



# Club Newsletter

## September 2007

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### A view from the Royal Box

Having spent an excellent five weeks on holiday with our older daughter and her family in Singapore we returned to a mail stack that would have choked a horse. On the top of the pile was an envelope addressed to :- "Alan McLellan, President, The Allan Glen's School Club, etc.."

Working on the supposition that this was neither a bill nor a Final Demand Notice, I decided that I would open this first. I read and re-read the first paragraph three times, it read :-

"Major General D McDowall MBE, General Officer Commanding 2nd Division and Governor of Edinburgh Castle and his wife Valerie would like to invite you and your wife to join them for the performance of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo on Monday 6 August."

I was sure this was an error, it was not intended for me. I phoned the Major General's Secretary and she explained that Bill Jeffrey, a Former Pupil of Our School, who is Permanent Under

Secretary of State for Defence was to take the Royal Salute on August 6 and enquiries had been made to discover who the President of Allan Glen's School Club was, hence the invitation.

A champagne reception and dinner preceded the Police-escorted run from Gogar Bank House, which is the Major General's Official Residence on the outskirts of Edinburgh situated immediately behind the Royal Bank of Scotland's splendid new Headquarters. We were piped in to dinner by the late Queen Mother's Piper and twenty-two people sat down to an excellent meal.

The Tattoo could not start without our Group or, to be more accurate, without the Permanent Under Secretary of State for Defence, so with absolute military precision and under Police Outrider Escort we travelled into the Castle, arriving at two minutes before nine.

The weather was fine, the display was first class and, after the Tattoo, there was a champagne reception and we were served canapés, in order to allow the crowds to disperse and to speed us on our way.

Maybe, just maybe, there are some advantages in being President of the Allan Glen's School Club .....

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## Dairy Dates

### **Annual Dinner- Trades House Saturday 24 November 2007 6:15 for 7:00pm**

If you do not receive an invitation and wish to attend, please contact Ross Graham on 0141357 0137

### **Ladies Lunch** at Strathclyde University on Friday 26th October, 12.30 for 12.45. Cost £14 **Note changed venue due to unforeseen circumstances**

Contact Joe Miller (01383 730438) or Ian Munro (01505 863552) before Friday 19 October to book.

## Memberships

Thanks to all members who have checked out their direct debit payments. We still have a few that have no reference, which means that we cannot assign the payment to a name and also four unrecognisable references as follows:- MRS CAROLINE RM", "MACPHERSON I/MRS", "BOYCE RC" and "FRED & HELENWAT". If you recognise any of these please contact me (details on page 1 rh column). We now need to assume that the remaining non-paying members are lapsed and they will be made non-active in the database. This will mean that there will be no correspondence (Membership Card, Membership directory etc) mailed to them, but if there is a valid e-mail, electronic communication will continue. In this regard, it is most important that you keep us up to date on your current e-mail and postal address.

With regard to the motion passed at the April 2007 AGM on **Lifetime Memberships for overseas members**, the following was decided at the September Committee Meeting. (This is to suit members who do not have an easy way to pay the annual £5 subscription).

A single payment of £50 can be made to AGSC bank IBAN GB52BOFS 800748001152 02 for this optional membership.

Please use the bank account details corresponding to the currency you are using to send payment and ensure that we receive the due amount in full by instructing your bank to pay all bank charges. £30 of this will be allocated to the Endowment Trust Fund and £20 to the membership account. We hope that these payments can be processed before the end of the year.

It should also be noted that as the Allan Glen's Old Boy's Club was wound up several years ago, and replaced by the Allan Glen's School Club, the Life memberships of the AGOBC are no longer valid.

Mike McCreery - Membership Secretary

## STILL WANTED - Magazines and Sports Day Programmes

In the last Newsletter I asked for copies of Annual Magazines, the first person to respond was able to supply a copy of the elusive 1956 edition.

This completes the set of Club magazines back to 1943. Magazines from the 1930's would still be most welcome, as would be Sports Day Programmes. Programmes for 1947, 1951 and 1953 were kindly sent in by a member and they offer the crucial information of names linked to specific classes. With names linked to precise years, this makes it possible to produce a register of Allan Glen's Pupils. Judging by the interest in the Forum on our website there is a need for a source of information about ex-pupils.

It seems that, as people approach their late 50's and early 60's, nostalgia kicks in and suddenly, there is a need to find out what happened to "old so and so," with whom School days were so pleasant. There are, even now, many ex-pupils still to reach this nostalgic age and, with computers commonplace, it is as easy to keep in touch from Australia as it is around Glasgow.

If you have any old magazines from the 1930's or even the 1920's please allow them to be scanned and returned to you. It's a good project that benefits everyone.

The School Club should be doing everything possible to make it simple to revive and renew friendships from our youth.

Sandy Howie 16 Stewart Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 6HN

## Allan Glen's School Yacht Club - David McLintock



Two Pupils at work (David McLintock on the right) fixing boards inside the hull



Joint Clamping



After School work begins The pupil's desks are deserted and Mr George Sommerfield and former pupils Mr. Victor Dare and Mr. Archie Scott put in some work on the 16 ft boat.



The finished boat ready for the launching

*The Bulletin*  
August 22 1952

David writes:- .. in the top right pic with George Somerfield, our Engineering teacher, are Victor Dare, who built his own full size yacht at the side of his Father and Mother's house in Busby, that is another story, also, if I remember correctly Archie Scott was a Naval Architect. I am pretty certain Archie designed the first Yacht.

George who lived close to where I worked at that time persuaded me to come and assist the boat builders to clench over the nails on the spars or ribs along the inside of the boat. Sorry to say I am not a yachtsman, spars and ribs may not be the correct names...

*I think that there were 2 boats - the one in the article which was launched in Bardowie Loch and another larger yacht that was moored off Rhu. Any information will be gratefully received and printed. -ED*

## Some Former Pupils of Allan Glen's in 1952



**Sir John Weir, G.C.V.O.,**  
Physician-In- Ordinary to the late King George VI and Queen Mary and Physician-In-Ordinary to the Queen since 1952.



**Sir J. M. McNeill, K.C. V.O., C.B.E..**

Deputy Chairman and Managing Director of John Brown & Co.. (Clydebank) Ltd. and a Director of the British Linen Bank. Sir James designed the Queen Mary and the Queen Elizabeth.



**John Graham, C.B.E.**  
Professor of Systematic Theology at Aberdeen University and a former Lord Provost of that city.



**Sir Andrew McCance,**  
Chairman and Managing Director of Colville's, Ltd., and a Director of The National Bank of Scotland.



**Duncan Macrae,**  
- one of Scotland's foremost actors; after leaving Allan Glen's he went to Glasgow University and Jordanhill Training College. He was a teacher before taking up the stage professionally.



**Sir Alexander Todd,**  
Professor of Organic Chemistry at Cambridge University and a Nobel Prize winner in 1957.



**Jack McLean,**  
professional at Gleneagles Hotel, won the Scottish Amateur Golf Championship three years in succession in the thirties.

It became obvious during my time in Holyrood Secondary that my favourite and indeed most successful subjects of study were mathematics and music, both of which I studied to Advanced Higher level. Therefore, when it came to choosing a course to study in further education, I tried my best to find a degree which involved both these subjects and which would challenge me both mentally and creatively. The course which excited me the most was the Electronics with Music degree at Glasgow University. This course appealed to me because it was a joint Honours course in both engineering and music. The split was two thirds engineering and one third music which meant that I would be able to learn all about the fast moving world of engineering while maintaining an interest in music. It was also fully accredited by the IEEE which was important to me because my intended outcome was to eventually work within the engineering industry.

Once I had confirmation of my place on the course my head of year at the time, Mr. Flynn, encouraged me to apply for The *Allan Glen's Endowment Scholarship*. After researching this a little more I decided to apply. I was shocked to soon find out that I had been chosen as one of the two, 2003, scholars to receive the generous scholarship. This privilege exceeded all expectations when Iain McLean, the other scholar, and I were invited to a presentation ceremony at the City Chambers. At this ceremony we were introduced to the Trustees and presented with our certificates, acknowledging our new relationship with the Trust.

In September 2003 I began University with the added peace of mind that, thanks to the *Allan Glen's Endowment Trust*, I wouldn't have to work too much to support myself financially. This meant that I could concentrate fully on my degree. The benefit of my Advanced Highers was obvious in my first two years as the mathematical and musical emphasis on the course was all relatively familiar. My third and fourth years were definitely the most demanding. With my school days long behind me, the intensity of a joint Honours degree became very apparent. Having projects ongoing in both the engineering and music parts of the course the workload was considerable and time had to be meticulously managed. It would not have been possible to maintain my high standard had I needed to work more in my part time job. My final year project was to design and build a lap counter for distance swimmers. I found this very interesting and enjoyed the dedication which was necessary for successful completion. It was definitely through this final engineering project that I was able to appreciate all that I had learned throughout my degree and see the how much the scholarship awarded to me, had a positive effect on my degree.

On the 5th of July 2007, I graduated from Glasgow University with a 2:1 in Electronics with Music BEng (Hons). In the meantime, I have applied and been accepted to study a one year postgraduate course in primary education at the University. The diversity of my degree has meant that I have a lot of choice as to my eventual career path. I hope one day to return to engineering, perhaps through research, after I have explored other areas of study.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Bill Brown for his constant correspondence and reassurance throughout the course of my degree. The support that the Trust has given me has been invaluable and I would like, at this point, to express my sincere gratitude to you all for the support and encouragement I have received throughout the four years of my degree.

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Nicola and Iain are two of our sponsored students who graduated this year. Our congratulations to them and we look forward to meeting them at this year's Annual Dinner. - Ed.

## Our chemical engineering Scholar .....Iain McLean.

From early on in my secondary school life at Eastbank Academy, I knew I wanted to go on to further education. I decided to study architecture as I had always enjoyed technical drawing through school, but when I went on work experience in my fourth year at school was put off by the students I talked to about this course.

Still determined to go to University, I decided to apply for a place to study chemical engineering at Strathclyde University, which I was accepted for. Whilst applying for a university place in my sixth year at school, my career adviser had mentioned the *Allan's Glen's Scholarship*, which I applied for. I was honoured when I was accepted for the Scholarship, and was invited to a ceremony at the City Chambers where another student called Nicola Collum and I were presented with certificates from the Trustees. I was also pleasantly surprised to learn that Colin McIlwraith was a Scholar from the previous year and had attended my own secondary school.

My first and second year in University were great, if slightly daunting. The changeover from school was very dramatic. There were no teachers looking over your shoulder all day, and it soon became evident that if I intended to achieve my degree, it was solely my responsibility to keep up with my course work. The first year was mostly maths and sciences based like the majority of engineering courses. I made many new friends and the social life was great. I joined the Chemical Engineering Society, which arranged nights out and sports events, which help the different years of the course to mix.

In my third year I gave up my part-time job, as I wanted to concentrate more on my studies, and could afford to thanks to the Scholarship. The work was now becoming more focused on the subject, and more time was spent in the labs doing practical work. It was also an enjoyable year as the third year ran the Chemical Engineering Society; so helping out with events/night outs gave me some light relief in a rather intense year.

My fourth year was very challenging as in the first semester six classes were taken, of which all the exams were sat in the January exam diet. In the second semester I had to complete three projects, which were done in groups. I enjoyed doing these projects as it made me realise how much I had learned so far in my degree. During this year the class seemed to come together more, and I began to know my classmates even better. I also took part in the annual sports day for chemical engineers, which was held in Manchester. I was part of the football team and was delighted when the team won this event, but sadly the other sports didn't do so well and the University came fourth overall.

I have been lucky enough to be accepted to stay on and do the Masters degree in my course, which involves another year of studies at Strathclyde University, which I start this September. I am grateful for all the support that the Allan Glen's Trust has given me over the past four years, and I know that without your financial support my studies may have suffered. This has made life so much easier for me and took a lot of pressure off my shoulders. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and I will inform you how I get on in my Masters year.

## The Long Arm of the Law - David M Harvey

Monday 30 September 2002, in possession of my free bus pass, not having to find 40p to get the 88 bus at Park Road for Buchanan Street Bus Station.

Here am I sitting at the library, a long queue of traffic in front of the bus. The road is up - what's new. Never mind, I'll just read my free "Metro."

Then I notice the boys and girls going for lunch from School, I think back to when I used to travel on the tram on a Wednesday afternoon from Parliamentary Road to Bishopbriggs Tram Terminus at Bishopbriggs Cross and walked up Kirkintilloch Road to The School Sports Ground to play rugby.

It was in the early 1930's and the roads were quieter. One particular day sticks in my mind. A number of boys, myself included, complete with our rugby gear left the tram at the Cross and walked up to South Crosshill Road.

At the junction with Kirkintilloch Road, we found a Belisha Beacon Crossing had been erected. We studied it with some amusement but breenged across the road as usual.

Unnoticed by us "The Long Arm of the Law" was present. "Hullo,hullo. What have we here ?" Rather sheepishly, we stood in front of the constable who pointed out that Mr Leslie Hore-Belisha, the Government Minister for Transport, had ordained that appropriate action be taken when confronted with his beacons. The constable then made us re-cross the road in the prescribed manner, which, of course, we would remember in future visits to Bishopbriggs to play rugby. That was in the 1930's, now we are in the 2000's and rugby is still being played at the "Bearyards" as it is now called, originally being the name of the farm before it was taken over by Allan Glen's School. The farm was obviously not called after bears, it is the old name for barley, bear or bere being a type of barley grown in Scotland.

Oddly enough, "The Long Arm of the Law" fell on the farm in 1840 when the North British Railway was in the process of constructing the line at Bishopbriggs. A ganger named John Green was murdered by three of his men and his watch and other valuables were stolen. The gang tried to escape but were quickly apprehended and two of them were sentenced to death, the third was transported for life because of his low intellect.

For the hanging it was decided to place the gallows on the South Front of the Bearyards Farm, overlooking the scene of the crime. Whilst they were erecting the gallows the farmer, Mr Warnock, protested about his land being used for this purpose. The Officer of the Law, obviously, a "Glasgow Hard Man" announced "If you don't keep quiet, we'll hang them in your parlour." Community Policing had not been heard of at this time. It was reported that there was a large turnout of spectators from Glasgow for the execution.

## Endowment Scholarship Trust Pesentation



On Wednesday 19th September, this year's winning students were presented with their cheques from the Endowment Scholarship Trust.

In the picture: there is Baillie Gordon Mathieson, Denis McCourt (All Saints Secondary) our president Alan Mclellan, and Richard Frahm (Hyndland Secondary). We wish them well in their respective courses. Denis will study Chemical Engineering at the University of Strathclyde and Richard Aeronautical Engineering at Glasgow University.

We were very impressed with their obvious enthusiasm with their chosen engineering courses and wish them well .

## 2007 Annual Golf Outing



## 2007 Annual Golf Outing



Winner - George McGraw



Second - Colin McLellan



Third - Will Aitken



Fourth - Mike Hill

On Thursday 13 September we had our most recent Annual Golf Outing round Pollok Golf Club. Yet again it was a most successful day, with fifteen people golfing and an additional three sitting down to an excellent high tea. The weather forecast for the day was dire and they got it absolutely correct. Fortunately, the timing was wrong and it was only as we departed for home that the rain descended.

The event was played as a Stableford Competition and the most impressive trophy and a bottle of Allan Glen's Whisky was won by George McGraw with a very creditable 40 points; Colin McLellan was second equal with 37 points and Will Aitken also –came second equal but effectively third on count-back; Mike Hill, who has won for the past two years was a very close fourth As an early date for your diaries next year, the Golf is *likely* to be played on Thursday 11th of September, again the day before our first monthly lunch of the 2008 Autumn Session. Make sure that you take note of the date **NOW**. Surely, with this advance warning we can ensure a bigger turnout next time. All you guys North, South, East and West of Glasgow are put to shame, we had Mervyn Tonks from Johannesburg in South Africa at both Golf and Lunch and Ken Clark, the Lunch Convenor from Toronto attended the Lunch on the Friday.

*PS We did have a number of attendees from the East and the South but not nearly enough.*

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### OBITUARY – THOMAS TAYLOR

Just as we were going to print an obituary notice for Tom Taylor appeared in the Glasgow Herald.

Born on St Valentine's Day 1927, he died on 6 September 2007. He attended Allan Glen's from 1945 to 1951. He was very active in School and was School Captain and Captain of the 1st XV. He qualified as a Doctor in 1951 and moved to Vancouver in 1957. In 1961 he married Susan Baker and has two sons Brian and Robin. There is a very full obituary on the internet at [www.briantaylor.ca](http://www.briantaylor.ca)



# Allan Glen's Young Persons Lecture

November 2007



November 2007

**Promoted by the Allan Glen's  
Endowment Scholarship Trust**

The ALLAN GLEN'S YOUNG PERSONS LECTURE is a totally new initiative for the Club. It is a proactive step in the pursuance of the ideals of Allan Glen. From an idea floated by Club member Dr. Jack McGuinness, the Club has put its weight behind the concept of persuading young people to consider engineering as a future career and turned it into a reality. It is planned to establish this lecture as an annual event that will publicise and continue the good work that Allan Glen set in motion all those years ago with his legacy.

On Monday afternoon of the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2007, Professor Emeritus Herb Saravanamuttoo will be in Glasgow to give the first of these Annual Lectures to young people who are undecided about which direction their future career paths should follow. The purpose of the lecture is twofold. Firstly to introduce them to engineering and secondly to make them aware that financial assistance may be available to them while attending University from The Allan Glen's Endowment Scholarship Trust.

It is appropriate that this first lecture features former Glen's pupil, Herb. He is a world authority on the technology of the gas turbine engine and is the sole author of the fourth and fifth editions of "Gas Turbine Theory", the leading industry textbook. He grew up in Glasgow and graduated from Glasgow University after leaving Allan Glen's School. In his early career, he worked as a consultant on the engines for Concorde and the RB211 and there is no doubt that the ease of travel that is enjoyed today owes much to Herb. He is sympathetic to the aims of the Trust and is giving his services free and travelling to Glasgow from Ottawa at his own expense.

The lecture will be held in the Lecture Theatre of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow and a separate room has been booked where sponsor companies can introduce the young people to their companies. If any members have companies or know of businesses that endorse the Trust's view then please contact the undersigned.

Gregor Egan (Chairman of the fund raising group) - [gregan@ntlworld.com](mailto:gregan@ntlworld.com)