



Allan Glen's School Club

Newsletter March 2011

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Editorial

This Newsletter unfortunately has a number of obituaries of Distinguished Former Pupils and Associates of Allan Glen's School. As an ageing group I suppose there is an inevitability about that.

I am pleased to report that the application to the Court of Session to establish a successor Trust to the 1968 Trust is probably going to be made soon after this year's Annual General Meeting (at the Ramada Hotel on the 18th of April).

We would like to continue our interviews with well-known Former Pupils and those who were associated with the School. If you know of any suitable candidates please contact me.

On a different note, a number of the "Coronation Boys," those who were in first year in 1953, are thinking of having a Diamond Jubilee Re-union in 2013, it would be good if those who are interested could indicate their interest by contacting me (as one of the Coronation Boys!) We will shortly send out a list of the known names of the 1953 classes to all those on e-mail. Please add in any other names/ e-mails who you believe should be included.

Appended to this Newsletter is notice calling the AGM and a booking form for the two forthcoming East of Scotland Club events.

Alan McLellan

editor@allanglens.com

Dates for your Diary

- Second Friday of the month* - *Monthly Lunch* - (0141 772 3756)
Last Friday of the month - *Bishopbriggs Lunch* - (01383 730438)
Friday 15th April 2011 - *East of Scotland Club Dinner*
Monday 18th April 2011 - *Annual General Meeting*
Ramada Hotel, Ingram Street, Glasgow
Saturday 25th June - *Pitlochry Festival Theatre - EOS Club Event*

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The third year Allan Glen's Bursary

The bursary story is slowly becoming clearer and although a lot is now known about the early bursaries and scholarships, there is little information about bursaries in the 1960s and 1970s.

The three years scholarship available to pupils in the Glasgow area is sometimes thought to be the only bursary at Allan Glen's School. However there were two other very important bursaries available. One was open to 5th and 6th year pupils and covered a four year spell at University or Technical College. This bursary seems to have been withdrawn around 1952, possibly in times of financial restraint.

The final important bursary was available to third year Allan Glen's pupils to assist with the completion of their schooling. This bursary was given annually to upwards of 15 pupils and was linked with financial assistance from a fund which began in the early 1700's.

Towards the end of the Centenary School History mention is made of an Auldhouse and Wardrop fund assisting pupils at the School. In 1880 the trustees of this fund appear to have reached an agreement with the School to support a small number of the 3rd year bursaries as part of their wish "To offer instruction to boys in Schools or Establishments where scientific or technical education could be obtained". From around 1720, this fund had been used to assist trade apprentices.

This reference to the Auldhouse fund in the School History led to an old and decidedly dusty ledger in the basement of a City library. The interest in this ledger is due to its contents – lists of names of around 1,800 Allan Glen's pupils who were candidates of the 3rd year School bursaries.

The table shows the numbers of pupils involved in the 3rd year bursaries and has been composed from the Auldhouse candidates list and the Bursary lists supplied by Members. It is hoped that some of the question marks shown against the later years on this table can be converted into numbers.

The School Club records before 1933 are very sketchy and it was therefore rewarding to find so many names going back to the 1880s. As those sitting the examinations were likely to be in their 3rd year, it was possible to slot the names into the year that each candidate entered the secondary school.

It was amazing to read the names of some of our Members whose early academic endeavour was the reason they are mentioned in this ledger.

This brings us back to the annual bursary lists where the names match those who appear as candidates from the Auldhouse ledger.

The 1956 bursary list is the last piece of written information on bursaries that we have and it would be extremely interesting if any of our "younger" Members could let us know about bursaries in the latter years of the School. It would be terrific if Bursary lists beyond 1956 still exist and we can add more to the bursary story. Any help on bursaries would be greatly appreciate

Sandy Howie

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Provost McSkimming



Published on Wed Jan 26 16:04:00 GMT 2011

TRIBUTES flooded in this week for well loved and respected former Provost Robin McSkimming, who passed away on Friday following a short illness.

The 73-year-old, pictured left, who was East Dunbartonshire's second Provost from 1999 to 2003, was looked after at St Margaret's Hospice after it was discovered he had a rare form of liver cancer just before Christmas.

His wife Anne said: "It's a big loss. He was one of those people who liked to help others. When he retired from teaching, which he really enjoyed, he wanted to give something back to the people, and became involved in local politics. He loved the area and was very interested in local history. He was a member of the Historical Society and vice-president of Westerton Male Voice Choir."

Paying tribute to the former **Allan Glen's** geography teacher, current Provost Eric Gotts said: "Robin was well thought of by his colleagues of all political persuasions. He was a real gentleman and will be sadly missed in the community.

"On retiring from teaching in 1987, he became involved in community politics, serving the people of Bearsden well for a total of 13 years on three separate councils and felt very honoured to be chosen as East Dunbartonshire's second Provost after John Dempsey.

"He carried out this role with great gusto and became an excellent ambassador both inside and outside the authority."

Council leader Rhondda Geekie said: "I had the privilege of working alongside Robin for many years. He was a man of great intellect, integrity and humour who commanded respect from everyone who knew him. His capacity for knowledge, facts and figures was immense and he could always educate and entertain with stories on seemingly endless topics.

"He remained active in the community and was never far from the thoughts of his political colleagues. Robin was a true gentleman who will be missed and I'd like to extend my sympathy to his wife, family and friends."

Don Martin, from Kirkintilloch, who worked closely with Mr McSkimming when he was the council's local history specialist, said: "I knew Robin on a number of levels. He was very well known all over East Dunbartonshire for his interest in local history and will be missed greatly.

Robin was born in Knightswood in May 1937 and evacuated to Millport during the war. His family moved to Bearsden in 1950. He was educated at Hillhead High and Glasgow University, graduating with an MA before doing two years of National service with the Education Corps stationed in Wales.

After his school closed in 1987 Robin turned his attention to politics. He was elected as a Liberal councillor in the early 90s for the Thorn ward and also served on Strathclyde Regional Council before local government reorganisation led to him becoming a councillor on the newly created East Dunbartonshire Council.

Isaac Barrie Hastie 1925 - 2010.

From the time that I was quite young, Barrie Hastie popped into my life from time to time so I feel honoured to be writing his obituary today. Barrie died as we were preparing the last Newsletter and there was just not enough time to do anything other than note the fact that he had died.

Barrie started in Allan Glen's in QC on the 2nd of September 1935 and completed his schooling in 1943, he had two brothers John and Campbell who also attended the school and a sister Sheila who attended Park School (Campbell was killed in the Netherlands in November 1944 shortly after the D Day Landings in June of that year, as is noted in the 2nd World War *Allan Glen's Memorial Book*, a copy of which was donated to the School Club by Barrie. During his final years at school Barrie was Captain of the School, of Rugby and of Cricket.

Immediately Barrie left school, much to his Mother's dismay, he enlisted in the army and spent six weeks in Maryhill Barracks before being transferred to Officer Training and being posted to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Barrie was seconded to the King's African Rifles and served in Nairobi, Kenya and then in Mauritius. In Mauritius he met Polly who was serving with the Queen Alexandra Nurses. They married in Mauritius and he was demobbed in 1948 aged 22 with the rank of Captain and a new wife.

On his return to civilian life Barrie continued his interest with *Allan Glen's Former Pupils* and particularly at Bishopbriggs. In his playing days, I understand he played a mean game at scrum half.

I can recall a particular game in 1959, when he was present representing the Club and running the line in an away game against Cambuslang. Why do I recall this with such clarity? It's because I was playing for the FP's that day and broke my ankle. Barrie was President of *Allan Glen's Rugby Club* from 1963 to 1965 and of the *Allan Glen's Old Boys Club* in 1969 and 1970.

After demob, Barrie was employed in transport, training with Holdsworth & Hanson, (while he was still at school the Hastie family had entertained Robert Hanson who was stationed in Maryhill Barracks and was the brother of the future Lord Hanson and this gave him an entry to a national transport company) and then with Pickfords Removals. Eventually he rejoined the Family Businesses of Glasgow Hiring Co & John Barrie Contractors (there were quite complex family relationships between the Hastie and Barrie Families in haulage businesses in Glasgow. The families controlled at one stage, more than 10 transport companies and employed approximately 600 people.) Eventually, Barrie joined the Book Distribution Group, based at the Glasgow Hiring Co in Petershill Road from where he transferred to the Book Group Headquarters in London. He retired from transport aged 65.

Soon after his retiral, Barrie and Polly moved to stay in Kloof near Durban before moving into a cottage annexe with his son Campbell and daughter in law Emilia. Barrie and Polly had a very happy ex-pats life there for almost twenty years. Polly died some six years ago.

Barrie joined a largely Scottish Golfing Society in Durban who rejoiced in the pseudonym of the MUGS, initially as a playing member and latterly as the non-playing organising secretary. It was in fact on a Annual Weekend Outing near Durban with the MUGS on the 28th of November last year that Barrie suffered a final stroke and died.

No story of Barrie's life would be complete without mentioning his lifelong membership and dedication to the Boy's Brigade Movement. A few years ago the 1st Bearsden Boys Brigade celebrated their 100th Anniversary. Barrie and Campbell flew in from South Africa and Barrie's other two sons, Roger and Guy joined them from England for a most emotional reunion in Bearsden and in the City Halls in Glasgow.

In everything that he did Barrie Hastie committed himself with all his might and endeavour. He will be sadly missed by his Family, friends and acquaintances everywhere.

Alan McLellan

Banned from Sainsbury's - Didn't like shopping there anyway!

Yesterday I was at my local Sainsbury's buying a large bag of Winalot dog food for my loyal pet and was in the checkout queue when a woman behind me asked if I had a dog.

What did she think I had : an elephant? So, since I'm retired and have little to do, on impulse I told her that no, I didn't have a dog, I was starting the Winalot Diet again. I added that I probably shouldn't, because I ended up in hospital last time, but I'd lost 2 stone before I woke up in intensive care with tubes coming out of most of my orifices and I.V.s in both arms.

I told her that it was essentially a perfect diet and that the way that it works is to load your pockets with Winalot nuggets and simply eat one or two every time you feel hungry. The food is nutritionally complete so it works well and I was going to try it again.

(I have to mention here that practically everyone in queue was now enthralled with my story.)

Horrified, she asked me if I ended up in intensive care because the dog food poisoned me. I told her no, I stepped off the kerb to sniff an Irish setter's backside and a car hit me.

I thought the guy behind her was going to have a heart attack he was laughing so hard.

I'm now banned from Sainsbury's.

via Ian Paterson

Ron Miller JP 1937 -2011

Ron was born in Hillhead, Glasgow in June 1937. He was raised in Crow Road, Broomhill Cross. Ron's father joined the RAF and during the war he was away from Glasgow for several years, so Ron and his mother lived with his grandmother in the newly built Knightswood area where Ron attended primary school.

Ron surprised himself and his elders by being "dux" pupil in the Qualifying Examination and coming seventh in the scholarship entry examination for Allan Glen's School. His parents granted his wish to go to **Allan Glen's**. It was the best decision they could ever have made for him.

At **Allan Glen's School**, Ron continued as an able student and his respect for certain teachers lead him towards his "Highers" in maths and the sciences. He gained entry to Glasgow University from where he graduated with a BSc in Pure Science.

He joined Broomhill Tennis Club and enjoyed football and watching the mighty Glasgow Rangers was a lifelong passion.

After University, Ron joined GEC in Coventry on a 2 year graduate training scheme and then moved to Stockport within the company. He then took a job as a production supervisor with Texas

Instruments in Bedford. A better position took him and his family (now married with children) to Glenrothes but a new role as a management consultant took them to Rugby. A return to GEC as a production manager, making telephones, was followed by other similar roles in manufacturing.

Ron's marriage had failed and a move to King's Lynn offered a fresh start when he became a consultant for the 'Printing & Publishing Industry Training Board'. He enjoyed training people in management skills through residential courses and visits to printing companies but a new Government closed the Training Boards and redundancy followed.

Redundancy encouraged Ron to write articles on management training. He was an excellent writer and he wrote several successful books including, ironically, "Successful Job Hunting". Over the years, he frequently contributed to newspaper debates and relished his publications in the 'Letters' pages of the Daily Telegraph and the King's Lynn News.

Ron found work as a management trainer for British Gas in London but the telecoms market had just been liberalised and so Ron began Norfolk Telecoms in 1984 from a concession counter within Debenhams in King's Lynn. Shortly after, he relocated to a self-contained shop in the town and when his son joined him in 1991, they relocated to bigger premises in King's Lynn.

Ron applied to become a magistrate and was appointed in 1987 to the King's Lynn Bench. He took an active part in committees and in 2004, became Chairman of the West Norfolk Bench, an honour he had never thought likely or possible. He was proud to be the first Scot to be Bench Chairman in West Norfolk. He completed the allowed maximum of three years in the post and left the Bench on reaching the compulsory retirement age of 70 in 2007.

Ron remarried in 2002 and he and his new wife, both retired, travelled extensively until his health problems started a year ago. He passed away 19th February 2011.



Obituary – Susan Singerman MBE

Until recent years I did not know that Susie (that's what we called her within the family) had been a teacher my old school; I am sure that she had most likely told me at the time but now in my (almost) dotage it must have slipped my memory. Susan Singerman, or perhaps she used her maiden name of Gerofi, was head of modern languages at the school for about 15 years, I have been told, until her retirement which I guess would have been c1985; so her reign at **AGS** was therefore from c1970. You will no doubt think that I am using strange language but Susie would not mind in the least – she understood the Kubie sense of humour well. I am sure she was a great teacher and many of you will have good memories of those years.

I had known Susie since early 1947 when she came to stay with my maternal grandparents in Ayr. She was then about 22 years of age and we learned gradually that she had been through some extremely traumatic experiences during the war. What exactly happened to her we shall never know – but more about that later.

Not surprisingly much has been written about her since her death in January 2011 and it details some of the terrifying experiences she went through whilst in the concentration camps. Her survival was not only down to the 'supernatural' when she was on parade in front of Mengele (I refrain from giving him his doctoral title) and apparently she heard her late mother's voice telling her to take her glasses off. Those who wore glasses in that parade were sent to the gas chambers but Susie was saved by taking hers off.

When she arrived in the UK she lived in London with her then husband and later with her 2 children moved to Scotland settling in Glasgow to be near her Scottish relatives the Kubie's. The connection was through my mother's side of the family and whilst my mother referred to Susie as her cousin, Susie preferred to suggest that my mother was her aunt. Their respective mothers were first cousins and I guess this was a generational thing for Susie for by now she was a student at Glasgow University; I could understand her wish to appear to be in the student age group. It again demonstrated another aspect of her character and sense of humour for at times the title aunt rankled with mother's sense of family hierarchy.

After graduating and deciding on a career in education she taught at Glasgow Girls High School, Knightswood Secondary School and then **Allan Glen's**.

Susie in later years talked more openly about her experiences during the Holocaust and driven by her teaching abilities and her strong wish that the Holocaust should not be forgotten began to give public talks about that period in her life. She became a recognised Holocaust speaker and educator and in recognition of her efforts was awarded an MBE in 1996.

Her interests in fairness did not only centre around Jewish issues and the Holocaust but also spread wider to racial discrimination matters; together with long standing friends Kay and Neil Carmichael (Neil Carmichael was a Glasgow MP who was later elevated to the House of Lords) and others Susie helped to establish the Campaign Against Racial Discrimination (CARD) an organisation which impacted on the lives of many and still has influence through its successor organisation the Glasgow Community Relations Council.

Susan Singerman worked hard throughout her life not only on her career but also in ensuring that her children did not lose out. She ensured that both of them had a good start in life through education and close family ties and her grandchildren benefited from her efforts on their behalf also.

She was tireless in everything she tackled, worked hard, played hard and having been given the chance of life, lived it to the full and gave back to society as much as she could. She will be greatly missed.

Tom Kubie

TRANSPORT - Alan McLellan

Thinking about Barrie Hastie and our common association with local haulage in the Glasgow Area set my thoughts along another train (sorry for the pun.) The County of the City of Glasgow has always been a series of interconnected but separate villages – socially and commercially.

In days gone by, haulage was a good barometer of industrial activity. I can speak with a little authority on the area within which our Family Haulage and Storage Business operated, ie the “Villages” of Kinning Park and Govan. Within the area there were a number of Industrial Companies, which had been trading for a century and more. In no particular order : Gray Dunn and Co; Butters Cranes Ltd ; P & W McLellan Ltd ; A & W Smith Ltd; Alexander, Fergusson Ltd; Jas Galloway Ltd; Mirlees Watson Ltd ; Howdens Ltd ; Blairs Ltd ; the South of the River Shipyards and many others. This represents just one area of Glasgow, I am sure there are many of you who can quote similar examples from all over the City.

These companies traded independently of each other and also jointly with each other, employing many hundreds of people. Additionally, there were a number of docks and quays on both sides of the River Clyde which provided the vital life blood of export and import for all of these companies and hundreds more in the Clyde Valley and further afield. The above companies exported products to the entire World.

Also there was a further group of Companies, mainly American, who were entirely independent of those listed above who employed many hundreds of people for a considerable time such as : Caterpillar Tractor Co ; Massey Fergusson ; Monsanto Textiles ; Sunbeam Electric; Remington Rand ; IBM and many more.

Both these groups of companies employed a whole range of people such as managers, accountants, engineers and skilled fitters. When these companies quit an area they leave a vacuum. The retraining that this involves must be immense. Where have all the workers gone ? What do they do now ?

There are also Social Villages in Glasgow. It tends to be a City divided by a River. Of course, there are many who move away from the City throughout Scotland and abroad but of those who remain, by and large, still live on the same side of the River and in the same loosely-defined area for most of their lives. Socially, I think that people are conditioned by a number of different factors : where their parents lived and worked and where, in turn, they lived and worked ; the Clubs and local entertainment ie Golf Club ; Cricket Club or Football Club. etc. I do not pretend to know what this juxtaposes but, I am sure that there are many of you out there who have been affected by these changes.

As I said at the beginning of this article, transport is an excellent barometer of the industry within an area. At the time which I was originally describing the 1960's and 70's there were many local transport companies running 50-60 vehicles and there was a major national UK Transport Company which flourished particularly in the Central Belt but also throughout Scotland and the rest of the UK. Transport Development Group, (TDG). There is a rump of this company which exists mainly in the South of the UK and the local transport companies have all but disappeared..

I believe that we have returned to “The Nation of Shopkeepers” per Napoleon Bonaparte.

Correspondence from Old Boys

Ref June 09 Article:

I was a pupil from 1956 to 1962 and was a member of the School Chess Club.

I well remember Charlie Thomson and he appears in some of the photographs on the Website gallery.

Ref October 09 Article by Bill Greenock:

The correspondent mentions John Glendinning as a notable Club Player. He became President of the Scottish Chess Association.

I remember teachers such as Benny Linda who was a proficient drummer at social events within the School and the wonderful Ralph Cowan, a fascinating Art Master.

I would interested to find out whether Ronnie Turnbull mentioned in the July 08 Article was a schoolfriend of mine and whose parents owned a Store in Springburn at Northcroft Road.

Regards

George S. Gray

In response to George's letter, I am enclosing confirmation of my entry details and would indulge in these few historical comments.

Bishopbriggs School had been bombed, my primary education had been disrupted, and my father wanted me to go to Allan Glen's.

There are no original papers from my earliest days at the school, and so I always have to calculate my arrival in "the Qualities" at the age of 9 years and 4 months in September 1942. Dr Steel was still in post and I vaguely remember him, but I don't suppose he was much involved with the boys at our level. What I do remember about my earliest years was that my first four were something of an unmitigated disaster!

Dr Steel left in 1943 and Mr McKimmie came in. The war was on and for a time, the school went on part-time working. I think it was mainly half days. Also, there was a period when only the junior school was in, possibly making up time over the summer holidays. Without the senior school, the toughs from Provanmill at the back would come in at breaks and throw their weight around.

Jimmy Ross who knew my father, wanted me to take part in sports, and, because we lived in Bishopbriggs, being near the sports ground was welcomed. The problem was - no rugby was organised for the juniors. Consequently, I was put in with the first year, at least two or three years my senior - much bigger than little me! I got heavily knocked about, and soon realised this was just not funny. Consequently, my enthusiasm for rugby quickly faded and vanished. Ever after rugby was steadfastly resisted!

At first, my arithmetic was abysmal, and nobody seemed to be able to reverse the trend. It took me four years to get through those first 2 forms, one year in QC and three in QA!
In the end, Miss McKenzie's kindly perseverance got me into the first year in 1946, and from then on I was one of the crowd, and for me, everything seemed OK.

In any case, I was happy in my school years and certainly enjoyed the cricket at Bishopbriggs. (Do you know that before the railway came, the village was known as Bishop's Brigg?)

I remember with affection Mr Bloch who succeeded in teaching me maths in various forms, Jimmie Loggie - a joker with a belt, Andy Orr - who could not keep a straight face, Mr Kerr - "Bunny Lugs", who swallowed concentrated acid one day by mistake, Mr Milton, the French teacher who said I was tone deaf, but took us on the school's first post-war holiday at Sachseln in Switzerland - (I enjoy speaking French more now) Mr Aikman, who was serious about English, James Abercrombie with his woodwork classes, the Art Department's Ralph Cowan, and stunningly glamorous Miss Phillips. Of course, Mr Ross, never quite gave up trying to get me back to the rugby field, and I seem to remember he got me to join the Old Boys Club as a life member.

Very few contemporaries names come to mind. When I left school, my world changed and contacts faded. Nevertheless those few names that I do remember, such as, Fink (Stanley I Fink, the butt of many of Loggie's eccentricities, eg, tossing a coin to be belted or to be let off). I vividly recall the dull thud of cricket ball on teeth when Fink was fielding close-in opposite me, and William Hunter who wanted me to join him, mass-producing pretty nostalgic landscapes to sell to Canadians, the Saravanamuttoo twins of Ceylon and Jim Bradley from Govan. Derek Mason passed me bye in QA.

In spite of everything, Glen's must have done something right for me. By about ten years after leaving school, I had worked briefly with a joiner/builder - at the bench and on sites, done National Service in the RAF in Malaya as conscription ended, returned to Glasgow and landed a job in a top architect's London office and joined the London Club through Hon Sec Gordon Home. After Arthur Calvert was Hon Sec, I served as the same during its last years.

Some London Club names: Patron Sir John Peel, Arthur Calvert, Matt Donaldson (Bank Manager) George Robertson (Bank Manager) and Andrew Jardine who knew a lot about Westminster sewers, and Bill Craig, who knows all about Glasgow Corporation's sewage disposal vessel the steam ship "Shieldhall" and Pensioner Cruises Doon the Watter.

Nowadays, when speaking on one of my subjects, I never fail to give Glen's its place in the picture.

John G MacDonald

AN EXTRACT FROM A.G. HISTORY
RALPH ERSKINE
(reproduced from the Summer 1938 AG School magazine)

Few present pupils of the school and few F.P.'s of recent years will experience any thrill in reading the name Ralph Erskine, but to all who were pupils in Allan Glen's round about the year 1911 year, that name will stir the blood and many memories.

A few weeks ago there appeared in the columns of a Glasgow newspaper an article in which were discussed the respective merits of Ralph Erskine and Benny Lynch as top-flight boxers. Here is an account of the amazing performances of an A.G. boy of 1911 in the amateur boxing ring, an account reproduced from a letter written by "Boxiana" to the *Glasgow Evening Times*.

"In the first place all who remember Ralph Erskine will agree with me when I say that he never at any time chose to style himself a champion. Real champions do not boast of their attainments but are invariably the most modest and unassuming of men.

"In Ralph Erskine's case, although he was extremely proud of boxing as an athletic exercise and as a sport, he was always rather ashamed of the unwelcome publicity it had brought him.

"His career was probably the shortest and most sensational on record. It extended from start to finish over a period of about six months, during the whole of which time he was a 16-year-old Allan Glen's schoolboy.

"In the course of these six months he won a Scottish National open tournament, the Western District and Scottish Championships, the English Public Schools Championship, the European Championship (at the National Sporting Club de France in Paris) and the World's Championship at Madison Square Gardens in New York. **(Ed. Note I had been advised that this event was run by the Knickerbocker Club of New York, but received no acknowledgement.)**

"In the A.B.A. Championships at the Alexandra Palace he was adjudged the loser on points in the final bout after boxing at intervals all day from 10 a.m. till midnight, each bout consisting of two three-minute rounds and one of four minutes.

"His successful opponent was a man who had already won during that season 16 open competitions.

"The *Sporting Life* the *Sportsman*, the *Times*, and *Boxing* agreed that Ralph Erskine should have been declared the winner. The *Life* went out of its way to say that he was 'the most desirable type of amateur who had ever competed in the A.B.A. Championships,' notwithstanding the fact that Oxford and Cambridge men were frequently competitors.

"The *Times* expert wrote that 'not only was he beautifully trained, but he must have been taught by a past-master of the art of boxing.' As a matter of fact he had never received a professional boxing lesson in his life nor seen a boxing bout or a boxing ring until he climbed over the ropes for his first tournament at the National Sporting Club, neither had he ever been 'trained' in the technical sense.

"Ralph was chosen within a month or two after the A.B.A. Championships to represent Britain against America.

"It was not necessary for him to 'beat every featherweight there.' He met and defeated the amateur champion of Canada and the United States for what was universally recognised at the time as the World's Amateur Feather-weight Championship.

"The Americans described Ralph as a 'freak' boxer, meaning thereby that he was unique; something quite out of the ordinary course. The *New York World* said he was 'the best two-handed fighter England had sent across since Charlie Mitchell.'

"In 1913 or 1914 when he was a student at Glasgow University, Dan McKetrick, who was then one of the leading international promoters of professional boxing in New York and Paris and who had organised the American trip, travelled specially to Glasgow to offer Ralph £16,000 for his signature to a contract agreeing to engage in three professional championship fights in America.

"He believed that no man in the world at any weight to which Ralph might grow could beat him, and (as he said) he knew them all. The offer, which was declined, was still open on 4th August, 1914, when Ralph volunteered for the biggest fight of all.

"Ralph became a captain in the Royal Scots Fusiliers but during the course of the war transferred to the Royal Flying Corps, as it was then. He was killed in action in 1918.

His memory will be cherished by the school to which he brought such great distinction.

Since the above was written the Editor has been in touch with Ralph's father, who has volunteered some interesting information. Ralph's capabilities as a boxer were discovered by Dan Wingate, Scottish Amateur Light-weight Champion of that time, and for many years boxing instructor in Glasgow University. He cannot be said to have taught Ralph the art of boxing, but he encouraged him to take it up seriously.

Mr. Erskine, himself one of the oldest Old Boys of the school (he left in 1878) was also able to give news of his grandson, Ralph's son.

Ralph junior distinguished himself as a boxer at his preparatory school and then as an athlete at Harrow where he won the coveted Cross-Country race.

(ED. Note. Many years ago there was correspondence between David Reid and a nephew of Ralph Erskine, but we did not receive any further clarification.)

The President and I hope you will be able to join us for the 58th Annual Dinner of the EoS Club and our visit to Pitlochry Festival Theatre. Wives and guests are most welcome at both events.

The details of the events are as follows:

ANNUAL DINNER: Friday 15th April 2007 at 7.00 for 7.30p.m. in the Murrayfield Golf Club, Murrayfield Road, Edinburgh.

The menu will be three-courses, with a choice of main course. Price £26 per person, thanks to the Parent Club's generous sponsorship. The price includes table wines or soft drinks. The dress will be informal.

Please notify me by Saturday 11th. April if you intend to attend the Dinner .

PITLOCHRY FESTIVAL THEATRE: Saturday 25th. June 2011.

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

The play is 'My Fair Lady' adapted from George Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion.

The price for the lunch and musical is £36 per person. Due to the popularity of this musical, I may not be able to accept a late booking.

Please notify me by 11 April giving your full name and those of your guests.

The notification date for the Theatre is Tuesday 27th. May.

I am very sorry that refunds for cancellations for the Dinner later than Monday 11th April or the Theatre later than Tuesday 27h May cannot be made unless a substitute for the Dinner is found or in the case of the Theatre the tickets are resold.

Please return to S. Ian Hogarth, 9 Blinkbonny Road, Edinburgh EH4 3HY.

ANNUAL DINNER

Please reserve meplaces at the EoS Annual Dinner on 15th April 2011.

Name:

Telephone No:

Guest Names:

A cheque for £is enclosed.

If you wish to stay overnight after the Dinner the President will be pleased to provide the names and addresses of nearby B.and Bs.

PITLOCHRY FESTIVAL THEATRE:

Please reserve meplaces for the visit to Pitlochry Festival Theatre on 25th June 2011.

Name:

Guest Names:

A cheque for £..... is enclosed.

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



Allan Glen's School Club

112 Speirs Road
BEARSDEN
G61 2NU
15 March 2010
telephone: 0141 563 8055
e-mail: ian_dale@ntlworld.com

Dear Member,

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Club will be held in the **Ramada Jarvis Hotel, 201, Ingram Street, Glasgow on Monday 18 April at 5.30pm for 6.00pm**. A buffet meal will be provided following the meeting. Please note that the venue is different from previous AGMs.

AGENDA

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Apologies | - I. Dale |
| 2. Notification of deaths | - I. Dale |
| 3. President's Remarks | - G. Egan |
| 4. Minutes of 88th AGM, held on 26 April 2010 | - I. Dale |
| 5. Honorary Secretary's Report | - I. Dale |
| 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 | - J. Bolton |
| 17. Report on the Lunch Club | - G. Day |
| 18. Alumni of the Year | - I. Dale |
| 19. Update to the Constitution. (see over) | - I. Dale |
| 20. Nomination and Election of President | |
| 21. Nomination and Election of Committee Members | |
| 22. Nomination and Election of Trustees of the Endowment Scholarship Trust | |
| 23. Any Other Competent Business. | |

Yours sincerely

Ian Dale
Honorary Secretary

Proposed update to the Constitution.:-

Paragraphs 3.14 and 3.15 to read as follows:- for the 2011 constitution,

3.14 The Treasurer will receive and disburse all moneys due to and from the Club. He will keep correct books and accounts showing the financial affairs and intromissions of the Club. He will close the books at the date appointed by the Club as the end of its financial year, and within four weeks send them with all appropriate documentation to the Club's Reporting Accountant. At the same time he will lay a copy of the accounts before the General Committee for deliberation and comment.

3.15 A Reporting Accountant will be appointed at each Annual General Meeting. The Treasurer will liaise with the Reporting Accountant and the Club's Accounts will be placed before the Annual General Meeting for approval

This replaces the 2008 version which read:-

3.14 The Treasurer will receive and disburse all moneys due to and from the Club. He will keep correct books and accounts showing the financial affairs and intromissions of the Club. He will close the books at the date appointed by the Club as the end of its financial year, and within four weeks send them with all appropriate documentation to the Club's appointed Auditor. At the same time he will lay a copy of the accounts before the General Committee for deliberation and comment.

3.15 An Auditor will be appointed at each Annual General Meeting. The Treasurer will liaise with the Auditor in arranging that the fully audited accounts will be placed before the Annual General Meeting for the Club's approval.