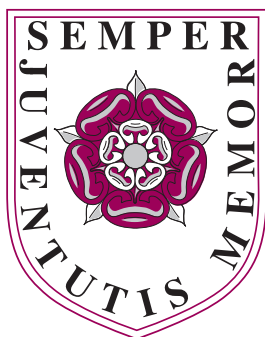


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Association Magazine  
2012

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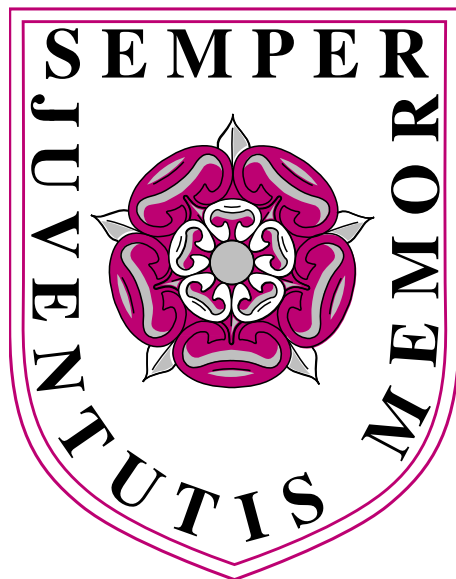
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# The Old Grammarian 2012

The annual magazine of  
Wellingborough Old Grammarians' Association

[www.wellingborough-ogs.org](http://www.wellingborough-ogs.org)





*L-R: Brian Williams our resident chef,  
Lisa Peverell and Nicki Fogden, our assistant steward.*

## WELLINGBOROUGH OLD GRAMMARIANS

### **Association Headquarters**

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Headquarters Manager: Lisa Peverell

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## ADVERTISING ON OUR WEBSITE

Have you considered placing an advertisement on the Association's website? Why not take a package deal consisting of space in the magazine **and** on the website? To enquire of our rates or for further details, please contact Steve Cheney c/o Oxford Street or at [steven.cheney@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:steven.cheney@tiscali.co.uk)

## DON'T FORGET

### TWO IMPORTANT 2012 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### Wednesday, December 12th THE A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting for both the field and Association commences at 7.30 pm at Headquarters.

#### Monday, December 17th CAROL SERVICE AND PRIZE DRAW

Traditional Carols with 'Brass Ensemble'

The evening commences at 7.30 pm at Headquarters (Bar Extension).

**PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND**

## STOP PRESS

Initial discussions are taking place on a Rorke's Drift Society trip to the WWI Somme battlefields during Whit week 2013. Anyone who would like to register an interest, please contact either Jim Cardy, Steve Watkins or Steve Cheney c/o Headquarters. Places will be limited. More information will be posted on the website as and when it becomes available.



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## EDITOR'S NOTES

Welcome to the latest edition of The Old Grammarian - your annual magazine.

A real stalwart of the Club and Association was lost to us all in March of this year when Vic Edwards passed away suddenly. He was a former workmate of mine at Weatherbys and a regular companion at the bar in Oxford Street. I will miss him a lot and there is a very good obituary notice, written by his fellow Welshman and good friend Steve Watkins, included in the 'In Memoriam' section. There is also an excellent one remembering former Master, Geoff Cooksey, written by David and Graham Tall. It seems we lost some 'high profile' members this past twelve months including, just before going to press, Stuart 'Lofty' Harrington, Ecton's Gamekeeper since 1987 and a former playing member of the Rugby Club.

Thanks go to everyone who has contributed an article, no matter how large or small, for this edition. The amount of editing required is now at a minimum and it definitely makes my job a lot easier. Keep up the good work.

As in previous years, included with this magazine are the annual draw tickets. It would be appreciated if you could try to sell them and return the stubs and money to Oxford Street as soon as possible. The response we had to last year's raffle was very much appreciated by the Committee and we hope that we can once again increase the number of prizes as a direct result of having received back more contributions.

Our chef, Brian Williams, continues to dazzle our clientele with his varied menu and we invite all our members to give it a try. You won't eat better for less anywhere! You will find the complete updated menu within this magazine. To complement the meals, we also stock an excellent range of wines, something for everyone.

As in previous issues, I would like to invite Old Boys the world over to let me know if there are any particular newsworthy items that could be carried in next year's edition, together with any suggestions for new features. This year, a contribution was made by John Billing in the shape of a report on a School cricket 2nd XI match.

Our entertainments guru Andy Peverell continues to book live acts for Headquarters and we would appreciate your support when they are appearing live. Details can generally be found on the Club's website.

There is now a greater number of Old Boys reading the magazine via the website. This obviously helps with the printing costs which continue to rise. If you would like to view the magazine in this way, please notify our membership secretary, Eileen Peasnell, via the website.

Finally, thanks must go to our advertisers for their very important support. Without them it would be difficult to maintain the quality of your magazine. Also, thanks once again go to Margaret Elvie (our trusty typesetter) and the Printing Services team at Weatherbys for their continued assistance with the production of the magazine.

I hope once again that you enjoy this year's edition. If you have constructive (or derogatory) comments to make about the content or ideas for the future, please let me know.

*Steve Cheney*

## GENERAL COMMITTEE REPORT

This year has seen the loss of 2 members who have played a huge part in the success of the Association. Dave Walden, who died in September after a long illness, was secretary during the early years of the Headquarters in Oxford Street. He was instrumental in helping to turn the Club into a profitable enterprise after struggling in its early days.

We also saw the sudden loss of Vic Edwards in March. Vic was a Committee member at the time of his death, ran the Treasure Chest at Oxford Street, and helped with any other fund raising event which was held there. The Treasure Chest itself raised £7,000 last year and Vic's efforts will be sorely missed. There is more about these later in the magazine.

Last year we mentioned the purchase of 44 and 45 Oxford Street. This was completed in July last year, and we now own the whole "block" of property. These 2 properties have given us a useful rental income, and Brian (our chef) now lives in number 44. The money was raised with a £100,000 loan from Wells & Young's, and 18 members loaned £5,000 each at 4% p.a. to finance the purchase. Our thanks to all these members, who by the time they read this report will have received their first interest cheque.

We have again provided a summary of the Association Accounts to 31 August 2011. These were very satisfactory despite the "Sounds of the Summer" event recording a substantial loss. On the Accounts, this loss has been deducted from other fund raising events, such as the Fireworks event, which fortunately showed a similar profit to this loss. However, our thanks go to those who tried to organise this event, which certainly did not fail due to the lack of effort from those concerned with its organisation.

Currently, our bar turnover looks like being about 15% up on last year, with catering showing a 20% increase. This is a magnificent achievement, against the national trend, and our thanks go to all our staff for helping to achieve these figures. We are however always striving to maintain and improve the premises, and over the year we have had to repair the roof, improve the kitchen facilities, provide new bar furniture, and replace the carpets. The total cost of all these improvements is almost £20,000 so we hope members will appreciate this and continue to support the bar and catering facilities.

President	Dave Bayes
Chairman	John Sumner
Treasurer	Jim Mandeville
Secretary	Dave Toop
Membership Secretary	Eileen Peasnell

Committee: John Billing, Steve Cheney, Shaun Davies, Martin Layton, Cat Marriott, Ian Peasnell, Andy Peverell and Mick Steele

### A PLEA FOR HELP

We are grateful to a growing body of members who help with specific projects for little or no reward. However, we desperately need new Committee members. With the loss of Vic Edwards, we are really short on numbers. If you feel that you can help out and would like to join the Committee, please see one of the existing members. It is not too onerous, and can be quite interesting to know how the Association works and have your own input into what we hope will be its continued success.



## INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31 August 2011

	<u>Oxford Street</u> <u>£'000</u>	<u>Sywell Road</u> <u>£'000</u>	<b>TOTAL</b> <u>£'000</u>
Bar sales (net of VAT)	260	71	331
Catering Services (net of VAT)	<u>69</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>69</u>
	329	71	400
Cost of Sales	<u>153</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>186</u>
Gross Profit	176	38	214
Fruit Machines etc.	12	1	13
Room Hire	<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>
Total Income	191	49	240
Staff Costs	104	22	126
Overheads	<u>53</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>83</u>
Net Trading Profit/(Loss)	34	(3)	31
Subscriptions			3
Pitch Rentals			11
Treasure Chest			7
Fund Raising / Other Income			<u>1</u>
			53
<u>Less Ground Maintenance</u>			<u>32</u>
Net Profit			21

### BALANCE SHEET as at 31 August 2011

	<u>£'000</u>	<u>£'000</u>
Freehold property (at cost)		
Oxford Street		245
Sywell Road		893
Other Fixed Assets		<u>22</u>
		1160
Current Assets		
Stock	15	
Debtors	12	
Cash at Bank and in Hand	<u>34</u>	
	61	
<u>Less Creditors</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>(4)</u>
		1156
<u>Less Loans</u>		<u>267</u>
<b>Net Book Value of Association</b>		<b>889</b>

*David Bayes | John Sumner*

## SPORTSCLUB MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Last year we had hoped for much from the proposed Sounds of the Summer Music Festival but alas it did not come anywhere near expectations.

Many have said it was a disaster, which from the financial side it was, but I have always liked to view things in a more global context so as to ensure that any good from initiatives is not lost.

In general the fault lay in the marketing, as for some reason this did not hit the right demographic or attract the numbers that it should have done. In all business these days marketing is the driving force behind most of the success stories and we failed to address this with the proper intent or strategy. Masses of work was done, but it did not result in the attendance figures that we hoped for and therefore has to be where the problems lay.

The actual event from the perspective of organisation and production was excellent and all the feedback has been very positive. For the first time in many years all the Sporting sections pulled together and worked together in a way that was very refreshing to see. There were no problems on the day and those that attended were very complimentary of the event. There were just not enough of them!

In hindsight, we have been advised that events like these take two or three years to become established, but to placate any of our concerned members we are not going to be trying anything on this scale for a very long time.

The fact is that we are a sports club and the amount of work that could have been achieved with the money lost would have made a significant difference to the pitches. That, however, is now in the past and we must look to the future.

This year, in partnership with the Council we have been selected as the Official beacon for Wellingborough and the sports ground will host the lighting of the beacon to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on June 4th. We are trying to organise a sports day for the bank holiday and then some light entertainment in the evening, and as it is on a much smaller budget than the Sounds of Summer there cannot be the losses that were incurred there. In fact the Council are helping financially in all areas that make it a public event, as opposed to a club event, so with the funding received to date the worst case scenario is a break even. Hopefully next year we can give a positive report on the day although whatever the outcome it will raise the profile of the Old Grammarians in the community and as outlined above, marketing is not one of our greatest assets so this can only help. *(Editor's note: this report was provided pre-June 4th and as such is, in part, written in future tense).*

It has been a very good year for the Sportsclub with the weekend functions doing exceptionally well and these all help to bring us closer to that elusive breakeven point. This is an area where we have the marketing right although it is difficult now to not meet someone who has been to a function there. This can only be good and with the number of repeat bookings we are experiencing, shows that we are offering a product and delivering something that is in demand and doing it well.

The sports field is another matter as we would love to be able to replace some of the ageing machinery and have a programme of improvements for all the pitches. Up until now we have never had the money to think along these lines and have had to stumble from one breakdown to the next while really only treading water. However, with the Association enjoying its most productive period for many years we perhaps need to get back to thinking along a more structured

programme. Unfortunately none of the equipment we are talking about is cheap, but with proper fund raising initiatives and a purpose it is surprising what can be achieved.

With all grass maintenance though, without the weather you are snookered and over the last 2 years we have experienced the driest period since we have been at Sywell Road. The deluges in late April have made a difference, but up until then there was minimal grass growth anywhere. With the elements against you it is pointless trying to seed areas and, while irrigation might be an option for your garden, for over 30 acres of grassland with some areas 100m from a water source it is totally impractical.

At last though the tables have turned and the significant rain that has been experienced over the last month has brought the growth on in leaps and bounds. All of a sudden it is nearly too lush to get the mowers on it, but this is a much more manageable problem than no rain. It also looks so much better and I would hope that if this warm damp spell can continue there will be, for the first time in 3 years, a significant improvement to the winter pitches. Holiday makers and sun worshippers may not agree with me but they had their turn, it's ours now.

We are also looking into developing a Youth football training area on some of the undeveloped land as there is evidence of need and large amounts of funding available to support such initiatives. Also we have very keen interest from the Wellingborough Archery Club who are looking for a new home. This could see a further 2 acres of the site developed for a very well established sport and if the discussions bear fruit then they will be a very welcome proactive group.

With all these projects simmering away it is a very exciting time but we need to keep a sense of proportion and not over extend ourselves. Some may say why are we thinking of expanding when there is work to do on what we already have, but it is not as simple as that. The grants and funding streams that are available nearly all target new capital projects and there is very little available to help in ongoing maintenance. The Sport England Inspired and Iconic development grants are all about expanding multi-sports clubs, so for the first time in our history we are possibly in exactly the right place. It doesn't say that it will be easy as some element of matched funding will always be required, but many other groups do not have the money or the financial security that the headquarters brings to us and as such this makes our applications look so much more attractive and sustainable. To be successful we will have to embark on some new fund raising initiatives which will require a commitment from everyone involved, but I feel that it is now a possibility.

This is where Sounds of the Summer may yet have a positive contribution in that despite the losses, if it can manage to bring back a little of that camaraderie that has been missing in the past few years then who knows what can be achieved. I hope I am right and that this progress can be maintained, as if I am, then the financial losses of SoS pale into insignificance if they have generated within the sporting sections a drive that is full of commitment and purpose.

As the school report would say

***'A good year but needs more application if he is going to achieve his potential'***

*John Billing*  
Sportsclub Chairman

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The membership numbers remain steady again this year, with the number of new members being matched by the number of people who have not renewed. Please encourage your non-member friends to join. Membership is £18 for the first year and £5 each year after, or a couple can join for £26 in the first year and £5 each thereafter. The first year membership cost includes the supply of a door entry fob to each new member.

### MEMBERSHIP IS DUE 1ST SEPTEMBER

Please note that the £5 fine will apply again this year from 1st November, and renewal cut-off is 30th November.

Thanks go again to the sporting sections for sorting out the Club memberships for their teams. This makes the process a lot easier for the bar staff and me.

Thanks also to the members who recognised names on my missing people's list last year. This has enabled me to update 30 members' details. If you have not already done so, please look at the list in last year's magazine (it is available on [www.wellingborough-ogs.org](http://www.wellingborough-ogs.org)) and let me know if you can identify anyone else, as it would be nice to further reduce this list. As we found that some of the names were for people that come into the Club during the year, **please remember, if you move I need to know your new address.**

Write to me at Oxford Street, pass a note over the bar or email [membership@wellingborough-ogs.org](mailto:membership@wellingborough-ogs.org)

Please provide name, membership number, old and new address to enable me to find you in the database.

If you have not done so already - please let me have your email address so I can let you know if anything is happening in the Club, and if you would prefer to read the magazine online, let me know and I will send you an email when it is available.

*Eileen Peasnell*

## OXFORD STREET HEADQUARTERS



The lounge at Oxford Street is now a designated Sports Bar and is open seven days a week with Sky Sports available to view.

Why not come along to Headquarters and meet up with old friends to watch your favourite sports on a large plasma screen and, at the same time, sample the fine range of drinks available at the bar.



*The licence for  is now very expensive.*

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## WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Members will hopefully read this magazine and feel quite proud to be part of such a successful organisation. Never has the saying 'from little acorns great oaks do grow' been more fitting.

From a rag tag of sporting enthusiasts on a muddy field back in the 1930's to where we are now, a multi-sports club with one of the best sporting facilities in the area and a business model, as the accounts show, that is thriving.

Unfortunately though, figures do not show everything, and the most pertinent point they do not display is how much hard work is required to keep the Association on this successful track. Only a few years ago things were not so rosy, a slight drop in concentration and we nearly came to our knees. That is now behind us, but we would be foolish not to heed the lessons of history.

In order to keep things running as they are is requiring a huge amount of volunteer hours and as we look at the continual decline in Committee members it becomes difficult to see how this can continue. We appreciate that many people do not have the time to commit the hours that are required, but that does not help us solve the issue. The Association now has commitments to its employed staff and the people who have invested in its property purchases, so it is no longer acceptable to just let it drift along in the hope a solution will be found.

We need to bring out into an open forum ideas for moving into the future and these need to be discussed fully at the AGM. No decisions are required yet, but we would be negligent to not try to analyse all the options and possibilities available to us.

This item will be included on the AGM agenda and you are all urged to exercise your right as a member to have your ideas heard.

PLEASE ATTEND THIS AGM AND HAVE YOUR OPINIONS NOTED

*General Committee*

### WOULD YOU PREFER TO READ YOUR MAGAZINE ON THE ASSOCIATION'S WEBSITE?

As many of the membership will already be aware, the Association's website **[www.wellingborough-ogs.org](http://www.wellingborough-ogs.org)** was re-launched in August 2009. One of the new ideas was to place the annual magazine on there as a readable PDF. Some members have contacted us to state that they are quite prepared to use that facility and not have a printed version posted to them. Is this something that you would consider? If so, please send an e-mail to the 'Contact Us' page on the website, stating ***'Please send magazine via e-mail'*** together with your name and postal address. We will then e-mail you to tell you when the next edition is available to view. This will help to save on our postage costs.

*Ed.*

## SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING REPORT

The fundraising effort at HQ again centred on the Treasure Chest and the efforts of Vic Edwards. Vic passed away in March this year and he has probably raised in excess of £75k in his 30-plus years' association with the Club, he will be greatly missed. I am, however, pleased to say that his Treasure Chest legacy will stay in the Edwards family as his niece Elyse has taken over with enthusiasm and I am sure she will continue Vic's good work. I would urge all our members to support her, and I can assure people that any proceeds do contribute to the upkeep of the premises, for instance new furniture, carpets, roof repairs etc.

We are pleased to say we received notification from the 'Help for Heroes' charity that members have now raised over £1,700 in the last few years from the curry night, swear box, merchandise sales and donations. Please continue your support.

We have continued to have some live music at The Club, but have concentrated on people with some affiliation, like Lil Mahon who is part of the Blitz Sisters duo, and old favourites Option Acoustic with Nick Groom, Paul and Alison Thompson.

A 'Wine Appreciation Evening' was held on January 23rd in conjunction with our vintners Cockburn & Campbell. The aim was to promote our wine list and showcase our food, and a very enjoyable evening was had by all who enjoyed a 5-course meal and six different wines. Suzy Spilling was our wine expert who provided information on each wine and a light hearted tutorial. We have a second evening scheduled for October 22nd, so please watch the notice board closely for details as we will sell out very quickly.

I mentioned last year that the Club was organising its first 'Sounds of the Summer' all-day music festival on July 23rd 2011 with headline acts The Beat, Sandi Thom and Aynsley Lister. The event did go ahead and was not a financial success, but I did want to record that it was extremely well organised and showed the Club could pull together, and a number of people put in a huge effort to make it happen.

The Christmas Draw and Carol Night were well attended and many thanks to 'The Brass Ensemble' who provided the music for us again, and who are booked again for this year on December 17th. Vic was MC for the draw and thanks also to the Hockey Girls for their help.

Another successful Christmas children's party was held with a magician and disco (music supplied by Lil Mahon). Santa Eric Foster did another tremendous job, and thanks to Lisa Peverell and Nicki Fogden for organising and wrapping the presents.

As always, we have enjoyed great support from our social members, sporting clubs and other groups within our community and they all contribute to the continued success of our Club.

### Up and Coming Events:

October 22nd	Wine Appreciation Evening
December 17th	Christmas Carol and Draw Night
December 23rd	Children's Christmas Party

*Andy Peverell*

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## FIREWORK REPORT

At last, after 2 years of the Gods frowning on us they eventually gave us a reprieve and smiled again. The weather was not ideal for the night but it did keep dry, which in essence is all you can ask and hope for in November.

On the back of the commitment shown by the sporting sections at the Sounds of the Summer, we decided this year to keep all the refreshments and entertainments in house and while there were areas that we think can be improved, overall it was a great success. All the sections contributed considerable manpower (and ladypower) to all the attractions and it turned out to be our most successful event ever.

It is difficult to be exact on numbers, but it was in excess of 1500 which although the outlays are high, it is those numbers that allow us to make a worthwhile profit. The bar took over £1,000 in a couple of hours and the burger van nearly matched it.

So from the ashes of the Sounds of the Summer a phoenix did arise and thanks go to all the sporting sections for their contributions. With so much help on hand it certainly made my life easier and hopefully everyone that took part enjoyed the experience.

To carry on the school report

***A Gold star to everyone - a very accomplished term's work***



*This 'man' was seen begging in the stands at Trent Bridge during the recent England v West Indies Test Match. The board on the floor asked for help as his "wife and kids are at home starving, I've eaten all the food". Believe it or not, the plastic glass actually had money thrown into it! Be warned - if you enter HQ and see this person, do not give him food or drink. The photo supplied had chopped off the top of his head.*



*This young looking man served with pride not only his Regiment, the Welsh Guards, but also the Grammarians' Association. R.I.P. Vic.*



## CATERING AT HEADQUARTERS

As reported elsewhere in this edition, the catering continues to go from strength to strength under the guidance of our resident Chef, Brian Williams. Since last year's report, more work has been carried out in the kitchen and new furniture provided for our diners.

The new Summer Menu was launched in June and is replicated here for you all to study. Please try to call in and sample some of Brian's excellent food and at the same time taste some of the varied range of ales and excellent wines on sale.

### KITCHEN OPENING HOURS

**MONDAY** - CLOSED ALL DAY (FILLED ROLLS AVAILABLE)

**TUESDAY TO SATURDAY LUNCHTIMES** - MIDDAY UNTIL 2PM

**SUNDAY LUNCHESES** - MIDDAY UNTIL 5PM

**TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY EVENINGS** - 7PM UNTIL 9:30PM

**THURSDAY/FRIDAY EVENINGS** - 6PM UNTIL 9:30PM

**SATURDAY EVENING** - 5PM UNTIL 9:30PM

Please note that we may be able to accommodate meals outside of the advertised opening times for a group of customers if arranged in advance. We can also provide Dinners or Buffets for events held in the Function Room. Please ask the bar staff for information on bookings.

Buffets range from **£5.00** per head.

**Coffee £1.10 Tea £1.00** (*Coffee and Tea - please order and collect from the Bar*)

### STARTERS

#### **Red Thai Chicken Soup £3.50**

An oriental soup with lemongrass, ginger, lime and coriander with pieces of chicken and bamboo shoots, served with sliced bloomer

#### **Baked Mushrooms and Stilton £4.00**

Baked field mushrooms topped with English Blue Stilton cheese, served on a bed of dressed watercress

#### **Fanned Melon and Parma Ham £4.00**

Fanned Honeydew Melon served on thinly sliced reserve Italian Parma

#### **Prawn Cocktail £4.50**

Jumbo prawns on a bed of salad, drizzled with seafood sauce and served with brown bloomer bread and butter

#### **Pan Fried Sardines £4.50**

Pan Fried Sardines served on toasted bloomer bread, drizzled with a chilli and coriander infused olive oil

#### **Jim Beam Marinated Ribs £4.75**

A half-rack of slow cooked marinated pork ribs in a 'Jim Beam' flavoured sauce, accompanied with BBQ sauce

### PLEASE ALSO SEE SPECIALS BOARD

### MAIN COURSES

#### **Steak and Ale Pie £6.00**

Steak and Ale in a wedge of short crust pastry, served with mashed potatoes or chips, fresh vegetables and gravy

#### **Cajun Chicken £7.50**

Marinated chicken breast served with a savoury rice and side salad

#### **Sweet Chilli and Lemon Stir-Fry £7.50**

Stir-fried peppers, mange tout, red onions and bean sprouts tossed through fine egg noodles with a sweet chilli and lemon sauce, with your choice of either chicken or king prawns

***Slow Roasted Belly Pork £8.00***

Belly pork rubbed with fresh sage and garlic, slow roasted till crispy and served on braised red cabbage and sautéed potatoes

***Salmon, Crayfish and Rocket Fish Cakes £8.00***

Flaked salmon, crayfish, rocket, herbs and potato, shaped and served on a chilli coriander linguini with side salad

***Chicken, Mozzarella and Beef Tomato Tower £8.00***

Pan fried strips of chicken breast layered with beef tomato, basil and mozzarella cheese, served on a tomato and herb sauce with sautéed potatoes

***Pan Fried Sea Bass £8.50***

Two sea bass fillets, pan fried and served with roasted peppers, red onions, courgettes and sautéed potatoes

***Poached Haddock Mornay £8.50***

Lightly poached haddock fillet on a bed of wilted spinach leaves topped with a creamy cheese sauce, served with buttered new potatoes

***Bourbon Marinated Ribs £8.75***

A full rack of pork ribs marinated in 'Jim Beam' bourbon and smoky barbecue sauce, served with chips

**PLEASE ALSO SEE SPECIALS BOARD**

**EVENING MENU**

***Grilled Goats Cheese and Roasted Walnut Salad £7.00***

Mixed salad leaves with cherry tomatoes, red onion, cucumber and roasted walnuts, topped with a slice of grilled goats cheese dressed with olive oil infused with avocado and finished with crispy croutons

***Hunters Chicken £7.50***

A grilled chicken breast topped with bacon, barbecue sauce and melted cheddar cheese, served with chips or sautéed potatoes and seasonal salad

***Pork with Caramelised Apples and Roquefort Cheese £7.50***

Pork loin steak grilled and topped with caramelised Red Delicious apple and melted Roquefort cheese served with sautéed potatoes and buttered fresh vegetables

***Grilled Chicken and Ribs £8.50***

A grilled chicken breast accompanied with half a rack of 'Jim Beam' bourbon marinated ribs, smothered in smoky BBQ sauce, served with chips and coleslaw

***12oz Mixed Grill £8.50***

A selection of 3oz rump steak, gammon steak, lamb chop and sausage, grilled and served with chips and peas or seasonal salad.

***Rump Steak £8.50***

An 8oz rump steak grilled to your liking and served with chips, flat mushrooms, tomato and garnished with watercress

***Add a Pepper or Diane Sauce £1.50***

***Pan Fried Venison £12.00 (24hrs pre order required)***

An 8oz venison steak pan fried and served with sautéed potatoes and balsamic glazed roasted vegetables

**PLEASE ALSO SEE SPECIALS BOARD**

**BAR MENU**

***Burgers***

A 6oz 100% beef burger grilled, served on a soft floured bap with relish and fried onions

Plain - **£3.50** Cheese - **£3.75** Cheese and Bacon - **£4.00**

Grilled field mushroom and stilton - **£4.00**

Grilled chicken breast served on a soft floured bap:

with mayo and lettuce - **£4.50** with cheese and bacon - **£5.00**

A 6oz 100% burger on a soft floured bap with salad and relish, served with chips and onion rings

Plain - **£5.50** Cheese - **£5.75** Cheese and Bacon - **£6.00**

Grilled field mushroom and stilton - **£6.00**

***Omelette £5.00***

A 3-egg omelette with your choice of fillings and served with chips and salad

***Ham, Eggs and Chips £5.00***

Home cooked, slow roasted gammon ham served with fried eggs and chips

***Liver and Bacon Casserole £5.00***

Sliced lamb's liver with back bacon in a rich gravy, served with mashed potato and peas

***Sausage and Mash £5.00***

Pork and herb sausages grilled and served on a bed of mashed potatoes with garden peas and onion gravy

***Grilled Gammon Steak £5.50***

An 8oz grilled gammon steak served with chips, peas and egg or pineapple

***Homemade Chilli Con Carne £5.50***

Minced beef cooked with garlic, ginger, paprika and chilli in a spicy tomato sauce served with rice and nachos

***Breaded Scampi £5.50***

Deep fried scampi in golden breadcrumbs served with chips, salad and homemade tartare sauce

***All Day Breakfast £5.75***

Grilled bacon, pork sausages, fried eggs, hash browns and baked beans served with bread and butter

***Fish and Chips £5.75***

Haddock fillet in golden homemade batter served with chips, mushy peas and homemade tartare sauce

***Lasagne Verdi £5.75***

Minced beef in a bolognaise sauce, layered with pasta and cheese sauce, served with chips and salad

***Braised Steak and Onions £6.00***

Thick cut braising steak, slowly cooked with red wine and onions in a rich gravy, served with mashed potato and peas

***Roast Beef or Pork £6.00***

Roast topside of beef or loin of pork served with roast and mashed potato, fresh vegetables, Yorkshire pudding, gravy and horseradish or apple sauce

***Smaller portions of these meals are available at £4.00***

**LIGHT BITES AND SNACKS**

***Chicken Nuggets and Chips £4.00***

Served with chips or jacket potato, salad and BBQ sauce

***Sausage, Chips and Beans £4.00***

Three grilled sausages served with chips and beans

***Sausage, Bacon Egg and Chips £5.00***

Two grilled sausages, two rashers of bacon and two eggs served with chips

***Warm Ciabatta Baguettes £5.50***

An oblong ciabatta filled with rump steak, fried onions and a horseradish mayo with dressed salad, or grilled chicken, bacon and cheese

***Chilli Topped Nachos £5.00***

Heaps of nachos topped with cheese and chilli con carne with salsa, sour cream and chopped red onions

***Filled Jacket Potatoes £4.00 (1 filling)***

Baked daily and served with a dressed salad and a choice of fillings.  
Cheese / ham / tuna / warm chicken and mayo

***Filled Sandwiches***

Served on sliced bloomer bread with a choice of hot or cold fillings  
Hot - **£3.00** Cold - **£2.75**

**SIDE ORDERS**

Portion of Chips **£1.40** Basket of Chips **£2.00** Cheesy Chips **£2.50**

Onion Rings **£1.40** Garlic Bread **£1.50** Cheesy Garlic Bread **£1.75**

Sauté Mushrooms **£1.70** Side Salad **£1.50** Vegetables/Peas **£1.20**

Bread and Butter **40p** Fried Egg **60p**

## ASSOCIATION LUNCHESES

The quarterly luncheons, held at the sportsfield complex on Sywell Road, continue to be well attended by Old Boys of the Grammar School, with excellent food and company.

The luncheons have recently provided a venue for people organizing reunions. Groups of between six and twenty have met, the organizer only having to arrange names and numbers and letting us know in advance. Payment is on the day.

The luncheon dates are on the second Tuesday in the months of March, June, September and December. We meet at the bar at twelve noon for lunch at twelve-thirty. A list is posted in the Oxford Street Headquarters six weeks before, to which you can add any names. Alternatively, you can contact me, **Martin Layton**, about details or requesting that I add your name to the list. My telephone number is **01933 223601**.

*Martin Layton*

### ANNUAL PRIZE DRAW 2011

The Club's Committee would like to thank everyone who purchased tickets for the 2011 draw. Due to increased sales, an additional prize of £100 was included this year. Special thanks must also once again go to those kind Old Boys who made additional donations to Club funds.

Please attempt to sell the tickets enclosed with this magazine and help with the raising of much-needed funds. All money raised is used for the future development of The Old Grammarians. The winning numbers in the 2011 draw, made after the Committee Meeting on 12th October were as follows;

Prize	Number	Winner
£250	07693	D. Toop, Wellingborough
£100	09905	B. Lines, Rushden
£100	06157	H. Bigley, Northampton
£100	13329	G. Peck, Irthlingborough
£50	00096	B. Corn, Irchester
£50	14632	B. Allen, Wellingborough
£50	09776	T. King, Rushden
£25	08031	H. Stratton, Finedon
£25	06581	T. Bayes, Great Billing
£25	05628	E. Maddams, Kettering
£25	07296	C. Marston, Wellingborough

*Congratulations again to all the winners, and to all those who didn't win in 2011, good luck with this year's draw. Your continued support of The Association is very much appreciated.*

*Ed.*

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## IN MEMORIAM

### KEITH ALLEN (WGS 1959 - 1967)

Many Association members were shocked to hear of Keith's untimely death from Motor Neurone Disease.

A naturally gifted sportsman, he excelled in many different areas, but he found his first love when he started playing rugby at the Grammar School. He played in the very successful 1st XV of 1966-67 and went immediately to the Northampton Saints on completion of that school season. He played for the Saints in over 80 games and also played for several representative sides including The Penguins.

Keith never lost touch with his rugby roots and returned to the OG's Club in the middle 1970's and was a cornerstone of what was probably one of the Club's most successful teams under Bert Way. The sad irony being that they both died of the same debilitating disease.

Keith was an ever-present in the activities of the Association after the Oxford Street Headquarters opened. He played for many of the sporting sections including the Football Club, Cricket Club and Basketball Club to mention just a few.

Keith remarried and lived with his new family in Rushden, becoming a teacher in later life.

*Martin Layton*

### W. R. (BOB) BLAND (WGS 1935 - 1940)

Bob led an interesting business life, mainly in the computer industry. He was involved in the development of a trigger mechanism for the atomic bomb during the war and spent 17 years in Brussels running the European branch of an American I.T. Company. Bob passed away in July 2011.

*R.G. Potts (School Friend)*

### GEOFF COOKSEY (TEACHER AT WGS 1953 - 1957)

Writing of Geoff Cooksey in the foreword to *Memories of Wellingborough Grammar School*, Sir David Frost said:

*"There was one teacher at Wellingborough who really ignited my interest in words, and the use of words. He was my English teacher, Mr Cooksey, and he managed to transmit his passion for the written word in a way that was irresistible. He was also concerned to see that we could discern the difference between an accurate report in a newspaper and a loaded one. He urged us to read two newspapers rather than one. During its courageous opposition to the Suez invasion, he urged us to make the **Observer**, one of those two papers. He made us more aware of the outside world. He introduced us to John Osborne and explained the significance of Jimmy Porter."*

Geoff was born in July 1925. He read English at the University of Manchester and his first teaching post was as English master at Wellingborough Grammar School from 1953-1957. He was a huge character, with a commanding voice and expansive gestures, stretching out on his chair, filling the room with seriousness and laughter.

He subsequently held posts at Chester City Grammar School, Colne Valley High School (as deputy head) and Shirebrook School in Derbyshire (as head). In the late sixties he became Secretary of the Schools Council and a significant figure in among the country's education policy makers.

In 1971, he was appointed as head master of a new comprehensive school in Milton Keynes with an open book to design the buildings, the policy and the ethos of the school. He abhorred the idea of punishment, decided that there would be no school uniform and that students and teachers would address each other by their first names. Science and humanities would be integrated until O level, and there would be fortnightly non-curriculum days, catering specifically to students' interests. The whole school would be carpeted to soften the hard edges of the classroom.

Stantonbury Campus opened in 1974 to a barrage of parental and media disapproval. Geoff simply invited his critics for tea and told them to go into any classroom they chose to see the discipline for themselves. He did not punish misbehaviour, instead he invited the teenagers concerned to sit down with him and discuss the problems. His infectious interest and humour often disarmed his trouble-makers, whose rebellion could turn into a determination to play their part in his vision for the future. Staff members who had made scheduled appointments were sometimes frustrated by his attention to the needs of his students. As one of his teachers, Peter Gates, now an academic at Nottingham University e-mailed to us: '*Lovely bloke transformed my vision. Bloody frustrating to work for too, sometimes.*'

Geoff was passionate about many things, including motorbikes and music. He set up a repair workshop in town where he encouraged disenchanted teenagers to join him up to their elbows in grease, stripping down bikes. He continued to ride well into his eighties. He was a great jazz pianist and there is a CD of his playing on the web site [www.wgsmemories.org.uk](http://www.wgsmemories.org.uk). His humour describing his relationship with the incomparable Spike Jackson is also there for all to hear.

Geoff Cooksey died on 23 March. He is survived by his wife, Cynthia, his first wife, Beryl, and their two sons, John and Tom.

Pictures of Geoff and Cynthia (as she used a catapult to drive away storks attacking her fishpond), and of Geoff's meeting with Sir David Frost, can be found on the web at [http://grahamtall.co.uk/wgs1955/book/David Frost.html](http://grahamtall.co.uk/wgs1955/book/David%20Frost.html)

*Requiescat in pace Geoffrey. Semper Juventutis Memor.*

### *David Tall (WGS 1952-) and Graham Tall (1955-)*

I had every intention of attending (the funeral) but then had to look after grandchildren for the day. It sounds as if it was a fitting tribute to him - in character with his way of doing things. He tended to do things just that bit differently. I think he directed the "12th Night" I was in with Barry, Obe et others and we acted out Shakespeare in class too - which was unusual. I visited him at Milton Keynes where he was head of Stantonbury which was a REALLY different kind of school for us died in the wool WGS masters. I went with Johnny Hyde and Bret Tussler and we learnt a thing or two about the way forward. He had just commanded the builders at Stantonbury to leave a great mound of spoil and sow it with grass seed so that the school could have a grass ski slope. And he was thrilled to be able to play Scott Joplin of the magnificent and VERY expensive concert grand piano they had brought in recently. It seemed that money was no object in Milton Keynes in those days!

But I think I was more impressed with the way that Geoff and Cynthia were building and renovating their house and barns after the day's work had been done! Where do you get that kind of imagination and energy? Geoff had the secret.

A good life!

*David Wilson (Former WGS Master)*



## VIC EDWARDS 1945-2012



Victor Jack Edwards was not an Old Grammarian but, nevertheless, played an integral part in the history of the Grammarians' Club, and its sporting sections for over 30 years. A proud Welshman, and former Welsh Guard, he had moved to the Wellingborough area in 1976.

He first became involved at the Old Boys' when his son, Darren, enrolled for my mini/junior rugby section in 1979. He later joined the WOGRFC Committee and served as a Committee man and/or Officer for many years. He was the first, and so far only, non Grammarian to be elected a Life Vice-President of the Club.

He was for many years the Chairman of the East Northants

Rugby Union and took great pride in pointing out that the President, Chairman, Secretary and Coach for the district were at one time all, originally, from Monmouthshire! This led to his oft quoted remark that "missionary work can be hard".

He was also a keen player, Committee man and sometime Secretary for the Bowls Club.

He was an excellent fundraiser and helped many sections raise funds by helping to organise race nights at the Club. He always helped out with the Christmas Raffles, Carol Service/ Draw nights and Children's Christmas Party.

Over the last few years he coaxed, cajoled and sometimes terrorised members to take part in the weekly "Treasure Chest" draw. The funds raised through this venture helped the Committee to purchase new furniture, carpets and televisions when income over the bar was, perhaps, not at its optimum.

In case anyone is beginning to think that I am portraying Vic as a modern day saint, let me balance this by pointing out that he could be a cantankerous so-and-so at times and resigned from committees on many occasions, vowing never to get involved again.

His brother famously stated, at the funeral service, that "Vic was a bit like Marmite, you either loved him or hated him". Someone later suggested that you could not class yourself as a friend of Vic's unless you had fallen out with him on at least two occasions!

He died suddenly, at home, only hours after his beloved Wales rugby side won the 2012 Grand Slam.

The Funeral Service at Kettering Crematorium was a standing room only affair. We celebrated Vic's life back at Headquarters and the Club recorded its largest ever single day's receipts.

Vic will be missed by many, not least of which will be Pam, children Janis and Darren, and his four grandchildren.

*Steve Watkins*

## **MIKE HAKES (DIED IN 2012, AGED 56)**

He taught Technology at Wrenn School (1977 - 1992). A much respected and liked teacher, he coached the school 2nd XV at rugby and played for the Old Grammarians.

*Martin Layton*

## **STUART JOHN (LOFTY) HARRINGTON (DIED JUNE 15TH, 2012)**

I'm sad to report the passing of this hugely popular character. Lofty began playing for the infamous Veterans XV in 1989. He played throughout the team's 15 seasons together and made massive contributions on and off the field. His infectious brand of humour, and sense of mischief, meant that there was never a dull moment if you were in his company.

Despite having dodgy knees, he didn't miss many games and his efforts in the second row and line out were well received by his team mates. "Harrington and Szymanski at lock forward please" had a familiar ring to it on Saturday afternoons. Lofty scored 3 tries in OG's colours, with a total combined distance of 4 yards (not metres). He also had one attempt at a conversion ("let's have a go Dabbsy") - the less said about that particular fiasco the better!

Finally it is a testament to the man that the friendships borne out of those veteran days have lived on - Lofty follows Kevin Stevenson on to our memorial bench and I am sure we will be drinking to his familiar toast "daggers up your bum " on many future occasions.

Lofty - Gone but definitely never forgotten.

*Richard Petty*

## **DONALD HARVEY NEWMAN (WGS 1933 - 1938)**

Donald was born in December 1922. After attending the school, he joined the R.A.F. in 1940 and became a pilot, flying Catalina and Sunderland Flying Boats. His later career was that of a Mine Surveyor, becoming Chief Surveyor for British Steel. Donald passed away in November 2010 and he is survived by his wife, Joyce.

*Steve Cheney*

## **CHRIS TALBOT (WGS 1955 - 1962)**

Chris was a popular boy at the Grammar school (1955 - 62). He was a 'Queen's' Scout, head of Gryphons house, a school prefect, played in both cricket and rugby second teams, finally leaving the school to study Physics at St Catherine's College, Oxford.

Chris played rugby for the OG's before becoming a very active member at Olney Rugby Club, where he took on the job of treasurer and raised considerable funds; Chris made such an impact that he was popularly known as 'The Colonel'.

Chris didn't speak about his job, simply calling himself a civil servant. He owned a holiday home in France and was deeply involved with the AJS & Matchless Owners Club and was well able to maintain his classic machine. Sadly, he died riding his beloved bike on Monday 18th July 2011 aged 66; it is no surprise that one of the charities he was involved with was 'Headway'. He left his wife Liz, 3 children and 4 grandchildren. The memorial service, at St. Peter & St. Paul's Church at Olney, was packed with mourners and prayers were read out by each of his four grandchildren.

*Graham Tall*

## ELIZABETH (LIZ) THOMPSON

The Association lost a former Committee member and Secretary when Liz sadly passed away on April 7th, 2012 aged 71. A regular visitor to both Oxford Street and the Sportsfield, Liz will be missed by her many friends.

*Steve Cheney*

## MEMORIES OF DAVID WALDEN

David led a full and notable life. Due to lack of space I will concentrate here on his contribution to The Old Grammarians prior to his emigration to S. Africa in 1976. David had a long and difficult fight against illness before passing away in the autumn of 2011. If any old friends wish to view a full copy of his eulogy, please contact me on [sumnerjohn@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sumnerjohn@hotmail.co.uk)

David was very keen on rugby and whilst still at school started playing for the rugby section of the Grammar School Old Boys Association. Although not the best player, David was always enthusiastic and quickly joined the rugby committee and was soon its match secretary, helping Don Burton ensure that 45 players turned up at the right time and place each week. In those pre-mass communication days this meant touring the town and district often later into Friday night to contact players. At this time the OGs were selling their sports field for development and investing in a new larger field and a permanent headquarters in the town centre. David was the first bar secretary and then served for nearly ten years as the Association's General Secretary. He helped steer the development of the Nest Lane sportsfield and the enlargement of the headquarters into the building we see today. Part of David's legacy is that those firm foundations enabled the Old Grammarians to continue to develop into such a large organisation with many hundreds of members taking part in the very widest range of sports and social activities. At the Old Grammarians, David was naturally involved in arranging various weekend entertainments including a monthly disco which, for my generation, became one of the key local social occasions.

*John Sumner*

The following were either Association or social members whose deaths have been brought to our attention since the compilation of the 2011 magazine.

R. Abbott

Ernest Bryan - Association Life member

Roger Craddock - b. 5.1.1940 - Club Life member, died in 2011

Viv Dunford - died in 2011

Peter S. Earl - Left WGS 1950 - Association Life member

K. Ellson - Association Life member - died in 2011

J. H. Gilbert

N. G. Grimmit

R. G. F. Hodgkins - b. 14.12.1921 - WGS 1933-1938, died in October 2007

Donald B. Hopkins - Club Life member - died in 2011

Roy B. Kitchen - b. 20.9.1927 - WGS 1939-1943 - died 23.2.2012

M. Loughton

G. W. Layton - died in 2012

E. J. Lloyd

Robert Moore - b. 27.8.1937 - Affiliated member

D. Priestley

E. G. Sinclair - b. 4.10.1916 - Club Life member

Christopher Tompkins - b. 13.11.1961 - Association Life member - died in 2007

A. Towers - Association Life member - died at Wetherby

Gordon J. Wiggins - Association Life Member - WGS 1946-1951 - died in 2011

David Russell Wright - Association Life member - died 6.12.2011

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**W**e would be most grateful if next of kin would supply us with the necessary details of deceased Old Boys or social members and mention whether they wish the details to be published within the 'In Memoriam' Section in future editions of the magazine. Always remember, where possible, to give the dates of birth, attendance at WGS (where applicable) and death. Please notify Eileen Peasnell or Steve Cheney c/o Headquarters.

## **ONE FOR YOUR EVENTS DIARY**

**T**he annual Christmas Draw and Carol Singing led by Brass Ensemble will be held at Oxford Street on Monday evening, 17th December. Why not come along and enjoy a great night? Start time will be 7.30pm.

## RORKE'S DRIFT APPRECIATION SOCIETY REPORT

As the old saying goes, 'All good things must come to an end'. Well, that's what has happened to The Old Grammarians Rorke's Drift Appreciation Society. After 15 years, like many clubs and societies, we have all grown old together. The eldest are now in their eighties and us young ones are now in our late fifties. The cost of the week away had almost doubled and the older members struggled spending a week travelling by coach and all the walking a trip of this kind required. What started as a small dinner at HQ, followed by a weekend trip to Brecon, then grew to a week away at Whitsun travelling to all the major battlefields of WW1, WW2, Waterloo and Agincourt. I would like to thank everyone who came on one of our tours. I'm sure all who did really enjoyed themselves. I would also like to thank Steve Cheney, Jim Mandeville, Steve Watkins and Ian MacDougall for helping organise the tours.

The report for the Brecon trip in 1997 was never published in the OG's magazine so I thought you might like to read of our adventure to Wales all those years ago and have a little chuckle, as I did, when reading it again.

### The Journey

The journey commenced at around 3.15pm on Saturday 5th September, with 7 of the intrepid explorers leaving the Club in the minibus. After picking up the remaining two, Mick Steele and Martin "Mr Dillon" Layton, we journeyed along the A14, M6 and various other A's and M's until the first relief break was required. After Steve W. had ensured our safety by checking the nearside rear tyres at every opportunity on each kerbstone, we had a cup of tea at Safeways and were back on the trail listening to the sweet tones of Bernard Manning and Blaster Bates, many of the punch lines to be remembered during the weekend and reiterated to the accompaniment of howls of laughter, even though some of the jokes had been missed due to the incessant rattling of the roof rack ladder.

We finally arrived in Brecon and, after three laps of the town centre decided to ask some locals where the hotel was. "Which way did you come in"? They enquired. "From England!" came the unanimous reply. "Ooooooh, if you want to go there, I wouldn't start from Yer!" Anyway, after another lap of the town centre and another 1mm of tread off the nearside rear tyres, we arrived at the Beacon Hotel.

### The Arrival

Rooms were allocated, with Vic and Steve W. in the left-hand barn in the yard, and Richard, Phil and Maurice in the right-hand barn. Maurice made an executive decision to claim the double bed (by throwing his bag over Phil and Richard's heads as they entered the room). A nice big bathroom, with a nice big bath, but don't use it because it uses the whole of the hotel's hot water, and no smoking in the rooms! Martin, because of his gout problem, was allocated a room with Mick on the 17th floor, up a spiral staircase. The exercise would do him good.

"Have you seen that bloody spider in the bath?" commented Richard. Phil strolled in boldly. "That's only a little one!" "No, I meant its dad on the shower curtain!" Honestly this could have drunk out of the toilet without taking its legs off the seat! Phil had no choice but to be brave at this point and the spider was never seen again. "No problem with the smoking rule" says Mo "We'll use the cups and wash them up before we go." Of course, if we'd used the saucers instead we could have had a cup of tea in the morning! One to remember for next time.

## On The Town

After a quick wash and brush up, we went to the hotel bar, well, more of a cupboard really, almost the size of the Bantam Cock in Wood Street. Eventually all nine of us crammed in to be greeted by the landlord and selected our choice of beer or lager. "What's good for a hangover?" quipped Maurice, "Plenty of beer the night before!" The barman remained straight faced as the rest of the party tittered. "What time do you close?" queried Vic. "11 o'clock, any later and you don't get breakfast." "Ah well" replied Richard "we'll just have to get in four pints each as usual at 5 to 11 then." "I don't think so," came the reply. Time to go into town.

Over the river bridge and there's a bloke fishing in waders, "Yer boats sunk mate!" shouts Mo. So, to the first pub, The Boar's Head. Mo soon gets chatting to a local, a burly ex-rugby player who relates the story about the recent explosion in a house in Brecon. Two junkies trying to get their own back for being sold bad stuff get hold of 16lbs of semtex. They try to test a detonator, but the battery is flat. At this point, the wife of one leaves. They find another battery from the clock and the wife sees the roof of the house travelling towards Cardiff. "We don't need the IRA here," quips the local. "We've got enough of our own \*\*\*\*\* idiots!"

At this point, the boar's head is spotted above a door. "Must have been going a hell of a speed to get through that wall!" "Yeah," replies the local. "its arse is hanging in the lounge!" Martin, in particular, enjoyed going to the loo here, as he had an excuse for walking slowly across the lounge, which was in full swing with a disco. "Cor, you wanna see the skirt in there!" Needless to say, most of the group needed to go before leaving the pub. The local got up to leave and surprisingly picked up a walking stick. "Can you lend that to Martin?"

So, on to the George Hotel, a pretty pink pub with hanging baskets which was absolutely packed. After some initial ogling, we crammed into the back bar. Mo handed his coat to one of a couple of young ladies saying "Look after this. It's got me wallet and credit cards and stuff in." He immediately snatched it back, took his fags out of the pocket and gave them the coat back, telling them they could keep the rest. Phil and Steve W. joined them, only to discover that one of them lived three doors away from where Steve used to live. He knew her dad and even what car he drove. Time to move to a more peaceful pub, The Clarence. We took over the deserted back room, where Vic took on all-comers at pool. So, after miscuing on the break, he eventually emerged as champion. Various punch lines were remembered at this point. During the laughter, Steve W. decided to be more serious, "I've found this place just below Calais." "What Spain?" remarks Richard. Steve C. laughs hysterically. For some reason we never did hear the rest of that story. Soon after, Vic and Steve W. decided to be the advance party to look at the pub across the road. "If all's well, we'll see you in a couple of minutes." That's the last time we saw them.

## Supper Time

All hungry by now, off went the seven of us in search of. "I fancy an Indian." "I prefer Chinese." "Let's find a nice restaurant". "How about an Italian?" So, with this in mind. We all pile into the first chippy we came to and ate our something'n' chips outside in the rain. We sent off our fittest member in search of the absent two, but Martin returned without sighting them. Phil shouted "That's right, you tell him gal!" as a couple argued from either side of the road. After some abusive return remark, we moved off before a mass brawl ensued. We then wandered off aimlessly, looking for another hostelry, as various members relieved themselves down dark alleyways. We were back at the Boar's Head for the last few drinks. Maurice was starting to flag by now and it was time to make our way back to the hotel. No chance of a drink here by this time. Vic apparently tried, unsuccessfully, and was last seen gesticulating towards the bar, from the yard, in his underwear.

## Bedtime

So to bed, Richard smoking a cigar, wearing his Noel coward dressing gown. Phil in the most ridiculous pyjamas you have ever seen and Maurice smoking a fag in his underpants (difficult and dangerous that!). "I've never gone to bed so early on a Saturday." "Nor have I, let's get dressed and go out again." Anyway, we resigned ourselves to the fact that there was nowhere to drink and with a long day ahead, we eventually went to sleep.

## The Next Day

"Aren't you two getting up?" enquires Mo on his fourth fag. "It's 10 to 8." It looked more like 10 to 4 in this dungeon. So off we went to breakfast, where Steve C. and Jim were already tucking in, well ahead of Mick, who had given them an early morning call in his pyjamas, to be confronted by them dressed and ready to go. The rest soon arrived, starting on anything from orange juice to sawdust and prunes. Richard managed just one forkful too much of his scrambled egg mountain for his coughing fit to take.

## The "Culture" Bit (?)

Off we went to the museum, all very interesting, with an enthusiastic curator who showed us round and photocopied various things for us. Mick thought it would be a good idea to buy a Zulu War Anniversary tour tie. So we queued in line to buy one. Unfortunately, Mick was last in the line and they only had eight in stock, so we asked if the curator would photocopy one for him. It turned out that the curator was in the army with Vic's brother. Mo and Richard left the museum first and Maurice decided to check the weight of the miniature cannon barrel near the entrance. "Oh no! they've all fallen through the trap door!" The rest of the party reappeared and we were off to visit the 24th Club, which was next door to the hotel - everyone put on their tie just to annoy Mick. Unfortunately it was closed, being just 12 noon, so off we went to the Cathedral to see the Regiment's Colours. "No point in me going in there," says Maurice "I'm colour blind!"



*The party (excluding photographer Steve C.) outside the museum in Brecon. How young some of them look?*

So, after a wrong turn, and going half way to Swansea and back, we arrived at Brecon Cathedral, just as a memorial service had finished. The peace was shattered as Steve W. attempted to manoeuvre the bus into a non-existent parking space for 10 minutes, with the alternator belt screeching as every turn of the wheel. Of course, two minutes later and the car park was deserted, as was the Cathedral. After taking some pictures, we made our way back to where we had come in. The large door slammed shut and we all thought we were locked in until next Sunday. We managed to escape and Maurice had left his usual mark by stubbing out a fag in a stone font-looking thing by the outside door. We made our way back to 24th Club, getting in through the back door and being confronted by a large picture in the pool room displaying the Regiment's achievements. After taking a few pictures, we went into the bar for several pints of Hancocks HB, or whatever, relating amusing tales of past cricket tours etc. or, in the case of Martin his favourite episode of The Clangers! We more than trebled the club's trade that lunchtime.

### **The Return Journey**

It was time to start on our journey home listening to a Jethro tape. A slight diversion to Gloucester took us to a small church where Henry Hook's grave was located. "Let's have a bit of respect, a minute's silence." So after 10 seconds of passing wind and Martin relieving himself in the hedge, we were back on our way. After abandoning a stop at one pub for late lunch, we continued our journey to stop at a pub nearer home. Of course, everywhere from now on had either closed or stopped doing food.

Soon we were back in Northamptonshire when 'bang bang' was heard at the back of the bus. No we hadn't had a double puncture in the nearside rear tyres - Maurice and Phil had spotted a man in a cowboy hat in the car behind. "Faster, faster or he'll head us off at the bypass!"

It was early evening now as we found a pub at Braunston, The Millhouse, overlooking the canal. We screeched into a parking space, much to the amusement of onlookers, who were even more amused when the door slammed shut, with Phil locked in and staring out disappointedly from inside the bus. "You're not getting off until you finish your tea!" scowled Maurice. As we ordered our food, the barmaid asked if we were the party of 20 she was waiting for. "No, 41." came the reply. As the look of horror crossed her face. "No, only 9 of us" we joked. Maurice didn't join us. He had more important things to do in the loo and was saving himself for a Chinese later (which he didn't eat either).

### **The Breakdown**

The last leg of our journey, and we would soon be home. Just a quick stop to fill up with petrol at Tesco, Northampton and would the bloody thing start? "I'll ring the missus." "You ring the R.A.C." We pushed the bus back from the pumps and decided that the fuel pump might want bleeding. With no tools obvious in the bus we asked at the garage. No, they had none either "but the R.A.C. will get you going from a Tesco garage." Not much help as we had already rung them and they didn't have the faintest idea where the place was anyway! After accosting a young lad at the pumps and raiding his tool box, Richard handed out various bits of engine for people to look after, and proceeded to bleed the fuel pump by filling Vic's shoes with diesel. As various fluids trickled under the bus (there were no toilets in the garage) Richard gave the order to give it a try. Hooray! it started. After putting the rest of the pipes back on, Richard cleaned his hands at the pumps and returned to much bowing and scraping and a round of generous applause. After cancelling the emergency services (and the R.A.C.) we were back on the road.



## Back To Base

We arrived back home, and when dropping off Mick he thanked everyone, but expressed his disappointment at not getting a tie. "Get knotted!" came the reply. We were soon back at the Club relating our adventures to anyone who would listen, and still quoting punch lines at every opportunity.

A jolly good time was had by all!!

Thanks go to:

Jim Cardy for organising the trip. Steve Watkins for driving the bus. Steve Cheney for remembering to bring his camera and laughing in the right places. Phil Brown for remembering his camera and not being arachnophobic. Richard Hall for forgetting his camera and mending the bus. Vic Edwards for being generally abusive as and when required. Maurice Edwards for being Maurice. Mick Steele for making us all look very smart in our new ties. Martin Layton for his rugby tour and Clanger tales. And finally Jim Mandeville for not being there but paying up anyway.

**The End** (Written in 1997 by Richard Hall and adapted for this year by Jim Cardy)

I would just like to remember some of the Rorke's Drifters who are no longer with us. Paul Millard, Bob White and the wonderful Vic Edwards. RIP all of you

I hope you have all enjoyed reading my reports over the years and who knows, we may just organise one last trip as a sort of reunion. Who knows???????????

*Jim Cardy*



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## GOLF HOUSE MATCHES JULY 15TH 2011

Once again the weather was kind to the diminishing number of Old Grammarians who joined in friendly battle to see whom would win the Stroppey Allen Trophy. This award was instituted in memory of Bob "stroppey" Allen and to keep alive the memory of the House sporting competitions we enjoyed before 1975.

This year 19 Old Grammarians came from deepest west-country, furthest Lancashire, Cirencester, Wollaston and Rushden to enjoy Wellingborough Golf Course and a decent helping of sausage, mash and onion gravy.

The result of the competition shows that Gryphons are out of recession and, although by only one percentage point, they won for the second year running from Stags. It was heartening to see that both Lions and Dragons fielded full teams this year. Well done lads!

The best individual score was achieved by Barry Matson (Gryphons) with 38 points. He won the GEMBOR TROPHY (Ged Eady Memorial Bottle of Red) and the honour of paying for the trophy to be engraved.

As time marches on, the OGs who play are finding walking such a long and tiring course problematic. I can see more of them using buggies and walking frames in the years to come.

*David Wilson*

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## ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

The following is a report (written by S.J.P.) and scorecard from a W.G.S. 2nd XI cricket match against Deacons G.S., played on June 20th, 1970. (Supplied by John Billing)

The School 2nd XI arrived at Peterborough at 2.40pm, slightly depleted, two members (unnamed) not turning up! The start was delayed and the Deacons opening batsmen arrived at the crease at 3pm. Deacons provided the School with one fielder as they only had 10 men themselves. The opening bowlers had little success in their opening overs but after about 10 overs the game rapidly changed as Robinson (S) took 5 wickets in 2 overs. The first man was L.B.W., the next man bowled, then 2 catches taken very well by Billing behind the stumps and finally their number six removed first ball bowled. Cowley relieved Attley who had bowled quite well with little luck and proceeded to bowl an unusual over in which he took a wicket with another catch by Billing as the batsman took a hefty swing at a short-pitched ball. The next wicket to fall was that of their resilient left-handed opening bat who had stayed at the crease nearly an hour for 14 runs, he was caught by Billing off Cowley. An early tea was taken at 4pm!! Deacons being 38-7.

The last 2 wickets took half an hour to get after tea, Tyman catching one off Groome and Robinson (S) bowling the last man. All the bowlers bowled tightly and the fielding was keen. Deacons G.S. were all out for 48 setting the School 49 in about 2 hours!! The School opening batsmen Billing and Attley set the score off at a brisk pace, particularly Billing. When Attley was out bowled, the position looked very healthy at 25-1, but a minor collapse took place. Tompkins was out having one bail removed. Bailey, getting a little frustrated, was out as in the previous match attempting to hit a six!! Tyman temporarily stopped the rot scoring 6. Groome did not look very happy against the left-handed bowler Stubbs and was out L.B.W. When Robinson (S) and Warburton came together there were 11 runs needed with 2 wickets to fall. After a few uncomfortable moments they stuck out and scored the necessary runs. Billing had laid the foundations with a good eighteen which included 3 fours.

This was a good game fought in an excellent spirit and W.G.S. 2nd XI finished the 1970 season with a win.

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Please note that with effect from September 1st, 2010 the fee for a new Life Membership became £25. This applies to Old Boys of the School as well as Social Members.

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## INNINGS OF DEACONS 2ND XI

Boughton	ct Billing	b Cowley	14
Presland	L.B.W.	b Robinson (S)	6
Conning		b Robinson (S)	0
Stubbs	ct Billing	b Robinson (S)	0
Turner	ct Billing	b Robinson (S)	4
Bradshaw		b Robinson (S)	0
Smith	ct Billing	b Cowley	2
Keeley	ct Tyman	b Groome	10
Thornber		Not Out	5
Tatam		b Robinson (S)	3
		Extras	4
		Total (All Out)	<u>48</u>

## W.G.S. BOWLING

Bowler	Overs	Maidens	Wickets	Runs	Average
Robinson (S)	10.1	3	6	16	2.7
Cowley	3	0	2	10	5.0
Attley	6	1	0	11	-
Bailey	4	2	0	2	-
Groome	2	1	1	5	5.0
Tyman	1	1	0	0	-

## INNINGS OF W.G.S. 2ND XI

Billing	ct Tatam	b Keeley	18
Attley		b Keeley	9
Tompkins		b Keeley	0
Bailey	ct Keeley	b Stubbs	0
Tyman		b Stubbs	6
Groome	L.B.W.	b Stubbs	2
Warburton		Not Out	3
Robinson (S)		Not Out	6
Cowley		Did Not Bat	
		Extras	5
		Total (6 Wkts)	<u>49</u>

Fall of Wkts: 25-1, 25-2, 28-3, 30-4, 37-5, 38-6.

## DEACONS BOWLING

Bowler	Overs	Maidens	Wickets	Runs	Average
Boughton	6	1	0	18	-
Stubbs	7	1	3	22	7.3
Keeley	6	4	3	9	3.0

RESULT: W.G.S. 2ND XI WON BY 2 WKTS

## THE QUARTERLY ASSOCIATION LUNCHEONS

These continue to be as popular as ever and are held on **Tuesdays** at the Memorial Sportsfield on Sywell Road. Dates for the next 6 gatherings are as follows;

**September 11 and December 11 2012**

**March 12, June 11, September 10 and December 10 2013**

All Old Grammarians are welcome, but you must first sign the list on the Oxford Street notice board, or ring Martin Layton on 01933 223601.

## VISITORS TO OXFORD STREET

**M**embers are reminded that when guests who are non-members are invited in to the Club, a current member must sign them in. A visitor's book is now positioned behind the bar for this purpose.

*The Committee*

## WHEN VISITING OXFORD STREET

**Would all members please make a note of the following Club Rules:-**

1. No hats are allowed to be worn on the premises. Please remove them. This also applies to ladies wearing baseball caps.
2. Gentlemen are asked not to wear vests or singlets within the Club, even during the summer months.
3. If you are bringing your family in to the Club, children must be kept under close supervision at all times and not allowed to run freely around the building, in corridors or in the car park.
4. If dogs are brought on to the premises, they must be kept under close control at all times and not be allowed to annoy people who are dining.
5. Keep your feet off the re-upholstered furniture.
6. Excessive foul or abusive language will not be tolerated. Please keep it down.

Committee members are obliged to ask people to leave the premises if they refuse to abide by these rules.

*The Committee*

## TABLE TENNIS REPORT 2011-2012

The 'A' team rejoined the 'B' team in Division 2 for the 2011-2012 season, after spending a single season in the top Division. The extract from the final table shows that its response to relegation was to finish the season as the Division's winners. This achievement guarantees their immediate return to Division 1. Perce Sharp and Mick Ball deserve many congratulations for obtaining superb results against so many opposing teams, results which were essential for our team to finish in first place of course. I hope that previous experience of play in the top Division by the 'A' team's players will prove to be a worthwhile asset next season, since we will once again be contesting with the strongest teams in the league. The near perfect doubles success rate included four wins which were particularly valuable. Two of these enabled the team to gain two wins, which would otherwise not have been the case, and the other two related to matches where the team came closest to defeat. The success in the doubles portion in both of the matches maintained the undefeated status of the team. The 'B' team's Martin Rice and David Bayes were the one pairing who stopped Mick Ball and myself from mirroring the team's performance by getting to the end of the season with an undefeated status for doubles play.

DIVISION 2	PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	POINTS	POSITION
OGs 'A'	18	16	2	0	146	1
OGs 'B'	18	4	4	10	70	7

The L & M Waters Awards are of two types. Six 'Team of the Month' awards are made, starting with October and finishing with March. The 'Team of the Season' is made, of course, when the season has run its course. I am very pleased to report that the 'A' team has not only received the Award for November, but also the more prestigious 'Team of the Season' Award.

The three senior divisional rankings lists contain the players who have participated in at least three quarters of their team's matches. This year's Division 2 ranking list included six Old Grammarians players. Their names and final rankings are as follows:

**'A' team:** Perce Sharp (2) Phil Lawrence (4) and Mick Ball (5)  
**'B' team:** David Bayes (13) Martin Rice (14) and Colin Lord (16)

The Challenge Cup competition is an open handicap type which uses the knockout method to eliminate every team bar the winner of the competition. When only two teams remain undefeated, they play against each other in the final, each one hoping for this year's glory. As usual, both the 'A' and 'B' teams were entered into the competition, but neither team was able to proceed beyond the first round. I hope that next year I will be able to report that at least one of our teams has enjoyed some success in it.

Lastly, I wish to thank all of our players for their support which they have given to their respective teams throughout the season. Our Club's two teams accumulated 216 singles and doubles victories during the 2011-2012 season. Let's hope for another enjoyable season in 2012-2013.

*Phil Lawrence*  
Secretary



## CANAL ZONERS ASSOCIATION NORTHANTS REGION (WELLINGBOROUGH BRANCH)

The CZA Wellingborough Branch, covering Northamptonshire, was formed in 2001 and has, since September 2002, met monthly (excepting January's) in the Old Grammarians Club, Wellingborough where our members have always enjoyed first class service and attention.

**The Canal Zoners;** is the association for soldiers, sailors and airmen who served in H.M. Armed Forces in the Suez Canal Zone in Egypt during the 1940's to the mid 1950's. The group has no long constitution or regulations, just a few basic rules needed for efficient administration and control, its main objective is to provide a friendly environment for its members to maintain and develop contact and comradeship, also to foster mutual support and assistance when needed.

**Membership;** The Branch currently has a membership of 25, made up of the following Regiments;- (ACC) Army Catering Corps; (KH) Kings Hussars; (NR) Northamptonshire Regiment; (RA) Royal Artillery; (RAMC) Royal Army Medical Corps; (RAOC) Royal Army Ordnance Corps; (RASC) Royal Army Service Corps; (RD) Royal Dragoons; (RE) Royal Engineers; (REME) Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers; (RAF) Royal Air Force, and the Royal Signals.

**2012-2013 Committee;-** Branch Honorary President; Frank Foulds (RA): Chairman; Ernie Randall (ACC): Secretary; Tom Love (RE): Treasurer; Peter Bettles (RA): Member; Joe Jervis (RA): with one vacancy.

**Meetings;** are held on the first Wednesday in each month (excepting January), firstly with a committee meeting from 11.30am until 12.30pm, followed by the branch meeting from 12.30pm until around 2.00pm, this normally includes a short formal meeting followed by socialising and reminiscing, also occasional speakers and visits.

**Events;** (excluding regular branch meetings) held over the past year or \* being planned are as follows;

**2011** - (June) Visit to the Imperial War Museum, London.

(June) Secretary attended the Civic Service for the Mayor of Wellingborough Cllr Bhupendra Patel.

(Sept) 10th Anniversary Luncheon of the CZA Wellingborough Branch at Harrowden Hall.

(Sept) Guest Speaker from Kettering General Hospital's 'Rocket Team'.

(Sept) Three CZA Wellingborough Branch members visited the Suez Canal Zone in Egypt.

(Oct) Chairman attended parade in Wellingborough to celebrate 90th Anniversary of the Royal British Legion.

(Nov) Various members took part in the National Remembrance Day Parades in Wellingborough, Kettering, Burton Latimer and at The Cenotaph, London.

(Dec) CZA Branch members Christmas buffet in the Wellingborough O.G.'s Club.

**2012** (May) Chairman attended the Civic Service for the Mayor of Wellingborough Cllr K. Harrington.

(May) Visit and tour of RAF Molesworth - Home to the U.S. European Command Joint Analysis Centre.

(23rd June) Rushden RBL 'Armed Forces Day' Tribute Concert in Hope Methodist Church, Rushden.



- \* (September) CZA Branch Anniversary luncheon.
- \* (Possible Speakers); On varied Military Topics.
- \* (Possible Visits) To The Blues & Royals Barracks, London; The Royal Hospital, Chelsea; 'Enigma' at Bletchley Park; National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffs to view the re-dedicated SVA Memorial.



*CZA members with their wives/partners at the branch's 10th Anniversary luncheon, held on Sunday 11th September 2011 at Harrowden Hall.*

**Charitable Donations;** Over the past year the Branch has donated a sum in excess of £600 to charitable organisations or good causes.

New members are assured of a warm welcome. If interested in joining the group or requiring further information, please contact the Secretary, Tom Love by e-mail on [tomislipnorthants@btinternet.com](mailto:tomislipnorthants@btinternet.com) or by telephone on 01832 732093.

*Tom Love (RE)*

CZA Branch Secretary.

### CONTACT BY E-MAIL

The Association is still attempting to build up a list of Members' e-mail addresses. If you would like to provide your contact details or amend an address that you supplied previously, please send the details to: [membership@wellingborough-ogs.org](mailto:membership@wellingborough-ogs.org)

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## CRICKET CLUB REPORT 2011

The 2011 year ended with the England cricket team being rated the number 1 Test side in the world, unfortunately any similar type claims could not be made for any of the Club's teams as we suffered a very disappointing season on the field, with both the 1st and 3rd teams being relegated and the 2nd team finishing in the bottom half of their division. However, it is true to say that the morale and spirit within the Club remained high and in many respects the Club finished the season in better shape than when it started. This can be reflected in the fact that all three league captains have been re-elected to serve in 2012 and no players have been lost.

For the 1st team it was always going to be a difficult year, and so it proved, but relegation was only confirmed in the last couple of weeks of the season. The side managed just 3 wins with the victory at Wollaston II's at the end of July being the highlight, thanks to a brilliant innings of 135 not out by Mick Thompson to see us reach our 216 run target from only 34 overs and by a margin of 9 wickets. Other victories came against S & L Corby and St Crispins/Ryelands. Andrew Brierley proved to be his usual consistent self, scoring 606 runs and passing 50 on four occasions, with Drew (his son) totalling 454 runs in his first full season at this level. Luke Baish (373), Michael Thompson (366) and skipper Martin Jarvis (309) were the other main contributors. In the bowling department it was pleasing to see Andrew Houlden's development as he grabbed his chance in the side by taking 35 wickets in his first season in the senior side, supported by Steve Kendall with 23 and Michael Thompson with 19. These encouraging performances from the younger players should help to ensure the side performs well in Division 4 in 2012.

For the 2nd team, relegation also looked likely for a good part of the season, but a run of four straight victories from mid-July onwards eventually saw us finish well clear of the drop zone. Skipper Derek Fitzsimmons led by example, scoring 490 runs and taking 33 wickets, and his captaincy skills helped to galvanise the side when strong performances were required.

Runs were generally hard to come by with only Chris Terry (246), Paul Cater (212) and Clive Bellamy (200) reaching the 200 mark. However, Mat Bailey and Tyler Richards both made 50's in their limited appearances. The captain apart, the bowling was led by newcomer Kevin O'Dell who took 20 wickets and proved a fine acquisition both on and off the field. Youngster Alex Gray bowled well all season to claim 17 victims, as well as taking no fewer than 11 catches in the field.

Graham Stevens took on the leadership of the 3rd team knowing that it would be a challenge and so it proved, with the side being relegated with just one victory to report, at Mears Ashby II's. However, despite this, the team spirit and morale held up well which was a testament to Graham's leadership and character of the players. 'Champ' (Dave Murray) was the leading run scorer, totalling 211 runs in his usual inimitable style and helping to hold many an innings together. Tom Pursglove with 202 runs was the other notable batsman, with a slightly different, but no less effective style, and his 42 was a major contributor to the Mears Ashby victory. Mention should also be made of Dan Lang's first league 50. Simon Macklam led the way with the ball taking 19 wickets, supported by Tom Pursglove (14) and Gareth Davey (14), and our own Wellingborough MP Peter Bone became a regular member of the side claiming 9 victims, including a best of 5 for 17 against Geddington III's.

The Youth section again had an active and encouraging season thanks to the dedication and hard work of Andy Brierley, Mick Thompson and Phil Ward. The Under 11's won 8 of their 14 matches to finish 5th in the league out of 16 teams and progressed to the semi-finals of the cup. At Under 13 level we posted only 2 victories, but many of the regular players were well under age and so

should be much stronger in 2012. The Under 15 side won their last 3 games to finish a creditable 8th out of 15 in their league.

The new secretary Steve Kendall did a fine job in his first year, working hard to ensure that the committee was effective and that the Club complied with all the league rules and regulations. He was also heavily involved with the Club's preparations to achieve Clubmark status which were led by Anna Kingstone and Graham Stevens over the winter months. It is hoped that this will be completed during 2012.

Charlie Kelland decide to retire as the Club's groundsman after many years of service at the end of 2011. He has been a fantastic servant to the Club in this role, always cycling up to the ground, often at unearthly hours of the day and night to ensure pitches were ready for matches. Thank you Charlie, your boots are big ones to fill.

## **2012**

Thanks to the superb organising talents of Kevin O'Dell, fifty members of the Club and Association enjoyed a brilliant day in early March having a guided tour around Lord's cricket ground. In true cricketing tradition it poured down all day but it did not dampen anyone's enthusiasm or interest.

The Club has financed a complete refurbishment of the practice nets at the ground during April at a four-figure cost to confirm its commitment to improving playing standards and club facilities into the future.

At the time of writing at the end of May, all league sides have two victories under their belts with both the 1st and 3rd teams lying in mid-table, whilst the 2nd team currently occupy 2nd place in their division. This is in spite of one of the wettest Aprils on record which resulted in matches being cancelled or curtailed at the beginning of the season. Early signs are that this year will prove to be quite an improvement on 2011.

Finally, anyone wishing to join the Club whether young, old, male or female will be most welcome and should contact Steve Kendall on (07512 326485) or Martin Jarvis (07912 757695) for details.

## **CLUB AWARDS FOR 2011**

	<b>1ST XI</b>	<b>2ND XI</b>	<b>3RD XI</b>
<b>BATSMAN:</b>	A.BRIERLEY	D.FITZSIMMONS	T.PURSGLOVE
<b>BOWLER:</b>	A.HOULDEN	K.O'DELL	S.MACKLAM
<b>FIELDER:</b>	T.PACE	A.GRAY	A.WATKINS

**MOST IMPROVED PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD : ALEX GRAY**

**PLAYER OF THE YEAR TROPHY : ANDREW BRIERLEY**

**THE BOB CHAPMAN TROPHY : ASHLEY JEFFREY**

This new trophy was kindly donated in memory of Bob Chapman who was a player and then Vice President of the Club for many years and who passed away early in 2011. It will be presented each year to the youth player who showed the most enthusiasm and commitment during the season.

## LEADING AVERAGES 2011

### 1ST XI NORTHANTS CRICKET LEAGUE DIVISION 3

<b>BATTING</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>INN</b>	<b>N O</b>	<b>RUNS</b>	<b>H S</b>	<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>50's</b>	<b>100's</b>
L.BAISH	18	17	7	373	68*	37.30	2	
M.GILBEY	8	7	1	215	65	35.83	1	
A.BRIERLEY	22	21	2	606	78	31.89	4	
D.BRIERLEY	22	21	2	454	75*	23.89	2	
M.THOMPSON	19	18	2	366	135*	22.88	1	1

<b>BOWLING</b>	<b>OVERS</b>	<b>MDNS</b>	<b>RUNS</b>	<b>WKTS</b>	<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>5 WI</b>
S.KENDALL	205	55	596	23	25.91	
A.HOULDEN	226.2	22	959	35	27.40	1
M.THOMPSON	198.5	25	750	19	39.47	

### 2ND XI NORTHANTS CRICKET LEAGUE DIVISION 9

<b>BATTING</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>INN</b>	<b>N O</b>	<b>RUNS</b>	<b>H S</b>	<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>50's</b>	<b>100's</b>
D.FITZSIMMONS	17	16	2	490	83*	35.00	2	
C.TERRY	11	10	2	246	57	30.75	1	
P.CATER	10	10	1	212	79	23.56	1	
C.BELLAMY	14	11	2	200	62	22.22	1	

<b>BOWLING</b>	<b>OVERS</b>	<b>MDNS</b>	<b>RUNS</b>	<b>WKTS</b>	<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>5 WI</b>
K.O'DELL	101.5	25	328	20	16.40	2
D.FITZSIMMONS	158.5	29	587	33	17.79	1
A.GRAY	125.1	18	433	17	25.47	

### 3RD XI NORTHANTS CRICKET LEAGUE DIVISION 11

<b>BATTING</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>INN</b>	<b>N O</b>	<b>RUNS</b>	<b>H S</b>	<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>50'S</b>	<b>100'S</b>
D.MURRAY	14	14	3	211	30	19.18		
T.PURSGLOVE	14	13	1	202	48	16.83		

<b>BOWLING</b>	<b>OVERS</b>	<b>MDNS</b>	<b>RUNS</b>	<b>WKTS</b>	<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>5WI</b>
S.MACKLAM	98.3	13	402	19	21.16	
T.PURSGLOVE	98.1	10	477	14	34.07	

*Clive Bellamy*

## OXFORD STREET HEADQUARTERS

The Club not only has for hire the fabulous Bar and Function Room at Sywell Road, but our members should not forget to consider the Function Room at the Oxford Street Headquarters. This is still available to hire for that special occasion, be it a party, wedding or just a meeting, and at very reasonable rates.

To obtain your booking form, please contact the Headquarters Manager, Lisa Peverell on telephone 01933 226188 or call in to the Club and request one personally.

## RUGBY CLUB REPORT 2011-2012

Encouraging start to the season with the youngest ever captain, Liam Coombs who brought with him fresh ideas and new younger players. We started the season well with a win against Corby. Liam carried out his obligations as 1st XV Captain until December when the pressure of work and personal responsibilities took priority and he chose to resign his captaincy.

The Boxing Day Game was played in very good spirits again where the host team, Wellingborough Town, took defeat again as the Old Boys played in honour of the late Grammarian Andrew Bigley.

At the start of the new year Carl Baldry, the 2nd Team captain, stepped up to take the reigns at the helm of the 1st XV, to be replaced in the 2nd XV by previous Club Captain Danny Saunders. Carl was able to use his position as Club Captain to implement the ideas and training he has been receiving on the RFU Leadership Academy.

The performance of both teams has been very encouraging and there has been good spirit and morale within the two teams. Steve Gill imparted successful training for technical skills that are now evident on match days and as the teams have trained together and played with consistency for the remainder of the season, this has reflected in their performances in League games.

Midlands 4 East (South) offered great divide for the 1st XV between the top and bottom of the League. The 1st XV did well to finish at the top of the lower half of the table and gave some higher teams a run for their money, although this was not always reflected in the score.



*The 2011-2012 1st XV*

The 2nd XV also ended in 7th place in the Merit Table having won 2 games and lost 11. Whilst it was great to see some old heads returning on a regular basis, there were some disappointing injuries and the positive promotion of some players to the 1st XV. The season started well with some wins in excess of 50 points but this was unsustainable. However, the lads never let their heads drop and found the strength later in the season to close the score lines in other games.

The Club is delighted to learn that Chris Hall has received an England Cap playing for the England Deaf team.

The Kuwait game saw sides from Wellingborough Town, WOGRFC and the Kuwait Exiles battle for this annual event which for the first time in many years saw the Exiles lift the trophy.

There was a very successful VP Dinner, with guest speaker John Bentley saying a few words after the meal and proceeding to join in with the whole Club in drinking games late on into the evening. We also teamed up with the Senior Football Section for our first inter-section fancy dress party, strengthening the bond between the sections of the Association. Fines night proved to be interesting!

We held our first Touch Tournament to encourage social rugby and for the recruitment of potential new players, both young and old, but with a highly competitive edge. It was great to see our Under 15s participate against some established Old Grammarians. Rugby was the winner.

A new venue was selected for the WOGRFC Club Dinner this year and we met in our finest at The Courtyard at Stanwick. Another eventful OGs night of celebrations including the awards for the season:

1st XV Player of the Year: Paul Richardson

2nd XV Player of the Year: Ryan Groves

Coaches Players of the Year: Paul Richardson

Young Player of the Year: James Woods

Most Improved Player of the Year: Stephen Evans

Players Player of the Year: Danny Saunders

Stroppy Allan Award: Adam Smith

Clubman of the Year: Carl Baldry

Club Colours were awarded to Dale Pearson and Danny Saunders.

It is with great sadness that we lost a much treasured Old Grammarian this season, Vic Edwards. Vic joined the Club in 1981 and did so much in those 31 years. Vic supported the players throughout this time and was instrumental in fundraising and generating essential sponsorship for the Club. Vic was a dedicated member of the committee in various roles over the years and has held the post of Chairman, Treasurer and later Chairman, and he was bestowed the honour of being recognised as a Life Time Vice President. Vic did a lot for junior rugby and extended his dedication to the game in his work with the East Midlands. Vic has since been posthumously awarded Club Colours for dedication and commitment to WOGRFC and these are displayed in his honour in the Club House on Oxford Street.

As ever, the volunteers have made a great contribution this year; whether as committee members, coaching staff or event volunteers, and we are ever thankful for their efforts. We were delighted to be approached by an existing and established youth section that requested to join the Old Grammarians, bringing with them a junior coach and volunteer team. We are now in a position to offer rugby for Under 15s this season and for the first time in several years the OGs will now be represented in the Youth League.

We have received sponsorship from many sources this season and thanks go to all of our sponsors. Some have provided Shirt Sponsorship for 1st and 2nd XV kits and also for the change strip. Other sponsors have provided raffle and auction prizes to help with fundraising.

*Shaun Davis*

## CONGRATULATIONS

The Association passes on its congratulations to former Rugby Club member Ivan Joseph, whose son Jonathan recently scored a try double for England against the Barbarians at Twickenham, before being selected as a member of the summer tour party that played three Test Matches in South Africa. He made his first start in the second Test at Ellis Park in Johannesburg.

Are you one of those who attempt the Daily Telegraph crossword puzzle on a regular basis? If so, did you know that for the past 25 years, one of our own, Peter Chamberlain of Rushden has been compiling them? It was on November 12th 1986 that Peter's first crossword appeared in the paper and he has now compiled more than 3,500, together with 45,000 different word puzzles.

To celebrate the anniversary of that first puzzle, Peter was interviewed in The Telegraph where he divulged that his standard works of reference are *The Chambers Dictionary* and *The Chambers Biographical Dictionary*. All of his clues are filed and logged on record cards at his home and checked by his wife, Jeannie.

Peter uses two pseudonyms, Cephass and Pedrock.

When asked his favourite clue, he said it was 'Nuclear Rabbit' and it's a two-word solution (4, 7). The answer is below.

**Solution: Fast Breeder**

## TOMPKINS ROBINSON SURVEYORS

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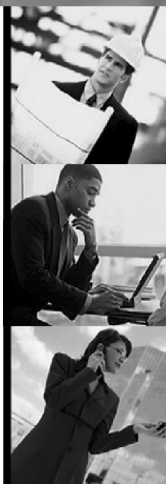
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## YOUTH FOOTBALL REPORT

Another season passes by in a flash for the Grammarians Youth Football Club and whilst none of our teams in main stream were crowned champions in their respective leagues, we did see our under 18's win the league plate final and bring a bit of silverware back to the sportsfield. Our under 16's did well to get to the final of the league cup in their age group and were unlucky to lose in the final played at Nene Park.

We continue to see improvements in all our other age groups, from under 8's to under 16's, and despite not winning a game all season our new under 8's certainly saw dedication by players, coaches and parents alike who have stuck together and seen their team narrow the defeats as the season went on. The new season will hopefully be the turning point for this team and the players are certainly looking forward to a win.



*Grammarians' under 8's last season after being presented with their end of season trophies from the Weetabix league*

Growth continues to be an important part of the youth section and over the past 12-18 months we have been working hard, in association with the NFA, to bring both football for a girls only team for 9 and 10 years old and also disability football for players of all abilities between the ages of 13 and 16.

The disability football team, now renamed as the Old Grammarians Inclusive team, saw their numbers going up and down throughout the season, but through the dedication of the coaching staff and various committee members we are finally seeing the numbers stabilize and hopefully

this will develop well from here on. Whilst no regular league is run for this team they do run various football festivals and it is here where we have seen the team come out as winners on a couple of occasions.

The girls has really been a much harder battle to fight but finally we seem to be getting an interesting number of girls attending the sessions currently being run under the control of the NFA, and through the appointment of a new coach we will hopefully see the transition of the team into the arms of the youth section.

With a possibility of over 150 members next season and additional teams we continue to battle with the lack of willing volunteers, both on the coaching side and on the general club committee, so if you are interested in getting involved in the youth section then we would certainly be interested in hearing from you. Give us a call on 01933 382859, send us an email to gyfadmin@ntlworld.com, catch us in the bar, you all know where that is or contact us via our website at [www.grammariansyouthfootball.com](http://www.grammariansyouthfootball.com) - We are here waiting to hear from you.

Last year we were proud to see our annual youth football tournament be the biggest and most successful for the Club with 127 teams from many counties entering, and whilst we may not have as many teams entered this year, we are hoping that it will be as successful as in previous years. Fancy a day or two out, then come up and see us on either 26th or 27th August.

Unfortunately, with working and private commitments, people cannot continue to give their much appreciated time in assisting with the running of the Club and this year we see our club secretary Maz Richmond and our Welfare Officer Lorraine Vargas step down from their roles, and on behalf of the committee, coaching staff, players and parents I would like to thank both of them for all their hard work and commitment which they have shown and given to the Club over the years and to remind them the door is always open for their return. Furthermore, I would like to extend the Club's thanks to all other committee members, coaches, players and parents for your past support and look forward to another season with you all behind the youth football section.

*Mike Parsonage*

Chairman Grammarians Youth Football Club

## **ROOM HIRE**

The Function Room at Oxford Street Headquarters is available for parties, weddings, meetings and get-togethers of all sorts.

Please ring on 01933 226188 for details

## **THE TREASURE CHEST**

Our weekly fundraising event is drawn on Friday Evenings. Jackpots have been known to reach as high as £2,000 and it only costs a pound to play. To secure your go, simply ask at the bar in Oxford Street.

**BE IN IT TO WIN IT!**

## BOWLS CLUB REPORT

Here we are again, another year and another President's Report. However, as the current incumbent was voted into office in February and this report is being written in June in readiness for the WOGA Magazine, little or none of 2012's Bowling activity will appear as the Bowling Season only started at the end of April, so with this in mind I will continue.



*Members of the Bowls Club looking very smart. Who's the fella on the right with a pint in his hand?*

Sadly:- Ted Helling's Wife Mary died in February after a long battle with Alzheimer's, and one of our members Vic Edwards died of a heart attack in March. Our thoughts and condolences are with their families.

On a lighter note we say hello and welcome to two new members Brian and Sandra Henderson, and hope they enjoy their bowling and socials with us. Brian has already volunteered to be the Thursday Captain this year.

The Short Mat section goes from strength to strength with a growing fixtures list, thanks to the efforts of Peggy and Les Hall, Pat Lloyd and Elaine and Doug Jarrett. Their results so far are:- Won 7 - Lost 1 - Cancelled 4.

Our Secretary Barry Lewis and his Wife Anne organised a Quiz Night fund raising event at WOGHQ in Oxford Street on Friday 16th March, this was well attended and enjoyed by all.

The 2011 President, Doug Pocklington, had a very successful and enjoyable President's Day hosted by Rushden Town Bowling Club, which proved to be a great day with excellent support. Following this, the annual presentation dinner was held at the WOGA Memorial Sports Ground Pavilion. Although a cool night in October, the food was good and the competition winners were rewarded with trophies and individual cut glass tumblers and champagne flutes.

As in previous years, games are played within a 10-mile radius with teams on a reciprocal home and away basis, mainly on a Thursday evening and Sunday afternoon, while occasionally games are played on Tuesday afternoons and some Saturdays. We also continue to have prestigious fixtures at Waddeston Manor in Buckinghamshire and at Windsor and Eaton Bowling Club in the shadow of Windsor Castle. Whilst a majority of the games are either men only or mixed, our Ladies Section play several exclusive matches.



*Looks as though Barry's hamstring has just gone!*

We currently have 50 bowlers:- 30 men and 20 ladies [there are 6 ladies' games per year]. Our Annual Bowls Tour takes place on August Bank Holiday weekend, usually a 4-day bowls tour by coach playing at 4 clubs. Last year we were in Weston-super-Mare and this year we're off to Bournemouth.

We extend an invitation to anyone who would like to participate in the Bowls Club or bowling. Whether you are a complete novice or an experienced player you are sure of a warm welcome. The only qualification you need is to be a fully paid up member of the Old Grammarians' Association. So, what are you waiting for?

For further details contact: Barry Lewis - 01933 224534.

*Albert E. Ashworth - 2012 President*

## HEARD AT THE BAR

This little gem was provided by our Bar Manager, Lisa Peverell. One of our members (not to be named and shamed) was at the bar and he mentioned that it was his wife's birthday and he didn't know what to buy her as a gift. Lisa suggested that he purchase a bottle of Chanel. His reply: "I would, but she doesn't drink."

## HOCKEY REPORT 2011-2012

This season proved to be a varied one. We pulled off some good results in the league and out of the 10 games we lost there was only one goal in it in four of the matches. For some games we struggled to field 11 players so our squad of only 13 players should be proud of their achievements and their dedication.

Our fixture list below details our full results for the season and is followed by the final Northants Ladies Hockey League Division 1 table.

<b>Grammarians Hockey Fixtures 2011-2012 Season</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Opposition</b>	<b>H/A</b>	<b>F/L</b>	<b>Result</b>
Sept. 17th	Rothwell & Desborough	Away	Friendly	Lost 5-1
Sept. 24th	Earls Barton	Away	League	Won 2-1
Oct. 1st	Wildcatz	Away	League	Lost 4-3
Oct. 8th	Wellingboro' 2nds	Home	League	Won 7-1
Oct. 22nd	Daventry	Away	League	Lost 4-0
Nov. 5th	Kettering 2nds	Home	League	Lost 2-1
Nov. 12th	Rothwell & Desborough	Home	League	Draw 6-6
Nov. 19th	Earls Barton	Home	League	Won 5-2
Nov. 26th	Wildcatz	Home	League	Lost 3-2
Dec. 3rd	Wellingboro' 2nds	Away	League	Lost 5-2
Jan. 7th	Rothwell & Desborough	Home	Friendly	Won 3-2
Jan. 21st	Daventry	Home	League	Won 5-3
Jan. 28th	Kettering 2nds	Away	League	Lost 2-1
Feb. 4th	Rothwell & Desborough	Away	League	Won 4-2
Feb. 11th	Earls Barton	Away	League	Draw 3-3
Feb. 18th	Wildcatz	Away	League	Lost 3-0
Mar. 3rd	Wellingboro' 2nds	Home	League	Won 3-1
Mar. 17th	Daventry	Away	League	Lost 5-3
Mar. 24th	Kettering 2nds	Home	League	Lost 5-2
Mar. 31st	Rothwell & Desborough	Home	League	Lost 5-2
May 6th	Lytchett 7's			
May 7th	Lytchett 7's			

### **DO NOT FORGET**

If you, or anyone you know is looking for a venue for that larger event, the Sportsclub facilities are ideal. Recommend us to family and friends.

## DIVISION 1 FINAL LEAGUE TABLE

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Against	Diff.	Points
DAVENTRY	18	12	3	3	62	31	31	39
KETTERING 2NDS	18	11	3	4	46	26	20	36
WILDCATZ	18	9	2	7	44	38	6	29
ROTHWELL & DESBORO'	18	8	2	8	58	55	3	26
WELLINGBORO' 2NDS	18	8	2	8	41	50	-9	26
GRAMMARIANS	18	6	2	10	49	59	-10	20
EARLS BARTON	18	1	2	15	29	70	-41	5

As you can see we were in a relegation position at the end of the season. However, due to changes within the Northamptonshire Ladies Hockey league we have been able to maintain our position in Division 1. Only one team was relegated this season!

We finished the season with our annual trip to Dorset to take part in the Lytchett Minster 7's Tournament over the May Day Bank Holiday weekend. The rain poured down on the first day but it didn't dampen our spirits and we managed to win 5 of our 7 games. The weather was slightly better on the Monday, although the pitches were extremely wet, and we went through to the Cup Competition. Unfortunately we were beaten in the Cup Semi-Final, as seems to be a regular occurrence for us in this Tournament.

At the moment we are playing Summer League 7's at Wrenn School on Tuesday evenings, which although it is hard work it does help in keeping the fitness levels up during the close season.

We only have a small squad of players and so I would like to thank each and every one of them for their dedication and commitment to the Grammarians Ladies Hockey Club this season. Squad members this year were: Lisa Spencer, Lucy Thorneycroft, Michelle Coles, Sam Meaking, Zoe Hilbourne, Cat Marriott, Linda Matthews, Carey Saunders, Sarah Pace, Fliss Goodliffe, Jade Sartain, Rachael Hewitt and Kerry York. I would like to thank Kelly Hewitt and Pip Joseph for helping us out a couple of times each this season, which enabled us to field 11 players for every league game.

Thanks must also go to Carey Saunders who was our on-field Captain for the season, and to our umpires, Kelly Hewitt and Berni Westley, as without a Level 1-qualified umpire we would be unable to fulfil our league fixtures.

*Rachael Hewitt*

## SPECIAL MEMBERS' PROMOTION

Is it your birthday? Pop in to the Club in Oxford Street with proof of membership and date of birth to receive a free drink to start your celebration evening.

**Remember - this is a Members only offer.**

## FOOTBALL CLUB REPORT 2011-2012

Here goes - my last report as Chairman and Treasurer of the senior Football Club! There will be more on that later.

The past season began with high expectations of the 1st Team; they were in fact one of the favourites to win their division. As it turned out, the season was one of mixed fortunes. After an impressive start they eventually finished 5th and missed out on promotion. The playing record in the league was P18 W7 D5 L6 GF 36 GA 45 PTS 26. On a brighter note, we did again win silverware by retaining the Division 2 League Cup and are the first Club to do so since the competition started in the 1950's, so we created a little piece of history as well! The final, held once again on Sileby Rangers' ground at Moulton Park, was an excellent game against Corby Locos, who won the league, and we fully deserved our win. This season has also seen our links with other Clubs become much stronger, in particular Northampton Town FC where our 1st Team Captain, Scott Gathercole, spent a day with their Goalkeeping Coach, Tim Flowers. On a lighter note, Sean Parrish, witnessed by Robin Clarke, made an appearance at HQ doing one-handed press-up's after a few beers (and Jaeger Bombs) over the Christmas period!

On the field it is no surprise that Scott Gathercole, who won Players' Player for a second consecutive year also made the most appearances playing in 19 games, closely followed by Anthony Brown with 18 and James Hudson with 17. James also grabbed the top goal-scorer award with 7 goals. Our home form has really let us down over the last two seasons and if we can improve that, then we will once again start next season as league favourites.

Off the field we have struggled. We could really do with extra support from other OG's, either past players or Association members, who want to see the Football Club develop and become a strong environment in to which the Youth section's players can progress. So if any of you would like to join our Committee or assist with fund raising activities, we would welcome you with open arms! Any involvement whatsoever would be gratefully received. In the first instance, please contact the Club Manager, Ben Thomas on 07860 862863 or at [ben@bmt-uk.com](mailto:ben@bmt-uk.com) to register your interest. For the first time that I have known, there is a real danger that the senior section could fold unless some serious help is forthcoming. Surely, that is not what all our previous players and officials would like to see happen! The Club has to be driven forward by a hard-working Committee - come and join us.

After gaining promotion last season, the Reserve side were expecting a tough time of it this time around, with many sides in their new division being the Reserve sides of clubs who's First Teams were Premier Division outfits. I'm pleased to say that they comfortably managed to stay in their new Division, finishing eight points clear of the relegation places, even though they flauted with the bottom two places during the latter part of the season. The playing record was P24 W7 D5 L12 GF 48 GA 70 PTS 26. Adrian Reast was a reluctant manager, taking over from John Bicknell who resigned just two games into the season. However, it is to John's credit that some of our Youth team members played a key part in our season, most notably Michael Dimmock, supported by Luke Vargas and James Venney. Michael shone in the Reserves and the First team, showing great ability and commitment. All three are a credit to our Football Club. Adrian has to be congratulated and thanked for his sterling efforts on the Club's behalf. He is now standing down and the Reserves' mantle is being taken over for the new season by James and Michael Bolton.

The Reserves' player of the season was, for the second year running, Wesley Spendlove, who also made the most appearances. This was a thoroughly deserved award for someone who hopefully will continue to be an asset to our Club for many years yet.

The Sunday side began the season with a new manager at the helm, James Bolton. Alas, he was to experience the same problems as his predecessors - those of players not being available or just simply not bothering enough to turn up for matches. After a few games he decided enough was enough and he resigned! We were fortunate to then recruit Karl Clarke to replace James. Karl brought in a number of new players, recruiting seven before his first game in charge at Colworth! Having gained promotion the previous season and playing in a stronger division, it was always going to be a difficult season, more so with so many new players to blend in. As it happened, the side did finish second from bottom but we escaped relegation due to the league re-structuring the divisions for the coming season. However, it hasn't all been doom and gloom for the Sunday side. They have built up a tremendous team spirit which came to the fore even when they were taking some 'pastings'. They kept a happy dressing room and showed respect to the opposition and referees even when things weren't going their way. Also, they turned in some highly promising performances, none more so than when playing Division One side Valleybrook in the Cup and only going down 8-5, having been 6-2 down at half-time.

One player, Kaz Rossiter had the misfortune to suffer a broken ankle quite early in the season and hopefully he'll be back fit for the new season. Tyler Amphlett scored 20 goals in 15 appearances to top the scoring charts and Adam Mode was voted Players' Player for his consistency (turning up drunk!) week in and week out.

Kit cleaning duties for all three senior sides have been carried out by Christine Howell and Sunday manager Karl Clarke, and the Club is indebted to them for their efforts.

Thanks once again go to David Bayes for carrying out the audit of the Club's accounts, and to my brother and former treasurer Brian for his help in balancing the books at the end of the financial year. Also, a big vote of thanks goes to our secretary, the recently married Matthew Timpson. He performs his task with the minimum of fuss and has proved to be more than a useful help for Karl in his first season as manager of the Sunday side.

The Chairman's choice of Clubman of the Year was Ben Thomas. Ben has only been in charge for a couple of seasons but the amount of effort he puts in to the Club on the players' behalf is enormous. I just hope he doesn't become frustrated with certain issues and call it a day. He would be very hard to replace!

I opened by stating that for personal reasons I am relinquishing my positions with the Club after 23 and a bit years. It will seem strange not having any direct involvement with the managers and committee. I hope things can stabilise once the new committee is bedded in and the Club goes forward in a playing sense. I certainly wish them well. At the recent AGM, several new officers and Committee Members were elected. The full list is as follows:

President:	Steve Cheney
Vice President:	Jim Cardy
Chairman:	Shane Bicknell
Vice Chairman:	Adrian Reast
Club Secretary:	Matthew Timpson
Meetings Secretary:	Adrian Reast
Treasurer:	Daniel O'Reilly
Committee	James Bolton, Gary Brudenell, Matthew Garlick, Christine Howell, Ian Mason, Wesley Spendlove and Craig Dove.
Co-opted:	Ben Thomas, Michael Bolton and Karl Clarke.



Finally, rather embarrassingly, I have been asked to include the two items below. I would just like to say that the years during which I have been involved with the Grammarians Football Club have, in the main, been enjoyable and a lot of fun, but I won't miss having to write this report every year!

*Steve Cheney*

This season sees the end of an era. In my brief spell as 1st Team Manager I have tried different things. Some have worked, some have not worked and some have hacked people off, but along the way I have made friends and witnessed the efforts of other OG's and one person will be missed. I am pleased to call him a friend and he is our Chairman, Steve Cheney. As many of you know he has been involved in the Football Club for the best part of 25 years and he stood down as Chairman and Treasurer at this year's A.G.M. for personal reasons. He has been very supportive to me, and on behalf of players past and present, thank you Steve!

*Ben Thomas*

In stepping down from any hands-on football involvement as player and manager, my time at the OG's has ended well. I would like to recognise the contribution that Steve has made to the Club and to myself over the past 18 years that I have been playing for the OG's. Steve has been a tireless supporter and leader of our Football Club, his contribution has been immense. I would like to wish him well for the future and thank him for bringing me to the club "all those years ago".

*Adrian Reast*

## **POOL REPORT**

After another fantastic season that saw the OG's win the 'A' Section league and the Knockout Cup double, it meant that we have now won our third league title in a row.

Richard Holmes won the individual knockout after a brilliant season and is now singles champion.

So it is fair to say that the OG's pool team, which is growing fast (Tom Seamark, Jez Ward, Rich Holmes, Shaun Baldry, John King, Chris Frost, Kev Pepper, Mike Nimmo and super sub Neil McDonald are the team to beat in Wellingborough and continues to do the Club proud.

*Tom Seamark* (Captain)

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### WOULD YOU DO IT AT HOME?

It has been noted that some people regularly walk over the recently re-upholstered seats in the alcove area at Headquarters. Please ask people to move to let you out. Good money has been spent to maintain the Club's appearance, please don't waste it.

### HEARD AT THE BAR

On the evening of the Euro 2012 Final, our resident comedian Robin Clarke was heard to ask Jim Cardy "Did you see Boufon (Italy's goalkeeper) singing The Grand National?" One too many again, I feel!!

*Ed*

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