



Allan Glen's School Club

"A school in which science subjects and science methods should be the main instruments of education.
To use science as an instrument for training the mind," E M Dixon, Headmaster 1878

Newsletter March 2015

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Editorial

With increasing and inevitable frequency the Newsletter contains a large number of Obituaries. I make no apology for this, as it simply keeps members up to date with Friends who have died.

There are also a number of contributions from Members for which Mike and I are delighted. As has been said before, this simply leaves us with the job of cutting, pasting and editing. There is also the first in a number of sketches by Wheech McGee with accompanying memories of Teachers from the past, any suggestions for contributions will be gratefully received.

This Bulletin has been 99% completed by Mike, to whom my thanks, as Joan and I have just returned from our Annual sojourn to South Africa to meet with Family and Friends and, to miss the worst excesses of the Scottish Winter.

I would particularly draw your attention to the dates of the AGM on 13 April and the Annual Trip to the Pitlochry Festival Theatre on Saturday 30th May to see the Stephen Sondheim Musical "A Little Night Music."

Alan McLellan

editor@allanglens.com

Dates for your Diary

Second Friday of the month -	Monthly Town Lunch	- (0141 942 2216)
Last Friday of the month -	Bishopbriggs Lunch	- (0141 563 8723)
Monday 13th April 2015 -	Annual General Meeting - Abode Hotel	
	See Page 10	
Saturday 30th May 2015 -	Pitlochry Theatre Play and lunch.	
	-Ticket reservations to Ross Graham,	
	60 Cleveden Drive Glasgow G12 0NX	
	Cost £40- per person. -	see Page 8

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Bob Ronald in The Erskine Home

Bob has been in The Erskine Home for over two years. Although there is no substitute for being totally independent in your own home, Bob has an indomitable spirit, and has made the most of his situation there – where he has a lot of close friends, and clearly has an excellent relationship with all the staff.

The Erskine Home is a spacious well-appointed facility with a large common room, a modern cafe for the use of residents and visitors, attractive landscaped grounds and a large pleasant and helpful staff complement.

Bob had the considerable honour of being asked to cut the tape and formally reopen the cafe after its recent refurbishment

Entertainment is laid on in the common room some evenings, and escorted off-site trips are organised periodically. One of the downsides is you cannot leave the grounds without a family member or member of staff in attendance. (To date, we haven't been able to get under the wire or past the machine gun nests, but the lads are tunnelling furiously as we speak.)

The following pictures represent a year in the life of Bob Ronald

I sent off my Erskine application yesterday

Ross Ballantyne



Bob with his chums in the grounds



Boberace entertaining the residents during a cocktail party in the lounge. (Note the cocktail on the piano – which Bob assures me was shaken, not stirred)



Bob dancing with Cathy Clark during the D-Day celebrations



Bob with two of his chums



Bob conferring with the then First Minister during a visit to Edinburgh Castle.



Bob being “entertained” by a brace of pipe bandsmen



Bob showing the bandsmen how it should be done

December town lunch

The December town lunch was well received. The hotel laid on their special Christmas menu at no extra charge, and Santa made a guest appearance and handed out toys to the under 65s; Bill Coltart, Paul Chambers, Callan Dick, Iain Cairns, George Mackie, Glen Miller and Ian Stewart.



ALEX 'JOCK' MORRISON celebrates 100 years

Our most senior member Jock Morrison attained the great age of 100 years on 31st. January 2015. I was privileged to represent the Club at the special celebrations at his home in Largs on the very cold and snowy but clear day that Saturday. A great gathering of family and friends began at 12 noon sharp. The order of proceedings was the setting of a table for about a dozen close family and friends, some long-known and some more recent. I was made very welcome at this table. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of North Ayrshire, Mrs Evelyn McCann presented Jock with the special Birthday Card from Her Majesty the Queen and a tribute was made by Deputy Provost, Councillor Robert Barr. The assembly then sat down at table and Jock cut his Birthday Cake. A humorous speech then followed by Jock's nephew to which Jock made several pithy interjections. Sandwiches, cakes, tea, coffee & wine were then consumed to the general appreciation of all concerned. May I express my thanks to those who organised this happy occasion and marked by the club proudly gifting Jock a bottle of the 150th. Anniversary Club Whisky.

Ross Graham



Jock cuts the cake



Mrs McCann presents the Queen's Birthday Card to Jock

Memorable Masters - Johnnie Ralph c.1948-1961



I first encountered the redoubtable Johnnie Ralph on day one at Glen's in 1952 – and I still have nightmares about it to this day.

First impression was this plain-spoken, affable man. **Then it all changed.** Out came a table tennis ball, a tennis ball, and a cricket ball. He told us these were his missiles of choice to be used in proportion to his level of ire. Someone got the table tennis ball on the napper just to prove his point. We found this to be mildly amusing, reckoning that the other two were clearly unclear deterrents – never to be fired in anger.

Then out came a belt that was thick enough to have his initials (NR) carved in it. Found out much later that his first name was Ninian – although he looked and sounded more like a boxer than a physics master called Ninian. (Life ain't easy for a boy named Ninian, I suppose – to paraphrase Johnny Cash.)

Three ear-splitting cracks on the bench, then he showed us the carving on the belt and said this was to imprint the initials N R (which meant "not right") on our hands. He next used it to start shredding a ream of foolscap that was conveniently lying on the bench (more by design than accident, I reckon) to further add to the message.

He then tells us he suffers from shellshock, and if we knock over a stool we get one of the belt for every year at the school, "Which means you Q Boys get three..." He was well placed to identify the Q Boys in the class. Firstly the Q classes were right next to his – but, more significantly, the Q Boys all had comfortable, well-fitting blazers – while we new guys were like Frankenstein's weans peering out of brand new blazers that were stiff as boards and bought to accommodate growth.

He then launches into, "**Right!! Fun and games time!**" followed by a rapid-fire, "Stand up! Sit Down! Stand up! Sit Down! Stand up! Sit Down! Stand up! Sit Down! Stand up! Stand,,,"

BANG! Gus Edward's frozen in a half crouch. Chalk white. Stool on floor.

"Whit's yer name, son?" "Angus Edward." (faintly). "Out here, Gussie, son"

The bold Johnnie spent about 5 minutes periodically crashing his belt on the bench and systematically battering his way through the foolscap while he painstakingly explained his nervous problem again – after which he finally let the quivering wreck in the corner off for a first offence.

Johnnie had a particular ploy to make sure we kept up with the work. Every so often – with no notice – belt out, the sadistic, "OK Fun and Games!" A few resounding cracks on the unassuming bench, then the rapid-fire, "Stand up! Sit Down! Stand up!" He then chuckles out a difficult question from the recent lessons, and you sit down when you know the answer. The standers usually got the biff.

There was one guy I'll call Smith rather than use his real name, who was bright enough, but whose mind totally froze under pressure, so he was frequently left standing. For some reason, Johnnie seemed to take particular delight in publicly ridiculing him, and suggesting he leave at 15 and become a plumber. His pal told him he usually sat down even if he didn't know the answer, so next time we did the routine Smiddy sat down like a shot. But no one else moved! It wasn't a conspiracy. It was just a stinker of a question. "Do you know the answer, Smiddy, son?" Shake of the head. Serious retribution!

One day when Johnnie was out, having left the door open, I was clowning about a bit, but sat down quickly when I heard Johnnie returning. "Come outside a minute, Bally, son, till I show you something about reflection." Coincidentally we were doing light at the time. The way the sun was streaming into the room you could see everything in my area of the room clearly reflected in the glass panel of the door. Painful memory! Think I might have preferred his ultimate punishment of writing out Psalm 119 (in all its 176-verse glory) – but, like the cricket ball, that one was never used in anger.

Bottom line, however, Johnnie was a cracking teacher (if you pardon the pun). The class was split alphabetically for physics and chemistry – and Johnnie's class always scored significantly above the other – as did the psychotic Fleming's in chemistry.

But that's another story
Illustration by Wheech McGee (AGS 1968-1973)

Ross Ballantyne

Edmund Stevenson Baillie (AGS 1937- 1942)

A DILETTANTE ENGINEER

...is how he liked to describe himself. He went through life with a heart of a sailor and the mind of a poet deeply anchored in our reality, observing other humans with amused tenderness.

He left Scotland to work on the Grande Dixence Dam in the Swiss Alps he loved so much. It marked the beginning of many Travels that would take him around the world, building bridges, roads and irrigation systems, so that other humans could lead a better life. And when he found the time, he would spend it on Lake Geneva on his Fife Yacht, which he restored himself over the years.

A beautiful life. A beautiful man. Who gave so much to his family.
Genivieve, Antoine, Vivienne, Guy and Julia

John A. O'Hara (AGS 1940-)

John Andrew (Jack) O'Hara, died peacefully in Greenwich CT following a prolonged illness. Born in Dundee, Scotland, Jack was educated in Glasgow at *Allan Glen's School* later joining the Royal Signals Corps, achieving the rank of 2nd lieutenant. Following a stint with J. Arthur Rank organization, Jack joined The Reader's Digest Association, U.K. in 1961, later transferring to Reader's Digest U.S. headquarters in a lead marketing role. Jack's diverse and innovative direct marketing acumen took him to RD Canada as Marketing Director and later as Managing Director of RD Australia. Jack's leadership spawned dozens of international Digest marketing innovators, many of whom became Directors of the Digest's worldwide publishing enterprise with 40 international editions published in 13 languages. Jack was instrumental in carrying the Digest's publishing efforts into international books and recorded music. Jack was appointed by Digest founder Dewitt Wallace as President and CEO in 1979 where he encouraged numerous expansion and acquisition efforts into new media enterprises, including "The Source", a forerunner of AOL.

A prolific reader and communicator, Jack's colorful and energetic management style often afforded a "Churchill-like" leadership persona that was both entertaining and demanding in concert. In a world of dynamic international managing directors, Jack was a highly respected and motivating leader. Resigning his Digest position in 1984, Jack became President, Maxwell Communications Inc, U.S. where he led an aggressive M&A campaign building a substantial print/publishing presence in the North American market. In 1990, Jack founded Wallace Communications, a publishing M&A firm in Greenwich CT, and served on numerous boards of innovative small businesses including Comtex Scientific, Inc. Magazine, and numerous others.

Jack was cremated, joining his loving wife and most dedicated life companion, Margaret Black O'Hara. He is survived by his brother Sydney O'Hara and his wife Maureen who live in Argyll, Scotland and their two sons Neil and Gavin, who presently live in England.

A memorial service was held on November 12, 2014 at 11:00am at the Greenwich Country Club.

John has bequeathed the club \$20,000 in his will.

Bill Cox - Civil Engineer AGS 1941-1946



Born: November 10, 1928 Died: January 1, 2015

William (Bill) Cox, who has died aged 86, had a distinguished career as a civil engineer involved in the design of many large and important projects including the Forth Road Bridge and Bell's Bridge across the Clyde, which was designed for the Glasgow Garden Festival in the 1980s.

Born in Knightswood, he won a scholarship from his primary school to Allan Glens where he excelled not only in the classroom but on the rugby field as well. He proceeded to Glasgow University where he took a first class honours degree in civil engineering before doing his national service with the RAF rebuilding war-torn airstrips in Germany.

Returning home, he joined Sir William Arrol and Co Ltd as a design engineer and he remained with that company in its various incarnations throughout his career, becoming technical director and general manager. He was involved in the design and construction of the Forth Road Bridge, the Humber Bridge, Drax Power Station, the Dubai Docks and he personally designed Bell's Bridge for the Glasgow Garden Festival. He was held in the highest regard by his colleagues, was a long-standing member of the Institution of Civil Engineers and was a past president of the British Constructional Steelworks Association.

Outside of work, he was an outstanding rugby player (stand-off and centre) with Allan Glens FP and represented the RAF during his national service. He remained keenly interested in rugby and was a loyal supporter of Glasgow Hawks and Glasgow Warriors and rarely missed a game at Old Anniesland or Hughenden. He was also an enthusiastic golfer and was captain at Balmore in the 1970s. He enjoyed sailing, playing bridge and loved music, Mozart being an especial favourite.

He was a committed member of the Claythorn Community Council and served for many years as its secretary. He relished the cut-and-thrust of debate and discussion with the city council on matters of planning and transport and was very involved in negotiations with the Greater Glasgow Health Board over proposed developments on the Gartnavel site.

He was awarded an MBE in 2003 for his services to the local community.

He took ill on Christmas Day and died on New Year's Day. He is survived by Elizabeth to whom he was married for 58 years, his two children and four grandchildren.
DAVID A KEDDIE

Murray McKinnon AGS 1938-1939



Murray McKinnon died peacefully in his sleep December 20th 2014.

Murray left the School in 1939 and came to Canada in 1948. In 1952 he was appointed Allan Glens O.B. Club consul for Ontario. In this capacity he helped many Old Boys settle in Canada. He formed a very active group which continued until the 1960s when he lost his wife. He became a welcome member of the Allan Glens Group in Ontario when it was reformed in 2006 bringing humour and companionship to the group. In 2007 he was presented with an Allan Glens Quaich for his services to the Club and made an Honorary Life Member. He will be greatly missed by the Allan Glens Group and his family.

News and Correspondence



Lord Smith of Kelvin (AGS 1956-1962) appointed Clyde Gateway chair

LORD Smith of Kelvin, who took charge of Glasgow's hosting of the Commonwealth Games and led the post-referendum review of devolution, has been handed another high-profile role as the head of one Scotland's largest regeneration projects.

He has been tasked with delivering the Commonwealth Games legacy as the boss of Clyde Gateway, the company behind a regeneration programme for Glasgow's East End.

Lord Smith served as chair of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games organising committee, after a distinguished business career and a stint as Scottish governor of the BBC.

The Glasgow-born peer said he would use his Games experience to help Clyde Gateway, which was launched as a 20-year project to attract businesses, homes and jobs to a 2,000-acre, rundown part of the city. Clyde Gateway is home to some of the major venues and locations associated with the 2014 Games, including the Athletes' Village, Emirates Arena and Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome.

Lord Smith said: "The 2014 Commonwealth Games came with a promise that the event would be a springboard for a continued and sustainable transformation of the East End, one which would go on for many years after the athletes and officials had returned home, and Clyde Gateway is at the forefront of ensuring this happens."

"I have long been impressed with the vision and ambition being shown by Clyde Gateway and by the fantastic partnership work involving the two councils [Glasgow and South Lanarkshire], Scottish Enterprise, the Scottish Government and the wide and diverse range of community groups. However, there is still a big task ahead over the next decade and beyond. "No-one should think that just because things have moved on from the Games that the efforts to bring about the change and transformation are going to slow down."

Lord Smith said: "The next Commonwealth Games are a little more than three years away in Australia, at which time many people will look back and ask what exactly has been the legacy for Glasgow – I intend to ensure that, when they look at the Clyde Gateway communities, they will see it has been every bit as world-class as the Games were themselves."

Here, here and here, here...well said...I left Glasgow in 1957 with the technical experience from Allan Glen's and hands-on indentured engineering training in the drafting, surveying, erection and design departments of Redpath Brown & Co. Ltd., Structural Engineers, Glasgow. I cannot speak highly enough of the elbow to elbow training, encouragement and life experiences given to me by many Glasgow men.

My AGS and Glasgow training has held me in good stead, I retired 25 years ago as manager of Facilities Engineering and Project Management for Union Carbide Corporation. My professional engineering experience over the years in the United States and overseas included structural engineering, materials handling engineering, engineering and construction, distribution engineering, chemicals and plastics and packaged gasses. I have lived through the fun of changes in technologies and been fortunate to have been part of several accomplishments.

I have to give credit for my hands-on engineering involvement even as department manager to AGS's Mr. George Somerfield who taught me using 30 and 45 degree set squares to turn ideas from thoughts on to an AGS jotter.

Best regards. Yours sincerely, Bill Garrett

Allan Glen's history - (Evening Times 14/1/15)

Allan Glen was born in 1772 in Pollokshields and lived on the family farm in the local community of spinners and weavers.

He became a builder and joined trades guild in Glasgow and build up a successful business in Glasgow.

He invested his money in property in the city centre, including John Street and Frederick Street in the area where the school would later be built.

In his will Allan Glen will instructed his trustees to build and fund a school for the sons of tradesmen to give them a practical education to prepare for trades or business. Allan Glen's school opened in 1853 three years after his death, aged 78.

It forged close ties with Anderson College which became Strathclyde University and developed as a centre of excellence for science and technical education.

The school went through various changes with different education acts but survived until the 1970s when it became a comprehensive keeping the name until it closed in 1989.

The school charged fees but provided bursaries including fees and clothing for those unable to meet the cost.

In 1911 it transferred to the local authority but continued under the same principles latterly charging only nominal fees and still providing bursaries. In the 1970s selection of pupils was out of favour and the school merged with City Public School as Allan Glen's Secondary

News and Correspondence

Raymond Miquel



Professor Miquel with the winners of this year's Professor Raymond Miquel Enterprise Initiative Award

June 2014 saw the inaugural awards ceremony for the Professor Raymild Miquel Initiative within the Adam Smith Business School. Professor Miquel is a long standing supporter of the school and has been coming as a visitor for over 30 years to offer students his advice and experience in the field of Business Management. The enterprise initiative was launched in 2014 to provide MBA students with internship opportunities and bring invaluable experience of working in business into the curriculum. During the MBA 'Consultancy Week' in May each year, the initiative funds teams of students to work in small groups as consultants for companies, developing recommendations and addressing project briefs set by client companies. A judging panel within the Adam Smith Business School assesses teams on the best project and this year's prize was awarded to a group of students working with Telefonica, a multinational telecommunications company. At the ceremony, the winning team was awarded a trophy, a cash prize and the opportunity to undertake a longer internship with the company. It is hoped that this initiative will benefit around 100 MBA students over the coming three years.

Eric Lang Reid 11Nov 1935 – 6 Feb 2015

Eric attended Allan Glen's School from 1948 to 1954, entering as many Knightswood boys before him as a 1st year bursar. He was a member of the School Council 1952-53 and 1953-54, the latter as School Captain. As such he was considerably involved in the School's Centenary celebration- prominently as a cast member of the school play "The Golden Doon" performed at the Citizen's Theatre on 19/20 June. This featured on the school centenary film.

The sporting side of school life was where he made his mark, notably in his second year by winning the Group Q high jump. In his third year he was a member of the 'Glen's' team that won the under 16's Inter-School Relay Race at the Festival Highland Gathering at Celtic Park.

His involvement with rugby, cricket and tennis teams was consistent with generally good results during his last 2 years of school. His rugby career was particularly successful. His personal points tally of 61 pts and 90 pts in these 2 seasons which have never been bettered. He captained the Glasgow Team in the annual inter-city match with Edinburgh. Within 6 months of leaving school, he was "called up" to do National Service with the Royal Air Force. He subsequently won his wings as a fighter pilot flying Hawker Hunters. On demob he became a weekend flier with 602 City of Glasgow Squadron.

His working life commenced as a trainee manager with the Lotus Shoe Company based in Stafford. He remained in the Midlands for the rest of his career moving up the management ladder.

Ultimately he became the European director of the USA organisation Mercury International that imported shoes from Far Eastern sources for distribution throughout Europe. This appointment also included the European rights for "Snoopy" franchise!

He continued his link with Allan Glen's through the Midlands Club and after its demise still met with several of the ex-members.

Eric passed away on February 6th after a difficult 2 years of poor health. He leaves his widow, Pat, and 4 children, Gavin, Alistair, Alexandra and Linda- Mary.

The Menin Gate Ceremony - Ronnie Taylor

The Menin gate is a memorial to 54000 soldiers of the UK and Commonwealth killed in the fighting in the Ypres Salient during WW1 whose remains were never found. The construction of the memorial was completed in 1927.

The large memorial straddles the road to the front line and existed as an access to the town through the old walls. The vast majority of soldiers fighting in that area would have marched along that route.

In 1928 the townspeople of Ypres initiated the ceremony which now takes place every evening at 8pm. Six buglers march on to the road which has been closed to traffic on either side and play the "Last Post" this is followed by a 1 minute silence. There is then an opportunity for individuals to make a speech or lay a wreath, then the buglers, from the local Fire Brigade dressed in parade uniforms, sound "Reveille" and this is followed by someone reading from the well known poem known as the "Exhortation for the Fallen" which starts "They shall not grow Old" and the Buglers then march off and the ceremony finishes.

My wife Sheena and I have visited Ypres for the last 3 years on the 30th and 31st of December and we have attended the ceremony on each of the two evenings we stayed in the town. It is a very moving ceremony with the silence being observed by several hundred people attending. On the 30th December 2014 we attended the ceremony and were surprised when an additional speech was made mentioning a young officer from Glasgow who had been educated at Allan Glens School. At the finish we met up with the official party and asked about how James Myles had been selected for mention that particular evening. They explained that they searched their records to find someone who had been killed on that day 100 years ago and it was quite random other than that as many 100's of soldiers were killed each day. I informed them that I had also attended Allan Glens School. The officials gave me a copy of the dedication that had been read out that evening.

Dr WHO

Some of your readers may have noticed in the press, and in the latest issue of Glasgow University's 'The Avenue' an item about Dr Who. Apparently, over the years the Doctor has let it be known that he has a doctorate from the university and this got me to thinking. Presumably his degree was in Science so it isn't too outlandish to think that he might have prepared for entry to the Science faculty by attending Allan Glen's. Of course, he keeps changing his form so it's possible that he may even have been at the school more than once in different guises.

Looking back I can certainly remember a rather odd lad who appeared suddenly in my third year, talked a lot about becoming a professor some time in the future, then just as suddenly disappeared. Could he have been one of Dr Who's early manifestations? Come to think of it, several of our masters could have been extraterrestrial beings - Spike Logan for one had a voice that seemed to come from beyond the planets. Perhaps some of you may have had similar suspicions.

Anyway, to come to the point of my letter. If we can assume that Dr Who was one of our old boys and if we are about to see a rebirth of the school, I would like to suggest a slight amendment to our Alma Mater's name. I think that, from now on, it should be 'Alien Glen's School'

Respectfully submitted, Alistair Munro

Happy Daze

In the mid-seventies we moved to Canada and spent some years in Toronto. One day my wife and I were strolling up one of the streets near the middle of the city when I saw a man hurrying towards us in the opposite direction. When he was abreast of us I suddenly realized that he was wearing an Allan Glen's FP tie. "Hoy!" I said and he stopped dead in his tracks.

I explained that I too was an old boy and we had a pleasant, but short, conversation. He explained that he was on his way to a concert given by the Don Valley Stompers who had previously been the Clyde Valley Stompers but who had changed their name on migrating to Canada. We parted amicably and he scuttled off to his concert.

Some time later my wife and I were standing at the traffic lights at one of the city's busiest crossings. I glanced across the road and there, waiting to cross in the opposite direction, was our Allan Glen's acquaintance. The lights change and we stepped out. As we met in the middle I said, "Hello" but he was too preoccupied and didn't hear me. I don't know what then possessed me but I said in a loud voice, "Good old Allan Glen's!" and walked on. When we got to the other side I looked round.

To my horror, our friend was standing stock-still in the middle of the bustling traffic, a look of wonder-struck amazement on his face. It was clear that he had heard what I had said but had no idea where the message had come from or from whom. I felt bad and quickly propelled my wife off the scene. I scanned the papers the following day but there were no reports that anyone had come to harm at that particular junction. But I still wonder if that man continues to tell his friends that he had received a message about his old school from on high when crossing the road at the junction of Church and Wellesley Streets.

Alistair Munro



PITLOCHRY FESTIVAL THEATRE: Saturday 30th May 2015.

Wives and guests will be most welcome at this event.

We meet in the theatre car park at 11.45a.m. in time for lunch at noon.

The play is a new musical "A Little Night Music".

The price for the lunch and musical is £40 per person.

We have been able to obtain 20 seats, in an offer from the theatre, in the front of house. Due to the popularity of musicals, we do not expect to be able to purchase any more seats so we will not be able to accept late bookings.

Please make your bookings as soon as possible – closing date is Saturday 2nd May 2015.

Please return to H R Graham, 60 Cleveden Drive, Glasgow, G12 0NX

PITLOCHRY FESTIVAL THEATRE

Please reserve meplaces for the visit to Pitlochry Festival Theatre on 30th May 2015.

Name:

Guest Names:

A cheque for £..... is enclosed.

Please make cheques payable to ALLAN GLEN'S SCHOOL CLUB.

Jim MacRitchie (AGS 1949-1955)

Jim MacRitchie, Rower and rowing umpire born 4th February 1937 died 23rd December 2014.

Jim MacRitchie, who has died aged 77 after a brief battle against cancer, was a former President of the Scottish Amateur Rowing Association.

Although he was President for only four years - from 1974 until 1978, he held many positions on the national body and was a great influence on the sport over many decades. He was in the right place at the right time when Strathclyde Park was being developed and was influential in causing the original design of the Loch to be changed, turning it into a 2000-metre long Olympic standard course that has since played host to many international events, including the 1986 Commonwealth Games Regatta and the 1996 World Rowing Championships.

Born in Govan, one of four brothers, he went to Allan Glen's School, where he first took up rowing as a member of Glasgow Schools Rowing Club. He went on to Glasgow University where he graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering. After leaving University, he helped revitalise Glasgow Argonauts, as a graduate rowing club. In turn, Argonauts amalgamated with City of Glasgow to form Glasgow Rowing Club in 1983 and Jim was heavily involved in that too. He helped set up the original Strathclyde Park Rowing Club and supported the establishment of the Castle Semple club in Lochwinnoch.

He was a long-standing national umpire in the sport and in 1985 became one of only six home-based Scots ever to qualify as an international Olympic-standard umpire. He passed the international exam - in French - in Belgium and went on to umpire at the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games in 1986. His other assignments included three Commonwealth Championships, World Cups and the 1998 World Rowing Championships in Cologne, Germany.

He spent a long career as a civil engineer with Glasgow firm James Williamson's, working on many large-scale projects. When he left there in 1982 he set up his own boat-transport business - Keelhauler - and his heavily-laden giant boat-trailer and land rover were familiar sights at national and European regattas as well as the motorways of England, Ireland and Scotland.

The Scottish Amateur Rowing Association celebrated its centenary in 1981 and, along with Tony Dean he co-authored the definitive history of the sport in Scotland. In addition, for many years he was the rowing correspondent for The Scotsman newspaper.

In recent years he had started to re-study the Gaelic language, having been able to speak it as a child. His other interests included CAMRA and the works of Robert Burns but it is through his immense contributions to Scottish rowing that he will be best remembered by many.

Jim MacRitchie is survived by his wife Margaret, daughter Karen and son-in-law David, as well as grandson Alasdair.

There was a huge turnout at Jim MacRitchie's funeral yesterday including seven representatives from the School Club. Iain Dobson who cox'd Jim's crew that won the Murchison Cup travelled up from St Albans just for the funeral. Obviously there was a tremendous number of rowing associates and rowing club members represented in the attendance.

Alastair Murdoch – an appreciation by his pals - Norrie Kilpatrick and David Reid

There was apochryphal tale that one of the ladies seeing Alastair in his pram exclaimed "He is too good for this world" Luckily she was wrong by 85 years!

Unfortunately not many of Alastair's school contemporaries are available to relate incidents of his spell at Allan Glen's. Recorded highlights include winning the discus event at the 1946 sports. Of his rugby prowess little is known except as a member of the winning "seven" – an annual in-house end-of-season event.

He was brought up by an uncle and aunt who ran the farm at Jellyhill on the outskirts of Bishopbriggs. On leaving school he became a vital cog in his uncle's farming team. It was at this time he became a much appreciated member of another team – The Allan Glen's FP Rugby side, his size contributed significantly to the success of the forwards.

A man of many parts, he became a local authority councillor and an amateur actor treading the boards for Cadder Church Players and the Pantheon Club.

Around 1960 his uncle increased his farming acreage by taking over the adjacent Westerhill farm. Alastair turned the Westerhill Farm House into his "Batchelor pad". With his generosity, this provided a venue for AG Rugby by allowing the Club to run several successful Barn Dances. The happy outcome of this venture for Alastair was that he met his future wife. Valerie was one of a group of Stobhill nurses invited to "even" the numbers.

Westerhill Farm was subsequently acquired by Shell Oil and Alastair joined their agricultural sales division, latterly working with the Shell distributor in Elgin.

Contact was necessarily broken with lives moving in different directions.

Fast forward to summer 1997, Alastair was spotted in the Glasgow Museum of Modern Art and re-christened. Recently returned to the West of Scotland (Helensburgh) with wife Valerie and three charming daughters, Jane, Helen and Fiona.

He became part of our social circle once more – heavily biased to AG friends. His skills as a raconteur and his sense of humour were undiminished. He regularly attended the club Lunches and dinners and became an enthusiastic member of our AG ROMEO (Retired old men eating out) group.

Valerie pre-deceased him several years ago and living alone became a burden. He undeservedly was put into the geriatric unit in the Vale of Leven Hospital (a place he swore never to enter), then transferred to Ailsa Care Home where he died peacefully without any apparent illness.

We are fortunate to have shared in Alastair's life.



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28 February 2015
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Dear Member,

The **93st Annual General Meeting** of the Club will be held in the Art House Restaurant, 129 Bath Street, Glasgow on **Monday 13th April 2014 at 5.30pm for 6.00pm**. A buffet meal will be provided following the meeting.

AGENDA

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. Apologies | - I. Dale |
| 2. Notification of deaths in 2014 | - I. Dale |
| 3. President's Remarks | - D. Tanner |
| 4. Minutes of 92nd AGM, held on 14 April 2014 | - I. Dale |
| 5. Honorary Secretary's Report | - I. Dale |
| 6. Treasurer's Report | - H. R. Graham |
| 7. Money Spinner Draw | - J. Cochrane |
| 8. Allan Glen's Endowment Scholarship Trust | - D. Tanner |
| 9. Young Persons' Lecture | - G. Egan |
| 10. S.T.E.M. Initiative | - H. Dargie and Ian Rogers |
| 11. Allan Glen's School Club Trust | - A. McLaren |
| 12. Report from the Golf Section | - B. McAllister |
| 13. Report from the Sports Club | - R. Leckie |
| 14. Report on the Newsletter | - A. McLellan |
| 15. Website | - C. Dick |
| 16. Report on the Annual Dinner | - A. Garrity |
| 17. Report on the Lunch Clubs | - R. Graham and R. Ballantyne |
| 18. Alumni of the Year | - I. Dale |
| 19. Nomination and Election of President | |
| 20. Nomination and Election of Committee Members | |
| 21. Nomination and Election of Trustees of the Endowment Scholarship Trust | |
| 22. Any Other Competent Business. | |

Yours sincerely

Ian Dale
Honorary Secretary

Year 2014 Order Form

Please Complete and send to
Tom Bell, 30 Campbell Drive, Bearsden, Glasgow, G61 4NE
Tel 0141 942 6579 e-mail tom.d.bell@ntlworld.com

Item	Description	Price	Qty	Total £
1	School Club Tie with crests	£10	UK Post £1.00	
2	150 th Anniversary Tie – single Crest	£10	UK Post £1.00	
3	Bow tie – Club Pattern	£10	UK Post £1.00	
4	Bow Tie Anniversary colours	£10	UK Post £1.00	
5	Balmoral Pure Lambswool Jersey with embroidered Anniversary Crest Dark Blue –sizes available M (38/40")	£35	UK Post £3.40	
6	Balmoral Pure Lambswool Jersey with embroidered School Crest Light Blue –sizes available M (38/40") XXL(52")	£40	UK Post £3.40	
7	Balmoral Pure Lambswool Jersey with embroidered School Crest Navy Blue –sizes available M (38/40") L(42/44") XL(46/48") XXL(50/52")	£40	UK Post £3.40	
8	Balmoral Cotton and Polyester Polo shirt with embroidered Anniversary Crest in Light Blue –size M, L	£15	UK Post £2.30	
9	Balmoral Cotton and Polyester Polo shirt with embroidered Anniversary Crest in Dark Blue –size L	£15	UK Post £2.30	
10	Papini Pique Cotton and polyester Polo Shirt with embroidered school crest. Light Blue Sizes M(36") L(38/40") XL(42/44") XXL(46-48")	£15	UK Post £2.30	
11	Papini Pique Cotton and polyester Polo Shirt with embroidered school crest. Navy Blue Sizes L(38/40") M(36") XL(42/44") XXL(46-48")	£15	UK Post £2.30	
12	Papini Pique Elite Cotton and polyester Polo Shirt with embroidered school crest . Light Blue with Navy Sizes M(36") L(38/40") XL(42/44") XXL(46-48")	£17	UK Post £2.30	
13	Russell Cotton Polyester Sweatshirt, Crew Neck, Raglan Sleeve in Royal Blue, with embroidered School Crest L(38/40")	£18	UK Post £2.30	
14	New Lapel Badge – School Crest - Sold Out			
15	New Cuff Links – bar type in box – School Crest	£12	UK Post £3.00	
16	New Tie Pin – School Crest	£6	UK Post £0.90	
17	New Lapel Badge – House Badge – choose B G P or R	£4	UK Post £0.90	
18	New Cuff Links – bar type in box –House G P or R	£12	UK Post £3.00	
19	New Tie Pin – House Badge – choose B G P or R	£6	UK Post £0.90	
20	150 th Anniversary Book	£10	UK Post £1.70	
CD1	School Magazines 1905 to 1940 CD	£10	inc UK Post	
CD2	School Magazines 1940-1973 CD	£10	inc UK Post	
CD3	Register of pupils 1953 to 1972	£10	inc UK Post	
CD4	School History Original 100 Year Book	£10	inc UK Post	
Set	4 Above items	£30	inc UK Post	
DVD	Ralph Cowan at 99	£10	inc UK Post	
			Total	£

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