



Dear Old Ipswichian

Two 125th anniversary events have taken place since the last eNews: the OI London Dinner in the Club's 125th year, and the CCF 125th anniversary celebrations. Both were hugely enjoyable, and reports are below.

I make no apology for highlighting the Gaudy on 28 June. You will know the date, of course, as we have been asking you to save it since last year, the Gaudy is a month away.

As you will see below, plans are made and we are expecting the event to be spectacular. One or two surprises are yet to be announced. What is key now, though, is that you book so that we can cater for the right number, so that no one goes hungry or thirsty, and there is no waste. This is an event for OIs of all generations, and their families. Please come. Please book (see below). Please do it now.

Kind Regards  
Guy Main

## Recent Events:

### **Wednesday 30th April - The London Dinner**

The Club returned, after a gap of several years, to the East India Club in St James' for the 125th Anniversary London Dinner. The Club, the East India one, has been partly refurbished and also decorated since we were last there, and this has improved it hugely. We may go back again!

We were pleased that OIs who had not previously been to a London Dinner joined some of those whose faces are quite familiar. All said it was a good evening. The food was notable for its excellence - we don't say that every year - and the evening ran smoothly. This was, of course, once again due to the efforts of the London Secretary James Mansfield (assisted by Lindy Hacker), who works hard to make the London Dinner the success it is.

The President oversaw proceedings and spoke warmly about the OI Club. His guest speaker, Dr John Blatchly (former Headmaster), gave an entertaining talk on the origins of the OI Club, its early dinners, and some of the excitements during its history. The current Headmaster, Nicholas Weaver, brought us up to date on developments at school, and explained the central role of the pastoral care of pupils.

Discussions after dinner lasted more than a while. OIs like being together.



## Thursday 1st May - CCF 125th Anniversary Dinner

On Thursday 1st May cadets and staff from the schools CCF, past and present, came together to celebrate the formation of the CCF section in 1889. Both the CCF and the OI Club celebrate their 125th Anniversary this year. And almost exactly 125 people were present. Everyone who came, several from overseas, harboured a fondness for the CCF. It was also a great excuse to break out the formal attire.

The evening started with a reception in the Loggia for drinks, conversation and the unveiling, by the Headmaster Nicholas Weaver, of the new honours board for The E.S. Bantoft Sword. Then, with dinner beckoning, we moved on to the Great School, where boards full of photos of both recent and past cadets impressed due to the range of history, activities and era's displayed. Some of these caused great humour as memories were jolted and anecdotes retold. During dinner an impressive collection of 300 photographs were projected onto a large screen. The vast range of photos demonstrated how much care and attention had gone into this event as they focused on the people who had gathered. After the slideshow we were delighted to then have the opportunity to watch some old footage from the archives of past CCF field days, with cadets practicing their drills and demonstrating their pride and enjoyment of being part of the CCF.

After the delicious three course meal and interesting conversation, we were delighted to have two speeches. First, from by Dr John Blatchly (Headmaster 1972-1993), who told stories about his experiences as both headmaster and whilst teaching at HMS Ganges, along with a history of the school and its role during the wars. Then we had an enlightening speech from Lt Colonel (Ret) John Le Mare, the contingent commander for 16 years at the school.

After a well-executed and, eventually, organised photo containing all the guests on the stage in the Great School, the OIs, staff and pupils mingled with other tables to catch up and to have photos taken with their fellow cadets.

Special thanks to Richard Welbourne for organising the event, along with all the members of staff both past and present who have made the CCF an institution at the school. It is still loved, 125 years after its conception.

Liz Pope





## Thursday 15th May - OI's Woodbridge Golf Day

The second meeting of the season took place in glorious, start to finish sunshine and some fairly respectable golf was played in a light hearted encounter. Nigel Farthing had requested to tee off last and on arrival panicked when he found no OI's on the putting green. He set off to the third green and found our first group who pointed him back down the field saying that his playing partners must have been asked to start to free the tee. This route took him all the way back to the clubhouse where he found Hughes, Rowledge and Walker waiting in the bar – schoolboy error.

The result was a win for Sam Walker (38 points), with Shyam Patel 2nd (37) and Bryan Caley 3rd (34). There are rumours that Sam had been seen playing a round on the course the same morning as the competition and as such confirmation of the result awaits the findings of the steward's enquiry and the committee's final ruling.

Thanks to David Rowledge and Alchemy Wines for providing the prizes on the day.

Those in attendance were:

David Cordle, John Edwards, David Rowledge, Nigel Farthing, Shyam Patel, David Hacker, Sam Walker, Warwick Dunnett, Simon Hughes, Chris Swallow, Bryan Caley.

Upcoming meetings - Please email [caley@ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:caley@ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk) if you'd like to join.  
Fynn Valley May 29th 3.00pm  
Purdis Heath July 3rd 2.00pmish

Bryan Caley



## Upcoming Events:

### **125th Gaudy – Saturday 28th June – THE Event of the OI Year!**

This promises to be a memorable day to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Club (almost to the day) on Saturday 28th June. Please don't miss it. If you rarely come to OI events, do make this the one to attend in 2014. The Club have pushed the boat out, so come and make the most of it.

The afternoon's activities will start just before 1pm, with a lunch in the school Dining Hall for OIs who left in 1963 or earlier. At 2pm the Gaudy proper will start, centred on the area at the top of the school field near the pavilion. Events will continue all afternoon and evening, and all OIs and their families as well as school staff and former staff are invited to join the celebrations. Cream teas will be served during the afternoon and in the evening a barbeque or hog roast will be served.

There will be an archives display plus the opportunity to buy OI merchandise, including that put together especially for this anniversary year.

Various musical groups will entertain us, and, as always at OI events, there will be plenty of opportunity to meet up, renew old friendships and make new ones.

Games are encouraged on the outfield, once the school v Suffolk girls cricket is over, although that should be a good match to watch.

For those coming to the main Gaudy from 2pm tickets, which must please be bought in advance so that we know how much food and drink to have ready, are £5/adult – which will be given to the 125th Anniversary Appeal - with under 18's free. Once at the Gaudy there will be no charge for food and many activities, with a low charge for alcoholic drinks.

Please order your tickets, as soon as possible, from Jack Devlin at [oievents@ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:oievents@ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk) or call him on 01473 298961. Do come, put a group together, bring your family – this event won't be repeated!

## Other News:

### **Peter Hill**

OIs will, I hope, have seen the email earlier this month reporting on the death of Peter Hill. He died at the end of April, at the age of 94. Many OIs will have been sad to hear that news. Peter taught at Ipswich School from 1952 to 1980 and was house master at Westwood from 1960 to 1970.

A great many tributes were sent by OIs, and Peter's family were delighted to receive them and are very grateful. They were overwhelmed with the number of people at the church for Peter's funeral, which shows the high regard in which he was held.

Mike, Peter's son, reports that they had earlier asked Peter what he wanted for his funeral. He said: "I just want a good send-off". His wish was granted.

### **OI Club Merchandising**

The new OI Club merchandise is available, as are the four special 125th Anniversary items. Please contact Coes <http://www.coes.co.uk/Static/Ipswich> who have been very helpful in putting these items together and would be delighted to assist you.

## **Meet and Greet with John Lewis-Stempel, Author of 'Six Weeks - The Short & Gallant Life of the British Officer in the First World War'**

In this remarkable book, John tells the story of young men who went straight from their Public Schools to the trenches on the Western Front as officers. Their life expectancy was just 6 weeks.

John, historian, author and farmer, will be in the School Library on Wednesday 8th October between 4 and 5.30pm, where you may meet him and purchase a copy of his book.

All OIs are welcome to attend and refreshments will be available. Please email Paula Boughton, School Librarian, at [pb@ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:pb@ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk) if you'd like to join us.

## **Steve Bland Races to the Stones**

This year Steve Bland (OI 98-05) is taking part in the 'Race to the Stones' to raise money for Combat Stress, the veterans mental health charity that was founded in 1919 in response to the needs of many returning from the Great War. Its work is still vital to many returning soldiers today. Steve plans to complete the 100km in one day, anticipated to take 12 to 15 hours. He is hoping to raise £1000.

To support him in his task, please donate through his JustGiving page [www.justgiving.com/Steve-Bland](http://www.justgiving.com/Steve-Bland) . Further details about the race can be found through <http://www.racetothestones.com/> and if you would like to know more about Combat Stress visit [www.combatstress.org.uk](http://www.combatstress.org.uk).

## **More Fives Success for the OIs at the Open Competition for the MJS-J Cup**

The MJS-J Cup was deservedly won by newcomers Jamie Fleming & Gareth Hoskins (OI '91) who beat Bill Emlyn Jones & Grant Williams in a high quality and energetic final. It was rumoured that Jamie had eaten three shredded wheat for breakfast and his performance was one of boundless energy and youthful enthusiasm. Gareth ably backed him up and ensured that even Grant's grim determination and experienced match play could not get Bill and himself into realistic contention.

The best humoured game was Stephen Kelly & Mark Jacobs against Tim Gregory (OI '89) & Steve Burnell (OI '87); smiles all round and a few jokes along the way.

Over 50s Competition for the Chris Cup(s) - The large entry for the Chris Cup(s) produced some competitive Fives and the final was won in fine style by Peter Boughton (OI '69) & Pete Scholey. The crucial matches were the semi-finals. The first was a lengthy and nail biting contest pitting Peter Boughton & Pete Scholey against the 2012 and 2013 champions, Chris Davies & Chris Lloyd. At 8-8 the 'two Petes' moved up a gear and playing a fast and controlled game they managed to force a series of errors from their opponents and ease through to a 15-9 win. The second semi-final saw Jonathan Asquith & Richard Dennis 'in the driving seat' against Paul Kendall & Martin Powell from the start and while they were always in control in their 15-9 win their opponents held them on court long enough to make the final 'a step too far'.

Kind regards

Guy Main

Chairman

Old Ipswichian Club

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