

The Hawk

MICHAELMAS 2009



Sports Centre? What Sports Centre?



As one might expect it has been a quiet time during the long summer vacation, and the Hawks, Ospreys, and Students Union are just now collecting their thoughts on how best to proceed with pushing the matter of the Sports Centre forward.

The University Development Office has however been busy - very busy. The 800th Anniversary Campaign web site has been totally redesigned. One would hardly credit that, in the new design there is now no mention of sport at all. Indeed, as if to deflect the curious from wondering what happened to sport, there is now not even any mention of Student welfare. Students do get a mention, as the potential donor is directed to the support of bursaries to enable bright people in straightened economic circumstances to come to the University. An admirable objective one must agree. But of the welfare of those who do come to the University, whether supported or not, not a word.

On the other hand word is about that sport remains very much on the agenda, and that there is even a pot of money accruing to that end. What to believe? - no doubt the ensuing weeks will reveal.

The students will develop their campaign, and we shall keep our members updated by posts both on our own website (www.hawksclub.co.uk), and on the campaign's own website www.800yearswithnosportscentre.org.

In the meanwhile we will continue to hold The Hawks Charitable Trust account open for donations that you might wish to earmark exclusively for the Sports Centre project, with the promise of the return of your funds should nothing happen. Simply download the forms from our website, or contact Sarah Malcolm at the Clubhouse. Alternatively, without giving up any cash at present, why not simply make a pledge. At the very least make your support known by signing the petition on the campaign's website: www.800yearswithnosportscentre.org.

Alastair Hignell to speak at London Dinner

There can be few, even among the pantheon of great Hawks, who have stood so tall in the sporting world as Alastair Hignell, and shown so much courage in the face of adversity. Alastair has been suffering from the progressive form of multiple sclerosis for 10 years, but he has taken it on like a rugby tackle - with full commitment!

Alastair was at Fitzwilliam 1974-77 during which time he was dual rugby and cricket blue no less than 4 times, ending up as the first ever Captain of both sports. While still at university he represented Gloucestershire at cricket, and won 10 England caps at rugby union. Shortly after his debut for the England rugby team - a brutal encounter with Australia, the "Battle of Brisbane" - he was playing in the Varsity cricket match, making 60 runs against an Oxford attack that included Imran Khan.



Leaving university he returned to teaching in Bristol, garnering 4 further England rugby caps, while continuing to represent Gloucestershire during the summer. In his cricketing career he notched up 11 first-class centuries in 170 matches (including one against the West Indies), and posted a top score of 149. He retired from rugby in 1979, and from cricket in 1983 having, for the third time, achieved 1,000 runs in a season.

Alastair now turned his attention to sports journalism and broadcasting, and worked for the BBC for 17 years. He rapidly became a highly respected rugby commentator, and covered every major event, both domestic and international.

He was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1999; since when he has worked tirelessly to raise funds and spread awareness about the disease. In spite of the difficulties he continued broadcasting, finally retiring following the 2008 Premiership Final. He was subsequently awarded the Professional Rugby Players' Association (PRA) Blyth Spirit Award for his "remarkable courage" in battling MS and for his "tremendous contribution to rugby as both player and broadcaster". Later the same year he was awarded the Helen Rollason award in the BBC Sports Personality of the Year show for "courage and achievement in the face of adversity".

This year Alastair has been awarded CBE in the Queen's birthday honours list for services to broadcasting, and for raising funds to combat Multiple Sclerosis. We are honoured to have his presence at the dinner.



London Dinner moves to Park Lane

Regrettably the refurbishment work at the Savoy which necessitated our move last year is still not complete. So we must stay away, and this year the dinner will be held at the Intercontinental Hotel, Park Lane. Itself recently refurbished we can expect the very best in service there.

The dinner will be on Wednesday 9th December 2009. The Chairman for the occasion is Guy Beringer QC (CURUFC, St Catharine's).

Following on from last year our thanks to Cobra Beer for their continued sponsorship.

How fares the Clubhouse?

Over the years successive generations of Hawks must have grown tired of continuous exhortations from Cambridge to provide yet more financial support for the Clubhouse. Fortunately the ennui did not prevent a sizable proportion of our alumni from either signing up to an annual subscription if they were not already paying one, or staying with it if they were. The result, combined with a restructuring of the Clubhouse's modus operandi, has born fruit. This year for the first time we have been able to show a small surplus on the cash account at the end of the year, even after taking care of some fabric maintenance that was required.



Sarah Malcolm stands by the Club honours board

Our experience with Stewards has been highly variable, but for the past year we have basked in the welcoming geniality of Mike and Karen Gurney. Mike runs the bar, and general front-of-house. His generally laid-back approachability wins friends all over, but belies an inner steel that can be deployed if anything gets out of hand. Karen meanwhile performs wonders in the kitchen. The quality of her bar meals brings in the customers with some 50 servings per night as a regular achievement. This means that the Clubhouse is constantly a-buzz with activity, as a good club should be.

The restructuring that we undertook 3 years ago means that this is all the permanent staff that we employ. We have a regular outside caterer who is able to do functions for 15 or more - a critical adjunct to our service when Karen is being deluged by the demands of the Bar trade. Having said that, Karen herself will cater for a function where she feels that she can do so without impacting service elsewhere. Since the retained profit from using an outside caterer is very small we are constantly looking at ways of increasing Karen's role in this regard.



Mike and Karen Gurney

One other aspect of our restructuring needs mention. The Clubhouse is now open only for some 40 weeks of the year, being the full term, plus a week or so at either end, depending on our expectations of trade at those times. The dates are published in the web site, but Sarah is in attendance in the office for all but 5 weeks of the year, so any queries, bookings, etc can be addressed to her whenever she is around (see the back page for contact details). Remember, all Hawks, of any age, are most welcome to make use of the premises - please do so.

Having said that we have achieved some success in our trading account, we must re-emphasise, as we have so often before... the business of running this enterprise is highly variable and we can easily swing back from surplus to dearth. The underlying income stream represented by your subscriptions is the surest way of guaranteeing continuing success. So once again - *those of you not paying a subscription please consider whether you can do so now.*

Calling all Boxers...

Will Rees, Captain of last year's team that achieved the phenomenal 9-0 whitewash of Oxford, writes:

"I have been asked by the current committee to contact old blue's in the hope of establishing regular contact via newsletters and, depending on interest, organising an annual dinner. Unfortunately however we do not have many contact details."

So, all Boxers, please get in contact with Will, either c/o the Clubhouse (address details on the back), or by email: wrees@googlemail.com.

And while we're talking about addresses....

Keeping our address list up to date is a huge task. Do your bit to help us. When you receive this newsletter do a quick ring round your mates and ask if they've received it too. If they haven't exhort them to either let us know their correct address, or update it themselves under the 'Hawks Only' section of the web site. Every little helps!

From the President:



Gentlemen Hawks,

Another academic year is upon us, and so too with it another season begins. Now embarking on a fifth year of academic (and sporting!) pursuits, I feel it is a great privilege to be entrusted with the Presidency of our illustrious Club, and look forward to adding my own small piece to the rich tapestry of our history.

Whilst much of my work is taken up by the Clubhouse and the concerns of our current members in residence, I am anxious to include Hawks of all eras and ages in everything that is great about the Maroon and Gold. To that end, if there is anything that you feel can be improved or altered then please do not hesitate to contact me at the Clubhouse. It is always a great pleasure to learn of fellow Hawks achieving in all walks of life, so please continue to let us know.

This year, as you will read, will see the Sports Centre Campaign really take off, and thanks to our close work with the Cambridge University Students Union and the Ospreys, we feel that we are ready to make great strides in this area. Watch this space!

Also, at the Clubhouse, we are still very much in the capable hands of Administrator Sarah Malcolm and Stewards Mike & Karen Gurney; long may they remain! If you are ever in Cambridge, please pop in and sample our fantastic menu, as well as our new beer, Sambrook's Wandle Ale (brewed by Duncan Sambrook, Fitzwilliam & CURUFC, 2000).

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and enthusiasm for the Hawks' Club, I hope to see you in the Clubhouse very soon

GDBO

Patrick Crossley

Hawks' President 2009-10

Easyfundraising

If you do your Christmas, or indeed any other, shopping online, please remember to do it via **easyfundraising**. This gives you access to all the stores that you might use anyhow, but in the process donates a small percentage of the cost of your shop to your favourite charity The Hawks Charitable Trust. It won't cost you anything - simply register for free at <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/thehawksct> and use easyfundraising every time you shop online.

OBITUARIES

Martin Clemens AOM, CBE, MC, LM (1915-2009)



When we were raising funds for the Portugal Place clubhouse back in 1988/89 we received a cheque for £1,002, being the cost of 2 shares, and a letter requesting that the share holding be recorded as a joint holding between the sender, and another Hawk, John Turnbull, who had been killed in action

in 1942. The sender with a big heart was Martin Clemens, and John Turnbull was not simply a close friend from his Cambridge days, but also, had he survived the war, would have been Martin's brother-in-law.

Martin Clemens was born in Scotland. Losing his father at the age of 9 he developed the early diligence and tenacity that was to last his life through. He earned a scholarship to get into Bedford School, followed by another to Christ's College to read Agriculture and Natural Sciences. Here he played rugby, and majored in rowing, earning a place in the trial 8's, and narrowly missing a place in the Blue Boat. He was the reserve for the British Empire games team in 1936, and a life member of Leander.

Having graduated (with a Masters) he obtained a position in the Foreign Office Colonial Service, and was posted to the Solomon Islands. Here he rapidly established a position for himself as a District Officer, and endeared himself to the natives by picking up their language, and showing himself a resourceful, sensitive, and just administrator. It was during this period, on one of his leaves, that he met his future wife, Anne, sister of his great friends, the Turnbull brothers. They were married in 1948.

1942 began one of the most extraordinary periods in his extraordinary career. Sent to Guadalcanal to assist with the evacuation, he found himself stranded there by the sudden Japanese invasion. Nothing daunted he took to the hills with a group of loyal Melanesian scouts and a radio. In the ensuing months he operated a crucial intelligence network, providing the American forces with information on Japanese deployments on both land and sea. Having helped to turn the battle in the Americans' favour he became British Liaison Officer to the US 14th Corps, and commanding officer (as Major) of the Special Service (Commando) battalion. For his contribution and bravery he was awarded the Military Cross, and appointed to the US Legion of Merit.

After the war Martin was posted to Palestine (1946-48), and then to Cyprus (1948-60). Both were centres of conflict, and in both he quickly established a rapport with the local populations. Following his belief that you could not understand a people without speaking their language he learnt Arabic in Palestine, and Greek in Cyprus. In both areas he

worked hard to maintain a peace that sadly, in both cases, was not to last. He was awarded the OBE in 1956, which was promoted to CBE in 1960.

In 1960 he retired from the Colonial Service, moving to his wife's family home in Australia, where he took Australian citizenship. He devoted himself to his family, to managing his wife's holdings in Queensland, and to community activities. Among those benefiting from his wise counsel (and generosity) were Austcare, the International Council of Social Services, the Red Cross, and Australia-Britain Society. He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community in 1993. He was also director of a number of companies.

He is survived by his 4 children, who, in their funeral eulogy summed him up thus: "...valiant, honourable, courageous and loving His sense of responsibility to others was remarkable and his sense of self was evident in his dignity which remained intact to the last. He never wavered from his duties, as a son, a soldier, a leader of men, a husband, father, friend, neighbour and philanthropist but he always said to us that the greatest duty you have is to yourself and you owe it to yourself to do the very best you can"

Material supplied by Patrick Moore, St Catharine's 1963-66, Hawk, CUBC.

Major Frank Hamer MC and bar (1919-2009)



From humble beginnings as son of a clerk at a Bolton cotton mill, Frank Hamer won a place at St Catharine's College to read Geography in 1938. He immediately impressed with his sporting ability, winning a Freshman Blue in athletics.

His stay in Cambridge was precisely one year, and on

the outbreak of war he joined the 4th Durham Survey Regiment RA. Surveying remained his military duty throughout the war - a milieu in which he continually distinguished himself by the coolness with which he discharged his duties under fire. First however he distinguished by his athletic prowess, running up Cheops pyramid, the highest trig point in the area, 3 times in one morning, as he prepared for the siting of guns to the west of Cairo.

At El Alamein throughout the battle he personally supervised the survey of forward positions under heavy shell fire and in close proximity to enemy positions so that our guns could bring down an accurate bombardment on their batteries. This led to the award of his first Military Cross.

Subsequently in Sicily, while under sustained mortar barrage, Hamer with a pair of surveyors carried out observations allowing fire to be trained on an enemy stronghold near Mount Etna. This led to the award of a bar to his MC.

On D-Day Hamer found himself on top of a Sherman tank on a landing craft with shell fire bursting all around and only the gun turret for cover. Dropping off the tank he scrambled ashore through 5 feet of water. Unloading equipment from the tank, a shell burst a few feet above his head, and he took a lump

of shrapnel in the arm. Typically he proceeded with establishing a beacon on the beach as a rallying point before turning to dress his wound.

He was demobilised in 1946 and returned to complete his studies in Cambridge winning a Blue for Soccer, and playing University level cricket also. After graduating he joined Cadbury in Birmingham. In 1966 he became Personnel Manager and shortly joined the board as Director of Personnel. When Cadbury merged with Schweppes he became Group Personnel Director. He took early retirement in 1980 to support his wife who had suffered a severe stroke.

Frank Hamer died on April 2nd 2009. He is survived by his son and 2 daughters.

Material submitted by his son, Tim.

Keith Vartan (1932-2008)



Keith Vartan was born into an Anglo-Scottish Nottinghamshire doctor's family. At Uppingham where he was head boy his sporting talent came to the fore when he represented The Rest v Southern Schools at cricket and English Schoolboys v

Scottish Schoolboys at rugby.

Up at Caius, reading Scottish Law "from time to time" he played cricket for Crusaders, and gained his Hockey Blue in 1954 and 1955. He was part of Peter Gales' unbeaten XI who were chosen to test the British Olympic team. He celebrated 2 victories against Oxford and went on to gain 20 caps at left half for Scotland.

Graduating, he chose a career in industry, joining the Metal Box Co. He moved on to a Directorship at Arthur Brown & Co, Secretary to Diners Club International, and ending with spells at the Royal Society, BUPA and the Economist. He retired in 1994.

He was the figure-head of a happy, sports-mad family, with Golf a key pursuit. Sadly his memory deteriorated towards the end of his life, but to those who remembered his earlier years he remained a talented and Hawkish sportsman, always entertaining, and a loyal friend.

Material submitted by Henry Maitland, Clare 1952-56, Hawks, CUHC.

Ian Thompson 1959-2009



Ian Thompson became Dean of King's College Chapel in 2005, having previously held posts at Selwyn and Newnham colleges.

During his time in Cambridge Ian was a great supporter of University sport. In particular he

played an active role in the Boat Club, becoming Senior Treasurer of the Combined Boat Clubs. He also worked with the Town rowing clubs to establish a harmonious sharing of the River Cam. In 2008 he was elected an Honorary Hawk for his services to University Sport.

He was found dead at his home in a suspected suicide on Thursday 24th September.

Results-Results-Results

Some late summer results give a boost to our successes in the 2008/9 season:

Sport	Varsity Result
Cricket - 20-20 Match	Abandoned
Cricket - 1 Day Varsity	Oxford 6 wickets
Cricket - 4 day Varsity	Cambridge 10 wickets
Cricket - Women's Varsity	Cambridge 10 wickets
Lawn Tennis	Cambridge 12-9
Women's Lawn Tennis	Cambridge 12-9
Rifle Association - Full bore	Cambridge 1157.126-1133.96
Rifle Association - Match Rifle	Cambridge 845.64-815.46

The absence of one's personal sport from the results round up seems to be a particular spur to the venting of spleen. In that regard we protest that we can only print what we know about. Sports clubs vary enormously from year to year in their capacity to attend to administrative issues, of which the publication of their results is typical. There are a number of sources of information that we have to work with - word of mouth, the press (Varsity and the Cambridge Student being prime), the web (see the University's sports web site which links to all the individual sports), and, since we have a results service on our own web site, informing the Club. If it hasn't come to our ken by one of those means then we simply do not know about it. Graduated Hawks who remain in active contact with their respective University teams could help us by taking it upon themselves to keep us up to date. We would rather hear a result from half a dozen different sources than fail to hear of it at all.

Events-Events-Events

25 November 2009 Steele Bodger's, Grange Road:

The annual precursor to the Rugby Varsity Match, featuring the prospective Blues versus Mickey Steele Bodger's invitation XV. The biggest business networking event in the Cambridge calendar. 3 course lunch is available in the Hawks' marquee, but seats go very fast - if interested get your bookings into Sarah at the Clubhouse very soon!

9 December 2009 The London Dinner:

The dinner this year is to be held at the Intercontinental Hotel, Park Lane. The Guest of Honour is Alastair Hignell CBE. Tickets enclosed with this newsletter, or book online at <http://www.hawksdinner.com>.

10 December 2009 The Rugby Varsity Match:

Held as usual at Twickenham - kick off at 2.00 p.m. Book your tickets online at <http://www.curufc.com>, or come and watch the game on the big screen in the Hawks' Club bar.

22 January 2010 Welsh Hawks Dinner

The annual Welsh Hawks dinner is being organised by Stephen Whitehead, to be held in the Cardiff and County Club as usual. Anyone interested in attending please contact Stephen at whiteheadls@hotmail.com.



Pleased to supply beer to the Hawks' Club Dinner 2009

Hawks' Committee 2009-10

Patrick Crossley (President)	Homerton	Rugby
Benoit Ramsay (Secretary)	Girton	Golf
Danny Ryan	Caius	Fencing
Ian Ralby	St John's	Lacrosse
David Saunders	Emmanuel	Hockey
Stuart Jackson	Girton	Hockey
Flynn Castles	St Catharine's	Athletics
Shane O'Mara	Hughes Hall	Rowing
Hardy Cubasch	St Edmund's	Rowing
Joey Wheeler	St Edmund's	Rugby

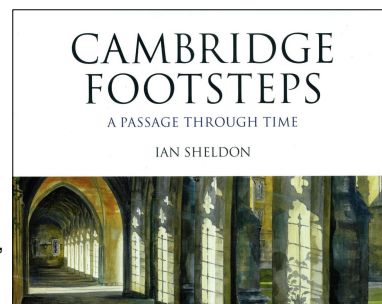
News from the Trust

The Trust will be making its usual disbursements in the Lent Term. The deadline for applications is 13 February 2010. The following notice has been posted on the University Sports web site, and is sent to all Colleges and Sports:

"The Hawks' Charitable Trust will award grants to students (of either gender) with actual or potential sporting excellence and in financial need in that regard. Awards are normally between £100 and £750, but consideration will be given to any exceptional circumstances. There is no application form. Students should apply to the Trust (18 Portugal Place, Cambridge CB5 8AF), in writing (letter, or email: administrator@hawksclub.co.uk) and applications must be supported by letters or emails from (preferably) Senior Tutors, or by other Tutors. In the past, the Trust has accepted endorsements by Senior Treasurers of their sport. However the Trustees wish to identify NEED (not just high costs) therefore College endorsement, in knowledge of individual financial circumstances and the level of support already given or committed by the College is now required."

The Trust's capital continues to grow, but far too slowly. Anyone interested in helping these young men and women achieve greater things should be making their contribution. See the Trust page on our web site, or contact Sarah as per the details below.

Ian Sheldon, a graduate of Magdalene College, has been painting Cambridge scenes in a highly atmospheric style that will appeal to many who have fond memories. This book, containing 51 reproductions of his work, is available through the Clubhouse, price £15, plus post and packing.



CONTACT YOUR CLUB

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