

London Suppers

We have two London Suppers a year, following on our Council Meetings in July and January (February next year) at the Farmers Club in Whitehall Court.

These are splendid occasions, enthusiastically organised by Richard Sayer, and almost invariably attracting back faces from a familiar past but not so familiar present. Former members of Stradbroke, whipped up into a glorious frenzy by Richard playing

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the ebullient host, are sometimes in the majority – but don't let that put you off – and the Dining Room is almost invariably full to its capacity of 40.

For those of you who work in London and prefer to take the train home after a sociable evening, (a 7.30 sit-down means that supper is finished by 10pm) this is a perfect recipe for meeting up with old friends and for catching up with the affairs of the Society and of the College.

If you haven't already done so, give it a try – young and old. For younger members there is still plenty of time after the Supper to get out on the town. Richard's contact details are on p70.

Amongst those attending this last year, including various newcomers, returnees, globetrotters, long-distance travellers, members of the old College Jazz Band, shooters etc – all welcomed by their genial host – were: Messrs Barringer, Benson, Bloomfield, Blythe, Booth, Burnip, Carr, Collard, Coomber bros, Corner, Ellerby, Essex, Fayers, Ian Foster from Mallorca, ex-Pres John Gooderham, Halahan, Hall,

Handley, Henderson, Holden, Peter Howard-Dobson, Jacob, Last, Lee, Liell, Marriott, Ian Marsh, Mason, Metcalf, Mitchell, Stuart Munro (ex-Aussie), ex-Pres Overend, Podd, Secretary Porter, Rankin, Ruddock-Broyd, Russell-Fish, Sayer, Smith bros, Stapleton, Stevens, Tong, Turnbull, Wade, Waller, President Wright, plus distinguished senior College figures Payn, Chaplin and Head Gwen Randall.

Dates for 2007: Monday 5th February and Tuesday July 10th.

Northern Gathering

For the second year running this was held at the Otley home of Douglas and Dorothy Thomson. Douglas had (almost) single-handedly erected his marquee, and he and Dorothy provided the main ingredients for an extended lunch-time, launched in glasses of Pimms and concluded with tea and cake. The temperature never looked like matching last year's mid-eighties, and the breeze swirled around the loose canvas, but activity within was convivial.

The company included John Vincent (R49-54), David Allen (51-56), Jim Butchart (51-60), John Nickolds (59-64), Norman Porter (K50-57), Douglas Thomson (K53-61), and his brother Michael Thomson (K51-59), together with wives.

This was another generously hosted occasion, so thanks to the Thomsons for all their hard work and hospitality. Douglas is hoping to make the Northern event peripatetic, perhaps taking his marquee across to Cheshire next year, if a suitable garden and willing host can be found. A gathering in Scotland is being considered for 2008.

BELOW: OFs AT THE NORTHERN GATHERING



Golf

This has been another busy year for OF golfers. The **Team results** were as follows:

- March 25th: match v. Aldeburgh, lost 6/4
- April 6th: Halford Hewitt, first round, lost 3/2 to Wrekin
- May 13th: Grafton Morrish, didn't qualify. (Got 69, needed 81)
- June 22nd: Cyril Gray, lost to Eastbourne in R1
- June 23rd: Cyril Gray, reached Semi-Final of the Plate, beating Brighton 2 1/2 to 1/2. Blundells 2/1 but losing 2/1 to Kings Canterbury.

For these matches, the Team was captained by Richard Cullinan and the following played: Richard Graves, Mathew Stolls, Peter White, Peter Watts, Robin Anderton, Martin Lamb, Guy Jenkinson, Norman Mayhew, Mike Schneidau, Andrew Towler, Gavin Cowell, Alex Cameron, Charles Plunkett, Michael Spencer and Richard Cullinan.

On June 19th, the annual friendly match between the OFGS and the Old Ipswichians was played at Woodbridge and the OFs won 5/1. It was a most enjoyable day and our thanks to Norman Porter for organising the fixture. The series now stands at 2-2.

The Spring Meeting of the OFGS was held again at Stowmarket on May 18th, followed by the AGM, and 22 OFs played in fine spring weather.

The Autumn Meeting took place at Aldeburgh on September 15th with 24 OFs playing and we had an excellent day. Trophies this year have been won as follows:

The Captain's Prize (May): Peter Howard-Dobson
The Minter Cup (May): Richard Cullinan
The Coronation Cup (Sept): Michael Spencer
The Le May Cup (Sept): John Wybar
The Lamb Trophy (Sept): Michael Spencer
The Howard-Smith Cup (Sept): Andrew Wright

Sadly, no match was possible this year against the College Team, but we hope this will change in 2007. John Wybar, hcp 3, is a very good young golfer who left Fram in July and hopefully will represent the OFs in the future. (You will recall his sister Kirsty was last year's Cambridge University Captain, responsible for their remarkable Varsity match victory). This year, now aged 16, Patrick Spragg has been playing for

Suffolk and training with the England Junior squad – a great achievement and he is clearly going to be a very good golfer. Harry Bush and Jack Wescott are also very promising young players.

At the AGM, Colin Stokes succeeded Andrew Wright as OFGS Captain for 2006-7 and David Turnbull agreed to take over as Hon Secretary from David Metcalf by the end of the year. We wish them both well and thank David Metcalf for his work as our temporary Secretary. Mike Schneidau will be Vice-Captain, and we offer our congratulations to him too.

For 2007, the OFGS Team Captain has changed to Gavin Cowell and we wish him well in trying to move Fram up the ladder of Public Schools' golf. Our thanks also go Richard Cullinan for all his work as team captain in the last 2 years.

Andrew Wright

Dates for 2007

Halford Hewitt Draw	Wed 10 Jan.
Halford Hewitt Practice	Wed 28 March
Halford Hewitt Event	Thurs 29 March - Sun 1 April
Grafton Morrish Qualifying	Sat 12 May
OFGS Spring Meeting (The Warren)	Tues 22 May
Cyril Gray Practice	Wed 27 June
Cyril Gray Event	Thurs 28 - Sat 30 June
OFGS Autumn Meeting (Aldeburgh)	Fri 14 Sept
Aldeburgh Golf Club Match	Sat 15 Sept.
College Match at Aldeburgh	Sun 16 Sept.
Grafton Morrish Practice	Thurs 4 Oct.
Grafton Morrish Event	Fri 5 - Sun 7 Oct.



THE OFs WIN BACK THE TROPHY. NORMAN PORTER (OFs) AND KARL DANIELS (OIs)

Cricket

OFs v The College. Friday July 30th.

The OF cricket fixture of 2006 was a slightly surreal affair. For the first time in recent memory the game was played on a Friday and divorced from the Speech Day festivities. Certain members of the OF team were concerned that they would struggle to rise to the challenge in the absence of a 500 strong crowd, and, more importantly, without an early Pimms to bolster the spirits. In spite of these inauspicious circumstances, the game proved to be one of the most closely contested encounters between the two teams and culminated in a nail-biting finale.

The weather and playing conditions were impeccable and the OFs, misty-eyed with nostalgia, slavishly followed custom and batted first. The fearless OF skipper looked proudly at his swordsmen and declared that a total of 300 ought to be reached in the 40 allotted overs. He had not, however, counted on the College bowling attack being vastly improved.

The OFs got off to a sluggish start and talisman Philips was shelled by over-eager fielders on 3 occasions. Fortunately his comrade Veevers Chorlton major, who went on to top score with a vigorous 45, kept the scoreboard moving with some peerless stroke play.

The OFs did not manage to follow Chorlton's lead. Wickets fell at the most inopportune of moments and this interrupted the fluency of the innings. The middle order failed to amass the quick runs required and, amidst some injudicious batting and running, only Veevers Chorlton minor provided consistency as he eked out a steady 43. The returning batsmen's excuses flowed thick and fast, but the runs did not. Even Truman (sharing a useful stand with the promising Williams, 23) only managed a brief cameo of 26 and as the innings drew to a close it was the wagging tail of the side (in the form of a bristling Jeremy Ford) that dragged the total above 200. The score finished at 206 for 9 and

the OFs (who, as tradition dictates, were strong on batting but fragile on bowling) did not fancy their chances of successfully defending this paltry target.

The College began at a fearsome lick as the opening batsmen made short shrift of the OF pacemen and scored at around 7 an over. Newton was scoring freely and when the OFs twice put him down in the deep, brittle confidences were shattered and defeat was in the air. The OFs were soon to be buoyed, however, by the bowling of Mitchell. The little tyro plugged away with little luck before pulling off a real coup in dismissing a disgruntled Newton (45) plumb LBW. Suddenly OF tails were up and the skipper scented the soft underbelly of the College batting line-up. He went for the jugular, but instead of destruction being wreaked by the fired-up OF bowlers it was the College who injured themselves with some disastrous running between the wickets.

The seasoned hounds (after various failed attempts) eventually capitalised on the disaccord in the College ranks and the brave Humphrey proved invaluable behind the timbers in snaffling up loose throws and whipping off the bails. In this regard, the fielding of Rodwell minor should also be mentioned as he put his leaden and creaking team-mates to shame with his acrobatic and alert groundwork.

In spite of regular inroads into their batting and some fine bowling by the tireless Ford and the wily Veevers Chorlton minor, the College got a grip of themselves and (led by P Clarke) laid siege on the total. The game was in the balance, and it is at times like this that leaders can make the difference. Contrary to advice, Truman made some inspired bowling changes and his new recruits made vital contributions: Philips took 2 with his cunning spin and Williams did damage with his raw pace. The College's tail took a battering, but they continued to haul down the target. As the schoolboys ran out of wickets and the OFs ran out of runs, the atmosphere around the hallowed ground intensified. With the College needing 2 runs to win and 9

❖ wickets down, all teetered on the brink. Something heroic and extraordinary was required to break the deadlock; it came in the shape of Rodwell major. The old warhorse, bloodied but unbowed, gathered himself for one last huzzah and stormed in to clean bowl the beleaguered last man with a searing yorker. The final wicket was met with jubilation by the OFs and this celebratory mood endured deep into the balmy Suffolk night.

Well done to all concerned for contriving to produce such an epic game.

Matthew Truman

Birthday Cricket Match

On July 22nd another epic cricket match took place in celebration of the 21st birthday of Peter Lawrence. The match was a contest between a team made up of Exeter University graduates and a team totally made up of OFs who had attended the College between 1998 and 2004.

It was a truly splendid day with a total of over 500 runs scored and a real celebration and appreciation of ongoing friendships. Peter has now graduated from University and is looking to move towards a career in sports journalism. That was as good a reason as any for getting in touch and letting us know about the match.

Contact Peter Lawrence
pwwl@hotmail.com Tel: 07886658528

Hockey dates for 2007

Jonathan Slay was appointed as Master ic Hockey in January 2006.

The date proposed for the OF fixtures is Sunday 18th March 2007. This is in the College Calendar, with slots booked for 11.30 am and 1.30 pm. There has already been one match, a sort of pre-season work-out for the College side, on January 6th. The College won 4-1. College sides have succumbed to Ipswich School in the latter

stages of this year's National Competitions so all players should be available, with no national finals beckoning.

The girls play hockey in the Autumn term, but Sinead Collins (Capt of Hockey) is liaising with staff and hoping to organise a social match versus an OF side on the same date: March 18th. OFs who would like to play should contact Jon Slay (JSlay@FramCollege.co.uk), Ben Hayes (benhayes_10@hotmail.com) or Andy Cutting (07711 659949).

In welcoming the latter two to OF team management, we must also say thank you to Simon Stacpoole for getting together teams in recent years.

Any hockey-playing female OFs who would like to be involved, do please contact Sinead Collins (shnedved@hotmail.co.uk).

Shooting



ABOVE: JOHN HALAHAN (COACH) – LEFT, WITH SHOOTER JIM 'JAMES' MEHTA AT BISLEY IMPERIAL MEETING

It was always going to be difficult to repeat the annus mirabilis of 2005, when the OF marksmen won almost everything going, apart from one small blip when they lost against the College before the Suffolk Supper. 2006 has been slightly less successful, and has been marked by the departure of Malcolm Todd as ic Shooting at the College (see Tribute), and by an

unfortunate conspiracy of circumstances which resulted in the cancellation of this year's October match against the College.

As ever, though, there is much to suggest that the shooters are in good heart, with many enthusiastic participants and a wealth

...BISLEY IS THE REVERSE OF GOLF – ONLY ONE HOLE BUT 18 CLUBHOUSES

of talent, both established and burgeoning. Early in the season the OFs had retained the Lizard Goblet against their old foes, the Old Lawrentians.

The highlight of the season was the Bisley Imperial Meeting. We were able to field no

fewer than three teams for the Blue Riband event of the season – the Public Schools Veterans. This sets our shooters against virtually every school which fields a team in the Ashburton. Ten OFs pitched their tents for the nine solid days of the meeting – Bisley is the reverse of golf – only one hole but 18 clubhouses –

catering for seasoned drinkers with a shooting problem.

The OF 'A' team was outstanding, with Suffolk skipper Andy Gemmill in a star role. He made a near-perfect 50.9. The team dropped only 6 points out of 250. Such is the quality of the opposition, that even this only merited 8th position, a full 4 points

behind the ever-tedious Greshams. The 'B' team played up to their name, under-achieving with 228 ex 250, despite Tom Chapman's creditable 44. Result: just above halfway at 15th. The 'C' team scored 225, with Nigel King stamping some long-lost authority over the side with a stunning 49.3. This brought 13th place. In the aggregate competition for all 3 teams we came 7th. Overall a fine achievement, especially for James Brocks who had not shot for 12 months. The Medal for the Day was won by Nigel King.

That was just the start. On day 2 the OFs, having been given the honour of representing Suffolk, appeared in the prestigious Astor County Challenge. Worthily, if slightly disappointingly, they achieved 17th position, just 11 points behind the winners. Gemmill held up the side with an aggregate 104.16. Thereafter the meeting concentrated on individual competition. Consistently excellent performances from Gemmill and Sandy Walker (at just 19 surely to be the finest shot of his generation) brought high placings in the grand aggregate. Nigel Burnip, shooting beautifully, was placed 48th in the St George's competition, and he and Walker (26th) were rewarded with X class status – effectively the top 100 shots in the UK.

The meeting is not complete without the OFRC barbecue. Messrs Halahan and McDowell managed to feed everyone without setting fire to the tinder-dry campsite, and, as usual, the OFs proved to be world-class in this area.

The week finished with the Parting Shot – which last year yielded gold. Sadly there was to be no repeat, and the dropping of a mere 4 points meant slipping back to 4th place and out of the medals. Greshams won yet another trophy, and with the weight of their accumulated prizes must have broken an axle on their way back to Norfolk.

Amongst the participants in 2006 were: James Mehta, John Horton, Jack Meynell, James Brocks, Andrew Horton, Nigel Burnip (Capt), John Mann, Nigel King, Robin Podd, Andy Gemmill, Brian Smith, John Halahan, Robin Curtis, Sandy Walker, Steve McDowell, Nick Argent, David Argent, Neil Joy, Tom Chapman, Jon Ford, Mike Coker.

Major M J Todd BEM (Hon OF)

The College bids farewell to an extraordinary School Staff Instructor.

Malcolm joined the army as a junior soldier at Oswestry, Shropshire on 11 August 1971 at the age of 17 after experiencing an army recruiting event at Fingringhoe Ranges, Colchester. He joined the Royal Anglian Regiment and twenty two

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years later he had become a W.O.1 and Garrison Sergeant Major at Warminster and was arguably one of the finest soldiers of his generation.

His career was certainly varied and distinguished and he was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to anti-terrorism in Spain, Gibraltar and Northern Ireland. He left the Army on 17 December 1994 and took up the post of School Staff Instructor at the College later that afternoon. It was not long before the College recognised that he had brought an arsenal of skills to the College and he was later promoted to the Senior Management Team as

Assistant Bursar. Time constraints were huge, but he remained a staunch supporter of the Combined Cadet Force and was still able to contribute as Head of the Army Section and as a Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award supervisor. I also enjoyed his company and sound advice on the first College expedition that I organised to Bolivia in 1997. The

highlight of the expedition was when the team completed the ascent of Mt. Mururata (5850m) in temperatures that dipped to -51°C.

His sense of humour was valuable on the 20 day gruelling Annapurna Circuit during the monsoon season in Nepal in 1999. Malcolm went on to lead the second team that saw a quarter of the sixth form meet at Base Camp on the North Face of Everest in 2005. In addition Malcolm found time to be an impressive Master i/c Shooting and coached numerous Athelings of which 7 went on to shoot for England at Cadet and School levels. Malcolm later returned to the position as S.S.I. in 2006.

He completed the final day of his military career where it had started: on a Field Day at Fingringhoe Ranges, Colchester on 21 May 2006. He will be fondly remembered by staff and pupils at the College and we will always miss his ready wit, endless enthusiasm and engaging stories. The corridors are going to be a little quieter from now on...

Martin Myers-Allen, Major, Contingent Commander

LEFT: MAJOR M J TODD BEM

