



Allan Glen's School Club

Newsletter March 2017

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

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Editorial



Included with this Newsletter are the Minutes from the last AGM. The 95th AGM will be held on Monday 10 April 2017 in the Abode Restaurant 5.30pm for 6.00pm. I trust that as many of you as possible will make an effort to attend. As you can see arising out of an article by Sandy Howie in the last letter "Who will switch off the lights?", there was a general discussion on the matter at the Abode Lunch on 10 March. A Sub-committee was formed, tasked with bringing forward proposals to the Membership.

Sandy Howie also suggested that we might produce information regarding additional members who have joined our ranks over recent months. It is always a bit depressing simply to announce Obituaries, and Mike has inserted a note in this Newsletter updating us with Membership Issues - this will be updated quarterly.

There are on-going discussions taking place with the Sports Club to form a Community Initiative between the School Club and the Sports Club to manage the facilities at Bishopbriggs,

Bob Leckie has indicated his willingness to return as Dinner Convenor taking over from Allan Garrity. Ross Graham is still seeking a successor as Treasurer anyone who is interested should contact him.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a Prosperous and Happy New Year.

Alan McLellan

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Dates for your Diary

Second Friday of the month - Monthly Town Lunch - (0141 563 8723)

Last Friday of the month - Bishopbriggs Lunch - (0141 563 8723)

Monday 10th April 2017- Annual General Meeting - Abode Hotel

Thursday 7th September 2017- Annual Golf Outing Pollok GC

Saturday 25th November 2017- Trades House

The Allan Glen Initiatives - Gregor Egan

At the recent lunch at the Abode I quickly realised that our younger Club Members are not conversant with the background as to why there are four separate existing initiatives to keep the name of Allan Glen alive. Of the four following explanations, the first two are préciséd from the "Club History 1853 to 2003" which was produced by Professor James Murray.

1. The **Allan Glen's** 2012 Trust (OSCR registration SC045655)
2. The **Allan Glen's** Endowment Scholarship Trust (OSCR registration SC028159)
3. The **Allan Glen's** STEM Initiative
4. The **Allan Glen** Tribute Lecture

The most important initiative, and I would suggest the most successful, is the home of the **Allan Glen's** Rugby Club, Based at Bishopbriggs. The facilities were provided by donations from the Old Boys Club and donations from the parents of pupils at the school. In 1968 these facilities were registered to the **Allan Glen's** School Club Trust and managed by Club Trustees elected by the School Club Committee. Note, this was five years before the school was converted to a comprehensive and the facilities continued to serve the FP rugby teams as well as the school's own sporting requirements. After the closure of the school in 1989, the terms of the 1968 Trust could no longer be met and, rather belatedly, a new Trust Deed was registered in 2012 with new objectives and aimed at securing charitable status. That same deed also extended membership of the Trustees to include representatives of Glasgow University, Strathclyde University and Trades House of Glasgow (itself a registered charity SC040548) with the principal purpose being to ensure proper governance when all former pupils of the school have expired. This is a self-sustaining enterprise and offers the greatest long term prospects for the name of Allan Glen to be remembered in perpetuity.

In 2002, previous representations by Committee members to the City Council resulted in the identification of a sum of money (£145,000) being identified as belonging to school which had been used for things such as school prizes and trophies. This sum provided the initial funding for the **Allan Glen's** Endowment Scholarship Trust which was duly registered as an educational charity. To date the Trust fund has supported almost 40 students. The annual bursary granted was originally £1,000 per annum to each student for each year of their course (four or five years) and in 2009 was increased to £1,500. During that same period the fund has grown to approximately £350,000. Club members leave legacies in their wills and there are some regular donations from current members. This Trust is managed jointly with the Council Education Department and a member of Strathclyde University. Currently the number of Club members exceeds the number of non-Club members.

The **Allan Glen's** STEM initiative is a Glasgow Council Education Department led initiative, principally funded by them but seeking financial support from the School Club and former pupils. The Club has two representatives working with the project but the ultimate control of the initiative lies with the Education Department. This is as would be expected since they are the principal funders.

The **Allan Glen** Tribute lecture came from an original idea by Jack McGuinness who thought the Club should do something to honour the name of Allan Glen. This coincided with a problem on the Endowment Scholarship Trust where there was a dearth of applicants with appropriate qualifications seeking Bursary Support. The Tribute Lecture could be used to inspire potential applicants to consider engineering as a future career and at the same time publicise the **Allan Glen's** Endowment Scholarships. This is entirely a Club initiative with ten lectures behind it and it can claim some success in its objective due to the current level and quality of applicants. It is funded jointly by Club members with the venue provided free of charge by Strathclyde University.

In summary it is fair to say that different generations of former pupils have created these initiatives to meet changing needs. We now have a new generation of former pupils who can direct their energies towards the creation of new initiatives.

Editor's note

For anyone wishing to pursue new initiatives I would recommend the purchase and reading of "The History of **Allan Glen's** School and **Allan Glen's** School Club 1853 – 2003" authored by Professor James Murray as an invaluable starting point.

Old Boys In The New World

Usquebaugh, bagpipes, shortbread, and the kilt are just a few of Scotland's gifts to the world. But the greatest is Scotsmen (and women!) - particularly to North America. In Canada's bustling Toronto, a group of **Allan Glen's Old Boys** has been meeting (on-and-off) for almost 60 years.

Murray McKinnon emigrated to Canada in 1948 and, clearly kept in touch with the club in Glasgow. In 1950 he was approached to be Consul. Current Lunch Member, Ron Moodie (1947-52) claims to be the first to contact Murray (legend has it, still in his school uniform!) and, in 1957, the First Meeting was held in Toronto - with even subsequent Ladies' Nights. A 1968 membership list shows a total of 19 - including two refugee aliens (former Glasgow High School). However, a family loss for Murray curtailed activities shortly after that time.

In 2006, Ken Clark (1952-58) reactivated things with help from the Glasgow Archives, and the first Lunch Meeting was held December 2006. Since then, as many as a dozen Old Boys (of an original total potential of 26 in the general area) have met, spring and fall, in a private room in a downtown Toronto steakhouse. Some make long trips to attend. Most impressive is Herb Saravanamuttoo (1944-51) - one of the famed AGS cricketing twins - still very active in the aviation industry, who hops on and off a plane from Ottawa nearly every time. Current Dean of the Group is Ross Morrison (1942-47).

The years have sadly reduced numbers, but a half-dozen diehards met recently to celebrate our current group's 10th anniversary. We look forward to many more get-togethers, full of camaraderie, beer-fuelled story-telling - and shared memories of a gey brow school.
Ken Clark & James Dunsmuir (1948-53).

Letter to the Bank!

Dear Sir:

I am writing to thank you for bouncing my cheque with which I endeavoured to pay my plumber last month.

By my calculations, three nanoseconds must have elapsed between his presenting the cheque and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honour it..

I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly deposit of my entire pension, an arrangement which, I admit, has been in place for only eight years.

You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity, and also for debiting my account £30 by way of penalty for the inconvenience caused to your bank.

My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has caused me to rethink my errant financial ways. I noticed that whereas I personally answer your telephone calls and letters,--when I try to contact you, I am confronted by the impersonal, overcharging, pre-recorded, faceless entity which your bank has become.

From now on, I, like you, choose only to deal with a flesh-and-blood person.

My mortgage and loan repayments will therefore and hereafter no longer be automatic, but will arrive at your bank, by cheque, addressed personally and confidentially to an employee at your bank whom you must nominate.

Be aware that it is an OFFENCE under the Postal Act for any other person to open such an envelope.

Please find attached an Application Contact which I require your chosen employee to complete. I am sorry it runs to eight pages, but in order that I know as much about him or her as your bank knows about me, there is no alternative.

Please note that all copies of his or her medical history must be countersigned by a Notary Public figure, and the mandatory details of his/her financial situation (income, debts, assets and liabilities) must be accompanied by documented proof.

In due course, at MY convenience, I will issue your employee with a PIN number which he/she must quote in dealings with me.

I regret that it cannot be shorter than 28 digits but, again, I have modelled it on the number of button presses required of me to access my account balance on your phone banking service.

As they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Let me level the playing field even further.

When you call me, press buttons as follows:

IMMEDIATELY AFTER DIALLING, PRESS THE STAR (*) BUTTON FOR ENGLISH

#1. To make an appointment to see me

#2. To query a missing payment.

#3. To transfer the call to my living room in case I am there.

#4 To transfer the call to my bedroom in case I am sleeping.

#5. To transfer the call to my toilet in case I am attending to nature.

#6. To transfer the call to my mobile phone if I am not at home.

#7. To leave a message on my computer, a password to access my computer is required.

Password will be communicated to you at a later date to that Authorized Contact mentioned earlier.

#8. To return to the main menu and to listen to options 1 to 9

#9. To make a general complaint or inquiry.

The contact will then be put on hold, pending the attention of my automated answering service. While this may, on occasion, involve a lengthy wait, uplifting music will play for the duration of the call.

Regrettably, but again following your example, I must also levy an establishment fee to cover the setting up of this new arrangement.

May I wish you a happy, if ever so slightly less prosperous New Year?

Your Humble Client..

And remember:

Don't make old people mad. We don't like being old in the first place, so it doesn't take much to piss us off.

(Actual letter from an 86 year old lady)

A FURTHER REMINISCENCE

Bill Greenock's article in the September issue of the Newsletter brought back fond memories of **Mr. McKimmie** who joined the School in the same year as myself on the departure of the formidable Dr. Steele. He, from an illustrious teaching background and I as an 11 year old timid and glaikit neophyte from Hillington Primary. I don't recall Mr. McKimmie ever having been given a nickname other perhaps than "The Heidie", which may be reflects the respect in which he was held. Most other members of Staff did not escape. Who can place, "Teeny", "Soapy", "The Pope", "Biff", "Bunnylugs", "Tombstone", "Maggie", "Andy (1)", "Andy (2)", "Granny", "Papa", "Fuzzy", "Jimmy" (1), "Jimmy" (2), "Doc", "Gussie", "Psycho", "Dangleberry", "Rita", "Dolly", "Grunter", "Josie", "Butch" ?

A dram for anyone at the next Briggs lunch who can identify all 23 of these! (And their Departments of course).

Alex McKimmie's Reign fell between those of the formidable and severe Dr. Steele and the equally severe John B. Somerville. It must be said that both of these martinets probably contributed more to the honour, reputation and prestige of the School than the mild-mannered Alex, but he was essentially a gentleman, in the fullest sense. One or two recollections of his imperium. First, the "Great Demolition" of which I have written before in these pages. It was some years ago and given the average age of our members, it has probably been forgotten!

It was just after WWII and the Senior Pupils conceived of a splendid and spectacular entertainment to relieve the monotony of Lunch Break (that is for those who were not in the local pub (Grafton Arms?) or in the Pool Hall). The air raid shelter in the lower playground was now surplus to requirements after the cessation of hostilities and it was noticed that the brick-built baffle wall was not in a stable condition or "fit for purpose". In other words, it was shoogly and represented a threat to life and limb. A group of the "Big Boys" decided to take matters into their own hands, and over a number of days organised teams of labourers from the lower school to nibble at the mortar with penknives, sheath-knives, and tools liberated from the workshop. An ornamental Gas lamp standard from the lower stairway into Grafton Place was uprooted and used as a lever; this all within full view of the staffroom and the Heidie's study. Finally, the great climax; the whole wall, probably a couple of tons, came down with an apocalyptic crash and a cloud of dust accompanied by a minor earthquake which must have been heard all over Townhead. What were the repercussions? – None! Alex appeared from his den, surveyed the mayhem, shook his head in amazed disbelief and disappeared. Next day, a squad of Workies appeared and cleared up. Can we imagine this nowadays? or even in John B's era?.

Then there was the Mock Election in 1945 which coincided with the momentous General Election when the old *Dux Bello-rum* Winston was defeated, to everyone's astonishment by the returning servicemen. This was entered into with great enthusiasm by the whole School with Mr. McKimmie, not exactly taking part, but standing by like a benevolent uncle. In addition to the major parties, Conservative, Labour, Liberal, there were several outré groups such as Oligarchs, Communists and Anarchists. I was of the latter (I think there were about 4 of us!). There were debates, speeches, banners, flags strung from balcony to balcony, and the work of the School virtually stopped for a week. I can't remember who won, but it was a glorious interlude and no doubt took the place of a "Modern Studies" course nowadays.

Another memory, which again I have recounted before, when I was a first-year shrimp in Mr. Logie's French class, he took exception to some minor infringement of grammar or ignorance of the verb list for the day, and was holding me upside down by the ankles and bumping my head on the floor. The door suddenly opened and Alex came in on one of his very infrequent rounds and stared for a few moments in some disbelief. Then, - "Having a problem with discipline, Mr. Logie?", withdrew and as far as I know, Logie was never "spoken to". I scuttled back to my desk and he continued the lesson unabashed. To-day, there would have been enquires, counselling and no doubt legal proceedings for Child Abuse,

I swear these were all true incidents.

I confess that I can't recall ever having spoken to him face-to-face. Perhaps, when a group of us were leaving at the end of 6th. Year, to go on to University, we were invited into his inner sanctum to receive his good wishes, but I have no recollection of the event.

In fact, my father probably met Mr. McKimmie more often than I did! When through general ineptitude and laziness, I failed to gain a Senior School Bursary at the end of Third Year after having enjoyed free education and books through the entrance bursary, my father who was a self-educated working man called on the Head and negotiated free books and jotters for his erring son. They had a good heart to heart, discussing Scottish history and Thomas Carlisle, and he came away expressing the highest regard for Alex McKimmie's courtesy and humanity. I think that the feeling was mutual.

That is the man I remember, as I said before, a gentleman and a Gentle-Man.

Iain Cumming

Membership



Our current membership total stands at 513

Over the last 6 months we were delighted to welcome 10 new members to the School Club.:-

Alan Macintyre of Paisley (1968), Graham Whitham of Stewarton (1973), Jim Wylie of Bearsden (1956), Derek Elder of Edinburgh (1966), Sandy Hamilton of Woodbridge (1958), Lindsay Wood of Lenzie (1971), Alan Beattie of Kilmarnock (1956), David Heron of Aston Clinton (1964), Alan Skinner of Rutherglen (1959), and Stewart Bruce of Malaga (1964).
Mike McCreery (Membership Sec)

News and correspondence

The last survivor

Alistair Munro mentioned seeing Jimmy Stewart in the old film "I know where I am going." I have never seen this film, but Jimmy Stewart and the Orpheus Choir also appeared in "Whisky Galore." He was often known as Mac (for MacKenzie) and was a well-liked and genial figure who was a long-time member of the Orpheus.

James Dunsmuir also pointed out the Canada Club dated back at least 40 years, actually over 60 ; I was actively involved from 1955 and Ron Moodie probably a couple of years earlier. With the recent demise of the East of Scotland Club, it appears that the Canadian branch is the last survivor outside Glasgow.

Herb Saravanamuttoo, AGS 1942-51

Dear Editor,

I read with interest Ian Blair's obit. where it mentioned "**Tussle in the Stratosphere**". This incident was described in detail by Pierre Closterman, a "Free French" pilot flying with 602 City of Glasgow Squadron, in his autobiography "The Big Show".

Ian Bair was Closterman's No 2 at the time and flying "Strato Spits" (Mk VII) specially adapted with extended wings, 2 stage superchargers and pressurised, heated cockpits for very high altitude interception work. They intercepted a Me 109 flying at about 40,000 ft. After a chase, Blair shot it down but was hit by debris and had to crash land on Stronsay.

Best wishes to all for New Year

George Coghill

Really enjoyed the magazine. Ross Ballantyne's portrayal of the late Murdo he was terrific, also the obituary of Henry Doig and the article "Who turns out the lights," by Sandy. Always a very interesting and entertaining read.

At the chemo session yesterday found myself sharing a largish room with a retired Police Officer from Gourock, who told me many tales. His Mother's Uncle was that memorable Old Boy Duncan Macrae.

Made the hours pass very quickly--I told him a few stories too!

Ian Rogers

Hi Mike,

Once again I read your offering and wonder if I went to the same school. I never seem to recognize any of the FP names. Some of the staff but again ? numerous unknowns. ???

As for beltlers Benny Linda was a horror. He wound up the belt and let fly. The back row was dangerous. If it missed you passing it got you coming back off the wall. Jimmy Ross was my favorite. He was a wartime Gunner and thanks to him I get the maximum range from my garden hose by aiming at an angle of 30 degrees. Mr Millar gave me cut-price tickets to the local theatres and the SNO and I'll always be grateful for that. Finally, Mr Sutherland suggested I apply to Shell Oil for a marine apprenticeship and, as a result I got to sail around the world, work and live in different countries. Much more interesting than spending the future in a drawing office on the Clyde, which at the time was all I could think of. My big boss in a UK Government Office was an FP and when I went to Canada, so also was the next. Well was Glen's called, the High School of Science. Thank you Mike, for your dedication. My very warmest wishes for The Season to you and all the other FPs, worldwide.

Neil Hunter 47-52. (USA)

News and correspondence (contd)

Sandy,

How nice to hear from you!

I wonder if your records list a Maurice J Brennan, (*ED. -no record*) he would have been about the same vintage as Bob Weir who was head of NGTE at Farnborough. There is an interesting AGS story arising from a major RAeS meeting when I was lecturing at the University of Bristol around 1969. Bob Weir was the speaker and was to be introduced by Maurice Brennan

(Chief Engineer of de Havilland Engines) and to be thanked by me as Branch Secy of the RAeS. Brennan said that Weir was educated at AGS and then went on to get 1st Class Hons in Mech Eng at the University of Glasgow, he then went on to say that he had also gone to AGS and got 1st class hons in Mech Eng at the University of Glasgow. I was somewhat embarrassed to finish off by saying that I too had been educated at AGS and got 1st class hons in Mech Eng at the University of Glasgow. Quite a remarkable coincidence and a great pat on the back for AGS ! I was just reading the history of AVRO and came across Brennan's name as Chief Designer, having been previously Chief Engineer of Folland Aircraft, he went on to design the Saunders Roe SR53 mixed jet/rocket fighter and must have gone on to de Havilland's from there. I think he could certainly rate a mention as one of the distinguished old boys.

I heard from Norrie Floyd's wife just after he died, he was lucky to go very quickly. Apparently he had just been to the doctor for a checkup on his heart condition and was told he was in great shape, went home and went upstairs for a sleep and died. We started at AGS on the same day.

You have done a great job keeping tabs on the old school and we are all very grateful for your efforts. By the way, one of your own class, Ian Murray is a regular at our Toronto lunches.

All best wishes, Herb (Saravanamooto)

Notes on Company Sergeant Major John Kendrick Skinner VC DCM Croix de Guerre

Item No. 1 – From WWI Historian – Gordon Shaw

CSM J K Skinner 6895 Company Sergeant Major, 1st Btn. King's Own Scottish Borderers

Killed in action 17th March 1918, aged 35.

Buried at Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery, Belgium

Son of Walter Skinner, husband of Annie E Y Skinner of 173 St. Andrews Drive, Pollokshields

Citation

An extract from the second supplement of the London Gazette recording the award of the VC reads

“For most conspicuous bravery and good leading. Whilst his Company was attacking, machine gun fire opened on the left flank, delaying the advance. Although C.S.M. Skinner was wounded in the head, he collected six men and with great courage and determination, worked round the left flank of three blockhouses, single handed: then, leading his men towards two other blockhouses, he skilfully cleared them, taking 60 prisoners, 3 machine guns and 2 trench mortars. The dash and gallantry by this Warrant Officer enabled the objective to be reached and consolidated.

Item No. 2 – Club website

DCM Awarded IN THE Boer War, VC Awarded at Wijendrift, Belgium, August 1917 when

Single-handed, he captured a blockhouse and with six others took 2 blockhouses and 60 prisoners.

Killed in action at Vlamertinghe, Belgium March 1918

Item No. 3 – Aberdeen Evening Express – 5th October 1917

The boys of Allan Glen's School, Glasgow yesterday gave an enthusiastic welcome to Company Sergeant Major John Skinner V.C. a former pupil of the School. A wallet of treasury notes was presented by Donald McPhee, Captain of the School, on behalf of the masters and pupils.

Subsequently Sergeant Major Skinner was introduced to the Town Council and heartily congratulated by Lord Provost Sir Thomas Dunlop.

Item No. 4 – School Magazine 1918 Midsummer.

..... Our ever-lengthening list of fallen has now reached the total of 139 names, amongst which we find C.S.M. Skinner whose photograph we publish in this issue. He was honoured first with the DCM, then the Croix de Guerre, then the VC AND, AT LAST, in March of this year, he received the Great Reward.

News and correspondence (contd)

Who will switch off the lights?

Alan,

I enjoyed Sandy Howie's contribution to the last Newsletter under the heading of "Who will switch off the lights?" which seemed to embody a challenge to us (the rest of the membership). "Are we all doomed?" As Private Fraser might have said? Do any of us want to see the lights switched off? Would it not be preferable to keep them switched on? Perhaps he is suggesting that we should be more ambitious than that?

The Club's Newsletter arrived in my inbox just days before the publication of an independent report that demonstrated that the standard of education in Scotland is on a perilous downward slope. Perhaps we are now in desperate need of the compassionate thinking of Allan Glen to turn this situation round for the benefit of our younger generations. Thinking, that is free from the personal ambitions of Politicians and Educationalists. Thinking, that has the single purpose of the wellbeing of children at heart. Allan Glen's own thinking in his twilight years was exactly that. Could it be, that this is the reason why the Allan Glen Club Members passionately believe that the memory of Allan Glen should be perpetuated as a role model for future generations?

Social Mobility (not to be confused with Social Engineering) is a buzzword that is never out of the press as if it was some new idea. Allan Glen's School in 1853 was intended to achieve exactly that. In 1872 after the passing of the Education Act, guaranteeing a free education for all, the Trustees and the Headmaster of the School re-focused the direction of the School to become the High School of Science. In today's political speak this would be described as, "*moving up the value chain*," but still retaining the goal of social mobility. However, almost 100 years after the Education Act, a total lack of logical thought and prejudicial thinking, killed off Allan Glen's School. Now, a further 50 years later, it is saddening to realise that those responsible for educating our children are still unable to see what Allan Glen saw all those years ago.

If you are reading this in your retirement as you gently sip your glass of 12 year old Macallan. (Actually, Johnnie Walker - Black Label, courtesy of "Duty Free.") You may spot the similarity between Allan Glen and many of our Club members who are also in their twilight years. Circumstances may have changed since the mid 1800's but we should ask ourselves "if Allan Glen was alive today what would he do now to stop our children *moving down the value chain*?"

I suspect that re-inventing the past by creating a new Allan Glen's School would not be his idea of a solution. Allan Glen was obviously a "self-starter" who may well have complained about things around him but unlike the majority of his contemporaries he resolved to do something about it.

On two Fridays a month our Club members meet to discuss things and set the world to rights or even to just complain, but maybe we should take our lead from Allan Glen and "do something about it".

Well Fellow Club Members, do we set aside 10 minutes at every lunch to air our ideas and discuss a way forward or, do we just have a vote on a procedure for turning the lights off and resign ourselves to watching our grandchildren sliding down the value chain?

Gregor Egan.

Hi Alan,

I can identify the class in the September Newsletter as 4T. With me at the left foreground and, Alan Montgomery on Ray Smith's left. I recognise most of the other lads in the photo but can't name any of them, unless the lad in the glasses at the back might be Robert Brough.

I don't recall this event but I have an abiding memory of taking part in the mass gym display in the lower playground that year and still treasure several photos of the occasion.

Keep up the good work.

Regards, Peter McPherson (1949-54)

Friends Departed

Alister F Lawson - AGS 1956 – 1962

It seems that Alister had a fall in the kitchen last Saturday week and severely damaged his elbow. He was admitted to hospital and major surgery was performed which appeared to be successful. However, he had lost a lot of blood and had a blood transfusion which also seemed to be helping his recovery. He was kept in over the weekend and apparently died in his sleep over night on Monday 6 March.

Cause of death not yet known. A bit of a shock to put it mildly.

Colin McLellan

Ronnie Taylor AGS - 1946-1952 has died from pancreatic cancer his funeral was on Tuesday 21st February at Warriston Crematorium in Edinburgh.

We note that **Tom Neville - AGS 1940-1945**, a former Bursary boy at *Allan Glen's*, died on Christmas Eve at the age of 88.

He was a popular member of Royal Burgess Golfing Society (50 years a single figure handicap) and he often spoke of the Old School. After leaving Glen's he graduated at University and had a long and distinguished career as

The Allan Glen Endowment Scholarship Trust

Progress reports were duly received from all eleven of the young people who were being supported by the Allan Glen's Endowment Scholarship Trust during session 2015-2016. To give a flavour of the kind of things they have been saying and doing, I've selected excerpts from all three of the first year reports and one from each of second, third, fourth and fifth years:

Zainuddin Sadiqi 1st Year Mechanical with Aeronautics, Strathclyde:

"Really enjoyed my first year of Engineering, had the opportunity to study some interesting classes. . . . pleased to say I maintained overall class averages of over 70% in each of my classes and achieved an overall average of 79%. This meant that I passed the first year of my course with distinction. . . . I am very grateful to be a part of this Endowment Scholarship, it has helped me a lot financially throughout my first year of University and I look forward to the rest of my time at University. I hope to continue doing well and, more importantly, to enjoy and make the most of my years."

Lee Curran 1st Year Aero-Mechanical Engineering, Strathclyde

"This summer, as part of the University of Strathclyde Motorsport Team, I was lucky enough to be invited to the Formula Student UK race event at the Silverstone Circuit and the even more coveted Formula Student Germany competition at the Hockenheimring Circuit, where only the best student teams in the world compete. . . . After my hard work and commitment over the summer preparing the car for the competition, I was asked to go and network for the team by speaking to the event sponsors. . . . On returning from the German competition I was made the new liaison person with Fanatec, the main sponsor of our simulator equipment and car for the new season, due to my proven ability in negotiating. This means I have to update and email their press office in Germany bi-weekly."

Stephanie Hughes 1st Year Chemical Engineering Strathclyde

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year at University and I truly believe this is the correct course for me. My scholarship has enabled me to go to such events as Frank Morton and IChemE workshops. It has also helped greatly in my travel costs in getting to Strathclyde every day and has helped towards paying for the books and resources I have needed throughout the year. Without this money I would have struggled to keep up with my peers and my course, in buying the books, online resources, paperwork and general necessities for life as a student.

I would like to thank you once again for awarding me with this scholarship and I hope I have used it and will continue to use it to the best of my ability throughout the rest of my time at university."

Tina Holland 2nd Year Mechanical Engineering Glasgow

"Last semester I joined the committee for female Engineering Society at Glasgow University and became involved in a project called FemEng in Rwanda. . . . Once in Rwanda, our two teams will work together to create a two-week long program of workshops, exhibitions and talks for 12-15 year old schoolchildren. . . . which we hope will familiarise the pupils with the higher education environment and stimulate an interest in STEM, particularly engineering."

Marcia McSwegan 3rd Year Biomedical Engineering Glasgow

"I thoroughly enjoyed all of my courses this academic year and obtained top grades in nearly all subjects, including three A1 passes. This saw me recognised on the Dean's List for 2015/2016, with a grade point average of 18.5. . . . Once again I undertook a classroom assistance role at my old school, allowing me to teach basic engineering-based classes to a group of 3rd year students. This was a huge success and allowed me to pass on my knowledge and experience as an engineer to a group of young physics students, including 3 young girls who have expressed an interest in pursuing a career in engineering. I sat down with these three girls and discussed the merits of an engineering degree. . . . I was massively honoured this year to receive the Doris Gray Scholarship from the Women's Engineering Society for the third year and also a one-off William Wilson Scott scholarship through the University of Glasgow. As a result, I was able to buy a new power assisted wheelchair and new, more comfortable crutches, following my diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis, to make my university experience a more accessible and comfortable one. In addition to promoting the role of women in engineering, I have been actively promoting the role of the disabled within engineering. I have spoken at a conference for people who are tube fed like myself about overcoming adversity and making the most out of life, ensuring that our disabilities do no limit or define us in any way, and that a career in engineering is fully possible regardless of disability."

Ross Pearson 4th Year Mechanical, Strathclyde

"This year of study placed an emphasis on project-based work with a high degree of self-learning and initiative expected. This is exemplified with the individual project which accounted for the largest single contribution to end of year credits. This entailed working directly under a supervisor on a chosen project with real contributions to ongoing research by the University. My own project involved research and simulation of a new purpose-built rig being constructed to measure residual stress in a component. . . . In addition to this aspect of the course, previous subjects were advanced in complexity and taken to a level representative of those found in a work environment. This was combined with a greater use of independent coursework and group work as assessment, which I feel will provide a good foundation post-graduation. As would be expected, this year has been the most difficult and demanding in my time at university. Rising to this challenge has called for greater dedication to my work and the ability to use skills honed in years prior. As such I have managed to maintain my high performance from previous years and have passed the year with distinction. . . . As I enter the last year of my degree I would like to thank the Allan Glen's Endowment Scholarship Trust for the financial aid I have been provided. My success over the last four years is in no small part due to the freedom this monetary backing allows."

Robert Fotheringham 5th Year EME, Strathclyde

"I completed my Masters in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering with International Study, graduating with Distinction in May 2016. This included my fourth year where I studied abroad at Clemson University in South Carolina, USA. In my final year I achieved an average grade of 81%. . . . For my final year project, my group was tasked with the design and development of a proof of concept prototype for a High Altitude Wind Turbine. The aim of this project was to investigate the benefits of harvesting the additional and more consistent energy found in the wind streams at higher altitudes, which conventional turbines cannot access. The final result of this project was the production of a fixed wing prototype, tested in the university wind tunnel, based around the concept of the Google Makani. This was then presented at the Electrical Engineering trade show and the project was deemed to be successful. . . . As of August 2016 I have been employed as a graduate engineer with Atkins. I am currently working within their Energy sector in the Nuclear Systems team based in Bellshill. . . . I would like to thank the trustees for the support provided throughout the five years I spent at university. The support enabled me to ensure that University remained my main focus for the duration of my studies and maintain the distinction level throughout. It also contributed significantly to the opportunity to study abroad in the USA and I believe this provided both valuable academic and life experience I could not have gained otherwise."

At the recent meeting of trustees, it was agreed to offer scholarships to three more Glasgow school leavers. Ellen Crosher, from Knightswood Secondary, is going to be doing EME at Heriot-Watt, Laura McShea from Cleveden will be studying Biochemical Engineering at Strathclyde, and Emmanuel Ineza from Hillpark Secondary will be taking Mechanical Engineering at Strathclyde. I have no doubt at all that these three will continue the run of quite remarkable success enjoyed by the Allan Glen Scholars of recent years.

Ian Valentine

Eds's note : I am sure that the remarkable progress of these Students is due in no small measure to the time and ability exhibited by Scott MacGregor and Ian Valentine in selecting and interviewing potential candidates.

Present: President Allan McLaren and 25 Members

Apologies: Apologies were received from John Cochrane, Alan Garrity, David Holmes, Raymond Miquel, Bruce Barrie, Murdo MacGregor, Ian Valentine

Minutes of 93rd AGM: The minutes were accepted, proposed A. McLellan, seconded R. Graham

Deaths: Ian Blair (first year – 1930), Eric Nicoll (1937), Tom Neville (1940), Peter Steven (1941), Len Sneddon (1941), Eddie Howie (1942), Henry Doig (1942), Eric Bremner (1944), Gordon Day (1944), Norrie Floyd (1944), Malcolm Phillips (1950), Murdo MacGregor (1950), David Gaskell (1952), David Reid (1953), Stewart Baird (1955), Keith Horn (1955), Roddie McNicol (1957), Donald MacGregor (1958), David Murdoch (1961).
The members were asked to stand for a minute's silence.

President's Remarks: President A. McLaren reported that it had been, as usual, a busy year, which will become apparent as the evening progresses and we hear the reports from the convenors.
The situation with regard to the possible sale of the land at Bishopbriggs continues to present difficulties. This was compounded by the move of our solicitor from McClure Naismith (in liquidation) to Murray, Mclay & Spens.
The exciting proposal of the STEM project is being actively pursued by the committee.

Secretary's Report: The secretary reported that the committee meetings had been well attended with much hard work completed by the members. The considerable amount of work by Allan McLaren in respect of the proposed sale of the land was gratefully acknowledged. The members of the School Club committee, the trustees of the Allan Glen's 2012 Trust and the Allan Glen's Endowment Trust were thanked for their continued support.

Treasurer's Report: Ross Graham presented the accounts. The subscription income had increased from £3221 to £4011. The annual dinner deficit was reduced by £800 from the O'Hara legacy. The Moneyspinner Draw showed a deficit of £165 after the prizes were awarded and a donation of £500 to the Sports Club. Former School funds of £9333 were released by the Bank of Scotland and paid in to the Club's account. R. Graham announced his intention to retire as treasurer and requested that urgent consideration be given to appointing a successor. The accounts were agreed – proposed N. Kilpatrick, seconded G. Graham

Money Spinner Draw: John Cochrane submitted a written report. He noted that there had been a deficit in the account but he hoped that this could be rectified by increasing the number of tickets being purchased. He proposed that D. McLaren be appointed as draw convenor – agreed, proposed J. Macdonald, seconded R. Wright.

Endowment Scholarship Trust: R. Wright presented the report from I. Valentine. All of the students have submitted written reports which indicated very satisfactory progress in their studies. Further information about the students has been published in the Newsletters. One student, Tina Holland, travelled to Ruanda to take part in a project about female students studying engineering. On her return they made a most impressive presentation in the Scottish Parliament. The account is managed by Ruffles and has shown some improvement in capital value although the income received was small. £20,000 was received from the McLintock estate. I. Valentine and Professor S. McGregor were warmly thanked for their efforts.

Tribute Lecture: Gregor Egan reported on the lecture. The ninth Allan Glen Tribute Lecture was held in the University of Strathclyde and 203 students attended. There was again a great demand for tickets. This year the title of the promoted lecture was "Pumping Iron: The Science and Engineering of the Heart" a subject close to the heart of the Club's own Consultant Cardiologist, Professor Henry Dargie FRCP, FFSC, FRSE. Professor Scott McGregor and the University of Strathclyde were thanked for hosting the lecture at no cost to the Club. Gregor was thanked for all his work.

S.T.E.M. H. Dargie gave a report on the progress of the project, which was first considered two years ago. A professional fund-raiser, Catherine Mulgrew, had been appointed and a draft brochure was being prepared to send to former pupils; subsequently it is planned to attempt to involve local businesses in supporting the project. A substantial donation had been received from Lord Smith of Kelvin. Glasgow City Council Education Department has estimated the cost to be of the order of £600,000 over three years and the target for the School Club is £200,000. Considerable discussion took place as to the viability and practicality of the project but it was agreed to allow the fund-raising to proceed. David Kent will report on the project to the members in Canada.

School 2012 Trust: Allan McLaren reported that the Trust has had a turbulent year in discussions with McCarthy & Stone constantly changing their requirements and designs. The Sports Club is supportive of the proposed sale and the subsequent use of some of the proceeds to improve the drainage and other enhancements to the ground. As was mentioned under President's remarks the change to our solicitor's company has caused further delays in attempting to sell the land. R. Wright expressed the club's gratitude for all the hard and careful work undertaken.

Golf Section: The annual golf outing took place at Pollok Golf Club on Thursday 10th September attended by 14 players. On a beautiful day, the John G Kerr trophy was won by Brian McAllister. This was a unique occasion when Henry Dargie scored a hole in one – he was warmly congratulated by all those present. A further 6 Old Boys came along for the dinner and presentation of the trophy.

Sports Club: Bob Leckie reported the sports club continues to be active and financially solvent. Part of the surplus of £17,000 would be used to replace the showers and for redecoration. Two senior teams, various junior teams and a most successful mini-rugby section are involved at the Bearyards where the Allan Glen's name is to the fore and publicised.

- Newsletter:** Editor Alan McLellan noted that four issues were produced again this year. The majority of members received the Newsletter by email and this greatly reduced the distribution costs. The newsletter was greatly appreciated by the members and Alan and Mike McCreery were thanked for their efforts.
- Website:** Callan Dick described the improvements which have been made to the website. The Newsletters are available online. John McGee has agreed to publish his history of Allan Glen online. Gregor Egan has a large number of photographs which will also be put on the website. The Forum is being redesigned and it is hoped that this might make it more popular and useful to the members.
- Annual Dinner:** Alan Garrity provided a note on the successful dinner which was printed in the December Newsletter. The salient points were: "Ninety-six members and guests, including a top table of ten, enjoyed an evening with a first class dinner and informative and entertaining speeches. Most had arrived in time for a pre-dinner refreshment before the formal beginning of the Dinner with the procession of the top table to the lively accompaniment of the piano. President Allan McLaren and Vice-president John Cochrane were joined at the Top Table by our Guest of Honour Old Boy Dr. Alan Chalmers, our Raconteur for the evening, Gordon Sherry and representatives of the Incorporation of Wrights, The Aloysian Association, The Glasgow High School Club, Kelvinside Academical Club, The Glasgow Academical Club, The Allan Glen's Sports Club. The other 6 tables seated 58 members and 28 guests. The President welcomed all present, introduced the Top Table and invited the Rev. Alan Garrity to say Grace. The caterers this year were again Corinthian, this time under the direction of Louise Brolly, who served us efficiently and with charm. Traditional toasts were proposed to 'The Queen' by The Chairman and to 'Allan Glen' by Ian Rogers. Our Guest of Honour then gave an interesting address outlining his career in the pharmaceutical industry. The total number of those attending was 99. Raymond Miguel was warmly thanked for providing the club with generous amounts of Bell's Whisky which is raffled at the dinner and at both of the lunch clubs. £1203 was raised and donated to the Endowment Trust." The date for the next Annual Dinner is Saturday 26th November in Trades Hall.
- Lunch Clubs:** Ross Ballantyne reported on the Glasgow lunches where an average of 37 (34-47) members and guests enjoyed an excellent meal at the Abode restaurant. An excellent relationship has developed with the Abode staff who also provide audio-visual equipment and committee rooms free of charge. Gordon Graham reported on the continuing success of the Bishopbriggs lunches with an average of 15-16 attending. The annual Burns Lunch was again a highlight of the year with 30 attending. Ladies' lunches were also held on an occasional basis. Gordon Graham was warmly thanked for agreeing to organise both the Glasgow and Bishopbriggs lunches.
- Strathclyde of the Year:** Strathclyde University are reviewing a number of awards and the Allan Glen's trophy was not awarded this year. The committee will contact the university to try to obtain information as to the future.
- Strathclyde Alumni of the Year:** Dame Susan Bruce DBE LLB MPhil Dame Susan Bruce was awarded the 2015 Alumna of the Year Award in recognition of her contribution to local government and public service in her roles as Chief Executive of various councils in Scotland. She was presented with the Allan Glen's Claret Jug.
- Glasgow University Young Alumnus of the Year:** The Allan Glen's trophy was presented to Mhairi Black (MA 2015) who was the youngest MP elected to the House of Commons since the Great Reform Act of 1832.
- Nomination of President and Vice-President:** Allan McLaren will continue as President and John Cochrane Vice-President.
- Elections:** Ian Dale was re-elected Secretary and Ross Graham, Treasurer. The following committee members retire by rotation, Alan McLellan and Ian Valentine and they have offered themselves for re-election:- agreed.
- Elections: Trustees of the Education Scholarship Trust were elected by acclamation:** Allan McLaren, Alan McLellan, John Cochrane, Ian Dale, Ian Valentine, with Gregor Egan and R. Wright in attendance. The Trustees of the 2012 Trust were previously appointed for three years and will continue in office – Allan McLaren (President), John Cochrane (Vice-President), Ronald Wright (Past-President) and Ian Dale (Secretary). The other trustees are Professor Scott McGregor (Strathclyde University), Barrie Bryson (Glasgow University), Past President John Kelly will continue as a Trustee representing the Trades House.
- Vote of Thanks:** R. Wright proposed the vote of thanks.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Date of the 95th AGM is 10th April 2017 in the Abode Restaurant, Bath Street.

Year 2017. Order Form

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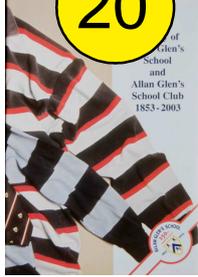
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