



# Allan Glen's School Club

# Newsletter June 2009

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### **Introducing the new President - Gregor Egan**

Gentlemen, it is customary for the incoming President to state what an honour and a privilege is it to accept this role and I am no different when I tell you that I am genuinely honoured and privileged to take up the role of President of this important Club. However, these words are quite inadequate to express the full depth of my feelings towards the Allan Glen's School Club. When I look at the list of important people who have carried out the duties of President in the past, I am truly both humbled and proud. One name that has always jumped out at me from the list is George H. Sommerfield who was instrumental in starting me off on a career in engineering. I owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude as well as the School.

I believe that the Allan Glen's School Club is extremely important because it is said that after you come through a near death experience your outlook on life changes. These changes are typically a **greater appreciation for life, higher self-esteem and greater compassion for others, a heightened sense of purpose and self-understanding, and a desire to learn.**

Allan Glen's School suffered a total death experience and as a result the outlooks of the members of this Club all reflect these changes. This is particularly evident when the activities of our Club are compared to those of our kindred clubs. I have in mind the special work of the two Trusts and our Club members who have willingly given their time and expertise to the management and performance of them.

*(Continued Overleaf)*

### **Dates for your Diary**

**Second Friday of the month - Monthly Lunch** - (0141 772 2756)  
**Fourth Friday of the month - Bishopbriggs Lunch** - (01383 730438)

**27 June 2009 - Pitlochry Festival Theatre - contact Ian Hogarth**  
**10 July 2009 - Lunch at Holyrood See Page 10 for details.**  
**10 Sept 2009 - Allan Glen's Annual Golf Outing.** Pollok Golf Club

**Saturday 28 November 2009- Annual Dinner -  
Trades Hall Glasgow 6:15 for 7:00.**

**President** - Gregor Egan  
15 Lowndes Street Barrhead  
Glasgow G78 2QX 0141 881 5101  
[president@allanglens.com](mailto:president@allanglens.com)

**Vice-President** - Ronnie Wright  
134 Boghead Road  
Kirkintilloch  
Glasgow G66 4EN

**Secretary** - Dr Ian Dale  
112 Speirs Road Bearsden  
G61 2NU tel 0141 563 8055  
[secretary@allanglens.com](mailto:secretary@allanglens.com)

**Treasurer** - Mike McCreery  
1 Duart Drive, Newton Mearns  
Glasgow G77 5DS  
[treasurer@allanglens.com](mailto:treasurer@allanglens.com)

**Editor**  
Alan McLellan  
3 First Avenue Netherlee  
Glasgow G44 3UA  
[editor@allanglens.com](mailto:editor@allanglens.com)

**Lunch Club** - Gordon Day  
34 Lomond Drive Bishopbriggs  
G64 3BZ tel 0141 772 3756  
and - George Smith  
Newhouse Farm Barrhead  
Glasgow G78 2SE

**Moneyspinner Draw** -  
Ian McLennan 3B Lennox Court  
22 Stockiemuir Avenue G61 3JN

**Dinner Convenor** - Ross Graham  
60 Cleveden Dr. Glasgow G12 0NX  
0141 357 0137

**Memberships** - Mike McCreery  
1 Duart Drive Glasgow G77 5DS  
0141 639 3340  
[membership@allanglens.com](mailto:membership@allanglens.com)

**Young Persons' Lecture**  
Gregor Egan  
15 Lowndes Street Barrhead  
Glasgow G78 2QX

**East of Scotland Club**  
Ian Hogarth 9 Blinkbonny Road  
Edinburgh EH4 3HY  
0131 332 1503

**Website** - Callan Dick  
[www.allanglens.com](http://www.allanglens.com)  
[webmaster@allanglens.com](mailto:webmaster@allanglens.com)

**Committee**  
A McLaren D Tanner R Leckie  
J Bolton J Kelly C Downie  
K Guiney B McAllister T Bell

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## Introducing the new President - Continued

Our Immediate Past President, Alan McLellan has been at the forefront of this effort for the past two years in his roles as President of the Club and Chairman of both Trusts. During his tenure the outlook changes mentioned above were all motivational in Alan's approach to his duties and responsibilities.

His work did not stop there because under his leadership the Club members enjoyed several new initiatives. The Allan Glen Tribute Lecture\* is targeted at school children but the support from members demonstrated that the Club is delighted to be associated with it. The first Burns Lunches at Chesters and at Bearyards took place this year and both enjoyed the whole hearted support of members who immediately proposed that they should become regular features in the Club's calendar and in addition we have introduced "Ladies Lunches" at both these venues which have been well supported. All this and more was achieved through Alan's two year Presidency while he also assisted in the production of four Newsletters a year for the Club.

I could go on but I think it is safe to summarize Alan's Presidency as being extremely productive and very successful for the Club and its Members.

As I look forward to the next two years working with the Club's Committee, I know that I have much to live up to and I assure you that I will be giving my best efforts to match his contribution.

*\* Past President's Note - this stemmed from an idea by Dr Jack McGuinness and was taken forward very ably by Gregor Egan and his sub Committee*

## Thoughts of a Past President

My introduction to the Committee was by that pillar of the Club, Norrie Kilpatrick. Norrie is disinclined to accept that your opinion should not conform to his and I duly joined Sandy Howie and Jack MacGuinness in standing for election. The initiative and enthusiasm of Sandy and Jack left me trailing in their wake and it crossed my mind that perhaps I was surplus to requirements. Was there perhaps some little position that I might fill ?

My three years in office as President and the subsequent two years, to my pleasant surprise, offered the opportunity to meet and enjoy the company of our members to a degree far beyond my previous experience. I realised the significance of my time at School, the common bond it established, the effect on the path of our lives, the fascination of a scientific-engineering upbringing and the wonderful achievements of our friends.

I have been privileged to serve on numerous committees in my time and few have matched the enthusiasm and productivity of our Club.

I have been succeeded by a man of the highest standards and I wish to thank Alan for his outstanding contribution to the Club, he stands down, passing to Gregor the opportunity to continue the leadership of a School Club, which in my opinion has no equal in this part of the world. I am sure the standard will remain undiminished.

In conclusion gentlemen, I wish to thank our members for their generous support.

I stand down at this time together with David Shaw. David has contributed over twenty-seven years to the wellbeing of the Club including the highest office. His presence and knowledge will be missed. David has offered to continue as a Trustee of the Endowment Scholarship Trust a post he has filled with distinction since its inception.

John Macdonald

# The New Committee - April 2009



**Gregor Egan - President**



Ronnie Wright  
Vice - President



Alan McLellan  
Immediate Past President



Ross Graham  
Annual Dinner



Dr Ian Dale  
Secretary



Mike McCreery  
Treasurer and Memberships



Gordon Day  
Lunch Club



Ian McLennan  
Moneyspinner Draw



Allan McLaren  
Property



Bob Leckie  
Sports Club



Callan Dick  
Website



George Smith  
Recruitment



David Tanner



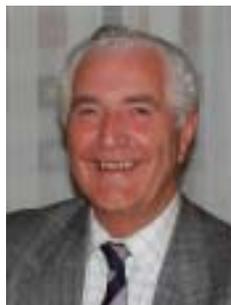
Col John Kelly  
Education Trust



Brian McAllister - Golf



John Bolton



Tom Bell



Craig Downie



Ken Guiney

# The Two Bills (Bill Hill and Bill Gates)

I wasn't one of the "Good Boys" at Glen's. You'd find me in the shed with "The Smokers" (what idiots we were back then!). Part of the problem, I think, was that my dad died just two days before I finished First Year in 1962, and that was a major upheaval; my mum took a job as a cook in Glasgow Corporation School Meals Service to make ends (just about) meet, and I went pretty crazy myself...

I was pretty mediocre academically, and a pain in the ass, since I'd spent hours every day reading (encyclopaedias, science, natural history, etc) and could - and would - pitch in authoritatively on any subject you could name. These days you'd call me a geek. I didn't know at the time, but years later I took a Mensa IQ test and scored 158...

The one teacher at the school who seemed able to bring out something extra in me was Paddy Inglis, who tried to teach us English. He gave me the loan of the little private room behind his classroom, so I could write and edit a couple of editions of an unofficial newspaper, *Writer's Cramped* (censored from the original title, *Writer's Crap...*). Glen's being a science school, I never thought then about being able to write for a living - science or engineering was a "real" job.

I left at the end of fifth year to go to Heriot-Watt in its first year as a university, studying Civil (Gas) Engineering. It was a disaster. I was behind in math before I started, and never caught up. I left after one year, and got a succession of jobs until I ended up working as a trainee reporter on *The Sunday Post*. I went from there to the *Paisley Daily Express*, and then spent about 12 years in the Glasgow office of *The Scotsman*.

In the early 1980s, I could see that computers were going to change the world - and especially the publishing industry. So I decided to teach myself. Before I knew it, I was writing about computers and technology not only for *The Scotsman*, but a series of magazines from *Apple User* to *Jane's Defence Weekly*.

In 1984 I heard about desktop publishing, and got an Apple Macintosh computer within six weeks of their first shipping in the USA.

In 1985, an Edinburgh company - Office Workstations Limited (OWL) approached me and asked me to write the user manual for a new software application they were developing. This was called 'Guide,' the first hypertext program for the Macintosh, this was hypertext almost ten years before the Web.

In 1986, I left newspapers to become one of five founding employees of the European operations of Seattle-based Aldus Corporation, whose PageMaker software created the desktop publishing market. The company grew from five to 250 in eight years, with subsidiaries all over Europe.

In 1994, Aldus was being taken over by Adobe, when I was approached out of the blue by Microsoft Corporation. I got back in the office one Monday morning and there were three voicemail messages: "This is Robert Norton at Microsoft Corporation. We have a job we think you should be doing. Can you give us a call?" Wow!

One of the areas I'd focused on, ever since working with Guide in 1985, was improving reading on computer screens. We'd been creating print for 550 years, and text on computer screens was still in its infancy - and pretty horrible.

I took the job at Microsoft because it was running the company's Typography group, which made all the fonts and type technologies for the company's software Microsoft Windows, Office, etc. With the installed base of these products already huge, it seemed like the one company most likely to lead the transition from reading on paper to reading on screen - which I knew was inevitable.

The first project I commissioned was the creation of two new typefaces designed specifically for reading on the screen. These were Verdana and Georgia. If you use the Web, you see them every day.

In 1998, I joined the company's eBooks effort, and a colleague and I invented a technology called ClearType - a very clever way of increasing the (low) resolutions of computer screens using only software. No-one had realized that by independently addressing the Red, Green and Blue sub-pixel elements of a Liquid Crystal Display you could in effect triple the resolution in the horizontal dimension - the one which causes the biggest problem in the display of text on a screen.

I went on stage with Bill Gates in 1998 at Comdex - his biggest speaking venue of the year - to demonstrate the technology and announce it to the world. It has shipped in every copy of Windows since Windows XP, and is also in every copy of Microsoft Office and Internet Explorer. There are well over a billion copies of ClearType working every day, all over the world. Talk about a way to make an impact on reading onscreen!

We've created new screen-readable typefaces for Windows Vista and Office 2007 which were optimized with ClearType in mind, including a new Japanese typeface called Meiryō - the most readable Japanese text ever on a screen.

Reading onscreen was always one of Bill G's pet subjects. So I ended up advising him on the topic. I'm still working on improving things - the Web has a long way to go before reading on it is as good as reading on paper. But I think I know how to get there...

I still live in Washington State, although these days I'm spending more and more of my time at my second home on the beautiful Hawaiian island of Kauai. My house is on Hanalei Bay - one of the most beautiful beaches in the world, and my favorite pastime is surfing. Try finding it on Google Maps. I think you'll agree - it's not Saltcoats ☺

I've been married to Tanya for 32 years (she graduated with honours from Glasgow School of Art in 1981)

- You can find my blog, "The Future of Reading" at <http://billhillsblog.blogspot.com>
- See video of my thoughts on the future of reading on the Web at: <http://channel9.msdn.com/posts/Dan/Bill-Hill-The-Future-of-Reading-on-the-Web-Part-1/>
- My website I use for experimentation is at <http://www.billhillsite.com>
- Tanya's blog has pictures and video of Kauai and some of the local wildlife: <http://tanyahillblog.blogspot.com>



"But, Captain, we're at Warp 6 already  
—she'll not take any more!"

# Notes and Jottings

## **A Note From Ian Roger**

Just finished reading the newsletter. Wonderful creation. I loved the variety. The heron bit in the first piece after the November Dinner, conjures up a strong feeling of renewal and spiritual continuity to a romantic like me. This sense of renewal when spied from the top deck of a No44 bus— is also my idea of vintage Glen's.

Norrie's contribution was well taken we should be more loving and circumspect in our written comments on our old teachers. Some of them had very challenging lives. The said Mr. Fleming (who never taught me) was a relative of my brother in law and did have a challenging life.

I would love to try to contact AGS Old Boys in Malaysia. Do you know of any?

I would love to have a copy of the slides presented by Dr. Jack MacGuinness. He did teach me at the bedside on at least one occasion and he was awesome. Also was in the audience in the Western Infirmary circa 1965 when he delivered a very amusing speech saying farewell following his appointment to the Victoria Infirmary.

*Ed's Note - Jack MacGuinness's slides are now on-line at [www.allanglens.com](http://www.allanglens.com)*

## **John Pearce's Final Epistle**

Dear Editor,

Thank your for yet another Newsletter. My teacher comments obviously did not go down too well with Norrie Kilpatrick.

I feel no need to apologise for my comments, indeed, I would recommend that Norrie Kilpatrick should visit the Dirk Bogarde website. It would appear that Dirk Bogarde shared my views re Allan Glen's School (although at an earlier period). Bogarde's book "A Postillion Struck by Lightning" makes interesting reading. I would hope that you print these comments in your next newsletter, as I promise, they will be my last.

John locuta est,causa finita est.

Best wishes for 2009.

John Pearce

***Ed's FINAL Note - Unless there is a compelling reason, this will be the last correspondence in this vein !  
locuta est,causa finita est. -Just Google it!***

## **From Dr Alistair P Thomson**

Norrie, I very much agree with your views as expressed in Newsletter No 16. I was never the brightest but managed to get school without touching the sides – i.e. never belted!! I was aware that some of the punishment was unjust (perhaps on two occasions) and some regarded this as normal for that era. I did get a ticking off from Benny Linda, when he told me that I had to take life more seriously otherwise I would end up as a message boy (I ended up as a frustrated Alan Sugar). The comments made by some shows that the school failed these pupils. Perhaps they should have been given the task of writing an essay on "O wad some power the gift tie gie us, tae see oorsels as ithers see us!"

The teachers mentioned would have seen a bit of the 30's depression, the dark clouds of war and WW2 itself, an era with little social justice. They also had a life *outside the fountain of knowledge that was mostly unknown to their pupils* They probably thank the Lord for that.

I would like to imagine what would the teachers have thought of their present critics and of facing them each day – wallies, wimps, whiners or whingers.

Let us have more good/positive/in better taste reminiscing or nothing. Herb Saravannamutoo's letter would be suitable as a guide line. To finish, please convey to the Editor that I agree with Norrie Kilpatrick 100%.

Alistair Thomson (Signed)

*Ed's Note - The teachers we had in our era 1953-59, were just as inclined to dish out the belt as has been previously quoted, many of them with little or no experience of the depression or of WW II. I would have hated the prospect of controlling 25 boys without the Lochgelly. I don't know how they manage in the present day.*

## **Editorial Comment**

Well guys, if you have read and digested Bill Hill's synopsis on page 4, you will see that we have a long way to go on our publishing skills for the newsletter. Bill notes casually that he is co-inventor on 21 granted US patents!

On the next 2 pages you will be treated to a couple of wonderful reminiscences by two of our most illustrious old boys - just read them!!

## A letter From Ed Baillie (Switzerland) to Hugh Sutherland

Dear Hugh,

I said I would write to you after your return from your Christmas visit to your « Antipodean » children and here I am!

First, even a year later, I would like to reiterate Genevieve's and my sympathy for you in your loss of Sheila. I never knew her well but I have a marvellous souvenir of our little reunion with the Coats and the Lows in your golf club-house where we first met her - 1990, I think.

Second, in response to my brother Sandy's telephone 4 or 5 years ago to tell me of your appearance in the Birthday Honours List, I offer my rather bedraggled and certainly belated congratulations on your efforts being recognised. I have always thought « they » (is it a committee?) were a little stingy; « sir » would have been more appropriate. The « sir » who nearly bought our chalet in 1996 was a (not very) successful business-man from the South whose career yours would knock spots off, if I may put that way. Happily his bid was bettered and the Belgians who succeeded him were nicer people.

Sandy's keen perusal of the hatches, matches and despatches seems to have dried up and I hear less and less from him these days.

My third topic is to ask a little service from you, Hugh. Could you please give me the name and address of the Secretary of the 'Glens Old Boys club? I joined as a life member when I left school but when I graduated I was whisked pretty quickly into the Pacific and neglected to tell them of my various changes of address and have lost touch. I have found the Club home page and signed up to subscribe for a newsletter (presumably in E-mail) but no sign of a postal address. Or just give them my address and tell them to contact me.

A propos I send a digital photo, A-4 size, and an old-fashioned one from my « steam-driven » camera both showing me on my 75th birthday (2000 - I date from 1925) wearing my trophy blazer which I had when I was 16. It shows my 1st XV dates 1941-1942. I can still wear it at 83. The mountain peaks in the background are « les Dents du Midi », over 4'000 metres altitude. My birthday is in June.

Fourthly, since I have not kept much touch with either my old school or my alma mater, I shall risk a brief summary of my nomadic progress from then till now.

I was freed from the Navy by 1948 and spent the next 12 years on hydro-electric construction, first in the Scottish highlands, then in the Swiss alps for the final 2 years. In Switzerland I worked on a very large project which started in 1928 and was finally completed in 1998. My small contribution was to the final stages of the main dam, a very large one. It was at 2,800 metres altitude so one had only a six-month window in summer. Winters were passed in Geneva on various construction works at the civilised altitude of about 400 metres. One of the jobs was the foundation works for the first CERN cyclotron

I married at this stage and that changed my life!

We went back to stay in Edinburgh, later North Berwick, whilst I worked as a management consultant for 5 years in the Scottish division of one of the national firms (although that involved a 9-month assignment in Italy), and finally, I thought, back to « normal » consulting civil and structural engineers who specialised in work for the brewing and distilling industries. That, in a way sadly, finished after a further 5 years and I found myself a « project co-ordinator » wearing a bowler hat for the Scottish Education Department.

My remit was to oversee the planning, execution, and especially costs, of all government-funded works for the construction of what I think were called « special institutions » in Scotland. This covered such as Glasgow Dough School, Edinburgh College of Art, Napier College and so on, all «sub-university »; Universities came under a different organisation. All this gave us 15 years in the Lothians to have our children (4) born in Scotland.

In 1975 I responded to a call from Ted Haws who was setting up a subsidiary (ERCON - Engineering Resources Consultants) within (Mowlem's) Soil Mechanics, to be Ercon's man in Rome working from the office of a small but well-connected local engineer who had a history of water-supply dams in Italy.

The object was hydro-electric development in Africa and South America. I agreed and announced to the family that we would go. My Swiss parents-in law were aghast. We had a large stone house about 50 yards from the West-bay golf club and had seemed settled, with good schools available. I left at Easter and the family followed in August with the removers and in time for the schools. Once settled, the children enjoyed it and Genevieve found the extra sunshine and Italian cuisine an acceptable replacement for the East Lothian countryside.

After 3 years the marriage between the small latin drawing-office and the larger computerised anglo-saxon one broke down and was dissolved as was ERCON itself.

I decided, at the age of 53, to work as a consultant for Food and Agriculture (FAO's) investment centre in Rome, with whom I had a good relationship, in the preparation of infrastructure components of agricultural development projects world-wide. These were mainly destined for World Bank financing. Where to be based chose itself.

My parents-in-law were ageing, gently, in Geneva, we had a slight educational problem, the two girls were being



## ***Ed Baillie's letter (Cont'd)***

educated (well) in French (in Rome) and the two boys in English (in Scotland) all in private schools. Swiss state schools are good so we went to Lausanne in canton Vaud and re-united the family.

I worked on this basis until I retired, two months before my 70th birthday.

An interesting diversion in this period was a brief spell of over 3 years on the permanent staff of the World Bank in Washington DC. As a result of the Bank's co-operation with FAO the manager of one of the Bank's West African divisions invited me to join him as his « rural engineer ». I accepted and took my wife and younger daughter with me - the three elder ones were already at their university stages but there is, of course, a French Lycee in Washington (in Bethesda, in fact) which dictated where we had to live. Supervision visits of on-going projects (\$ 25 mio) was the main work with appraisal missions thrown in and I found it interesting to work on the appraisal and execution side of the fence.

At the age of 62, the standard retirement age for UN organisations, I had to retire and return to my Swiss base and my FAO, International Fund for Agricultural Development and Bank consulting mandates.

I retired in 1994 after a final mission based on Quetta in the North of Baluchistan, quite near the Afganistan border. These last 18 years involved a lot of travel - I worked in 48 different countries.

I have just re-read the foregoing history after about a week away from the computer and am taken aback at my Rakes Progress. I stopped writing CV's over 20 years ago and this is the first time I have summarised it in text form. I had never quite realised what a disjointed, unstructured career I have led. It just happened.

I am lucky to have been able to retire in Switzerland. All our four children are settled inside a 50 mile radius of our home; two married and four grandchildren.

My most constructive act, apart from getting married, was to rescue William Fife's last 6 metre vessel, launched at Fairlie in 1935, from being scrapped and to restore her to her original specification. I had her transported here from Troon in 1982 and spent the following 12 years restoring her with the support of the local boat-yard.

I have written quite enough. Our best wishes for your continued happy retirement in Bearsden and we shall continue to keep in touch.

Kind regards, ED Baillie

## ***And Hugh's Reply***

Dear Ed,

I was delighted to receive your detailed letter dated 17 Feb. I had known bits and pieces of your career, but it was good to have it set out in chronological order. You certainly had a varied and interesting career which I am sure must give you some satisfaction.

I enjoyed the photograph of you in your 1<sup>st</sup> XV blazer and I am amazed that you can still get in to it at your advanced years. It must have cost a fortune in clothing coupons, which I believe were rationed till 1942! I discarded my blues blazer many years ago, although I used to wear it at Harvard as it was a good way to meet people. I now have only the Blues tie and scarf.

With regard to Allan Glen's I enclose a copy of the Committee List. The Hon Sec is Ian Dale, 112 Spiers Rd Bearsden... As you will gather, the club is still very active despite the School, as we knew it, being closed over 30 years or so. The youngest Old Boy must now be about 45. The regular Newsletter is very interesting, I find. I recently wrote a note saying how I had inadvertently met Old Boys in Australia, Canada, Zimbabwe and Sierra Leone.

A Membership directory of AGSC members is regularly issued. I enclose extracts of first year entrants around your time. The addresses of each is listed separately, but you may recognise some of the names.

I am sending a copy of your letter with a photo of you in your blazer to Ian Dale. If you think I can help please let me know.

I have very little correspondence with Switzerland, and I don't really know the Geography. One is to our former au pair in the 1950's the other is to Joan Sutherland, the Australian opera singer whose father trained with my grandfather as a tailor in Forsyth's in Glasgow before returning to Australia. She and her husband live in Les Avant sur Montreaux. Are either anywhere near you?

I am settling down after my visit to Hugh in Singapore and Moira and family in Sydney. They would like me to emigrate to Oz, but it is a big big decision at 89.

I have not heard of Sandy for a long time. Sandy and my brother John were friends, but John died a few days after Shiela. It was great hearing from you. My best wishes to you Genevieve and your family.

Yours Aye, Hugh

## A VISIT TO CRIEFF TO MEET FORMER TEACHER – Charlie Thomson.



On Wednesday 29 April, Ross Graham, Mike McCreery and Alan McLellan, visited Crieff to meet with Charlie Thomson, Maths Master at **Glen's** from 1957 -1963. On leaving Allan Glen's School in 1963, Charlie went to Crieff, to Morrison's Academy and remained there ever since. He spent thirty-three years at Morrison's twenty-three of them as Depute Rector.

He was quite clearly the same man we had been taught by some fifty odd years ago, hair a wee bit thinner and grayer and figure a wee bit fuller but, no doubt, the same man. The coffee pot was on the hob when we arrived and he was full of stories about school, J B Sommerville and **Allan Glen's** from a teacher's viewpoint. He played golf on a number of occasions at Cardross with JB, following which they would be entertained by Rita Sommerville providing them with very strong drink in the form of raspberry juice !!! Charlie had recovered from a heart attack some twenty years ago and continued to play golf at Crieff GC until recently.

Charlie became involved in the Chess Club at **Glen's** for a couple of years. The best player who he recalled in his time was Jorg Jorgensen. Following on from him and, particularly under the guidance of Jack Goldin, the Club became a major force in School

Chess Competitions throughout Scotland and produced some amazing players such as Craig Pritchett (Herald Chess Correspondent) and Nigel Allon.

He also recalled teaching some outstanding pupils such as David Allcorn, David Bayvel, Ronnie Bell, David Crichton and David Reid (*Ed's Note – all in alphabetical rather than academic order.*) Where are you all now ? Charlie also remembered an FP of **Allan Glen's**, Henry McCubbin, who had been involved, as a cameraman, in a BBC programme at Morrisons. Henry later went on to become a Labour MEP for North East Scotland.

We have determined that Charlie will come to speak to us at a lunch in the Autumn, at a date to be decided.

*Editor's Note : Subsequent email from Charlie revealed that he taught in Allan Glen's Night School and that the Night School Headmaster was A A Rae Smith.*

## Woodwork and Metalwork Teacher, Rowing Coach & Officer in the ATC – Archie Robertson.



Another teacher has been traced, Archie Robertson. It was thought that we would get our President, Gregor Egan (he was coached by Archie in the Rowing Squad) Mike and Ross to go out to visit him. However, when Gregor phoned Archie's home and spoke to Archie and his wife, Isobel, it turned that he was now quite frail, at the age of 93 and that his memory is failing. So, wishing him all the best, we abandoned that project.

*Editor's Note : Is anyone aware of any other former teachers out there who might welcome a visit ?*

*Opposite is part of a School Staff picture (about 1960) showing Charlie at the right of the front row and Archie second from the left in the third row. No doubt you can name most of the others in the picture.*

*We will try to find room in the next issue for the rest of the picture. Ed*

## SCOT Concert Dates at Pollokshaws Burgh Hall

The Wurlitzer Organ concerts are proving to be very popular and several of our members have attended

The next concert is on Sunday 21 June, the renowned Richard Hills will be performing.

During the Months of July and August, work will be undertaken by the technical team to replace all the console stop tabs to accommodate the extra ranks of pipes that are being installed.

Concerts resume on 31 August when Kevin Morgan will be the guest artiste.

More details at [www.scottishcinemaorgantrust.org.uk](http://www.scottishcinemaorgantrust.org.uk) or e-mail/ phone Mike McCreery

Entry cost is £6 for a concert of about 2 hours. All monthly concerts are on Sundays at 2:45PM

Anyone who is of a practical bent and would like to join our enthusiastic Technical Team would be most welcome. We operate on Tuesdays, Thursdays and/or Fridays most weeks. -contact Mike for more details.

## Rugby Club News from the Kirkintilloch Herald.

YOUNGSTERS from Allan Glen's Rugby Academy blossomed into spring by winning more silverware. All teams, from P3 to P7, took part in the Hamilton Festival and all of the players enjoyed a great experience.

However, special mention must go to the P4 and P7 squads, who won their respective age groups following several exciting games.

The P4 squad was Gordon McConnell, Matthew McGettigan, Liam Kenny, Sam Morrison, Alasdair Beck, Fraser Phillips, Adam Letham, Lewis McGowan, Ryan McCourt.

The P7 squad was Alasdair McConnell, Adam Linn, Innes Hill, Callum Hughes, Jack Henaghan, Scott Hughes, Grant Baggley, Jamie Gagaghan, Mathew Reilley, Harry Johnston, Jack Johnston, Jordan Duguid, Glen Watt, Callum Haddock, Jack Cavan, Andrew Sykes.

Meanwhile, Allan Glen's Bearyards home in Bishopbriggs hosted two fantastic community events in May. A non-contact tag rugby competition, for P7 upwards, took place on Saturday, May 23.

Matches will involved teams, including novice and experienced players, father and son combinations and mothers' teams.

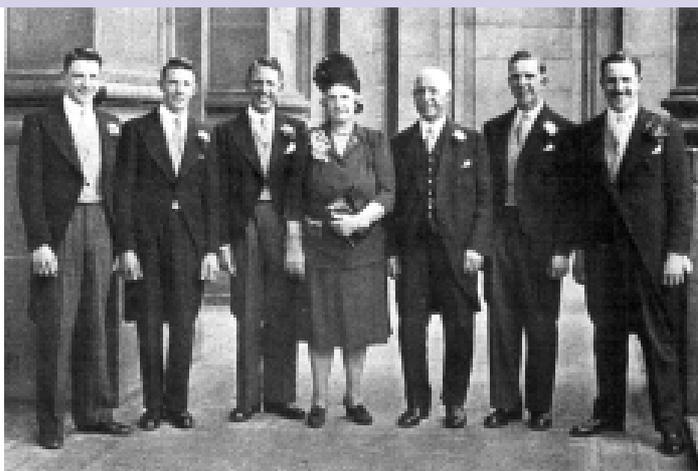
The following day was a Gala Day with an assortment of exciting activities for the whole family.



## From the 1948 School Magazine - The Smiths of Broompark

The Smiths of Broompark have been the Smiths of Broompark for quite a long time now, for over two hundred years in fact. And who, you may ask, are the the Smiths of Broompark And what is Broompark? It is the purpose of this article to answer these questions.

On the opposite page we publish a photograph of the present generation of the Smiths of Broompark. Many of our readers from Forms IV and V will recognise at least one face in the photograph, that of George, the youngest, who left school just this session. Hundreds of our Old Boys will recognise the other Smiths-James, Andy, Bert, and John. The reason we publish their photograph and write these notes is that for the first time in the history of Allan Glen's School we are able to record the fact that a whole family of five



brothers one after the other made their way to Allan Glen's. Other families have rolled up in two's and three's and four's, but the Smiths of Broompark are unique in that they make the first five.

And what is Broompark? Like the Smiths, Broompark is unique. It is a farm situated practically in the main street. When you say good-night to the Smiths and step over the threshold your foot meets the pavement of a first-class highway, with buses Numbered 14, 14A, 14B, thundering past on their way to Glasgow. It was not always thus, but modern town planning has made encroachments which have eaten into the original Broompark. Another interesting fact about Broompark is that it has been farmed by the Smiths for at least two hundred years. The Smiths, then, are not ordinary people. They are not gentleman farmers. They are gentle- men and farmers, which is quite a different thing. They know, for example, the exact meaning of five a.m. Many of us know from hearsay, from our readmg, that there is such a time on the clock. The Smiths know from actual experience.

The Smiths are now grown up and making their own way in the world. James now farms 245 acres at Plymuir, N eilston. (The group photograph was taken on the occasion of his marriage.) Robert is cattle auctioneer with McDonald. Fraser. Ltd., Inverness. John is a draughtsman with A. & J. Main, structural engineers, Possilpark. Andrew farms Broompark with his father. George, the youngest, is a student at the Agricultural College. .

Allan Glen's School owes a great debt to Mr. and Mrs. John Smith of Broompark. Their five sons have won universal regard. They were, one and all, nature's gentlemen whose courtesy and commonsense came like a breath of fresh air.

J. J. R.

*Ed's Note. The surviving brothers are Andrew and George. No prizes for guessing who JJR was.*

## AGSC Lunch Holyrood – 10 July 2009

We have reached an agreement with Bill Aitken that he will host a lunch at the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood on Friday 10 July 2009. The cost for three courses including wine and tea or coffee will be £16.00. There are four groups who I assume will be interested :

- 1) The Business School Lunchers;
- 2) The Bishopbriggs Lunchers;
- 3) The members of the East of Scotland Club
- 4) Those members who do not attend the Lunches but who would be interested in a trip round Holyrood.

To make arrangements to attend we will follow a similar method to that used by those attending the Business School Lunch in that you should phone Gordon Day on 0141-772-3756 before noon on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

Alan McLellan

Editor

### The Ontario Group

The Ontario Group met for our Spring Lunch, April 24 at a new location in central Toronto. One again we had a (Lucky?) 13 attendees spanning a wide range of school attendance. Iain brought a disc of school magazines which we were able to view prior to sitting down to lunch. As usual the group was very comfortable with good conversation and humour.

Worthy of mention is Murray MacKinnon who left school in the late 30's. Murray functioned as the Allan Glen's School Consul in Toronto from the 50's onwards. Murray and his late wife led a very active group for many years and provided a foundation for the group we have today.

Our next meeting will likely be in September to coincide with a visit to Toronto by Alan McLellan.

Attendees in the attached photograph, left to right, are:- Ian Rae, Gord McCallum, Ross Morrison, Ken Clark, Ross McKay, Wilson McArthur, Bob Wilson, Murray MacKinnon, Moore Hislop, Ron Moodie, Ian Campbell, Iain Murray, Dave Munroe.

We would welcome hearing from any Old Boys living locally or passing through Toronto. Contact Ken Clark at [ken.clark@sympatico.ca](mailto:ken.clark@sympatico.ca)



## Minutes of the 87<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Allan Glen's School Club, held in Chester's, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2009

**Present:** A. McLellan (President), and 28 members

### **Apologies:**

Apologies were received from W. Stewart, J. Love, R. Miquel, W. Hunter, I. Baxter, R. M. Graham, A. Murray, C. Strang, W. Emond, A. Laidlaw, G. Hamilton, Will Aitken, Bill Aitken, MSP, M. Bernard, J. MacDougall, J. Conely, R. Miller, I. Cave, L. Irvine, I. Hogarth, J. Kelly, D. Macfarlane, W. Coghill, J. Cochrane, C. Downie, C. Dick

### **Minutes of 86<sup>th</sup> AGM:**

The previous minutes were accepted, proposed G. Smith, seconded N. Kilpatrick

### **Deaths:**

Alan Montgomery (first year 1949), James Cattanach (1942), George Forrester (1936), James Davis (1951), Eddie Jeffrey (1941), Bob Ritchie (1940), Roy Henderson (1946), Jimmy Whyte (1944), Fred Thomas (1928), James Jaffrey (1936), Alex Mitchell (1953) and Past President Jimmy Murray (1942) who wrote the updated version of the history of the school and club.

### **President's Remarks:**

The past two years have flown by and, as I said at the East of Scotland Dinner last Friday though, at first not sure how the Presidency was going to pan out, I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I owe a huge debt of gratitude to John Macdonald our Immediate Past-president, not only because he undertook an extra year as President but also for all his help and encouragement.

At our April Lunch Meeting at the Strathclyde Business School our Guest Speaker was Bill Aitken MSP and he extended an invitation to a Lunch and Tour of the Scottish Parliament. It is likely that this will take place on July 10. This date is to be confirmed but we shall give further info in The May Newsletter.

A number of meetings were held with our Legal Advisors to discuss the future of the 1968 Trust and an Extraordinary General Meeting was called on 25 September 2008. The actions of the Trustees in updating the terms of the Trust were endorsed by the Meeting but, when the proposal was put forward that the Trust should pursue Charitable Status, the Meeting was divided 50:50, **which effectively meant that, whatever the Trustees decided, half of the Membership would know we were wrong.**

At a subsequent Meeting of Trustees it was decided that, particularly as a result of the vote at the EGM and in view of the fact that Capital Gains Tax on a partial sale of the Playing Fields at Bishopbriggs had been reduced from 40% to 18% we should no longer pursue Charitable Status for the 1968 Trust. I shall update you further on the 1968 Trust under Item 10 on your agenda.

I would like to ask John Macdonald Immediate Past-president to come forward to receive a bottle of Allan Glen's Whisky for his extended service as President to The School Club and also for having wachled on with no Vice-President for a considerable time.

I would also like to present David Shaw with a similar gift, Committee Member since 1981, President 1984-86 and member of the Endowment Scholarship Trust since its inception.

### **Secretary's Report:**

The secretary advised that the committee meetings had been well attended with much hard work completed by the members.

The database of members is continuing to be of considerable value and is being expertly maintained by M. McCreery and been added to by the efforts of Sandy Howie and John Bolton. New members continue to be added to the membership through the website. The website now has a considerable number of photographs of the school and a forum for former pupils to request information or offer reminiscences.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

R. Graham presented the report.

The balance sheet was satisfactory and there was no need to raise the subscription. The purchase of the colour laser printer greatly reduced the cost of the Newsletters and this was reflected in the accounts.

It was requested that in future the accounts should be sent with the Agenda and this was agreed.

### **Money Spinner Draw:**

I. McLennan presented the accounts and thanked members for their support. It was noted that despite the substantial increase in the prizes the number of tickets sold at 291 was slightly less than previous years. The committee would consider the distribution of the funds available and would consider both the Sports Club and the Endowment Trust.

### **Endowment Scholarship Trust:**

In the absence of J. Kelly, the President presented the report. Seven trustees administer the Trust (four from the School Club – president, secretary, J. Kelly and D. Shaw and three others – the Director of Education, one other from the Education Department (W. Brown – secretary of the trust who retired this year and was replaced by George Mackie) and Professor A Davidson (Strathclyde University), both of whom happen to be a former pupils). The President brought the members up to date with the Endowment Trust. Nine students are currently being supported and all are doing well in their studies. The Trustees had agreed to increase the scholarship to £1500 pa with effect from April 2009. It was noted that a relatively small number of applications are received each year and the Trustees were asked to try to improve the publicity of the grants. It was also suggested that there might be some scope in increasing the number of schools which would be eligible; the Trustees would investigate. Income was in line with previous years; donations of £10,000 from Weir's and £500 from Tunnock's were received. The value of the investments had fallen from £300,000 to £216,000 due to the fall in the Stock Market.

### **Young Person's Lecture:**

G. Egan reported that the second lecture had been a great success with former pupil, Dr Jack McGuinness giving a presentation in place of Professor John Paul who was ill. 70 pupils attended. It is hoped that Don Cameron will be the lecturer on 7 December 2009.

### **School Club Trust:**

The President stated that major asset which the School Club Trust controls is the Playing Field at Bishopbriggs. Following a number of Meetings with McClure Naismith and in line with the resolve of the Extraordinary General Meeting, our lawyers have been instructed to ask Counsel to pursue a modified approach to The Court of Session to revise the 1968 Trust to ensure its continuity but not now pursuing Charitable Status.

A. McLaren updated the members on the various proposals for the sale of the strip of land at Bishopbriggs. Useful discussions had

taken place with Chief Executive of East Dunbartonshire Council and with the Chief Planning Officer. Based upon the proposal for the site a 'letter of comfort' had been promised and this would allow the Trust to move on to the next stage with the developers.

#### **East of Scotland Club:**

Ian Hogarth having successfully undergone surgery on his knee, has picked up a post-hospital infection and is unable to attend today, he forwards his apology and in his absence the President delivered his report from our East of Scotland Club.

The EoS Club held their AGM on 19<sup>th</sup> of December 2008, it was attended by 16 members. At the Meeting their Programme for 2009 was agreed. Their 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner was held last Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> of April at Murrayfield GC, 34 attended and enjoyed an excellent meal.

There are presently 22 booked to attend lunch and a Matinee Performance of "Whisky Galore" – the musical at The Pitlochry Festival Theatre. If there are others who would be interested in joining the group, please contact Ian Hogarth. Last year there were 23 attendees who enjoyed the play "Habeas Corpus."

#### **Toronto Club:**

Recently 13 members enjoyed lunch; coincidentally this took place at exactly the same time as the EoS club annual dinner.

#### **Golf Section:**

Brian McAllister reported that the events had been well supported and that the notice for the coming year's competitions would be sent out in early May.

#### **Sports Club:**

Bob Leckie reported on the Sports Club. The current financial climate was having some effect on the club and some matches had been cancelled. The use of the premises by East Dunbartonshire Council had ended with a subsequent reduction in income of £12,000. The sports club was investigating having the facilities available for daytime lets.

Money would need to be spent on re-roofing, refurbishment of the dressing rooms and on the pitches but this might have to be scheduled for the coming years. The first XV finished fourth in their league and the second XV third. Over 120 boys were involved with the various junior teams and a part-time development officer was employed.

The Sports Club thanked the School Club for generously purchasing the lighting tower which has proved to be of great value in ensuring extended training sessions.

The President explained that subsequent on any sale of the strip of land money would be made available to the Sports Club for various improvements.

#### **Newsletter:**

The Newsletter, produced by Mike McCreery and Alan McLellan, continues to be well received and former pupils have provided additional articles for publication. The next issue is due to be published in May. The colour printer has allowed for the cheaper production of the Newsletter to those 90 members who do not have access to email.

#### **Annual Dinner:**

The Annual Dinner was a great success with 128 attending. The Guest of Honour was Sir Bill Jeffrey. It is generally accepted that the Glen's dinner is the best on the local circuit! Ross Graham was congratulated on the organisation of the event. This was the last dinner to be organised by Ross and John Bolton has been 'shadowing' the organisational details and he will be in charge for the 2009 dinner. which has been booked for 28 November in Trades Hall; the Guest of Honour is to be Professor Emeritus Herb Saravanamuttoo from Canada.

#### **Luncheon Club:**

The Lunch Club report was presented by Gordon Day. The new venue, Chesters', University of Strathclyde, has proved to be very popular with excellent food, good service and no significant restriction in the numbers who can attend. The attendance of members and guests averages about 31 with the largest number at the October lunch. The mixed lunches had proved to be a success and would be repeated.

On the 30th January 2009, a Burns Lunch was held at Bearyards (the Allan Glen's Sports Ground at Bishopbriggs) which was attended by about 30 Club members – edited highlights have been downloaded to the YouTube website.

**Strathclyde Alumnus of the Year:** Andrew Cameron, Chief Constable, Central Scotland Police

#### **Glasgow University Young Alumnus of the Year**

Jointly awarded to Mark Beaumont, record-breaking round the world cyclist and fund raiser and to John Tiffany, Associate Director (New Works) National Theatre of Scotland.

#### **Website: ([www.allanglens.com](http://www.allanglens.com))**

The website, designed and managed by Callan Dick, has proved to be a valuable source of information and contact for former pupils.

M. McCreery is able to update various sections of the site – recently all the pictures on show in the Sports Club have been digitised and are online. C. Dick is planning a revamp of the site whenever time permits.

#### **Elections:**

The Secretary announced the election of the following sole nominees.

President: Gregor Egan, Vice-President: Ronnie Wright. The following committee members who retire by rotation and have offered themselves for renomination: Gordon Day, Craig Downie, John Kelly, Bob Leckie. D. Shaw and J. Macdonald had intimated that they wished to resign and David Tanner and Tom Bell were proposed in their place. All the nominations were approved by the members.

Trustees of the Endowment Scholarship Trust were elected as follows: Alan McLellan, Ian Dale, John Kelly, David Shaw (until September 2009 when a new trustee will be nominated).

#### **AOCB:**

N. Kilpatrick advised that the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Flora Smith, the widow of Alex Smith ( President of the Club 1957-58) had taken place recently.

The President thanked the committee for their support during his term as President.

Proposed Date of next AGM: 26 April 2010