

THE CAVALRY AND GUARDS CLUB

127 Newsletter

September 2009



CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

As Members will be aware, unlike many of the "St James's Clubs", our Club does not close in August. As a result, we give "refugees" from these clubs reciprocal rights during August. Because of the growing reputation of our dining rooms and the refurbishment of the 3rd floor bedrooms, the Club was busier than usual this year, which resulted in our best August financially for some years.

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, during August we re-carpeted the basement bedrooms, (as some will say, not before time!), and will be refurbishing the basement bathrooms during the autumn. Following the leak, which brought down part of the ceiling, we also took the opportunity to refurbish the annex to Geoffrey's Bar. As this room had not been touched for over 15 years, it now has a much cleaner feel about it and complements Geoffrey's Bar in a much better way.

A further three bedrooms on the 4th floor were painted during August and during the autumn we will be upgrading the passenger lift and also replacing the carpet in the Chetwode Dining Room on the 2nd floor and on the stairs in the Main Hall.

As has become traditional, the Grouse Dinner was the first major social event of the autumn. The Club's chef, Paul Farmer and his team, should be complimented on their feat of producing perfectly cooked grouse for 70

Members and their guests.

Our next Speaker Dinner is on the 3rd November when the renowned author and military historian, Andrew Roberts will be speaking. This should be a fascinating evening and I hope that many Members will wish to attend.

I would remind Members to diarise the Members Christmas Lunch on Thursday 17th December. This lunch, which is free except for wines, is becoming increasingly popular, as it is the only time during the year when Members get together without guests. This year, we have decided that should numbers exceed the capacity in the Coffee Room, we will overflow into the Dining Room on the 2nd floor.

After a somewhat soggy summer, the Terrace is coming into its own during the Indian summer we are experiencing. New heaters are shortly to be installed for when the colder evenings arrive.

Finally, I look forward to seeing as many Members as possible this autumn, during which, from forward bookings, the Club is likely to be extremely busy.

David Rosier
Chairman



NEW HONORARY MEMBERS

Following discussions with the Committee and the Vice President, the following have been offered, and accepted, Honorary membership of the Club –

General Sir Richard Dannatt GCB CBE MC ADC Gen

Major General Sir Sebastian Roberts KCVO OBE (Colonel - Irish Guards)

MEMBERSHIP

Current recruitment of new Members is strong, due mostly to the numbers of young officers joining from Sandhurst. It is clear that Members want to do everything they can to retain the ethos of the Club and that this is most easily achieved if we continue to receive the support of young Officers from the Qualifying Regiments.

However, we also need to retain more Members and financial pressures of a young family are often a concern and reason for leaving membership of the Club, particularly during these difficult times. The Committee is aware of this and constantly strives to provide 'value for money' for all Members. Subscription rates and categories have been changed in recognition of this and last year we introduced a partial subscription rebate to Members on operational duties. In the near future we will be hosting a focus group to see what

else we might be able to do to retain members who leave in their mid-30s.

We would also like to see an increase in numbers of Members' sons and daughters joining, as we believe they already share the values of the Club. However, as was mentioned at the AGM, the Committee has raised the bar on the standards of due diligence on those candidates who have neither a regimental nor familial connection. This is not because they are not welcome to apply - but rather that we want to be as sure as possible that these candidates measure up to the ethos instilled in us, and our children, before we elect them to the privilege of membership of our Club.

Major Martyn Pocock

Committee Member responsible for Membership matters

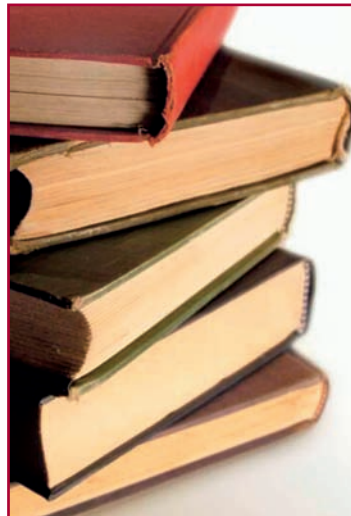
BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

The Committee would like to thank the many Members who have continued to donate books to the Club Library and, although, the number of books has grown considerably in recent months, they would like to mention that the Club is still keen to receive more hardback books - on any subject matter.

A particular thanks also goes to Club Member, Dr Marc van Grondelle, who has recently presented to the Club a very useful and beautiful set of Library steps.

On another note, it has come to the attention of the Committee that the Club is fortunate to have within its membership at least 63 authors (recent publications include those from the pens of Allan Mallinson, Patrick Hennessy, Michael Wynne Parker and John Strawson - to name a few), and it is thought appropriate that this should be recognised in some way.

So, it has been decided to hold a Book Fair and Authors Lunch in November of next year when Members will have the opportunity to meet the authors of books published within the preceding eighteen months, purchase the books (for Christmas presents?) - and attend a luncheon where each table will be 'hosted' by a Club Author. More details will follow next year.



NEW SILVER & OTHER ACQUISITIONS



Following the sale of the Annex in 2007, the Committee made the decision (already widely publicised) to change the name of the 2012 Fund - to the Contingency Fund, and this invested Fund

continues to grow with regular contributions from the Club's operating surplus.

It does, of course, provide the Club with a 'rainy day' Fund - but the Committee decided that it could also be used for the purchase of 'assets', which would fall outside the Club's normal operational remit.

In recent months, this has included a new 20-light chandelier for the Waterloo Room (many Members will recall having to stare at paperwork in the gloom of the previous 3 (!!)) light chandelier), and also a new piece of table silver.

The silver centrepiece - The Trooper's Farewell - depicts a trooper in The 5th Dragoon Guards circa 1930's, when the horse was replaced by the tank and is in a limited edition of 3 (of which the Club owns no.3).

Sterling silver it is mounted on a black lacquered base and is by Club Member and artist, Simon Dyer, ex-Welsh Guards and one of the leading contemporary sculptors in the UK.

Simon is particularly recognised for equestrian pieces and is currently working on a life-size bas-relief for Headley Court organised by 'Help For Heroes'.

The Club also owns many drawings by the same artist (www.simondyerart.com).

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Last year the Club was very fortunate in having a drawing provided by Bryn Parry (of the charity, "Help for Heroes") to use as a Christmas card - the original of which now hangs in Geoffrey's Bar.

However, due to timing constraints, the availability of this card was not made widely known to Members and consequently only a limited number were printed and sold. Those Members who did, however, purchase the card were full of praise for its composition and felt, as the Committee did, that in the current economic climate the purchase of a card to which funds are donated to Charity - was more appropriate than a traditional Club card.

It is for this reason, that the Committee decided to offer this

card as the Club Christmas card for a further year - and these are now available from the Secretary's Office at the price of £8 for a pack of 10 (with envelopes) with £2 going directly to the charity - "Help for Heroes".



A MISTAKE AND AN APOLOGY

"Usually misquoted as, Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated", Samuel Langhorn Clemens, a.k.a. Mark Twain, actually penned "the report of my death was an exaggeration", in a May, 1897 note to the New York Journal. The Journal, which had transmogrified news of the illness of Twain's cousin, James Ross Clemens, into that of Twain's death, evidently printed Twain's correction on 2-Jun-1897".

Not as noble a journal as that of New York, we are mortified to learn that in our own humble publication the Member's Book published in June of this year - 2009 - we incorrectly identified one of our Members as being deceased.

The confusion lay in the report to the Club - in February - of the death of Captain JCM Troughton, late 11th Hussars, and as, at the time, his record was 'lost' in the Archives, the record of Major JBM Troughton, Queen's Royal Hussars, (his

nephew) was incorrectly marked as 'deceased'.

Although the Club realised the mistake fairly quickly it was not picked up in the information sent to the printers - and for this we sincerely apologise to Major Troughton, his family and friends.

The Secretary has subsequently spoken to Major Jeremy Troughton and can confirm he is, indeed, in excellent health and thanks those who expressed concern at his "demise".

On a happier, and connected, note the Secretary can also advise Members that currently good progress is being made on loading all the archive membership records onto the Club's computer system so that, in future, the Club will have "at it's fingertips" the records of all Members of the Club since the foundation in the 19th century.

WEBSITE

As mentioned in the last edition of the Newsletter, the Club's website continues to flourish and expand and the Committee trust that it provides a useful facility, not only for our own Members, but also for those visiting the Club - particularly from reciprocal Clubs overseas.

Recent additions to the site include websites and business links recommended by Members (these include the links for Army charities whom the Club supports), together with more extensive information for booking bedrooms and photographs of the newly completed Third Floor bedrooms.

One of the links provided is that of the 'Association of London Clubs' - and Members may find this useful for accessing (and comparing!) the websites of other Clubs in London. Currently there are over 50 Clubs in London that form part of this Association - and it is a sure sign of the health of London's Club Land that so many not only continue to survive, but flourish and grow.

RECIPROCAL CLUBS

As the Chairman reported at the AGM in June, the Committee is currently looking at extending the number of Clubs available to Members in the popular destination city of New York, and negotiations are still ongoing with three possibilities.

At the same time, the Committee would welcome more reciprocal Clubs in places where Members travel regularly and equally the Club, where appropriate, would generally welcome reciprocal Clubs' business.

Obvious current omissions from our list would seem to be Amsterdam, Stockholm, Madrid, Barcelona, Frankfurt, Munich, Geneva, Vienna, Rome and Milan, and the Committee would welcome suggestions from Members as to any Club in one of these cities that might be included.

INTER LONDON CLUBS "CHARITY SKELETON CHALLENGE" ST MORITZ 2010

Club Member - and former Olympian - Lt Colonel (ret'd) Tony Wallington OBE - is currently in the early stages of planning this exciting charity event to take place in St Moritz in Spring 2010.

Members who might be interested in finding out more details should contact him directly at tony.wallington@dial.pipex.com - or through the Secretary's Office.

A Launch party for this event is expected to take place at the Club in late October/early November - and details of this will be announced shortly - and posted on the Club noticeboard.

MEMBERS CHRISTMAS LUNCH - THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER

As the Chairman reports, it is hoped that this event will once again receive excellent support from all Members and, in the event of the Coffee Room reaching maximum capacity (160), additional tables will be made available in the 2nd floor Dining Room. There will not be a second sitting.

A reminder that this event is FREE to Members only (no guests on this special occasion) - and that wines may be purchased from the Club's list on the day.

CHARITY LUNCHEON - WEDNESDAY 2ND DECEMBER

This year the Charity Luncheon - organised by the Ladies Committee - will take place in aid of the 'The Royal Star & Garter Homes', a charity of which Club Honorary Member, HRH The Princess Alexandra is President.

The Royal Star & Garter Charity provides outstanding nursing & therapeutic care to the ex-Service Community at its Richmond and Solihull Homes and, since the charity's foundation in 1916, its priority has been to promote independence and enjoyment of an active lifestyle, ensuring individuals are supported in living life to the full. This original vision still remains today, ensuring that ex-Service men and women of any age, and the widow(er)s, spouses and

civil partners of ex-Service people, benefit from the Charity's care long into the future.

Very kindly, in a busy pre-Christmas programme, Her Royal Highness has agreed to attend a Reception at the Club prior to the Luncheon at 11.45am - and because of this the event will commence at 11.30am.

The Committee very much hopes that all Members - Ladies and Gentlemen (and their invited guests) will support this important fund-raising event and tickets (priced at £45 - inclusive of a charitable donation) are available from the Membership Secretary - Frances Watt.

EVENTS

October

- 7th Bridge Afternoon
- 8th Ladies Afternoon Tea & Talk 'Genuine Bling'
- 14th Theatre visit - 'Sister Act'

November

- 3rd Lunch and Exhibition Visit - 'Maharajah, The Splendour of India's Royal Courts'
- 3rd Autumn Speaker Dinner - Guest Speaker - Mr Andrew Roberts - Author - 'The Storm of War'
- 4th Bridge Afternoon
- 10th Theatre visit - 'Calendar Girls'

December

- 2nd Club Charity Luncheon in aid of 'The Royal Star & Garter Homes'
- 2nd Bridge Afternoon
- 10th Sons & Daughters Dinner
- 17th Members Christmas Lunch
- 23rd Christmas Closing (after lunch)

January 2010

- 4th Club reopens