



THE CAVALRY AND GUARDS CLUB
127 Newsletter



September 2006

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As the Club enters the Autumn Season, and the start of its busiest period of the year, I am pleased to report it does so in good health, both in spirit and financially. The increasing use of the Club by Members is most encouraging, and has the double benefit of making the Club more fun, and generating the extra income the Club so badly needs.

Turning to more specific issues: -

Annex

Members are already aware of the decision to sell the Annex, and in our Spring Newsletter I mentioned that one important obstacle we had to overcome was the greater degree of access needed through Down Street Mews. I regret to report that we have not yet reached agreement with the Landlord, Charleswood Estates, on this important issue. Nevertheless we are doing everything we can, working with our agent, Jones Lang LaSalle, to bring this matter to a conclusion as soon as possible. I very much hope to have more concrete information to give you in time for the next Newsletter in December.

The Building

One of the reasons for selling the Annex is, of course, to enable us to concentrate our resources on further improvements to 127. There is still much to do, principally to the outside of the building, which we hope to tackle in 2007; also to the 3rd Floor, the only significant part of the building which has not been re-furbished for many years, apart from some basic improvement last year.

Meanwhile we hope Members will be pleased with the changes to the ground floor corridor and new Luggage Room, which are more fully described by the Secretary overleaf. You will also notice that we have opened a third bedroom in the basement.

Events

At the risk of repeating myself too often, we continue to work hard to stage interesting events at the Club and these are listed on the back of the Newsletter. Members who come to these occasions find them very enjoyable, and I do recommend them to those of you who have not yet dipped your toe in this water.

Lastly I would like to thank you all for your continuing support.

Colin N.F. Methven

Chairman

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Honorary Member

The Chairman and Committee are very pleased to announce that Field Marshal The Right Hon. Lord Inge KG GCB PC DL has accepted Honorary Membership of the Club.

Obituary – Afghanistan

The Club is very sad to report the death of a Club Member whilst serving in Afghanistan -

2nd Lt Ralph M Johnson – 1st August 2006-
(The Life Guards)

Ralph had been a Member for only one year – having been part of the Sandhurst 'intake' in August 2005 – and the Club has sent condolences on behalf of all Members to his family who live in South Africa.

Car Parking

Many Members will be familiar with the arrangements for parking that exist in Shepherds Market.

However, this particular facility is within the Congestion Charging zone (which currently operates from 7am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday incl.) – and several Members have requested an alternative located outside this area.

We should, therefore draw your attention to the car park located in Park Lane and run by Masterpark which charges a flat fee of £14.00 for the hours from 6pm to 9am.

This car park is located on the northbound carriageway of Park Lane and is a short walk away from the Club. Hourly rates during the day start at £6.00 for 2 hours.

We hope this information is useful – and as it is not a 'special deal' for the Club – requires no verification on our part.

Club Tie

At the suggestion of our Vice President, the Committee again looked at the merits of providing a Club Tie and decided that it would, indeed, be appropriate at this time to design a tie that could be worn by all Members.

With design input from the Committee and a wealth of information provided by the manufacturers, 'Smart Turnout', the tie incorporates the colours of the Household Division (blue and claret) together with a 'gold' for the Cavalry regiments.

An example of the tie is shown on the Club notice board – and they are available through the Secretary's Office at the price of £20 each (inclusive of VAT).

New Cloakrooms

Members have long commented that the Principal Corridor of the Club – linking the Hall to the Lift Lobby – looked messy and unkempt – due to the presence of a wide variety of luggage stored on the open shelving in this location.

Moreover, the very excellent, framed, sections of the Guards Club screen were located at such a level as to make them difficult to view – other than by the very tallest Guards Officer!

Consequently the Committee took the decision during the summer to relocate the luggage to the former business room (these facilities now being provided in the Library) – and smarten up the corridor making it generally a more pleasing and impressive part of the Club.

In doing this work, facilities were retained for coats, hats and umbrellas in this location – and additional facilities have been added to the basement corridor (adjacent to the Club Barber) – which will be used when the Club hosts larger events.

Basement Bedrooms

As the Chairman mentioned in his AGM address, and with the anticipation of a possible sale of the Annex, the Club has brought back into use three of the bedrooms in the basement – numbers 16,17 & 18. In due course the number will be further increased.

Currently this means that the total number of bedrooms in the Club has been increased to 41 and we trust that these additional rooms will prove useful in the coming ‘busy’ months.

These three rooms are offered at the Annex rates and utilize the common bathroom facilities in the basement.

Staff News

The Secretary is pleased to announce that the Functions Coordinator – Alix – entered into a state of matrimony over the summer holidays – and is now to be known as Mrs Alix King (which is far easier for Members to remember than Miss Smethurst!)

The Club also said ‘goodbye’ to Nick Owen who had been a part of the Front Hall team for six years and welcomes Audrey, Izabela and Rasa who are joining the team in the Dining Rooms.

Christmas Cards

The Committee have decided to break with tradition and not commission a ‘new’ card for the coming festive season.

Although this may prove disappointing for some Members, the poor demand over recent years means that we are able to offer a choice of the three most recent years cards – rather than just the normal one! These are all offered at the ‘bargain’ price of £4.00 for a pack of 10 – and are available from the Secretary’s Office (applicable postage rates will apply if sent by mail).

The three cards are –

Wellington by Henry Perronet Briggs 1792-1844

‘A Christmas Dinner on the Heights’ before Sebastopol

The Blues and Royals on Horse Guards – Christopher Miers RBA

Reciprocal Clubs – Ashes in Australia

The Club benefits from a comprehensive list of Clubs with which it enjoys reciprocity and the Secretary is always pleased to learn of a Members recommendation for an addition to this list.

The chance to entertain – or be accommodated - in fine surroundings overseas is perhaps one of the lesser utilized benefits of Membership and the Secretary is always pleased to assist with arrangements when required.

Equally the Club extends a warm welcome to Members of the Reciprocal Clubs visiting ‘127’.

Our focus this month is on **The Australian Club** in Melbourne – one of our newest Reciprocal Clubs – which at the end of the year plays host to the 2006/7 Ashes Series.

Located within walking distance of the Melbourne Cricket Ground, The Australian Club is the perfect place to stay while in town for the Ashes series and the General Manager, Kenneth Loomes and his team look forward to welcoming Members who are making the visit for maybe the greatest Ashes Series to date?

Further details can be obtained from the Club direct – www.theaustralianclub.com.au or may be obtained from us here in London.

General Goldsmid Fund

Members will soon be receiving (in November) the annual request for contributions to the General Goldsmid Fund (known colloquially as the Staff Christmas Fund).

This year, the Committee have decided that payments from the Fund should be made to the Staff in January – and therefore request that all contributions be sent to the Club prior to the Christmas break. Thank you.

Members are also reminded that they are able to make payments to this Fund on regular visits throughout the year. A box is available at the Porters desk designed specifically for this purpose (or an envelope may be left with the Secretary).

Luncheon – Geoffrey Munn

In December the Club is very fortunate to have the opportunity to welcome Geoffrey Munn as our Speaker at Luncheon and this event is being held in aid of the National Osteoporosis Society of which HRH The Duchess of Cornwall is President.

Geoffrey Munn is Managing Director of Wartski's (having joined at the age of 19) and the firm specializes in Fabergé and Russian Jewellery. Geoffrey has written several books on these subjects and was also instrumental in setting up the very successful 'Tiara' exhibition at the V & A recently. He is also well known as a jewellery expert on the 'Antiques Roadshow'.

We trust as many Members as possible (both Ladies and Gentlemen) will attend this special and 'high profile' luncheon on December 5th – and the ticket price of £45 per head includes a £30 donation to the charity. (Further donations from Members unable to attend would be gratefully received)

Members, Sons and Daughters Dinner

A long-held tradition of the Club has been to hold a Dinner to which Members may invite their sons and daughters – in the generally held belief that an introduction at this 'early age' will encourage membership in the future! Although this tradition has been missing in recent years, the Committee has decided to hold such a dinner as part of the Christmas festivities in the Club, trusting that it will give Members an opportunity to entertain their off-spring at this joyous time of year.

A separate flyer is included with this Newsletter for the event – and we trust it will receive the wholehearted support of all Members.

FUTURE EVENTS – 2006-2007

October

- 11th** Luncheon
– Leo de Vroomen (Speaker)
- 18th** Theatre Visit
– 'Billy Elliot' (Sold Out)
- 25th** Autumn Speaker Dinner
– Dame Audrey Glover
DBE CMG

November

- 1st** Bridge Afternoon
- 15th** Theatre visit – 'Evita' (Sold Out)
- 20th** Club Lecture
– Templer Medal Winner
Professor David French
- 23rd** Exhibition Visit –
'Rodin' followed by Luncheon

December

- 5th** Luncheon
– Geoffrey Munn (Speaker)
- 6th** Bridge Afternoon
- 12th** Sons & Daughters Annual Dinner
- 14th** Club Christmas Lunch
– Members and Guests
- 22nd** Christmas Closing

January

- 2nd** Club reopens
- 10th** Bridge Afternoon
- 24th** Theatre visit
– 'Sound of Music'