

# THE CAVALRY AND GUARDS CLUB

## 127 Newsletter

September 2008



### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As the Members who have visited the Club in recent weeks will have observed, during August and early September when the Club is traditionally quieter, we continued the programme of refurbishment of the Club's fabric. As a result, we now have a gentlemen's lavatory/washroom that befits a Club of our stature and will shortly have an enlarged library in the Balaclava Room where members will be able to work using their laptop computers. The most perceptive Members will have noted that the marble columns in the hall have also been cleaned of almost 100 years of nicotine stains.

Behind the scenes, vital maintenance has been carried out in the first and second floor service kitchens and, finally, four fourth floor bedrooms have been renovated.

It is at times of economic difficulty such as we are now experiencing, that membership of a Club like ours should reap dividends. The value for money that the Club provides in the

bars, dining rooms and bedrooms is quite excellent. Where else in London can one buy a good bottle of 2000 Claret for less than £20 and where else in clubland can a member have lunch for under £10?

Over the coming months, therefore, I hope very much that as many Members as possible will take advantage of the excellent value that the Club offers. I also hope that, prior to the Members' free Christmas luncheon on Thursday 18th December, as many members as possible will come and toast farewell to "Geoffrey" who retires at Christmas after nearly 60 years of service, first in the Guards Club and latterly in the Cavalry and Guards Club.

I look forward to seeing you in the Club during the autumn.

David Rosier - *Chairman*

### CLUB BOOK

During the summer all Members should have received the full Subscription flyer for the Club book and we trust will have taken the opportunity to pre-order a copy and, at the same time, have their name recorded as a 'Subscriber' thus ensuring an enduring link with the Club. If you have not received a flyer and would still like one, please let the Secretary know, as the support of all Members is extremely important to this exciting project.

The book is already now in its first draft and includes a wide range of topics and interesting details, which we are sure, will provide Members with a fascinating insight into two hundred years of Club history.

As previously advised it will be published in June 2009, and a Launch Party (to which the Subscribers will be invited) will be held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 3rd June.

### GUN CABINETS

With the shooting season well upon us, a timely reminder that gun cabinets are available in the Club for those wishing to leave guns for short periods.

Located in the basement these are available free of charge (as for other lockers) and the keys are issued from the Porters desk (becoming then, during the period of occupancy, the responsibility of the gun licence holder). It would be wise to check in advance the availability of a cabinet if you are planning to use one.



### BEDROOMS & WEEKEND RATES

During the summer the opportunity was taken to paint four of the twin bedrooms on the fourth floor and undertake some other small refurbishment and upgrade works to these popular accommodations (which were originally upgraded in a programme which commenced in the mid-90's).

The Committee has also introduced tea and coffee making facilities to these 4th floor bedrooms, providing an additional facility, which is particularly useful at the weekends when there are not so many Club staff on duty.

Members are also reminded of the excellent rates that the Club provides for accommodation at the weekends - approximately 50% of the weekday rates for Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings.

## BALACLAVA LIBRARY

As the Chairman mentions in his report, the main project undertaken this summer has been the 'restoration' of the Balaclava Room to house the Club library.

As many Members will recall this room has had an interesting and varied history since it was first 'added' to the Club in the rebuilding of 1909.

Initially the Morning Room, the Library was moved here from its location on the first floor following the Great War, and remained as such – with the addition of a Billiards table in the 1970's – until the disposal of both bookcases and books at the time of the purchase of the freehold in 1987. Since that date it has provided a very good additional function room.

However, following the success of the current small Library/Business room on the Ground floor, the Committee decided that more space was need for the many Members who use the Club as a 'business base', with somewhere to utilise mobile telephones, computers (with Wifi access) and to hold 'impromptu' small business meetings in convivial surroundings.

For this reason a plan was formulated to refurbish the Balaclava room as a Library/Business room, but recognising the demand for private parties it was decided by the Committee that it will be available for Members use only during the day - until 6pm - and thereafter will continue to provide function space in the evenings, offering a splendid library setting for a small drinks party or smart dinner party.

## BOOKS

The Committee is very grateful to those Members who have previously donated books to enable the small Library to grow to its current size.

Obviously with the much-enlarged space, there is now an even greater need to swell the number of volumes available to Members and it is hoped that any Member with a surfeit of suitable volumes might consider donating them to the Club.

Initially the Committee is happy to receive any **hardback** book, but as the Library takes shape - and with a small buying policy - will endeavour to ensure that the library contains mostly books of a military bias, thereby providing a useful reference library for generations of Club members to come.

Members wishing to donate books are asked to contact the Secretary for further information.



## WEBSITE

Having taken the opportunity to have the Club re-photographed for the new book, the Committee have also decided to upgrade the Club's website utilising the new images, and at the same time have tried to make the site more 'user-friendly', providing more information on the many activities taking place in the Club together with a more 'interactive' element allowing Members to book accommodations and events 'on-line'. This latter facility will be available shortly.

It is apparent that more and more Members are using the web on a daily basis and making it their preferred means of communication, both during the business day, and socially.

The Club also finds this to be a quick and effective means of communication and, should you not have had the opportunity to provide your email address to the Club, would ask you to do so at your earliest convenience (most easily done by sending an email to the Club Secretary - [secretary@cavgds.co.uk](mailto:secretary@cavgds.co.uk)). This will enable the Club to send you news of future events and ensure you are instantly updated with any changes here at '127'.

## GROUSE DINNER



One of the more traditional highlights of the Club's annual calendar is the Grouse Dinner which this year took place on Wednesday 17th September, with the Vice Chairman in the 'chair'.

Welcoming nearly fifty Members and guests to this 'gastronomic evening', the Vice Chairman noted that it had been several years since the last Grouse Dinner and he was very pleased to see several younger Members and their guests enjoying the evening.



The menu, selected and cooked by our Head Chef, Paul Farmer and his team and the wines chosen by Club Sommelier, Julio Alvarez, were as follows -



### Wine

Rully 1er Cru, La Pucelle, Domaine Paul Jacquesson 2005  
Château Cissac 2001  
Fonseca, Guimaraens 1998

### Menu

Salmon & Fennel Tartare  
with Cucumber Salsa  
~  
Mushroom & Stilton Soup  
~  
Traditional Roast Grouse  
Fondant Potatoes  
Buttered Spinach Roast Parsnips  
~  
Blackcurrant Sorbet  
~  
Abroath Smokie Infused  
Scotch Woodcock  
~  
Coffee & Chocolates

## RECIPROCAL CLUB

### University Club of San Francisco – New Reciprocal Club.

The Committee is delighted to announce a new reciprocal Club on the west coast of the United States - The University Club of San Francisco.

The University Club is situated at the top of “Nob Hill” at the corner of Powell Street and California Street, at the intersection of two Cable Car lines. Its popular central location puts it within walking distance of the financial district, Chinatown, Union Square and some of the best shopping and restaurants in the City.

The clubhouse has dining, bar, library and meeting facilities and 16 bedrooms or suites for overnight accommodation.

Accommodation rates are currently from \$160 per night for single occupancy of bedrooms (\$15 per night per additional person in the room) , and \$199 per night in the suites ( with the same \$15 per night fee per additional person. A light continental breakfast buffet is included. Taxes are an additional 14%. With the current \$ / £ exchange rate this represents exceedingly good value for this part of San Francisco.

The main fourth floor bar has a delightful outside terrace with views over San Francisco Bay and the business district skyline, and also has card playing and billiards facility. The Club also owns a ‘state-of-the-art’ athletic building, next door, with superb squash, sauna, steam and exercise facilities. Visiting reciprocal club members have free access to this facility.

The University Club was founded in 1890 (the same year as the Cavalry Club!) and members each have a University

education or background. The Club’s motto is “Multarum Filii Matrum” (literally, “Sons of many Mothers” which reflects the diversity of the club membership). Like most clubs in the USA, full membership is available to both gentlemen and ladies. Dress code is “business casual” with ties required only on formal dining occasions.

Contact details are as follows-  
Website [www.univclub.com](http://www.univclub.com)  
E Mail [reservations@univclub.com](mailto:reservations@univclub.com)  
Phone 00 1 415 781 0900  
Fax 00 1 415 677 9323  
The address is -  
800 Powell Street, San Francisco, California 94108, U S A

Cards of introduction are required and, as for all our reciprocal Clubs, are available from the Secretary’s office.

## AUTUMN EVENTS

The Committee is very pleased to present an interesting programme of events during the coming months, with the following particular highlights;

### Geoffrey’s Farewell Party

As many Members will be aware Geoffrey has not been able to work with us at the Club since early in the year due to health concerns, and during recent treatments he was much heartened to receive constant and considerate enquiries about his welfare from a good number of Members, some of whom were also able to speak with him on his infrequent visits to the Club to update us on his progress.

Sadly, although he hopes the treatments have been successful, he has decided that it would not be wise to return to us here at ‘127’ and will be taking a very well-deserved retirement.

Obviously the Chairman and Committee wish to mark this retirement after a very remarkable career in a special way, and have asked Geoffrey, and his wife Carol, to join Members for a drinks party to be held prior to the Members’ Christmas Lunch on **Thursday 18th December at 12 noon.**

The Chairman has also taken the opportunity to ask retired members of Club staff, and beneficiaries of the Charitable Fund, to this reception, and Geoffrey and Carol will join them for lunch after the drinks.

It is hoped that as many Members of the Club as possible will be able to be present on the day \_ and to remain for the Members’ Christmas lunch following (which as last year will again be **FREE**).

### Three Talks

The Club is pleased to offer two very different ‘lecture’ opportunities during the month of October.

On **Wednesday 15th October**, together with the Army Historical Society a Talk entitled - ‘**Helmand Province: Then and Now**’ takes place with Dr Christopher Pugsley, (*Senior Lecturer, Department of War Studies at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, lately Lieutenant Colonel, New Zealand Army*) and a serving British Army Officer with recent service in Afghanistan speaking on the subject.

**Timings are** 6.00 pm for a Reception (Wine, Soft Drinks & Canapés) with The talk beginning at 6.30pm to be followed by Questions & Answers. The Cost is £15.00 per person. Members requiring Dinner are requested to make reservations with the Dining Room).

**On Wednesday 22nd October**, Henry Dallal provides a unique opportunity for Club Members to view his multi-media presentation based on his recently published book - 'Horse Warriors' - a tribute to one of the few remaining mounted cavalry regiments, the 61st Cavalry Regiment of the Indian Army - which has just been received with much acclaim in India.

The vitality of Henry's photographs, combined with evocative sound recordings of the troops together with music, produce a show more akin to moving pictures than stills, and features the traditional horse and camel fairs in the Thar Desert, the Victorian Babugarh stud, the nomadic Nihang warriors mounted on India's indigenous Marwaris, the international polo grounds of Jaipur, as well as the 61st operational duties on patrol and on ceremonial functions at the annual Republic Day Parade.

Places, again at £15, to include a Cocktail reception are available through the Membership Office.

Then in December, following the success of last years event, a return of the popular 'book evening' on Thursday 4th December - **'MORE CHAMPAGNE FOR THE BRAIN'** to be held in aid of 'HELP FOR HEROES' and chaired by Allan Mallinson.



#### "BEHIND EVERY GREAT MAN..."

Will feature a panel discussion on the three greats of the 18th, 19th, and 20th Centuries -Marlborough, Wellington, Alanbrooke with authors Richard Holmes, Andrew Roberts, and Lady Jane Wellesley.

Tickets £20, to include a glass of champagne - 6.15pm for 6.30pm (until 7.45pm). Tickets for the evening are limited to sixty - so an early application (to the Membership Secretary, Frances Watt) is suggested.

## GOLF

As in previous years, the Club participated once again in the Bath Club Cup match, which takes place each year at Woking Golf Club. The match is an annual inter-club trophy over 36 holes and this year we entered two teams. Our first team was Rudy Krefting and Nick Chamberlin and the second team was the Chairman, David Rosier and the Marquis of Reading. And the good news -we did not come last!

The Club has been fortunate to win the tournament - the last time being two years ago, though it format previously had been a 'matchplay knockout'. Now it is played as a combined 36-hole Stableford competition with the cumulative points from both 'A' and 'B' teams added together to provide a result!

Members interested in playing in this tournament in future years, or indeed at any other time - should contact Nick Chamberlin (Advisory Council member).



## PHOTOGRAPHS

The photographs that accompany the article on the recent Grouse Dinner were taken by Annabel McEwan, who has very kindly been taking photographs of recent events (including the Waterloo Ball and Cavalry Memorial weekend) for inclusion in the Club book next year.

Members wishing to see examples of her work (or indeed looking to purchase a copy of one of the photographs) are directed to the website - [www.theimagefile.com/web/annabelmcewan](http://www.theimagefile.com/web/annabelmcewan)

## CLUB EVENTS 2008/2009

### October

- 1st Bridge Afternoon
- 15th Talk - 'Helmand Province - Then and Now'
- 16th Theatre visit - 'Brief Encounter'
- 22nd Talk - Henry Dallal

### November

- 5th Bridge Afternoon
- 13th Theatre visit - 'The Norman Conquests'

### December

- 3rd Bridge Afternoon
- 4th More 'Champagne for the Brain'
- 10th Sons & Daughters Dinner
- 18th Farewell Reception for Geoffrey
- 18th Members' Christmas Lunch
- 23rd Christmas Closing

### January

- 5th Club Reopens
- 14th Bridge Afternoon
- 14th Theatre visit - 'Piaf'