



# Allan Glen's School Club

# Newsletter April 2010

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## Editorial

This issue contains extracts from a Tribute to Ian Lambie forwarded to us by his son Robin. Ian died last year just months short of his centenary. Ian will be well-known to many of you having attended our Annual Dinner for many years and being a staunch member of our East of Scotland Club. He has left a hugely generous legacy to the **Allan Glen's Endowment Scholarship Trust.**

John Macdonald has completed an exercise looking at all those distinguished players involved in golf with **Allan Glen's School** both as schoolboys and in later life. It is too lengthy a tome to be printed in the Newsletter but will be published on the **Allan Glen's Website** ([www.allanglens.com](http://www.allanglens.com)) probably by the end of the month.

There is also a further episode in the life of John Pearce in his time as a National Serviceman. There must be many of you out there who have deeds of "derring do" that you would like to share with us.

The notice calling the AGM is attached to the end of the Newsletter. Please note that this will be held in Chesters, 5th Floor, Strathclyde Business School.

Finally, most of this newsletter is comprised of information from and about yourselves which is where we wanted to be when we started along the road. Well done, let's be hearing from YOU.

Alan McLellan

[editor@allanglens.com](mailto:editor@allanglens.com)

## Dates for your Diary

**Allan Glen's V. Helensburgh - Saturday 17th April - (0141 772 5028)**

**Second Friday of the month - Monthly Lunch - (0141 772 2756)**

**Fourth Friday of the month - Bishopbriggs Lunch - (01383 730438)**

**Friday 23 April 2010 - East of Scotland Dinner (tbc)**

**Monday 26 April 2010 - Annual General Meeting**

**Saturday 26 June 2010 - Musical "Kiss Me Kate" Pitlochry (tbc)**

**Thursday 9 Sep 2010 - Golf Outing - Pollok**

**Saturday 27 November 2010 - Annual Dinner**

**Monday 29 November 2010 - Allan Glen Tribute Lecture**

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**Allan Glen Tribute Lecture**  
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## The London Gavel

At a dinner in London on Friday to celebrate the centenary of Allan Glen's School, **Major Andrew Jardine**, Hon Burgh Marshal of Brentford and Chiswick, who is Chairman of the Allan Glen's London club, will present the club with the Chairman's Gavel. One side of the gavel's head shows the crest of the City of Glasgow and the other the crest of the City of London.

*Glasgow Evening Times 17/3/53.*



### **PRESNTATION OF GADEL. By Andrew Jardine 26/3/53**

Mr. President, Gentlemen, it gives me very great pleasure to present the London Club with a gavel which is a miniature of the mallet used by Allan Glen when doing his daily chores as a wright, not as a coffin maker: On one side is the crest of the City of Glasgow, and on the other the crest of the City of London, on the end faces are the dates 1853 and 1953, and on the handle 'Allan Glen's (Glasgow) Old Boys' Club (London)'. The excellent carving and making of this miniature are the work of Glasgow craftsmen. The box, which is just small enough to fit the secretary's pocket, is lined with one of the first scarfs woven with the Old Boys' Club colours.

Mr. President, on behalf of my Father, the grandest old boy I know, and myself, I hand you this gavel with the prayer that it may never be used to call a meeting to order, but only in calling of the "Old Boys" from refreshment to labour, that profit and pleasure by their efforts may at all times sustain the London Club and uphold the traditions of the School, 'cum scientia humanitas'.



### *Ed's Note*

*We were recently surprised to receive communication from Terry Jardine, Andrew's son that he had a number of pieces of memorabilia relating to his father's School days in the 1930's and also later with the London Club.*

*Some of the correspondence relating to the demise of the school on the 70's was included and we may be able to publish that in the future. We also received his School cap, blazer badge and belt and a number of London Club Dinner menus. Sandie Howie is scouring the latest Treasure Trove for more clues on the School history.*

## Correspondence Page-1

Having stumbled across your website, I read with considerable interest the reminiscences of Iain Cumming and Herb Saravanamuttoo. I was their contemporary and clearly their memories have suffered less than mine, although I do remember a few things they did not mention. Iain, I think, went on to study metallurgy and I once met him later in a corridor at 'The Tech' when we were both students. I also remember Herb's brother Carl but we all lost touch alarmingly easily although I had one or two subsequent random encounters with other classmates. However, perhaps you would indulge me by allowing some supplementary comments.

Actually, rather than the 'formal' substance of our education, I remember better some of the 'extras' which perhaps illustrate the 'added value' which seems to preoccupy so many of our educators these days (the 'formal' substance is maybe so deeply instilled that we can take it for granted - I wish!). There was the Scientific Society and I recollect visits to Provan Gasworks, Beardmores and the Police Labs. Was there also a Debating Society? And I still have somewhere my St John's Ambulance First Aid Certificate. I think too that there might also have been the Scripture Union: understandably religion was much more prominent at that time and churches were pretty full for quite a long time after the War. Indeed another of our contemporaries (Eric Alexander) became a minister and I did meet him later. Recently too, I came across a letter from my mother to my father (serving 'somewhere' with the Middle East Land Forces) saying that I had just come home bubbling with enthusiasm from what was clearly a Schools Concert by our leading orchestra (the Scottish Orchestra?). This would have been in 1944/45 and it demonstrates that, even in times of desperate uncertainty and austerity, thought was given to providing a bit more than staple fare. Later on I recall a special schools showing of Olivier's Hamlet (and a renowned documentary on the Tawny Pipit) at the Cosmo Cinema, famous for foreign and other esoteric films not normally featuring in the main cinema chains.

Even in class-time there was scope for the more 'unusual'. After exams Jimmy(?) Ewing introduced us to the stories of Damon Runyon (think 'Guys and Dolls' nowadays). In the compulsory Religious Instruction Soapy Somerville(?) introduced us to the concept of the Bible as literature - perhaps unusual in those days. Ken (?) Topping (?) produced gloriously coloured slides (not so common then) of a sailing trip round the Greek Islands. In Sixth Form French Gordon Milton gave us a French detective story to study. (He was our Form Teacher I think; we had the privilege of the use of our Form Room at lunchtime where we were even allowed to play cards - as long as it was Bridge!). Psychy Kerr, in earlier years (third?), gave us aptitude tests: primarily geared towards engineering, probably, which might have been advanced for the time. (Didn't we also get athletics proficiency ratings?) There was even a trip to France, which might have been the first post-war school trip (I couldn't afford it). And I ought to mention the austere Flash Hood's quiet consideration when my mother died (he was our Fourth Form Teacher).

This jumble of times remembered for me indicates that, in a very difficult period, our education was exactly that: an education. Bear in mind too that we young folk were shielded by our parents from much of the wartime and post-war tribulations - in many respects we were probably younger than our modern equivalents, although in others we had experiences which, in retrospect, were pretty severe and we should be thankful that our children and grandchildren have been largely spared them.

Regards, **Alex Marshall (1944-1950)**

Mike,

Just a quick email to say how much I enjoy reading about the old school and the many stories recounted by past pupils. Thanks for your Christmas wishes - all the best to you and yours for Christmas and 2010.

Regards,

**Ron Miller**

News Letter December 2009 :-

**"It was Scotlands first win against Australia since the 1982 Brisbane**

Test, ending a run of 16 defeats by the Wallabies" Yeah we felt sorry for you after 27 years & decided to be generous. ;o).

However I really enjoy reading the news of my distant past life Thank you for the trouble you take.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

**G N Coghill SYDNEY**

## Correspondence Page-2

Dear Allan,

As the recipient of the **Christopher Henderson Prize** in 1952 it annoys me now that I know so little of the origin of this prize and it gets no mention in the school history.

I think it was offered by his family in memory of a former pupil who was a war casualty.

Perhaps some member has further information.

Regards, Peter McPherson

*Ed's Note : There were many prizes awarded to pupils, some had trophies, some were simply cash awards. I contacted Sandy Howie. ( He who knows everything ! ) The following is his response :*

Alan,

As a follow-up to our earlier discussion about Christopher Henderson, there was a H D C Henderson in 3C in the 1935 magazine. He was called Henry and was selected to attend the World Jamboree in 1937 – only offered to exceptional pupils. He gained an award for debating and for 1<sup>st</sup> team rugby. He was mentioned for golf and, was a School Prefect. He is listed in the Remembrance Book as CHRISTOPHER Henderson aged 20! He seems the type of son that parents would wish to remember. I still do not know the nature of the award – perhaps Peter can help out.

Sandy

*Ed's Note : Apart from Peter, there must be others who received this award. Can anyone shed any light on the "Christopher Henderson Prize ?*

Dear Alan

Thank you for publishing my RAF (part) memoirs, and also the article re Ken Nicoll.

When I arrived at page 8 of the Newsletter, I spotted another familiar face. If the S Alan McKinstry was more commonly called Sam, I probably know him from his time at Bannockburn H.S. Central Region had built a new Bannockburn High School, but as is common, they had run out of money. I recall the school was crescent shaped and because of the money problems it was unfinished. Portacabins were being used to house the pupils, and I thought the place a bit chaotic. Sam McKinstry was indeed the Rector when I visited the school in the guise of supplying Teaching Equipment. We seemed to get on very well, and I should have known there was a link somewhere - **Allan Glen's** and the RAF.

If Sam was in the RAF during the cold war, he may have served in Germany (2TAF). I was stationed at RAF Wunstorf, near Hannover. It was a fighter base using Vampires and Meteors, with the odd Hawker Hunter thrown in. An odd Canberra bomber used to appear from time to time, the rumours of A bombs being on board were legend.

I do not wish to expand on my exploits with the RAF at this moment in time, as I would imagine you will be getting some response to my letter on page 2 of the Newsletter. If Sam duly reads this letter, I would be delighted to hear from him.

My email is - john.pearce70@tiscali.co.uk

Compliments of the Season.

John Pearce

## Correspondence Page-3

February 22 2010

Dear Alan,

I trust that you received some feedback from other O Bs about their National Service exploits.

As I was selected to become a Teleprinter Operator, I was sent with many others to Compton Bassett, Wiltshire. A bit of a change from "square bashing" in as much that at last I would be using my brain.

The billets at Compton Bassett were slightly better than those at West Kirby, and the regime was supposed to be easier. This was not quite the case, as I was to discover. In my second week of trade training, I was placed on a charge regarding some melted snow on my bed space. Some sprog officer decided to catch some poor unfortunate, in this case - moi.

"Jankers" is the name given to this offence, and it meant marching in full kit to the Guard Room. If I remember rightly, this was done either two or three times a day, and I survived due to the help from my fellow in-mates. This was on top of attending training lectures on how to become a Teleprinter Operator. In charge of this training was a first class Scottish Sergeant, who really knew his stuff. We were initially taught how to touch type, and then how to route signals using various procedures. Instead of the Morse Code, we had to learn the Murray Code, based on a series of punched holes on teleprinter tape. After several weeks training we were deemed to have sufficient knowledge to sew on our prized Signals Flash. Compton Bassett trained both Wireless Operators and Teleprinter Operators, and we were collectively called - "wops and tops".

While I was at Compton Bassett there was an IRA scare, and we were introduced to doing Camp Guard duties. There was a rota system used, and I think that it was two hours on followed by three hours off. Fortunately, it was only for one night due to the fact that we had to be fit for our day lectures. I never did any further guard or fire duties during the rest of my time in the RAF.

There was one night I will never forget - my baptism to a firewater called "Scrumpty" I very willingly imbibed in two pints of this raw cider in a pub called the Green Dragon, Calne. The after results were terrible, and I will not go into detail, however, it prepared me for my final posting in Germany.

After passing out of trade training, our intake were given various postings, and/was sent off to Headquarters (unit) Bomber Command. HQBC was located in High Wycombe, and was considered a plum posting, with modern accommodation and a first class hotel type messing facility. This was all very true, the downside being that/was now working in a very big signals centre - underground. Signals duties were of course worked on a shift basis, the worst one being the night "bind". This shift started at 11:00 hours and ended at 07:00 hours. Even though / passed splendid large photographs of the Dambusters Raid every time went on watch/was not impressed by this very claustrophobic atmosphere.

I think I lasted for about two months before I reported my claustrophobia to the Station Warrant Officer. I was more than surprised to be given three weeks embarkation leave prior to being sent to RAF Wunstorf- Germany. Before leaving HQBC my signals officer wished me good luck, and joked that at least in Germany I would never receive many priority signals requiring ".flash" attention.

After my three weeks leave I was off once again for my next adventure in Germany.

What would the future hold?

Please tune in to the next episode.

Regards, John Pearce

## **Le Jog - (Land's End to John O' Groats)**



### **Get On Your Bike!**

Erika Yde, her Dad Eddie and Quintin Price, a colleague of Erika's in Crosshouse Hospital took this quite literally.

Late afternoon on Friday 28th August 2009 they left Land's End heading for John O'Groats, Quintin and Eddie by Bicycle and Erika driving a transit van as back-up vehicle with all the spares and luggage.

Just under 10 days and just under 900 miles later they arrived at John O'Groats on Monday 7th September. That was an amazing average of 90 miles per day!

Weather throughout the journey was very mixed, ranging from good sunny days with favourable winds to very wet and cold days with adverse winds. Shap Fell and Drumochter Pass, which are serious climbs at the best of times, are no fun in that sort of weather.

Accommodation ranged from Youth Hostels, B&B's to Travelodges, and for Quintin the occasional night in a tent or the transit van.

Despite the mixed weather and the horrendous weight of traffic on their main road route they arrived at John O'Groats in one piece, a few pounds lighter but feeling very pleased with themselves!

Their efforts raised an amazing £1240 for Ayrshire Hospice, where Quintin's dad currently receives care.

## Allan Glen's Rugby

The 1<sup>st</sup> XV have done exceptionally well this season and are almost unassailable at the top of National Division 3, they have presently some 67 points and are 10 points clear of their nearest rivals, Aberdeenshire. They will certainly gain promotion to National Division 2 at the end of the season.

Their next home game is their last game of the year and will be on Saturday 17 April against Helensburgh, presently fourth in National Division 2, kick off 3.00pm.

It is likely that there will be a Buffet Lunch available at the Clubhouse before the match cost £7.00, 50% of the takings going to the Rugby Club.

Anyone who is interested should contact Bob Leckie on 772-5028 on or before Wednesday 14 April.

This information together with the photograph is drawn from an email received from Bob Leckie :

The junior teams that played at Firhill were The P5's and the P6/7s.

A team consists of 8 players from a squad of usually 12 each of whom can be replaced throughout the game. In the photo from the article the ball carrier is Liam Kenny, backing up closely is Sam Morrison and the one with the red scrum cap is Fraser Phillips.

Age levels are;

A group of about 20 of P1, P2 and P3 who do not normally compete with other clubs.

Teams at P4, P5 a mixed P6/7 team all with at least 12 players in the group.

The Secondary School Teams at present are S1 (1st year) 23 off boys, an under 15 side consisting of S2 and S3 boys 20 plus of them but not just enough to form 2 teams. These boys play regularly on Sundays and compete against the likes of East Kilbride, Hillhead, Hawks, Lenzie Dalziel and many more and have almost all of their games this season

There are also 6 or 7 Under 16s who we are trying to keep interested till next year when we expect to be able to form a team at this age group.

There is also a group of under 5s called the 'rascals' again of about 20. For this group there will be a 2 month block starting approx late April through May and maybe into June. I will probably get my own grand kids involved in this.

All in all there are well over 100 youngsters between 3 and 17 involved.

Regards,  
Bob Leckie



"Allan Glen's Youngsters playing Whitecraigs at the interval in the Glasgow Warriors v Cardiff Blues game at Firhill on 19 February. The boy with the ball is Liam Keeny followed closely by Sam Morrison and the boy with the red scrum cap is Fraser Phillips."

## Toronto Group

*Ed's note : I attach a copy of an email from Ken Clark. Our Toronto Group are obviously going from strength to strength. I appreciate that :*

- a) you are unlikely to be able to attend even if you wished to even at this short notice. &
- b) That you cannot be accommodated !! -It is for information only.

Gentlemen,

Fourteen have now advised me they plan to attend our lunch. This is the most we have had since we got going. Fourteen is the capacity of the function room at Canyon Creek so if any more wish to join us then I will have to look for alternative accommodation.

This may be difficult to find close to Union Station as notice grows shorter so if any of those, who have not yet replied, plan to attend please let me know soon so that I can try to locate a suitable alternative.

## Iain Lambie 1910 - 2010

Our oldest Former Pupil Iain Lambie, who was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 1910, died just before the publication of our last Newsletter. There was insufficient time to include anything other than a brief notice of the fact that he had died. His son Robin has given us full details of a long and interesting life which is summarised here.

Iain's Father was a doctor in the local hospital in the Ronda Valley. The family left there for Mansfield, where his Dad became the Medical Officer of Health, just before Iain's third birthday. His father died when he was eleven and Iain went to live with his father's sister and her family in Barrhead. He went to *Allan Glen's School* and on leaving he went down to one of the best woollen mills in Yorkshire G Garnet & Sons of Bradford. He found that the engineering training that he had been taught at school stood him in good stead. He stayed with G Garnet & Sons right up till he retired.

Iain joined 609 (West Leeming) Squadron in the Auxiliary Air Force as a part-time civilian on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 1938. He married his fiancée Kathleen Mary Goodwill in April 1939 and his brother in law, Robbie Goodwill joined the Squadron after Munich.

Initially they served as photographers but the Squadron changed to a Fighter Squadron and so they became armourers. Although ideally they should have gone on armouring training courses, there just wasn't time for such niceties so they simply undertook "on the job" training. He served with the Squadron at Yeadon, Catterick, Aclington, Drem, Kinloss and then Northolt and Middle Wallop. Whilst at Northolt Iain was involved in the making of a Training Film on arming Spitfires and clips of these films have been shown recently on television.

He then went to Manby for training as a Senior Armourer Instructor and again his engineering education at *Allan Glen's* was put to good use. In the middle of 1944 he was transferred to Sri Lanka, the aerodromes had been hurriedly built there to counter the westward movement of the Japanese by the time Iain was posted there the Japanese were fleeing back to the east so, much of the year he spent there was on a care and maintenance basis.

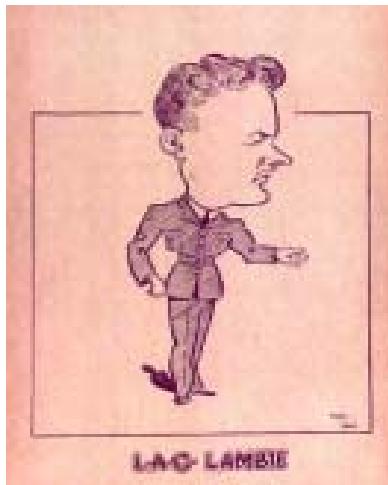
Iain returned to Bradford after the war and became a leading light in the Bradford Presbyterian Church becoming secretary of the Management Committee and in due course an Elder of the Kirk. He also joined the local Scottish Country Classes

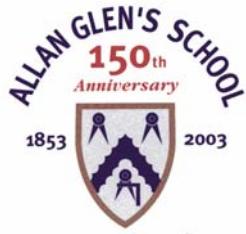
and in turn became the Secretary and a Dance Teacher.

When Iain retired he came to Dunning in Perthshire, to where he had always said he would retire. He joined the local church and became an elder there too. In everything that he undertook he was always an active and enthusiastic participant and it follows that when he joined the Probus Club he became Programme Secretary and Chairman.

Iain enjoyed family life to the full and played a significant part in the life of his grandchildren. They could visit him in his home in Dunning and enjoy being spoiled. His Wife's alzheimers was very hard for him as was her death but before that they had a very long and very happy time together.

Iain left a very generous bequest to *Allan Glen's Endowment Scholarship Trust*, which assists students financially through their Engineering Studies at University and, the Trustees in view of Iain's involvement with the RAF and 609 Squadron are going to ring-fence this bequest and particularly assist those students following a degree course in Aeronautical Engineering.





## ALLAN GLEN'S SCHOOL CLUB

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18 February 2010  
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Dear Member,

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Club will be held in Chesters, Strathclyde Business School, Cathedral Street, Glasgow, 5<sup>th</sup> floor on **Monday 26 April at 5.30pm for 6.00pm**. A buffet meal will be provided following the meeting.

### AGENDA

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Apologies   | - (I.Dale) – H. R. Graham |
| 2. Notification of deaths  | - (I.Dale) – H. R. Graham |
| 3. President's Remarks   | - G. Egan                 |
| 4. Minutes of 86th AGM, held on 26 April 2009                              | - (I.Dale) – H. R. Graham |
| 5. Honorary Secretary's Report   | - (I.Dale) – H. R. Graham |
| 6. Treasurer's Report  | - H. R. Graham            |
| 7. Money Spinner Draw  | - I. McLennan             |
| 8. Allan Glen's Endowment Scholarship Trust                                | - G. Egan                 |
| 9. Young Persons' Lecture  | - G. Egan                 |
| 10. Allan Glen's School Club Trust   | - A. F. McLellan          |
| 11. Report from the East of Scotland Club                                  | - I. Hogarth              |
| 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  | - H. R. Graham            |
| 17. Report on the Lunch Club   | - G. Day                  |
| 18. Alumni of the Year   | - (I.Dale) – H. R. Graham |
| 19. Nomination and Election of Treasurer, Honorary Secretary               |                           |
| 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