



# Allan Glen's School Club

# Newsletter October 2009

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## Editorial

This editorial was going to start with an apology because we were issuing a late Newsletter, however, when I looked back to last year I saw that the letter went out in October. So, the apology is withdrawn.

We would have been in print earlier this year but there were excellent reasons for delaying the release. Firstly : a presentation in Toronto on Friday 18 September to Murray Mackinnon, who has been "Our Man in Toronto" for the past sixty years and secondly : a report on the Golf Outing held once more at Pollok Golf Club, on Thursday 10 September, both very successful events, more about these inside.

I certainly do owe apologies to both Norrie Floyd and David Reid for information which was passed to me for possible articles about two and a half and four, possibly five years ago respectively. They were clipped onto other sheets of paper and mis-filed (*NB note to Editor - use staples not paper clips to attach miscellaneous sheets of paper together*) both articles are published today.

Your Committee have reached an agreement with the **Allan Glen's Sports Club** whereby members of **Allan Glen's School Club** are accredited members of the Sports Club and entitled to attend any events on-going at Bishopbriggs. As a matter of interest the **Glen's Rugby Team** are third in their division. The points position is : Aberdeenshire 31; Marr 31; **Allan Glen's 25**. A fortnight ago they defeated GHK and last weekend they had an excellent away derby victory against Lenzie 10 - 37. The Home return match at Bishopbriggs is 23 January 2010. So mark that in your diaries.

We are delighted to see that 40% of this Newsletter is correspondence from members.

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

## Dates for your Diary

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

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

**Please send your Dinner Applications to Ross Graham ASAP**

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22 Stockiemuir Avenue G61 3JN

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**Committee**  
A McLaren D Tanner R Leckie  
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## A Visit to Archie Robertson

In our June Newsletter we mentioned that we had traced Archie Robertson but had abandoned a visit because of his failing health, we now have an update. Your Committee decided it would be a nice gesture to give him a copy of the School's History that was published to coincide with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary together with a copy of the June Newsletter. Rather than put them in the post, our President undertook to deliver them personally and was welcomed by Archie and his wife of 66 years Isobel, to talk about old times at the school.

### **The visit:**

Even though he is 94, I would have known him anywhere. He looks a bit older, has a good head of hair and is surprisingly sprightly. When I arrived unannounced at his door he and his wife spotted my Allan Glen's Club tie instantly and told me promptly that he had taught at the school. It was obvious within the first few minutes that both Archie and Isobel empathise with the Club members' view of the school. They talked about his 16 years teaching at Glen's before he left to take up the head of department role at John Street School in Bridgeton. While this was a promotion he found it less rewarding than teaching at Glen's.

Last year he gave up his car due to eyesight problems and this is a bit of an inconvenience because both he and Isobel relied on it for their regular visits to their hut at Carbeth. He produced a painting of their hut

and told me that he had built it himself. Not only that but he had converted an SMT bus to make it. A remarkable achievement because the final hut looks just like any other. This really wasn't a surprise because those of you who remember Archie from school will recall that he was a skilled craftsman. The landlord at Carbeth is increasing the rents and apparently Archie is at the forefront of the campaign to resist these increases. He has even been interviewed on camera by Kirsty Wark.

We talked about their roles in accompanying AG boys on various trips and mentioned in particular a cruise when he and Isobel accompanied about 35 AG boys to Madeira and the Mediterranean (does anyone remember being on that?).

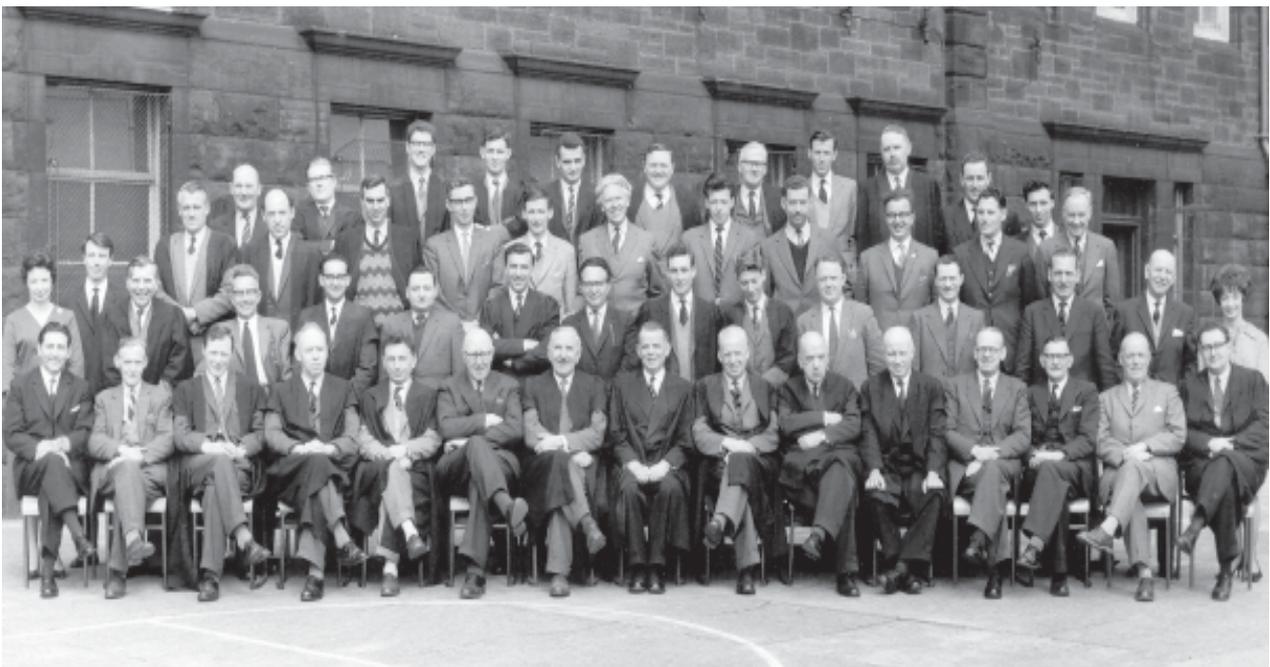
In their retirement years they have been embarking on extended holidays in the sun for periods of anything between 4 and 18 weeks. Recently he had a cataract operation which has been a great success and he is now planning to have his other eye done.

It was a pleasure to meet him again after so many years and I am sure you will all join with me in sending them both our thanks for all they did for us in the past and our best wishes for the future.

Gregor Egan



## *Early 60's Staff picture we promised from last Newsletter*



### Magazine Memories from Bill Murray (Australia)

The other day I received a CD of the Glen's magazines from 1940 to 1973, along with a DVD of the remarkable Ralph Cowan on the eve of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. The result was that for the next two days I was lost in a cloud of nostalgia, especially tracing the life of the teachers who played such a large part in a crucial stage in our lives, in my case between 1949 and 1954. This was done from notes on their departure from the school but also, alas but inevitably, from obituary notices. Also of special interest were the notes on Old Boys in the News, and the curiosity as to what happened to those characters who distinguished themselves in one way or another in their pre-adult years.

Top of the bursary year in 1949 was Kenneth M. Nicholl, and I was as impressed today as I was then by the sophisticated and amusing contributions he made to the magazine from his first year on. I never knew Ken, but I see from the 1961 magazine that he was on his way to complete a PhD at Princeton and as we know from the OB register, he went on to become Director of Systems Engineering at IBM, Europe. Indeed the general quality of the contributions is of a high standard: one outsider even commented that for a school specializing in science, engineering and technical drawing it had an amazingly good literary output.

The content also provided a more or less running commentary on the events of the day, from sombre and moving comments on the War that closed the magazine for two years in 1943 and 1944, to the brash new world of the 1960s where students were becoming so bold as to complain about having to wear a cap and taking on the high-handed authority of the Sixth Form. The school was also undergoing a more pointedly political change in the early 1960s, with evidence in student run newssheets like the *Glen Anarchist* attacking the official sixth form production, the *Glenallan*: the editorial in the 1963 Magazine compared them (unkindly) to the adolescent humour then sweeping the land in the BBC programme, *That Was The Week That Was*: the work of Frost, Cleeve and co was dismissed as "little more than sixth year humour at best".

Politics in my day was a much more benign affair, albeit with a hilarious mock election in 1950 where the Scottish Nationalists won by a landslide, their nearest rivals being the Oligarchists. Which brings me to perhaps the most outstanding character from my time, a B Stream (ie. Latin/German) student now in charge of the destiny of our fair city. Robert Winter amazed me with his vociferous proclamation of left-wing political opinions and denunciations of those deemed to be Tory Bags – and I remember when Stalin died we had a mock memorial service in Andy Orr's class (before he turned up). I also recall how Butch Herd regularly gave Winter full marks for all his essays in history. Even more I remember with a sense of wonder that in our non-catholic school he was an avid supporter of Glasgow Celtic.

Mention of Butch Herd evokes a memory of the many teachers whose lives we seem to have blighted, but this is a topic that I have been told to keep off after the on-going controversy over the Tawse, a subject on which I was quite an expert. Mr Herd stood out, however, and to this day when I hear Buchanan being (mis-)pronounced with a Bew instead of a Buck I cannot avoid muttering an internal correction. (And fixed in my memory is that glistening head and fiery eyes looking down on me from his pulpit and telling me: "Lower History for you, Murray")

The school played a key part in delaying my departure with my parents for Australia in 1954. This was when my mother received a letter from Australia from the sister she had last seen as a new-born infant being taken off a ship in Adelaide in the arms of her dying mother. My mother was then seven. Her father took her and a younger sister back to Scotland and had the new-born sister adopted. Thirty-three years later the fateful letter arrived that disrupted all of our lives: none of us wanted to emigrate, which was the only way the two sisters could meet, but I was able to use the excuse of the school and completing my Highers to put off my eventual departure – and enjoy eight extra months in Scotland and a trip Down-Under free from parental constraints.

I never realized the extent to which ours was a science school; I always felt more comfortable with the Humanitas part of the motto. But I was well aware that it was a rugby and not a football school. I played rugby, but in debates and articles for the *Glenallan* (early 1950s editions – does anyone have copies of these?) I would plead for a return to the game in which Allan Glen's had outstanding success between 1905 and 1923. Dr Kerr loved football and the school had a special relationship with Queen's Park FC, even being allowed to use its famous stadium for athletic meetings before Bishopbriggs took over in 1923. Arthur F. Murray, who played for Queen's Park and became club president from 1921 to 1923, was a Latin teacher at that time. He took over the football and among his many talented players the most outstanding was James Bowie, who was signed by Rangers from Queen's Park in 1910 and went on to play with the 'Gers until 1922 (including two appearances for his country just after the War); three years later he joined the Board, on which he served and presided for many years until ousted by Bill Struth in 1947. In my attempts to bring back these glory days, I also organized at least one inter-house challenge match (Barvand v Greyhorn) and like most of the boys of that time took part in the playground games at intervals, lunch-time and after school – in my memory there could have been at least half a dozen games going on at the same time.

So it was that when eventually I went on to University, as what would today be called a mature age student, and completed a PhD on the French Revolution, a Glasgow youth and football in which you were either a Catholic or a Protestant were never far from my mind. Thanks to a very broad-minded University I was granted leave from French history to conduct the research for what became my book on *The Old Firm*. With the various updates and revised editions I have had the perfect excuse for returning home just about every year since then.

## Correspondence Page - 2

In the early Glen's magazines I detected odd references to footballers who had been at the school: that for 1947 tells the Arthur Murray story, and among the Old Boys in the News in that edition, mention is made of Tony Harris, a stalwart for Aberdeen in the 1940s, who had played in a war-time international when still with Queen's Park – but there was no mention of that other Old Boy who was very much in the news in that year, James Bowie being ejected in the Board-room coup at Ibrox that led to the authoritarian rule of Bill Struth. It is not until the 1960s that football appears to get mentioned again, in particular Rangers and Celtic, but three articles in the dying days of the school showed that the quality of the contributions to the magazines was still very high. These were by Roddy Forsyth, foremost authority on Scottish football today, but a talent whose promise was there to see in the Glen's magazines of 1970 and 1971

Bill (Buff) Murray (1949-1954: 1c-5c)

(My thanks to Mike McCreery who sent me the CD with the magazines, as well as several copies of the 1960s *Glenallans* and a *Glen Anarchist*)

Mike: There are three substantial references to football in the 1953 history, one of them by J.W. Melvin who played in the first games and tells of Dr Kerr's love of the game, and by W.M. Graham, expanding on the article he wrote on "The Old Building" in the 1947 magazine – and which alerted me to the Murray and Bowie information; there is also a substantial article on Association Football in the centenary history.

Not sure if this should be added – as a historian I like to acknowledge my sources.

On Bowie all my evidence is circumstantial, but seems pretty water-tight: I have seen no specific reference to the footballer of that name being at Glen's.

*I think that the Glenallan editor was Harry Marsh - Playground Revolutionary. - ED.*

### Bill later wrote:-

I see in the 2003 history that a James Bowie was president of the OB from 1947-1949: no reference to him being the famous Rangers player and chairman (kicked out in 1947) - nor is there a reference to him being a "distinguished" OB. I suspect this reflects the school's emphasis on rugby. I have a sleuth in Glasgow who might follow this up for me – but there must be heaps of OBs who are Rangers supporters and might be able to cast some light here.

My book on *The Old Firm* came out with John Donald in 1984 and was regularly re-issued and then revised and updated by Birlinn in 2000. Mainstream published a centenary book (*Glasgow's Giants*) in 1988 (with superb illustrations) and *The Old Firm in the New Age* (1998) and *Buoys, Bears and Bigotry* in 2003. They are all out of print now, but readily available from various sources. I also wrote two histories of soccer: *Football, A history of the world game* by Scholar Press in 1994 and in 1996 The University of Illinois Press published a history with an American audience in mind, and which has been translated into Portuguese, Chinese and Korean, with a French translation under way: *The World's Game. A history of soccer*. More recently I have written on sport and politics in the 1930s with a co-edited book on *The Nazi Olympics* (2003)

(But my main area of expertise is the French Revolution)

Cheers, Bill

*Editor's Note.*

*Does anyone know of copies of the Glenallan or Glenarchist? We have a few originals but wonder how many were produced over what dates. The copies we have do not have a date, that were probably from 1958 to 1964.*

## e-mail from Bill Greenock

Dear Mike

Many thanks for the latest edition of the *Newsletter* in which I was surprised to find my own photograph appearing - in the staff picture from the early sixties. As editor of the magazine at the time I was responsible for setting up the photograph. You cannot imagine the difficulty of organising the academic and non-teaching staff to be altogether at one place at the same time, especially as some were notoriously camera shy, none more so than my 'boss', Alex. Somerville. It might also have been easier if I'd slipped a valium tablet in Soapy's coffee that morning! Nevertheless, I am delighted that I succeeded and that the photograph is now a valuable historic record of that particular time. If you are wondering, I am in the back row with Jim Davies (PE, on my right) and another English teacher, the delightful Matt Scott, on Jim's right shoulder.

Elsewhere, I was surprised that Charlie Thomson did not mention John Glendinning as another of our outstanding chess players. John provided the weekly chess puzzle in the *Scotsman* for many years

Kindest regards,

Bill Greenock

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### SWINGING AT THE MUSEUM - Ron Miller

Nostalgia and memories of school days regularly feature in the Newsletter and I was recently able to indulge in both.

My wife decided that my birthday present this year would be a few days in London, visiting places and doing things that I had often talked about but never found time to do when there on business. So an itinerary was drawn up and I prepared to catch up on the past.

Last year, we walked across the Brooklyn Bridge in New York and I remarked that I had often thought about a similar trip over Tower Bridge at the upper level so that was our first port of call in London. The views from the walkway, which is 143' above high tide level, were magnificent and made the steep climb up the 200 odd steps worthwhile – the lifts were closed following a recent accident.

Our next stop was a thirty minute flight on the London Eye where, once again, superb views were enjoyed, this time from a maximum height of 443', although the omission of any diagrams in the capsule to indicate which buildings we were seeing was disappointing.

Next day it was off to the Wartime Cabinet rooms where the cramped, underground living conditions for our wartime leaders would have given apoplexy to those who worry about the limited space prisoners have in a cell. The fortitude of the people who coped with the privations and steered us through the conflict is hard to contemplate and is worthy of the greatest praise.

Our afternoon at the Science Museum fulfilled a long-standing desire although among the exhibits from yesteryear, it was a shock to see household goods that I had grown up with – my grandparents first TV set, my first ever electric drill and a sample dinner plate of the same pattern that my former wife and I had owned! I didn't need reminders that my youth was now part of the past!

But there was one exhibit that I was keen to find as it would take me and other former pupils back to the 1950s in Mr Gregory's physics class. The item was Foucault's Pendulum which is suspended about 75' from the roof of the Science Museum. The pendulum is steadied each day and, as the hours pass, its direction of swing appears to rotate. However it is not the pendulum that is rotating but rather the Earth is rotating under it.

Watching the pendulum took me back to when I had first heard about it nearly sixty years ago from Mr Gregory who I thought was by far the best teacher in the school. I couldn't remember if we had been told that the pendulum really existed or its movement was just someone's theory but Mr Gregory's story was vindicated and I had achieved another ambition by seeing the device for myself.

Dear Alan,

I receive a copy of the Newsletter via my son, who has the same name as me and is into computers, in that regard I am illiterate. I suspect they are emailed from my old school pal Eric Nicoll, who lives in England and keeps me in touch.

My name is Tom Knox and I first went to Glen's in 1937 through a scholarship. Seventy-two were awarded that year and would you believe it, I was 72<sup>nd</sup>. Four of us from Carnwadric School won the award : Eric Nicoll; Harry Arnold; Wilson Dunn and I. All four of us were put into 1B under Mr Hodge. Did we call him Gus ? *Ed's note – I think he was called "Gussie Hodge."* He always had a nap at lunchtime, claimed his time clock was out of kilter. Dolly Graham was our Maths Teacher and Bill Ewing taught English, what a character he was : spun the yarn, playing goalkeeper for the local team – no nets behind the goals, a shot went just inside the post which he dived for and just missed. Retrieved the ball and placed it for a goal kick and the ref was none the wiser.

Looking at the school photograph, I can remember some of the names – \*Harry Arnold, Lewis Allan, Willie Mandereson, Keith Irwin ? Hyman Cooper, John Neilson ? Eric Nicoll, Wilson Dunn, Jack Beattie, Kenneth McNeil, Joe Lucas, Wilfred Vickers, Sam Goldie and Alex McLean.

*\* Ed's note Is there any possibility that this is the Maths teacher ?*

My daughter put this school photo on the web and Alex McLean's son recognised it as the one his father was in. Subsequently, I was able to contact Alex by phone and we had a great old chat. Sadly, his son informed us he had died a short time later, he lived in East Kilbride.

When the War started, the school closed for a while. I got a job through the Boys' Brigade Employment Agency at Hendersons the Jewellers in Argyle Street and was able to hold the Scottish Cup above my head, it was on display in the window !

The school re-opened – I lost my enthusiasm and left in 3<sup>rd</sup> year. I went to the Tech to study engineering for the National Certificate at night and started an engineering apprenticeship. Served in the RAF as a flight engineer in Bomber Command, a draughtsman in the Maintenance Unit and finally as a parachute jumping instructor to the paratroops. I was unsettled after demob and decided to come to Australia which has been my home since 1950. I married an Aussie Girl in 1952, her Father was from Montrose and we have four children, three girls and a boy, who have in turn presented us with thirteen grandchildren.

I have had a variety of jobs, all tied up with engineering, the final 22 years with Rank Xerox as a technical rep, which is a fancy title for one who services copying machines.

We live in a lovely part of the World on Sydney's northern beaches, gave golf up a few years ago and now try my hand at lawn bowls, where we are lucky enough to be able to play 52 weeks of the year outside.

Trust this might be of interest to any of my old classmates. Must give Eric Nicoll a ring tonight as it's his 84<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Keep up the good work,

Tommy Knox

Dear Alan,

I meant to pass the enclosed photo to you at the lunch but you were rightly busy looking after the guest speaker. An interesting talk with dramatic shots of the Alps?

The photo is of a forestry camp held in 1948 at Letter on the east side of Loch Katrine. I recently went on a sail on the Sir Walter Scott to see what was still there. Letter was still mentioned on the map but the fir trees that surrounded it have all been cut down leaving greenery all round. We carried out the clearing of the lower branches of the trees using a long handled saw, the



trees then presumably became props for coal mines. The midges were hellish and the tubs of DMP did little to scare them off. We prayed for rain but Davie refused to send it down! I wont bore you with the names I can remember but current old boys are Gordon Day in the back row with glasses and myself wearing a white cap kneeling at the front. Mr Abercrombie shows partly at the right hand edge, and a science teacher in the back row, three from the left. Regards,

Norman (Floyd)

*Ed Note. Was it not shots of the Himalayas?*

Dear Ian,

**Thank you for my membership card and information about this year's Annual Dinner. I had hoped to attend the Dinner this year, as I can remember Herb Savanamutoo during my years at Glen's. Unfortunately I am having to undergo a course of chemotherapy, which will last until the end of the year and I have been advised not to travel during this period. So please will you tender my apologies to my Year 1951. The information regarding my records is correct, however you may find the following of interest:-**

**When I left Glen's, I studied Applied Physics at the R.C.S.T, after which I went to the U.K.A.E.A, Harwell, to work on Reactor Experiments. I was then transferred to a new establishment at Winfrith, Dorset, where I worked until my retirement in 1990. I have now lived in Wareham, Dorset for 50 years, am married with two sons and four grandchildren.**

**During these 50 years, I have been a Town Councillor for 34 years, in the course of which time I had the honour of being Mayor of the Town on 6 occasions.**

**I was also the Founder Secretary of the Rotary Club of Wareham and initiated the Twinning of the Town with the towns of Conches-en-Ouches in France, (1978) and Hemsbach in Germany, (1986) and setting up 2 Twinning Societies, both of which are still enthusiastically supported.**

**Amongst many other civic commitments, I was also instrumental in setting up the Purbeck Citizens' Advice Bureau and a Purbeck Careline for housebound, elderly citizens.**

**At a special Presentation Ceremony just last week, the Wareham Town Council conferred upon me the status of 'Honorary Townsman of Wareham', for my services to the Community spanning my 50 years, an accolade which has been previously awarded to only 4 people since 1974. This was a totally unlooked for honour but one which has made me very humble and gratified, as since then, I have received many cards & letters of congratulations from colleagues and friends, both here and abroad, all pleased that my efforts over the years had been recognised.**

**I hope that this selection of latest information about my life will be of use to you.**

Yours sincerely,

Charles R Patterson

## **Presentation of Scholarship Awards 2009**



Councillor - Jon(athon) Findlay

Students : -  
Zoe Henretty  
Tharan Sivapathan  
Fraser Brownlie

Vice President Ronnie Wright

### ***A progress report from one of our sponsored students***

After graduating from Glasgow University in 2006 with a BEng(Hons) in Aeronautical Engineering I decided that it would be worth my while pursuing my Masters straight away as it allows a simpler progression to chartered engineer status. I started a MSc course in Computer Aided Engineering Design at the University of Strathclyde at the end of 2006 and enjoyed the taught element of the course thoroughly. Approximately half way through the course I applied for a few jobs and was successful with an engineering consultancy based in Glasgow. I took the position immediately and transferred onto the part-time masters route with my degree.

The company I took up employment with was called JMD Group, they are primarily concerned with vibration consulting for the offshore industry. Within the first six months of employment I was quickly involved with the main tasks of the company and had been offshore several times on various projects.

In July 2008 a number of exciting things happened with my career. I received the results of my masters degree and graduated with distinction at the Strathclyde University halls. Also at this time JMD Group were acquired by the large French certification firm Bureau Veritas. This led to a large opening of opportunities to work with new people and has allowed me to experience other types of engineering. Subsequently I have specialised in pipework vibration, vibration measurement, and structural/thermal finite element analysis. A few months after the acquisition by Bureau Veritas I was promoted to Project Engineer and have recently received further promotion to Consultant Engineer working within the Bureau Veritas acoustics and vibration group.

The main tasks I perform in the course of my work include troubleshooting various vibration problems, taking vibration measurements, vibration analysis, vibration surveys of oil and gas pipework and finite element analysis of various structures and objects.

My latest projects involve managing the vibration consultancy requirements of four North Sea assets. This is going to prove quite a challenge as I will have to visit all of the platforms regularly and keep on top of any vibration problems that may arise over the next few months.

One of my main hobbies is travel and I have been lucky that the job has allowed me to work in some interesting places. Within the first two years I have worked in Norway, the Philippines, Indonesia, Georgia, various parts of the UK and all over the North Sea.

I am looking forward to the future challenges, career progression and travel opportunities that I'm sure will arise in the within this career path. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Allan Glen's Endowment Trust for all the help they have provided me with throughout my university studies. Without this help it would have been substantially harder to progress through university and devote as much time to study as I was able to.

Colin McIlraith.

*Editor's Note:- We look forward to meeting Colin again at this year's Annual Dinner.*

## Annual Pollok Golf Outing - 10 September 2009



Gregor Egan presents the winner Mervyn Tonks with a quaiach with Briam McAllister looking on



Gregor Egan congratulates the runner-up John Conely



### Report on Golf Outing for the John G Kerr Trophy- Pollok

Our Annual Outing was held on Thursday 10 September. The "longest drive" was won by Alan Tonks (Mervin - Barony) who had travelled all the way from Johannesburg, he also won the Trophy with 41 points and a better inward half from John Conely, who had only driven from Oxfordshire, third, with 37 points was Brian McAllister. Alan will be returning on **11th September 2010** to defend the Trophy. Sixteen competed and nineteen sat down to high tea.

Unusually for Pollok, at this time of year, the outer half of the course was flooded and unplayable, so the competition was played over two x nine holes stretches. Having said that, all the other local courses were closed that day. Winter is coming earlier and earlier.

## ***The Ontario Group of the Allan Glen's School Club***

The Ontario Group of the Allan Glen's School Club met for our autumn lunch 18th September at a restaurant in Central Toronto. Unfortunately our guest for the day, Past President Alan McLellan was unable to be there due to some medical complications which prevented him from making a long planned trip to Canada.

Alan was to make a presentation to Murray MacKinnon who had served as the Consul for Allan Glen's Old Boys Club for many years beginning in 1949. In his absence the presentation was made by Ken Clark who expressed the thanks of the Club for Murray's years of service during which he and his wife Rita formed and ran a very active branch of the Club organizing many events for both Old Boys and their wives. In recognition of this service Murray received an Allan Glen's Club Quaich and was made an Honorary Life Member of the Club. Ron Moody who was the first Old Boy to make contact with Murray made a short speech reminiscing of times past and the Old Boys most of whom are no longer with us. Ken read a message from Herb Saravanamuttoo, another early member of the group, congratulating Murray.

The group settled down to enjoy a good lunch and much good conversation. Attendees compared backgrounds commenting on how the group well represented the "Sons of Artisans"; education of whom was the objective of the Allan Glen Bequest.

The luncheon adjourned mid afternoon in good spirits looking forward to meeting again in the spring of 2010.



**Round the table (L to R) :-  
Standing Wilson McArthur; Bob Wilson  
Seated Moore Hislop; Ron Moodie; Ken Clark; Murray  
MacKinnon; Ian Campbell, Iain Murray; James Dunsmuir**



**Murray McKinnon is presented with his  
Quaich by Ken Clark in recognition of his  
long service as Consul for the Club.**

Dear Alan,

My sincere thanks for proposing to the Committee that I be made an Honorary Member of the Allan Glen's School Club. I am greatly honored

Looking after the A.G. Lads as they arrived in Ontario, mostly in Toronto, was pleasurable and interesting. My first three arrivals were Herb Saravanamuttoo, Ron Moodie and Les Auchincloss, I was delighted to be introduced to Ken Clark and his group of the School's Best.

The climax of the last lunch gathering, for me, was the presentation, by Ken, of the Allan Glen's Quaich. Certainly a great surprise and this beautiful piece of hardware will be much cherished.

I hope that you, Alan, will recover quickly from your mini stroke and I look forward to meeting you in good health in Toronto.

Sincerely,

N.A. Murray Mackinnon

P.S. In 1933, September 2, my parents thought I should be educated at Allan Glen's School and "Cum scientia humanitas" finished at the end of term June 1937 with a Higher Leaving Certificate. Also in 1933 George Monteith was School Captain in 6<sup>th</sup> form but not until 1967 was I introduced to George along with his A.G. buddy, Bill Smith and two veterans of another great Glasgow institute of learning (Glasgow High School), Dougie Simpson and Will Simpson. We made them honorary members of our little group.

## RALPH & TOM ERSKINE

This is the subject, referred to in the editorial, for which I must be hugely apologetic to David Reid. He passed me an envelope, I can't actually remember when but, a considerable number of years ago, concerning two brothers Tom and Ralph Erskine who attended **Allan Glen's School** prior to the First World War, in which they were both killed. They each attained the rank of Captain in the Army/ Royal Flying Corps.

This topic was previously aired in a Newsletter in October 1998 but it was felt that we now have a somewhat larger circulation and that it just might strike a chord somewhere. Ralph was an engineering student at Glasgow University and had a prodigious athletic ability which climaxed in his representing Great Britain and winning at lightweight (125 lb) in a World Boxing Championship organised by the Knickerbocker Club of New York, also known as the Pastimes Athletics Club of New York.

*(Ed's note I did write to the Knickerbocker Club in NY but received neither acknowledgement nor reply)*

Tommy was a medical student at Glasgow University until he volunteered for service in the Army. He was awarded a posthumous doctorate.

I came across an article regarding football played at Clydesdale Harriers/ Football Club which mentioned that Moses McNeill and his brothers were founder members of both Clydesdale Harriers and Rangers Football Club and they rubbed shoulders in the Dundas Street dressing rooms with such Celtic Luminaries as Willie Maley and his brother Tom. There was no sectarian aspect to the football scene in Glasgow at that time. Clydesdale Harriers also had a boxing section with a World Champion in Ralph Erskine.

I also came across an obituary notice for Captain Ralph Erskine, the younger son of Captain James Erskine, Gordon Highlanders and brother of Captain Tom Barrie Erskine MC, also of the Gordon Highlanders and of **Allan Glen's School**, who was killed in France in 1915. The article finishes off by saying that "Ralph Erskine married in March 1917, Lennie, only daughter of a Mr and Mrs W Higgins of Wimbledon who, with an infant son, survives him".

Much of the information we have on Ralph and Tom Erskine derives from a letter from a Ralph Tattersall, who is a nephew of the brothers. Ralph Tattersall also mentioned two "caps" with lettering on the caps seemingly showing them as being awarded for playing for Scotland v Ireland in 1913 and for Scotland v England and Ireland in 1914. Presumably these caps could have been awarded for Rugby, Football or Athletics and either for Scotland or for the Armed Forces, the brothers both joined up immediately on the outbreak of War. The family were interested to know if anyone knew of the source of the caps.