as this summer, we will be undertaking the refurbishment of the Coffee Room and Serving Pantry. We have set aside funds for this in our 5-year plan, but obviously the fact that we are trading well will help us recoup this outlay more quickly.

Finally, I would like to reiterate my thanks to the Committee for all the work they have done and, importantly, to thank David Cowdery and his staff for their contribution to the Club's success over the past year and to the Members' enjoyment of the Club.

David Rosier - Chairman 2007 to 2011

COFFEE ROOM

As the Chairman has mentioned in his Introduction, the Coffee Room project commences on July 14th and the intention is to have the room back in use by the time of the Club Grouse Dinner in mid-September.

Working with the interior designer, Woody Clark, the Committee has chosen a scheme, which is sympathetic to the heritage and history of the room but which also takes into consideration the many uses to which the room is put and its unequivocal status as the principal Dining Room in the Club.

'Comfort cooling' will be added to the room in a sympathetic manner and during the refurbishment project the opportunity will be taken for all the artwork to be viewed by the restorers and the Club's art consultant Jonathon Miles, in order that a programme of works can be drawn up for the future.

LUNCH AND DINNER

During the period of closure for the Coffee Room, the dining service for the Club will continue to operate in the 2nd floor Dining Room.

Members are reminded that bookings are recommended for both lunch and dinner (other than individual Members choosing to lunch or dine on the Club Table), and parties up to 10 can be accommodated in this room.

On a separate note, Members will undoubtedly have seen recent press reports on the high food inflation figures that have been prevalent in recent months, and the Committee continues its policy of ensuring that these increases are not passed on to the Club menu, thereby ensuring that real 'value for money' prices are available to Club Members when lunching or dining in their Club.

Equally on the 'drinks' side, the VAT changes and other price increases (necessitated by, amongst other things, fuel prices affecting suppliers), have not been reflected in the prices offered in the Club, and Members can still be assured of some excellent 'bargains' particularly amongst the wines being offered on the Club Wine List.

ROYAL ASCOT

This year the numbers of Members and their guests attending Royal Ascot increased on recent years, meaning that on most of the racing days (with the exception of Wednesday), the Club Marquee was full – with a waiting list for those requesting luncheon.

With inclement weather on all but the first day (Tuesday), the benefit of holding a Day badge for the Marquee was very much appreciated by Members – and guests – who were not only able to enjoy a drink or afternoon tea in convivial surroundings but, perhaps more importantly, had an excellent place from which to shelter from the rain. Indeed, on one or two of the days it was noted that some Members did not leave the Marquee for the entire period of the days racing!

For the 2012 'Diamond Jubilee' Ascot meet, the Committee is reviewing the possibility of making the Marquee slightly larger in order to provide a bigger facility for Members, but does remind Members that Day Badges are required – both to ensure entry (before the 4th race of the day) – and to fund the facility!

IN MEMORIAM

Colonel Samuel Gausson <i>Welsh Guards & Club Committee Member</i>	1952*	26th April
Major Sir Basil Hall <i>Inns of Court & City Yeomanry</i>	1941	2nd May
Lady Dorothy Black <i>Wife of Member</i>	1987	May
Capt James Lister <i>11th Hussars</i>	1954	16th May
Michael Pratt QC <i>3rd Carabiniers (POW Dragoon Guards)</i>	1956	21st June
Christopher Shale <i>17th/21st Lancers</i>	1977	26th June

(*Club Member since)

SUMMER ON THE TERRACE

The Club is pleased to announce that the singers presenting the works of Gilbert and Sullivan at the Summer on the Terrace event on Wednesday July 20th will be the internationally renowned group, 'Opera Interludes', led by Philip Blake Jones (a former principal of the D'Oyly Carte Company).

Over the last 15 years 'Opera Interludes' has achieved a considerable reputation for presenting opera in palaces, castles, country houses, theatres, embassies and private homes throughout the world and recent engagements have taken place in Rome, Venice, Trieste, Como, Paris, Berlin, Hamburg, Lisbon, Montreux, Monte Carlo and Moscow.

Venues in the UK have included St James's Palace, Kensington Palace, Hampton Court Palace, The House of Commons, 10 Downing Street, Blenheim Palace, The Victoria and Albert Museum, at the Windsor and Salisbury International Festivals, and overseas the Barbados Festival and in a Gala Concert in Hamburg with the City of London Sinfonia for an audience of 5,000.

On a somewhat smaller scale (!) places for the evening of July 20th are still available and reservations should be made with Frances Watt, Membership Secretary.

FINE WINE DINNER

The Club will hold their Annual Fine Wine Dinner on Wednesday 26th October. It will be a black tie event for Members and guests (up to a limit of 3 guests per Member).

Following a champagne reception, Members will drink superior wines with each course of a gourmet menu. The Club have invited a well-known wine expert to give comments on each wine as it is served.

Each ticket purchased for the dinner will include two entries to the wine lottery with a chance to win a number of fine wine prizes – each valued at around £500. The draw will take place at the end of dinner.

Additional lottery tickets can be purchased for £5 each or £45 for ten. Members unable to attend the Dinner are encouraged to participate in the Lottery by purchasing tickets.

A list of the wines to be served at the Dinner and the Lottery Prize

Wines will be included in the next Newsletter. Members are encouraged to reserve their places now as the numbers will be restricted.

Ticket prices are £75 per head.

It will certainly be a sumptuous evening and one that will be enjoyed by all who attend.

*Nick Chamberlin
Chairman of the Wine Committee*

CAVALRY & GUARDS MOTOR CLUB/ CLUB GRILLE & WINDSCREEN BADGES



Since inception at the end of last year, there has been a growing and enthusiastic interest in The Cavalry & Guards Motor Club. The group is open to all Members of the Club who have a shared interest in classic sports cars and motorcycles, both old and new.

The first official meeting took the form of a Spring Lunch at a village pub near Henley and was a great success,

generating some exciting ideas for future events. At the time of writing, there are further planned meetings for 2011 at the Goodwood Festival of Speed on 3rd July, The Rundle Cup (Army v Navy Polo at Tidworth) on 9th July and the Goodwood Revival on 16th-18th September. There are also plans for a CGMC dinner at the Club in the Autumn.

For 2012 we are working on plans for a Highland Rally (possibly via the occasional Salmon River or Distillery!) and the Le Mans Classic as well as other established events.

Any Members interested in becoming involved please contact Edward Blomfield-Smith by email at ebs@abercrombyappointments.com.

The Club has commissioned an initial production run of 100 enamel grille badges which will be available shortly to all Members from the Secretary's office priced at £60. (See photo). Windscreen badges (self adhesive) are also now available, priced at just £5 each. (Please note – these are available for purchase by all Club Members – not just Members of the Motoring Group)

