

FROM THE ARCHIVES

As mentioned in an earlier Newsletter, the Club is in the process of entering the details of all former Members into the computer system in order that, when completed (probably a number of years hence!), the details will be available 'at the push of a button' to all future historians, family members –

and other interested parties.

This work is proving fascinating and eventually should provide both an extensive historical record (of both Clubs) together with a remarkable social and military history of the membership.

The 'original' 500 members were entered into the Candidates Book on the 24th May and 7th June 1890, although the denomination 'Original Member' was eventually used for all those Members that joined in the years 1890 and 1891. Amongst this 'original' 500 were the following -

The 11th Earl of Airlie - *killed in the Boer War in June 1900*

Earl of Ava – *a lieutenant in the 17th Lancers and a fellow of the Royal Colonial Institute. He was serving as a war correspondent in South Africa during the Second Boer War when he was wounded at Waggon Hill during the Siege of Ladysmith and died a week later in January 1900*

General Sir Sam Browne – *who needs no further introduction here!*

Colonel the 3rd Baron Chesham – *later to be the last holder of the post 'Master of the Buckhounds' – 1901*

The 4th Earl of Craven – *who died in an accident at Cowes- 10th July 1921*

2nd Lt Philip W Chetwode – 19th Hussars -*later Field Marshal The Lord Chetwode – and the longest serving Chairman of the Cavalry Club*

Lt Douglas Haig – *7th Hussars -later Field Marshal, The Earl Haig*

Prince Albert Victor Duleep Singh – *a favourite of HM Queen Victoria – who led a colourful life leading to bankruptcy*

Prince Adolphus of Teck (*one of many members of the Teck family to join in the late 1890's, including HSH Prince Alexander – later The Earl of Athlone*)

Capt Robert S S Baden Powell – 13th Hussars (*later Lt General The Lord Baden Powell – founder of the Boy Scouts movement*)

Major The 11th Viscount Valentia (*later to be a Vice President of the Club – and whose significant portrait graces the top of the stairs.*)

CLUB MOTORING GROUP

Expressions of interest are invited from Members who share a healthy obsession with Classic and Sports cars and who might be interested in forming a Club motoring group.

British Grand Prix, Salon Privee, Monaco Historique etc. A Club 'grille badge' could also possibly be commissioned.

Please contact Club Member - Edward Blomfield-Smith at ebs@abercrombyappointments.com if you have a particular interest.

The group's aim would be to organise road trips around the UK and Europe and attendance at significant events in the motoring calendar such as Le Mans 24hrs, Goodwood Revival,

CLUB EVENTS 2010

October

13th Theatre visit - 'Yes, Prime Minister'
28th Helen Plumb – 'Pearls' – Talk and Tea
28th Fine Wine Dinner and Wine Lottery

December

9th Sons & Daughters Dinner
16th Members Christmas Lunch
23rd Christmas Closing

November

3rd 200th Anniversary Guards Club Luncheon (by invitation)
11th Lunch and Talk – 'Caneletto in London and Venice' by Nigel Goodman
28th/30th Visit to Bruges – Christmas Market (sold out)
30th Book Fair – and Authors Lunch

January 2011

4th Club Reopens



THE CAVALRY AND GUARDS CLUB

127 Newsletter

October 2010

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

The summer quarter of the year is traditionally a quieter period for the Club. Not this year, however, as in August, partly due to the growing reputation of our dining rooms with members of the "St James's Clubs" that close in August, we had a 20% increase over last year in numbers dining at the Club.

During the summer months, we have taken the opportunity to continue the refurbishment programme. The major project has been the refurbishment of the basement bathrooms and the installation of "comfort cooling" in the seven basement bedrooms.

On the ground floor, the television has now been moved into the Writing Room and the Night Tray can now be found in a cabinet in the Garden Room.

On the first floor, we have reinstated the lavatory that existed many years ago in the corridor at the eastern end of the floor (which was hidden by the store cupboards for the Coffee Room furniture). The result of this is that the corridor between the Coffee Room and the Peninsular Room now has a much more pleasant aspect, and definitely more importantly, we now have a lavatory on every floor of the building!

In addition, on the first floor and behind the "green baize door", we have refurbished the Club Steward's "mezzanine" office above the Pantry to the Coffee Room. Very few Members are even aware that this office exists!

On the second floor, we have repainted the Double Bridal Room which now has a much lighter feel.

Finally, on the fourth floor, we have completed the repainting of the bedrooms and

redecorated the "common parts" which has given the floor a real lift.

On the social side, a busy autumn kicked off with the traditional Grouse Dinner at which 75 Members and their guests enjoyed perfectly cooked grouse by the Club's chef, Paul Farmer and his team. One of the highlights of the autumn is likely to be the Fine Wine Dinner on the 28th October when we shall be drinking some of Anthony Barton's finest clarets.

However, the major event of the autumn will be the Reception and Luncheon on 3rd November to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the founding of the Guards Club. HRH The Prince Philip, Colonel of the Grenadier Guards, has accepted our invitation to be the guest of honour and our President, HRH The Duke of Kent, Colonel of the Scots Guards, will also be present. As I am sure Members will understand, this event will be by invitation only and, for obvious reasons, will have very much a "Guards flavour" about it.

On the Committee front, I am delighted to welcome Edward Cottrell (late Coldstream Guards) to the Committee.

Finally, I would remind Members to diarise the Members Christmas Lunch on Thursday 16th December. This lunch, which is free except for wines, is becoming increasingly popular and is great fun as it is the only lunch during the year when Members get together without guests.

I look forward to seeing as many Members as possible in the Club this autumn.

David Rosier
Chairman

CLUB RULES

The Club does not have many rules. The two that create the most 'heat' are those about dress and the use of mobile telephones. In recent years, the Committee has bent over backwards to accommodate the wishes of Members. However, enough is enough and, to stop the increasing number of complaints that I am receiving, I would ask all Members to respect the Club's rules with regard to dress and

where they may use mobile telephones in the Club.

To clarify: During the week, jacket and tie (and trousers not jeans) must be worn at all times in the public rooms of the Club except in the Dining Room at breakfast and in the Balaclava Library. A tie need not be worn after 6:00 p.m. in any of the rooms on the Ground Floor.

The Club is essentially a mobile free zone except that mobile telephones may be used in the Balaclava Room and the Writing Room on the Ground Floor, in the basement, in the private meeting rooms and, of course, in the bedrooms. Mobile telephones should not be used in the Hall or on the Terrace.

Adherence to these rules will make the Club a happier place for all Members.

The Chairman

OBITUARY

Brigadier James Rucker

The Chairman and Committee were saddened to learn of the death in July of Brigadier James Rucker who had served the Club as Membership Development Officer from 1995 to 2000 and was then on the Committee (with responsibilities for Membership) until 2007 when he 'retired' to the Advisory Council.

During this period of active involvement with the Club, James did much to develop and encourage the growth of the membership and was responsible for the successful 'Member-Gets-Member' scheme in the late 1990's. His extensive knowledge of the regiments and close ties with many senior Officers ensured that the Club continued to benefit from the important links with the serving membership and similarly helped to foster a better understanding of the importance of the Club to the regiments.

Over 500 people attended a Memorial Service in Dorset in September, when the Club was represented by the Vice Chairman, Vice President and many former Committee colleagues and members of the Club.

The Committee is very pleased that James's wife Caroline has accepted membership of the Club, which will continue James's long association with '127'.

CLUB PAINTINGS

As many Club Members will know, the collections of paintings, cartoons and drawings that the Club is fortunate to have in its possession have been acquired over a period of many years, often as a result of very generous loans, or gifts, on the part of individual Members or Regiments.

Over the summer, the Club has had the opportunity to acquire several new paintings and these are to be hung in the Club over the next few weeks under the supervision of the Club's art consultant – Jonathon Miles (who has also already carried out restoration work to one or two of the other paintings).

From the Royal Collection (and by kind permission of HM The Queen) the Club has acquired a portrait of Her Majesty completed in 1966 by the artist Terence Cuneo (1907-1996), which shows Her Majesty mounted on Doctor, a grey horse, wearing the uniform of the Colonel-in-Chief of Grenadier Guards in the grounds of Buckingham Palace. This painting will hang in the Hall of the Club.

Following an approach by the National Army Museum and after consultation with the King's Royal Hussars Museum in Winchester, a most significant and large painting depicting HRH The Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) with Lieutenant Colonel



Valentine Baker reviewing the 10th Royal Hussars (PWO) at Aldershot on 8 September 1871 and attributed to Sir Francis Grant c1871, will now be displayed in the Garden Room. This painting was presented to the National Army Museum in the 1950's by the 10th Royal Hussars (PWO), one of the antecedent regiments of the current owners, to whom it has been gifted.

At the same time in the summer The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards were fortunate in acquiring at auction a beautiful companion pair of portraits (together with three swords). The main portrait is of Captain Francis Stupart (1781-1860) who fought at the Battle of Waterloo (and whose Waterloo Medal is already in possession of the Regiment) – and the companion portrait is of his wife Anne. It is this latter portrait that is generously being loaned to the Club to be hung in the Garden Room (which as Members will recall is the ground floor 'ladies' drawing room in the Club at lunchtimes).

Finally, smaller pictures are always very gratefully received and again during the summer, an overseas Member – Captain Peter B Edwards CD (formerly RTR) presented a fine copy of a print by David Rowlands entitled 'Centurions of the 1st Royal Tank Regiment firing at night' (during the Third Battle of the Hook (Hill 159) in May 1953)

CLUB CHRISTMAS CARD

Following the generous loan of the painting from the Royal Collection, the Committee considered that this would be a most appropriate Christmas card for the Club in this year of our celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the founding of the Guards Club.

Cards are available from the Secretary's Office in packs of 10 at £8 per pack (with a contribution going to the ABF).

CLUB ACCOUNTS

Many Members will be familiar with previous attempts to provide account facilities at the Club by way of the provision of membership cards and sadly will know that this system was not successful.

However, due to enhanced technology it is now very simple for any Member to set up a Club account – the only requirements being an active Direct Debit mandate with the Club (such as those used to pay the annual subscription) together with an email address.

On the basis that a Member has provided this information, charges may be set against the Member's account during the month – and at month-end a statement will automatically be sent via email from the Accounts department advising on which date the monies will be requested. It is as simple as that.

We trust Members will find this service useful and further information about it may be obtained from the Secretary's Office.

GOLF

'Cavalry and Guards golfers win in Norfolk'

Not a lot of golf is played in the name of the Cavalry and Guards Club, but what there is played really quite well. Our team triumphed on 13th September in the unlikely setting of The Royal West Norfolk Golf Club at Brancaster. Your reporter should explain his use of the word 'unlikely' - it is never easy to beat golfers on their home course- especially one as difficult and 'challenging' as this one.

The match has been played annually for around 15 years; this time the C and G team won rather well -

strengthened by the leadership and hospitality of Jeremy (Quill) Greenwood, who as a member at Brancaster has organised and managed the whole fixture for years. He also kindly put up several of the C and G team the night before, and gave a splendid dinner party to get everyone into the right frame of mind to face the course and the home team members - it was all very much reminiscent of Harry the night before Agincourt! It almost (but not quite) goes against the grain to state the winning margin - but it was by 3.5 points to 0.5. In other words: of four matches in all, the twelve Cavalry and Guards golfers won three outright and drew the other!



The teams at a very pleasant lunch after the match



Cavalry and Guards team captain Jeremy (Quill) Greenwood courteously corrects the assertion of the Brancaster organiser that this was the first time the C&G team had ever won the contest