



East & West

Issue number 102 Christmas 2018



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The East India Club directory

The East India Club
16 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LH
Telephone: 020 7930 1000
Fax: 020 7321 0217
Email: secretary@eastindiaclub.co.uk
Web: www.eastindiaclub.co.uk

DINING ROOM

Breakfast

Monday to Friday 6.45am-10am
 Saturday 7.15am-10am
 Sunday 8am-10am

Lunch

Monday to Friday 12.30pm-2.30pm
 Sunday (buffet) 12.30pm-2.30pm
 (pianist until 4pm)

Saturday sandwich menu available

Dinner

Monday to Saturday 6.30pm-9.30pm
 Sundays (light supper) 6.30pm-8.30pm

Table reservations should be made with the Front Desk or the Dining Room and will only be held for 15 minutes after the booked time. **Pre-theatre**, let the Dining Room know if you would like a quick supper.

AMERICAN BAR

Monday to Friday 11.30am-11pm
 Saturday 11.30am-3pm & 5.30pm-11pm
 Sunday noon-4pm & 6.30pm-10pm

Members resident at the club can obtain drinks from the hall porter after the bar has closed.

EAST INDIA ROOM

Monday to Friday. Light food and wine menu. Use of electronic devices on silent is permissible.

SMOKING ROOM & WATERLOO ROOM

Monday to Friday Tea and coffee from 9am
 Light menu 10am-10.30pm
 Drinks 11am-11pm
 Weekend Light menu 10am-10pm
 Drinks 11am-10pm

BILLIARDS ROOM

Open to members from 9am to midnight.
 Pass keys will not be issued after 11pm.

GYMNASIUM

Open to members from 6am to 10pm.
 Suitable attire must be worn.

BEDROOM CHARGES (from 2019)

Includes early morning tea, English breakfast, discretionary £5 per person per night contribution to the staff fund, and VAT. All bedrooms are non smoking.

Members & immediate family

Single ensuite £127 (£77*)
 Single with small shower £106 (£66*)
 Single without facilities £85 (£56*)
 Double or twin room for single occupancy £173
 Double or twin room for double occupancy £187
 St James's Suite £302

Reciprocal members & guests

Single ensuite £166 (104*)
 Single with small shower £145 (£92*)
 Double or twin room for single occupancy £208
 Double or twin room for double occupancy £228
 St James's Suite £356

* Special rate on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Members are required to carry their membership cards at all times when visiting the club, and present them on arrival. It is essential that they are produced when signing for charges to accounts.

GIFT SUGGESTIONS FROM THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Ties

Silk woven tie in club colours. £20



Scarf
£17



Hatband
£15



Bow ties

Tie your own and, for emergencies, clip on. £20



The East India Club - A History

by Charlie Jacoby.
 An up-to-date look at the characters who have made up the East India Club. £10



Cut glass tumbler
 Engraved with club crest. £30

Decanter
£85



Compact mirror
£22



The Gentlemen's Clubs of London

New edition of Anthony Lejeune's classic. £28

V-neck jumper
 Lambswool in burgundy, L, XL, XXL. £55

Notelets
£3.75



Cufflinks

Enamelled cufflinks with club crest, chain or bar. £24.50



Polo shirt

In red or black, L, XL, XXL. £28



Mug
£14



Chocolate mint creams £8



Blazers
 £395 (navy) £350 (sports)



Club shield
£35



Waistcoat
£160



Napkin hook
£40



Golf balls

Titleist golf balls. Bearing club crest. £29 per dozen

Golf tees

Tin of 50 'personalised' East India golf tees. £7.75



Blazer buttons

Double breasted. £50
 Single breasted. £35



View from the garden
 Print of the club exterior. £65



Umbrellas
 Short. £20
 Long. £25



Rugby ball
£25

Post and packing for non-breakables from £3. Breakable items are for collection from the club instead of posting.

CLUB WINE:
 See page 17 for details

Club diary

January 2019

8 Film club
8 Wine tasting
23 Members' & daughters' dinner
25 Casino evening
31 Burns supper

February

8 Rugby lunch v France
12 Wine tasting
22 Jazz at No 16

March

5 Film club
5 Library lecture & dinner
15 Rugby lunch v Scotland
21 Gourmet evening

April

3 Sports dinner
7 Oxford & Cambridge boat races
17 Young members' dinner
23 St George's day dinner

May

7 Film club
15 AGM
6-8 Champagne tour

Christmas

The club closes for Christmas after lunch on Friday 21 December 2018 and re-opens at 9am on Wednesday 2 January 2019.

Sunday lunch

On most Sundays throughout the year, a sumptuous lunch buffet is provided to the accompaniment of a pianist.

Ascot

The club's box at Ascot has dates available for booking. Please contact the membership secretary.



East & West

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Cover photo: Waterloo Place

With the Christmas party season in full swing, the chairman looks back at a long, hot, summer in London (though drenched for our barbecue), and a pleasant break in Paris visiting one of the best of our reciprocal clubs.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

One of the less heralded benefits of our club membership is the extensive list of reciprocal clubs available to the discerning traveller. Although certainly less exotic than the unforgettable Mid Ocean Club in Bermuda, which my wife and I visited in 2015, our prime reciprocal in Paris, the Cercle de l'Union Interalliée, still makes a real impression. Situated next door to the British



The chairman speaking at the Lord Mayor's lunch

Embassy on the Rue du Faubourg St-Honoré, it boasts grand rooms and an elegant first floor dining room overlooking beautiful, private gardens. After the excitement and party atmosphere of three days at Le Golf National, watching Europe regain the Ryder Cup, it was a welcome change of pace for a celebratory lunch on the Monday before our flight home. I can highly recommend it.

As we look back on the hottest and driest summer on record it is still painful to recall the biblical deluge that befell our Club barbecue in July, as it was so localised and yet so heavy. The upside was a display of stoicism from our staff and the jazz band that was impressive to behold as almost 200 of us were relocated from the square to the clubhouse at the double. It is an extraordinary feature of our club layout that, with the Dining Room already fully booked that night, the crowd could still be accommodated, fed, watered and entertained within the Waterloo, Smoking and East India rooms. It was a triumph snatched from the jaws of disaster and much appreciated by members to judge from the numerous letters I received in the aftermath congratulating the secretary and staff.

In the months since, we have had a full house for library lectures on the RAF centenary and then Churchill, organised by

the library committee and St John Brown, and to see the Sandy Burnett Trio organised by the jazz section and Howard Lambert.

The Lord Mayor's lunch is always fully booked and marks the start of our autumn / winter programme of club events. This year had a particular significance as the centenary year of its introduction at the Eccentric Club in 1918. To mark the occasion, we invited all former Lord Mayors who had joined the East India as honorary members and were delighted that six were able to attend. It was a splendid and prolonged afternoon, and we now look forward to the next hundred years.

The harvest festival service, held at the Tower of London, is another club regular, and the house dinner with Henry Blofeld is especially memorable. A legendary figure in the cricketing world, he boasts a lifetime of Test Match Special anecdotes. As you would expect the event sold out in a very short time.

The autumn rugby internationals took place on successive Saturdays throughout November. As well as Australia, Japan and South Africa there was particular excitement as England also took on New Zealand for the first time since 2014. At time of writing, this represents a daunting challenge but should give a clear indication of their relative strengths with the Rugby World Cup in Japan only 12 months away.

The club ballot for debenture seats was over-subscribed, as ever, and Matthew Ebsworth organised rugby lunches at the club prior to the New Zealand and Australia fixtures which set the scene perfectly for the following day's matches.

As the year end approaches, all members will be receiving their renewal letters for 2019. As forewarned, the committee has had to raise subscriptions again to offset the

continuing increase in business rates and the expected uplift in London Living Wage. It is unwelcome but sadly inevitable and I hope that you will continue to support both the club, by renewing your membership, and the staff who have looked after us with such dedication during the year, by giving generously to the staff fund appeal.

“The upside was a display of stoicism from our staff and the jazz band that was impressive”

Duncan Steele-Bodger, Chairman

ROWING

NEW BLADES

by Mike Biggs and Rory Hunt

For the first use of our brand, new trailer, we brought three crews to the delight that is Henley-on-Thames. Another first: our visit to Henley Town & Visitors' Regatta started a tour of many regattas throughout the summer of 2018. Maidenhead and City of Oxford regattas followed, then in the autumn by the Fuller's, and an excellent result at Head of the River Fours - where despite a clash with London RC - we finished ahead of our starting position.

We had a successful summer, winning in the coxed four, coxless double sculls, and also the single scull over these summer events.



The club in action at Oxford - just losing by two ft in the final

All active members of the section gained valuable experience both on and off of the water, and our relationship with Auriol Kensington RC has gone from strength to strength. We borrow their equipment to supplement our own coxless four, Cecil.

In September, we had our section annual dinner, enjoyed by all. The committee bestowed awards to the following members: oarsman of the year Peter Pratelli, coxswain of the year Zac Wilde, and clubman of the year Ron Collins. We also welcomed in new committee members: Ron Collins to chairman, the writer to treasurer and coach, Will Tait to fundraising secretary and Rhys Major to social secretary. The incoming chairman, Ron Collins, welcomed the new committee members and thanked the outgoing ones for their efforts, toils and troubles throughout the past year.

In the club itself, the section held its Ergo in-house rowing competition. The object is to row 2,112m, the distance raced at Henley Royal Regatta, on the Ergo rowing machine on setting '6' in the gym. This year's winner is Archie Hilder, completed in 7:08:02.

We have plenty of apparel on offer too, including ties, bow ties, pocket squares, rowing training clothing, and a blazer that is awarded by the section committee for



Will Tait and Ron Collins at the rowing dinner

meritorious service to the section on or off of the water. We are proud to have Nottingham-based Godfrey as our rowing clothing supplier.

We have a busy programme of head races planned for 2019, so please look out for the new calendar card, that shall be available in the early part of 2019. These include Henley 4s and 8s, Bedford 4s and 8s, Hammersmith Head, and the Head of the River, before we plunge back into the regatta season, thus welcoming back our undergraduate J7 contingent.

As always, we wish to welcome all club members to join us, be it on or off of the water. There are also opportunities for members to accompany the coaching team, in the launch, while the oarsmen are training. All levels of experience are welcome.

EPICS

Long drive

by Ben Hurworth

Danny Flowers (35pts) won the morning singles in the autumn meeting at New Zealand GC from Patrick Duke (32) and Chris Salmon (31); John Braithwaite and Adam Stevens had the longest drive. David Freeborn secured the guest prize on countback from Paul Preddy (both 36). Captain Ben Hurworth and Chris Salmon won the afternoon foursomes.

The Captain's Day at Worplesdon was won by Perry Gale (31) just edging out new member, Colm Prendergast (30), with Alan Hamilton beaten into third on countback.



Left-right: Matt Dennehy, Alan Hamilton, Colm Prendergast, Alan Botterill, Ben Hurworth and Perry Gale at Worplesdon

Colm also had the longest drive whilst Captain Ben had nearest the pin. The final of our millennium cup was also played on this day with Alan Botterill just edging out Matt Dennehy.

We took part in the inaugural four-way match at Sandy Lodge against the Reform and Oriental Clubs and the China Golf Society, which will be played again next year.

In early September, nine members went on tour to Perth, Scotland. We were hosted magnificently by the Royal Perth Golfing Society with some members staying at their club. We did however lose in the match against them at Blairgowrie. Our tour also included games at Lundin Links and Loch Lomond.

Paul Blows, Ian Holmes, Patrick Duke and the captain represented the club in the Bath Cup at Woking in early October but struggled to find form. We continue to have mixed results in our matches: against Royal Blackheath we secured our normal draw, while a win against the Bar GS was followed by a loss to Wrotham Heath.

With the clocks having moved back we look forward to our Christmas lunch on Friday 7 December, dinner with the Caledonian Club on 28 February 2019 and our annual dinner on 20 March 2019.

Polo

by Harman Gill

The list of members of the polo section goes from strength to strength. However, we have been unlucky in terms of trip organisation. We had planned one event to the Guards Polo Club that had to be

cancelled unfortunately due to lack of member take-up. Then the second trip planned was to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, which was sold out, but the weather got the better of it: not because of rain but because of the extreme heat drying out the ground to the extent play was deemed not safe. I hope next year will prove to be a more successful one with a bit more luck on our side. I have no doubt that we will return to some normality,

given the preceding seven years' worth of trips have generally been oversubscribed. For those who are not aware, the section is open to polo newbies and aficionados alike and is a nice way to spend a day in the country with fellow members and their guests.

There has been some momentum in getting a playing side going. Please let the secretary know if that interests you.

State visit

Behind the scenes

In October, the King and Queen of the Netherlands, Willem-Alexander and Máxima, made a state visit to the UK. By kind invitation of member Captain R Wilmont MBE, ten members were invited to be guests of the Irish Guards to see the behind-the-scenes preparations and deployment of ceremonial troops for a major state event.

They arrived for a 10am sign-in at Wellington Barracks guardroom where they were met by Captain Wilmont.

Following briefing and coffee in the library, they went to the parade square to watch the



Left-to-right: John Coverdale, Michael Burmester, Edward Davis, Richard Wheeler, Harmanpiar Gill, Roger Bance, John Monk, Christopher Kemp, and Martin Polaine

forming up and march off. At 12.10pm, they heard the Kings Troop Royal Horse Artillery fire a 41-gun salute, and they watched the troops return by 1pm.

Shorts

Cricket



The club team that played against the Chobham XI for the Turnbull Cup. The club lost in the last over.

Library

Members are enjoying borrowing the club's books. The frequency of signing books out and back in has been on the increase. The club's inventory of books is searchable through the Members Area and under Facilities, in the website. Recent new additions to the shelves include:

Fire and fury: inside the White House by Michael Wolff

Citizen Clem by John Bew

This is going to hurt by Adam Kay

Prisoners of geography by Tim Marshall

Posh boys: how the English public schools ruin Britain by Robert Verkaik

The library committee welcomes member suggestions for new acquisitions. If you have any questions or comments about the library please do contact the librarian, Jane Trodd, librarian@eastindiaclub.com

For more about the recent library lectures, see pages 12 and 13.

Homelessness



Member Simon Camamile is raising funds for Abolish Youth Homelessness in the UK. Jumping from 16,000ft. It was, he says, "a bit extreme and a fabulous day".

Rugby lunches

The club has been holding a full programme of rugby lunches, organised by Matthew Ebsworth and held on the Friday before an autumn international where England is playing.

As well as these, the club hosted a lunch for a cause close to rugby players' hearts: the My Name's Doddie Foundation. Named after Scottish international Doddie Weir, the foundation raises money for research into motor neurone disease, which afflicts Doddie.

Doddie Weir is one of rugby's most recognizable personalities. He earned 61 caps for Scotland during a successful playing career, and represented the British and Irish Lions on their successful tour to South Africa in 1997.



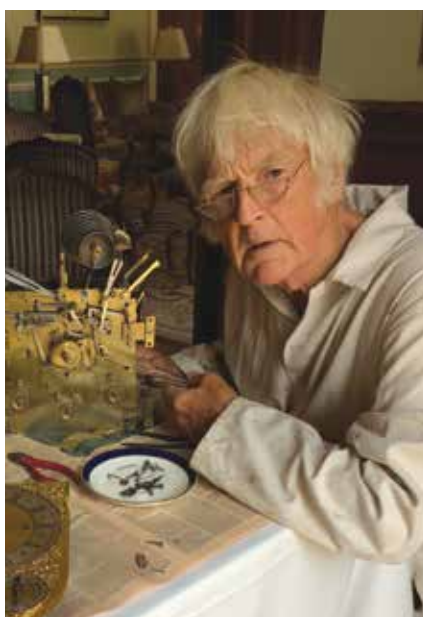
Left-right: John Zimnoch, Iwan Tukalo and Neil Edwards at the Doddie Weir lunch

Like clockwork

We are indebted to member Reverend JC Alexander, who offered the club his skills as a horologist, overhauling the clocks in the club's possession.

We gratefully received the offer. When Rev Alexander is available, he spends a morning at the club on the skilled work of keeping quality mechanisms in good working order.

He is pictured here working on the intricate mechanism of the clock in the Waterloo Room which is a mahogany bracket clock, circa 1900, strung with boxwood. An arched gilt face is inscribed 'A Johnson, Middlesbrough' with three subsidiary dials, the case with a swan neck pediment and corner colonettes.



The Reverend JC Alexander

A day that starts with a dose of motoring history in Hampshire ends in the pleasant surroundings of the club in London, as the motoring section bring their cars to St James's Square.

THE SQUARE THRUMS TO PROPER MOTORS

The motoring section's assault on the square took place in October. It started at the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu in Hampshire. From motor carriages dating from 1875 to classic family saloons, the museum has one of the finest collections of cars, motorcycles and motoring memorabilia in the world. It includes legendary F1 cars and land speed record breakers in a collection of 285

vehicles. It even has a recreation of a rustic 1930s garage, packed full of artefacts, fixtures, fittings, tools and ephemera. From there, the section puffed, putted and purred its way to St James's Square where they parked in the garden before enjoying dinner in the club.

The motoring section has enjoyed more events than ever before this year, including a summer trip to Brands Hatch.



Doug Hill, chief engineer at Beaulieu explains that even Shelby admitted the 427 Cobra is a handful



David Holmes' 1954 R-Type Bentley



Left-right: MG Magnette, Alfa Romeo Giulia 1600 S and a 1956 Alvis Series 3



Members and guests outside the National Motor Museum



Ian and Myra Forrester and their Jaguar XKR which sports the Ecurie Ecosse emblem



Richard Muir Beddall and daughter Milly in his 1972 Alfa Romeo Giulia 1600 S

Phyllis Court Club classic car display

Phyllis Court in Henley held an August Bank Holiday classic car display featuring the iconic Model T Ford. Thanks to Richard Muir Beddall, members of the East India Club's motoring section and their guests were invited to participate in the reception, lunch and classic car display.

The reception was held in the riverside pavilion, lunch in the ballroom and the cars themselves on the lawn in front of the clubhouse.

This informal gathering was not a *concours d'élégance* but a display of well-loved cars, mainly owned by Phyllis Court classic motoring members and some exciting cars owned by specially invited guests. This year Phyllis Court featured the Model T Ford, with two models from Ken Tuckett who imports Model Ts and spares from the USA.

A parade of cars took place, with commentary and interviews by Phyllis Court president, Piers Flashman.



The Phyllis Court lawn event

The club archive grows, with the purchase of a modern map of the square and gardens, highlighting the famous names and shady characters who inhabit it, and a pre-1937 postcard.

CLUB BUYS SQUARE MAP

by Adam Dant

Unlike many other public squares in London, St James's Square is in possession of a certain aloof, upper crust aura, in keeping with the private finance offices and gentlemen's clubs that hide behind its well-attended facades.

Dogs are no more permitted into the gardens here than they would be in the London Library, the East India Club or the headquarters of British Petroleum.

Whilst sketching from a bench in the square beneath the statue of King William III, I noticed that not much appeared to be going on in this square. Such an atmosphere of restraint in a public arena prompts all manner of fanciful notions as to the real identities, activities and motivations of passers-by. Much in the same vein as a novel by London Library habitué Graham Greene, visitors to

St James's Square assume the mantle of the Russian spy visiting a dead letterbox, the covert couple conducting an illicit love affair or the minor royal jogging incognito. The real action here has to be invented as nobody is giving anything away.

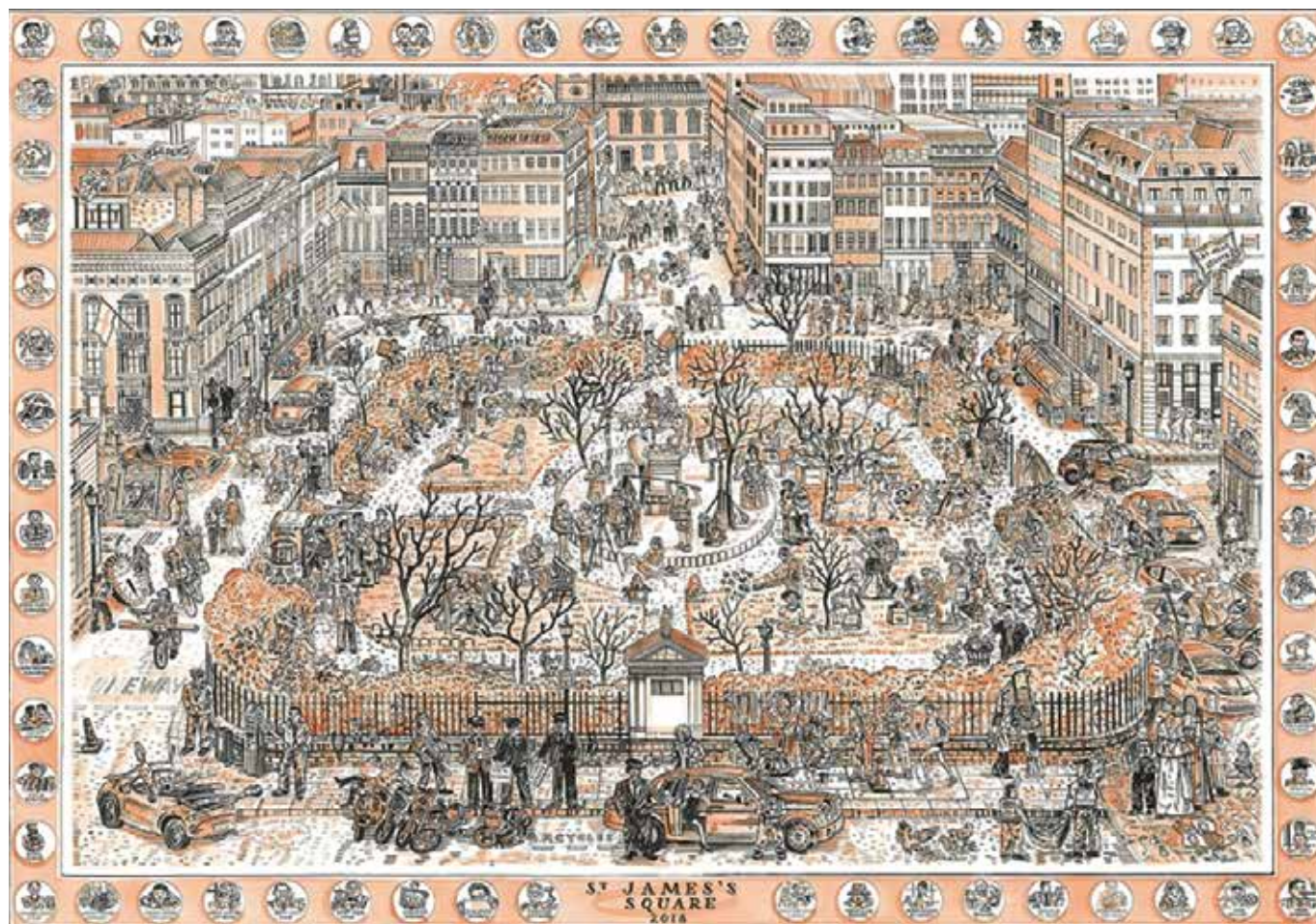
Secrecy is the order of the day at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, better known as Chatham House whose famous 'Chatham House Rule' guarantees speakers there unattribution, which encourages the sharing of sensitive information. Until recently, the church of Rome managed to keep their ownership of a handsome townhouse in the square under wraps, having purchased it with Mussolini's money.

It is in this spirit that my depiction of the square prompts the viewer to speculate on the characters' goings-on and to animate their stories, according to the roster of St James's 'types' shown in the border.

Tudor room

Member Nick Gould spotted this picture on eBay and bought it for the club archive. It is a picture postcard showing what is now the Canadian Room. The caption calls it 'the Tudor Smoking Room' at the 'East India United Services Club', which shows it pre-dates our 1937 merger with the Sports Club.

The Canadian Room gets its name from the generosity of Canadian officers who donated money and wood to refurbish it after the second world war.



The St James's Square map the club has bought appears in *Maps of London & Beyond* by Adam Dant. It is published in conjunction with *Spitalfields Life*. It is a spectacular, large-format collection of Adam Dant's fine art maps, giving a unique view of our history and life today. Witty and subversive, his map offers a compelling view of history, lore, language and life in the capital and beyond

The club's shooting section has a new breath of life, thanks to the J7s. They instigated a series of game, clay and target events for members, for all from the experienced to novices.

CLUB SHOOTING SECTION

Club member Sanjay Bhattacharya has followed in the footsteps of Adam Rigby, who organised rifle shooting



Sanjay Bhattacharya

outings, to recharge the rest of the shooting section. You may have received a survey via email. Sanjay is behind it, and has used the results to inspire a series of shoots and other events in the club for members.

"With the help of fellow shooting section members Richard Hobbs [elected first chairman of the section], William Oakes and Charlie Jacoby we are working hard to revive what should be a thriving part of the EIC community," he says.

At present the shooting section - the largest sporting section in the club by members - has confirmed two shoot dates for this season, the second one on Saturday 16 January 2019 at Stratfield Saye estate, south of Reading. It is a 200-bird day at £880/gun/day, with ten guns. There will also be informal drinks at the clubhouse, a group visit to a London gunmaker, and to a clay-ground near London, "for novice members who are looking to start game shooting with the assistance of more experienced members on the day," says Sanjay. Cost no more than £400/gun.

Sanjay is a J7 and has instigated a popular WhatsApp group for members of the shooting section.

Drewton's shoot

Yorkshire birds

Members of the club enjoyed shooting at Chris and Eileen Taylor's excellent shoot Drewton Manor on the edge of the Wolds in Yorkshire. They stayed at the manor in great luxury. Thanks to Maria Morgan for the pictures.



The shooting party



Charlie Jacoby (left) and Ken Morgan



Pyper the labrador

Grouse dinner

It was not a good year for grouse. The Beast from the East earlier in 2018 killed much chance of big days on many estates. But do not let that stop you eating grouse. The birds are not rare - just not in enough numbers for big shoot days. And so the club fell in and ate grouse in October.



Members and guests enjoyed good grouse, good wines and an excellent after-dinner speaker.

It is a popular dinner in the club's calendar and books up early. Once again, the kitchen produced more than 80 superbly cooked birds at exactly the same time, complete with game chips. After dinner, the speaker was Robin Page, former *Daily Telegraph* columnist, former presenter of BBC TV's *One Man & His Dog*, and now the driving force behind the Countryside Restoration Trust. He has a rare ability as a raconteur, so laughter aided digestion.



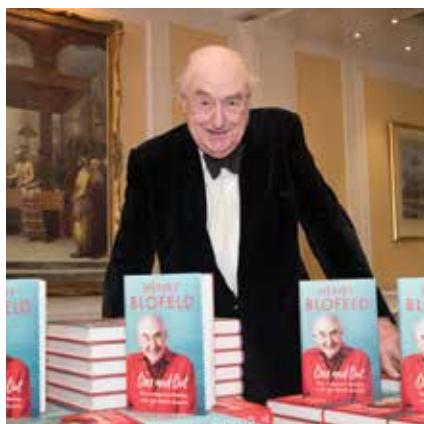
Vocal yokel: Robin Page in full flow

The club has a way of extending summer sports into the autumn. Henry Blofeld was the star turn at this year's house dinner. Meanwhile, the flyfishers turn to bass and grayling.

'MY DEAR OLD THINGS'

You have probably heard the story told and retold in the American Bar. It is Noel Coward's recipe for the perfect martini: lots of gin and 'wave it in the general direction of Italy'. That was just one of the classic anecdotes members and guests heard from retired cricket commentator Henry Blofeld at this year's house dinner.

He was one of the highlights of an excellent and packed evening in the Dining Room. A speech by the chairman preceded and followed 'Blowers', and all of that after an excellent supper. To remember it, everyone took home Henry's recent memoir.



Blowers and his book...



...and entertaining members after the house dinner

Medieval trout

by Stephen Allen

The flyfishing section has access to rods on the Loddon, a well-stocked and nearly pristine tributary of the Thames which rises in Hampshire. It fished well in 2018, even with the hot summer, including a 6lb brown caught by a member's guest. Section chairman Peter Matthison and I had an exquisite day there in July and even caught some fish despite the hot bright conditions. The wildlife was abundant and varied, and the beat was nicely kept but not overly manicured. Being a corner of Old England not far from London the setting makes one wonder what Geoffrey Chaucer, said to have been fond of trout, would have thought if he had glimpsed the section chairman in action with rod and line on such a day in the 1370s. With apologies for the obvious anachronisms, and to any members who are proper scholars of Middle English, it might have been as follows:

Prologue to The Fly Fisher's Tale

A reeve of Essex to Loddon comen
Whan somtyme floures sprynge wexen weel
He was nay unkonnyng knave
But versed in magyk natureel

With sleighte of caste and sondry flye
He did the sleekit trutta berd
And to hymself seyde pryvely
"thys must be cleped to the herd"

Nempen Peter sonne of Matthy
Sikerly maistre of water wyrken
Siche travayle swithe and nevere yelden
Wynnen sovereynetee for freynd and clubbe

Pardieux! thee parfit paas for lyfe
Waterside maketh joye and blisse
Whan Peter ne was to the lawes more owen
He comen a myghty fishere!

Flyfishing section activities

The club's flyfishing section continues its happy association with the Lawyers' Fishing Club.



Ken Morgan with a 4lb bass in Chichester Harbour

September brought a trip to fish for sea bass in Chichester Harbour aboard the Salty Dog and guided by owner Paul Haldenwang.

In October, there was a visit to the Elinor Trout Fishery, Northamptonshire, which comprises 50 acres of spring fed, gin clear limestone water.

In November, members enjoyed a day on the River Test at Wherwell after grayling, in conjunction with Hugh O'Reilly who manages it. The annual dinner is on 2 February 2019. Cost is £69 per head including entry to the club casting competition, traditionally held in the East India Room.



Stephen Allen and his catch

The Newman VC trophy has become a popular inter-club race, this year attracting Royal Thames Yacht Club, Army & Navy and the RAC to compete against the East India's two boats. The cup is named after Col Newman, who led the St Nazaire raid during the second world war.

RAGAMUFFINS WIN HARD-FOUGHT RACE

by Jim Miller

Saturday 15 September dawned beautifully off the Isle of Wight for the Newman VC Trophy regatta. This is an invitation-only keelboat racing regatta, for London, reciprocal and some other clubs challenged by the East India Club. The trophy is named after late club member Col Charles Newman, the only one of the club's four known Victoria Cross holders who was awarded the medal for action on/from water.

Two boats from the East India Club's yacht squadron sailed in line astern on to the outer moorings at Seaview at 0745. The commodore, Jim Miller, and vice commodore, Paul Rose, on the Rustler 36 Eagle were looking forward to racing in a combined-crew boat with Captain Stuart Henderson RN, of the St Nazaire Society. Stuart belongs to the society because his grandfather commanded the Fairmile motor launch ML306 during the St Nazaire raid and was killed during the fighting.

The East India's Solent captain, Alex Van Ingen, skippered a four-seater East India Club 2 crew. Others taking part were the Army & Navy Club's 'Ragamuffins', the RAC and the Royal Thames Yacht Club.

Mustering on the deck at Seaview at 0900, the crews had clearly been granted a glorious autumnal day for their sport: long visibility, generally blue skies and fresh airs. The wind, recorded in the ship's log of *Eagle* at 0800 as force three from 280 degrees magnetic, generally maintained these characteristics through the day, apart from some odd shifts prior to lunch and a slight puffing up to force four in the later afternoon. With Portsmouth's high water at 1620 BST, according to Imray, the water would be east-running off Seaview in the morning with the direction turning to

run to the west, first in the shallow moorings from about 1300, then in the deeper water out towards No Man's Fort and the Cambrian Wreck nearer 1400. With an almost half moon, the currents would be moderate as we were 57% between springs and neaps.

The first race saw fast upwind sailing by the Royal Thames, although the East India & St Nazaire boat appeared able to catch and harry her nicely downwind. But the latter could not pass, and the Royal Thames obtained a fine first in race 1. East India Club 2 had an altogether more leisurely opening, coming home at the tail of the fleet nevertheless after a seamanlike and enjoyable whizz round the course.

Race two was one of the most confusing races ever sailed in these parts. Settling now as a well-oiled machine with the captain at the stern on the tiller, mainsheet and spinnaker halyard, the vice commodore in the middle of the boat on the jib sheets, traveller and spinnaker guy and pole stowage and the commodore in the bows on the Cunningham, outhaul, kicker, pole up and down and kite stuffer and trimmer, the East India & St Nazaire boat truly rocketed off the line on the first windward beat to lead the fleet comfortably up towards the mark. But then an inauspicious early tack causing a radical undercooking, a misreading all round of the current for which every man holds his hand up, resulted in two boats overtaking before the mark. This was simply a sign of larger impending disaster. The commodore, never a keen exponent of the windward bag launch, managed to get it into a position in which the kite was simultaneously wrapped around the forestay yet also under the pole, the pole having flown up almost vertical next to the mast: not a pretty sight. Yet the crew were still rocketing long and a minute or two of commodorial attention on the foredeck had the kite the right way up, trim and proper among a tightly packed fleet with boats flying along within six feet on both sides. A busy leeward mark had just about everyone calling for water and some giving it. With all settled and making way up to the windward mark just west of Seaview, the wind let through a series of huge shifts. We had boats on the same tack beating yet pointing 90 degrees to one another. Suddenly, the Ragamuffins and RAC hove into view well ahead of all the others, having sneaked a safe path through the lulls and shifts, powering forward to take the top two places. Just a short distance behind



The East India's vice commodore Paul Rose and Solent captain Alex Van Ingen

Royal Thames at the final windward mark, the East India & St Nazaire boat caught a large puff just as the former's spinnaker collapsed. There was nearly an overtake 25 yards short of the line but suddenly the East India and St Nazaire's own bag collapsed, giving the Royal Thames third by a nose and a half.

So, at lunchtime the lead was jointly held by the Ragamuffins and Royal Thames, the East India & St Nazaire and the RAC joint third and East India 2 in a comfortable fifth. The Ragamuffins attributed their success to quite a quantity of Harvey's Bristol Cream sherry that they had been using to keep themselves fully lubricated over the morning. The sherry supplies running low, they would be opening their Kendall mint cake stores for extra afternoon power.

After a major refuel though all round on the Seaview deck, the crews went out to a slightly rising blow in the afternoon.

In race three, a dominant Ragamuffin boat appeared, and they took another fine win at the head of the fleet. Your writer apologises that he does not remember much about Race four other than it was rather windy. And there was apparently another race. A cannon blast signalled this but the East India & St Nazaire's radio had broken and so they had not heard the course. Dashing back towards the start it appeared that it must again be a reaching start. Bereft of knowledge of the course, the East India & St Nazaire boat made educated guesses.

For a moment after passing the line, no cannon was heard, but there was soon a boom and it turned out they had guessed right. The Ragamuffins roared home in second to give them the regatta.

The Newman VC Trophy was presented formally to the worthy overall winners, the Army & Navy Club, at the laying up supper in November.



The Newman VC Trophy, at Seaview

Hillwalking in the Chilterns

by Lee Farmer

The second meeting of the newly-formed hill walking and mountaineering section was attended by four members. They enjoyed the Buckinghamshire countryside, real ales, and an interesting avian display. Despite not knowing each other before hand, the section members quickly found each other at Great Missenden Station at 10am. They began a tramp from there to the nearby town of Wendover via Ballinger Common, Chartridge, Asheridge, Hawridge, Cholesbury, Dunbridge Manor, St Leonards Common, Milesfield, Wendover Woods, Boddington Hill, to Wendover, all told about 15 miles. The weather was kind, being dry, warm, and sunny throughout the day. The route was undulating in parts with a few stiff climbs through chalk heavy fields, with the reward of going through beautiful ancient beech woods at the top of the hills, which showed the early signs of the onset of autumn with leaves just turning into shades of brown from their summer lustre of deep green and beechmast crunching underfoot.

After one particularly hot and long climb, the band of walkers found themselves walking past the Blue Ball public house in Asheridge. I suggested a restorative libation may be in order, stressing the need to keep hydrated on a hot day such as this, and the band readily agreed. Chris Kemp added that he felt duty bound to support the rural economy. Thirsts quenched, the team continued. In some villages, it was difficult to find the footpaths in among grand and well-kept houses. Raymond O'Mally was pleased with this test of navigation, as he was soon to attend a national navigation award course in the Brecon Beacons. Six red kites wheeled above one field, calling to one another. We



were close enough to pick out the features of their chestnut plumage.

Disaster met the team, upon entering the village of Hawridge. An eight-foot high hoarding surrounded the Rose and Crown public house. It was sadly closed and vacant: perhaps a victim of changing tastes and likely destined to be a development of houses. Supporting the rural economy clearly came too late for this pub. So a slight change of plan saw us head westwards through woodlands, towards Hawridge Common and Cholesbury where, in a convenient sunny corner of a field, packed lunches were eagerly consumed.

Passing through St Leonard's Common, the team was confronted by a dozen or so alpacas who lined up in a row to see who the intruders in their field were.

At the foot of Wendover Woods the team took the exacting route of walking along a section of the Ridgeway, an ancient through-route used for more than 4,000 years by drovers and travellers and now a National Trail. It was and remains high and dry ground above the dense woodland that once covered much of Britain.

It links Ivinghoe Beacon in the north-east of Buckinghamshire to Overton Hill in Wiltshire, 80 miles to the south-west.

We walked beneath a beech tree canopy before this gave way to an unmade byeway and eventually the conurbation of Wendover.

The day finished at the top of Wendover town near to the train station in the Shoulder of Mutton pub just after 4pm with further rehydration, generously acquired for the team by David Barker.

It was agreed that the 15-mile ramble was a great day out and over drinks and muscles beginning to stiffen, future plans and trip ideas were discussed for future EIC Hill Walking and Mountaineering Section excursions.

If you would like to sign up for this or any section, please contact the secretary.



David Barker, Chris Kemp and Raymond O'Mally returning to the walk after rehydrating in the Blue Ball

Jazz at No 16

by Howard Lambert

A sell-out crowd enjoyed a great September evening at the latest 'Jazz at No 16'. We were entertained by the Sandy Burnett Trio with special guest guitarist Terry Smith.

The trio is led by Sandy Burnett on double bass. Sandy has performed, toured and recorded with many of the finest musicians, artistes and ensembles from Britain and beyond. His playing can be heard on the film soundtracks of *Evita* (1996) and *Le Weekend* (2014). He is also a BBC classical music broadcaster, conductor and lecturer.

On piano was Gunther Kurmayr, who hails from Linz in Austria. Since 1997, Gunther has established himself in the local jazz scene in London playing with many top names. Since 2004, he has been with the Ray Gelato Giants, a seven-piece band that performs around the UK and all over the world.

Dennis Smith on drums, has been one of the great characters of the London jazz scene since the 1960s and has jammed with the likes of Sonny Rollins and Jimi Hendrix. He has also played in many West End musicals and London's contemporary dance theatre.

There is not much more we can say about our 'own' Terry Smith. He has worked in Ronnie Scott's Big Band and backed many US stars such as Esther Phillips, Marc Murphy, the Walker Brothers and JJ Jackson's soul band, with whom he recorded two albums. He made a further five albums with the jazz rock band If with Dick Morrissey, touring Europe and the USA.

The evening consisted of top class straight-ahead jazz, with music ranging from bossa nova, blues to classic standards. The audience was captivated by Terry's brilliance and a really swinging trio. It was a fun night.

The club will hold four jazz evenings in 2019, the next being on Friday 22 February. Please book early to avoid disappointment.



Jazz in the Smoking Room

Library lecture

100 YEARS OF THE RAF

The centenary of the formation of the RAF led to a number of commemorations and even celebrations across the nation. Much of the marking of military matters in 2018 has related to the centenary of the end of the first world war. The RAF story provides a more upbeat strand of the narrative. *RAF 100: The Official Story* by James Holland celebrates and



James Holland

commemorates the 100-year anniversary of the Royal Air Force. Officially endorsed by the RAF, and with unique access to their historic archives, the broadcaster James Holland uses photographs and documents to tell the story of the people, planes and missions as never before.

He came to the club to tell the story of the service. He delivered it with the kind of power and thrust you get from a jump jet, and he covered an enormous amount of history in a short time. He regretted leaving out the last years of the RAF's history – he says the club will have to ask him back to complete that one.

James's career is built around the study of the wartime experience. His books include *Fortress Malta*, *Italy's Sorrow*, *The Battle*

of Britain and a fictional second world war series featuring 'Sergeant Jack Tanner'. His interviews with veterans of the second world war are available at the Imperial War Museum.

He has a special love for the RAF story. From its genesis in the first world war, when pilots were open to the elements in craft made of wood and fabric, to the Battle of Britain of the second world war, through to missions carried out in today's trouble zones, James's book looks at the men, women and aircraft that are at the heart of this great service.

Some of them attended the talk and, during supper, read out excerpts from letters and the experiences of pilots. They provided moments of poignancy in an evening that celebrated the best the RAF has given.



James discusses the Second World War



Serving RAF officers who came to the talk plus St John Brown and, far right, former Air Chief Marshal Sir Andy Pulford

100th Lord Mayor's lunch

The club welcomed the Lord Mayor of London to its annual lunch in his honour – and this one was a special one. The tradition began in 1918 at the Eccentric Club, which brought it to the East India Club when many former members joined in the 1980s. To celebrate the centenary, the club invited former lord mayors to the lunch and seven of them were able to attend. The club also minted a medal in honour of the centenary, which went to all who came. As ever, the incumbent lord mayor was guest of honour. Charles Bowman is the 690th Lord Mayor of the City of London. He launched the City of London Corporation's Business of Trust programme, which seeks to create 'a lasting legacy of better business, trusted by society'. A partner of PwC, he is a member of the Court of the Worshipful Company of Grocers and a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. Members thronged the Smoking Room and Dining Room for an excellent lunch, followed by speeches by the chairman and one from Charles Bowman.



The Lord Mayor inspects the Company of Pikemen & Musketeers of the Honourable Artillery Company



The chairman greets the Lord Mayor



The Household Cavalry



Members and guests enjoy the speeches



The Lord Mayor and previous lord mayors

A series of library lectures at the club included the well-known historians Professor Andrew Roberts and James Holland, and newcomer Dr Seth Alexander Thévoz, all with a story to tell.

SPIRIT OF CHURCHILL

Professor Andrew Roberts gives popular talks at the club, and this time he chose perhaps his most popular subject to date. He sums up Churchill's credo as being about spirit: 'With enough spirit he believed that we can rise above anything, and create something truly magnificent of our lives.'

Andrew's new book, *Churchill: Walking with Destiny*, was the subject of his lecture. It is a detailed defence of the great wartime leader. He was able to draw on fresh material for it, including the diaries of Ivan Maisky, the



Andrew signs copies of his book about Churchill

Soviet ambassador to Britain, and the diaries of George VI, available to historians for the first time in an unedited form.

In the book, Andrew makes the case that "When it came to all three mortal threats to Western civilisation, by the Prussian militarists in 1914, the Nazis in the 1930s and 1940s and Soviet Communism after the second world war, Churchill's judgment stood far above" that of others.



Andrew speaks in the Smoking Room

When clubs ruled the world

Author Dr Seth Alexander Thévoz came to the club to talk about his first book, *Club Government: How the Early Victorian World was Ruled from London Clubs*. Many modern histories refer to 'club government', which is the assumption that all the big decisions in

British Victorian and Edwardian public life took place behind the closed doors of the gentlemen's clubs of St James's. Some would argue that elements of society are still trying to punish us for this today. Seth brought an analytical approach to this subject, and concluded that clubland was, indeed, the seat of power in the land.

By looking back over club archives as well as other sources, Seth Alexander is able to show the role played by London clubs immediately following the Reform Act. He points to the Reform and the Carlton club more than to Whites and Boodles. He says that, although MPs were drawn to the more 'political' clubs, the great influence clubs had was as an enabler for the parliamentary process – 'with their unique use of space, their sociability, their facilities, and their open access to whipping' – was their greatest contribution to politics. All clubs, he says, are guilty of providing the smoke-filled rooms that damage democracy but get things done.



Seth Alexander (left) and library committee chairman St John Brown

Harvest festival

The club made its annual outing to join the congregation of St Peter ad Vincula at the Tower of London for the harvest festival service presided over by club chaplain – and royal chaplain – the Reverend Roger Hall MBE.

A thoroughly enjoyable service in such an historic setting is not to be missed and made all the more impressive by the superb singing of the chapel choir, whose recording of music inspired by the psalms of David is available through our secretary. Roger's sermon made reference to the famous poets like Keats and Betjeman who have utilised nature in some of their most famous poems. Ahead of the service both Roger and his wife Barbara encouraged support for the Tower Hamlets food bank. Consequently, the altar was festooned with contributions from the congregation topped off by our chef creating a harvest loaf, this year presented by our youngest attendee Miss Poppy West. After the service a return coach to the club for the ever-delicious Sunday lunch buffet.

The chapel welcomes attendance at all its services. Arrive at the middle drawbridge entrance, declare your wish to attend the service, and be nodded through.



Rev Roger Hall and the congregation



The club's gift: (left-right) Rev Roger Hall, Poppy West and the secretary

Howard is an enthusiast: in his working life a property builder and developer, in his private life, his passions include boats, classic cars and golf. A former president of EPICS, he is a keen member of Crocks and a fan of club life.

Howard Seymour



A life spent working hard at work and working just as hard at having fun makes Howard Seymour one of the greater club characters. Born and bred in Kingston-upon-Thames, Howard went to Tiffin School, where rowing was his main sport. He rowed at Henley and Head of the River. The young Howard did not show great application in academic subjects, preferring instead to build dinghies. "The headmaster suggested I follow a career in more practical work, so I went on a five-year management training scheme with building company George Wimpey. I spent a lot of the 1960s on site, mainly on London office buildings. I was at Centrepont for a year working as a surveyor on the foundations and dodging the tube. I met the developer Harry Hyams. He was a god."

When Howard was 21 years-old, he persuaded the owner of a small building company in Croydon to sell it to him. "I didn't have any money but I found myself, at 21, employing 30 people," he says.

Howard kept the company for five years and gradually turned into a commercial property developer.

"During the 1970s, I was a bit of a wheeler-dealer, mainly building offices for Government departments around the UK."

It allowed him to retire by the age of 40. By then, he was a member of the Eccentric Club, had a house on the River Beaulieu in Hampshire, and he decided to take a couple of years' sabbatical. "Well, you get a bit restless," he says, and he soon went back to work. "I have dabbled in property ever since. It pays for my days' out!"

One property deal stands out for Howard: "I bought a cinema and bingo hall near Gatwick and I turned it into a Waitrose supermarket and office building."

Messing around in boats has long been a passion. Howard sailed the Atlantic in the 1990s. He now has a motorboat on the Itchen which he cruises, he says, "from pub to pub". He also has a 1904 Dutch barge which he and his partner use to cruise peacefully round the canals of the Continent. "It has three bedrooms and is currently in the Alsace," he says. "We move it wherever we want to go. It's a home from home."

He is a keen but 'social' golfer. One of his first acts moving to the East India Club with 100 or so Eccentric members was to join the EPICS. "I joined every match that was going," he says. "It is terrific camaraderie and you meet people. I have got to know many members of other clubs through golf. I am proud to have been president of EPICS for a number of years."

"It's about maintaining a friendly atmosphere with a lovely group of people who play wonderful courses."

"We play golf against the Bar. They are all Sir This and Judge That, and they call me Lord Seymour of Winchester. What lovely people."

Howard handed the EPICS presidency to his old friend Graham Naisbitt. It was Graham's father, Arthur, who asked Howard to join Crocks. Howard calls Crocks, the former Devonshire Club lunch club, "a hugely convivial group". He adds: "I came to the East India Club with two or three Eccentric Club friends after the handover. We thought it was wonderful and, apart from a lick of paint, it hasn't altered much. "I think the future at the club is great."

There is such a good mix of ages and accessibility. You can go to the bar and talk to anyone."

One of Howard's first friends at the East India Club was club president Micky Steele-Bodger, a friendship that has endured these past 30 years, along with his son Chairman Duncan.

Howard's current interest is classic cars and, especially, international car rallies. He drove 15,000 miles around South America. He bought a 1980s Ford Granada for £250 and drove it from London to Mongolia, via the 'stans'. "I found out that Granadas are not so good at fording rivers over boulders," he says. "But it was very comfortable and it didn't have a puncture."

He is a regular at the club's own classic car day, though *East & West* would like to apologise to Howard for mis-captioning his 1954 Bentley a Rolls Royce. He does have a Rolls Royce. It is a 1920s 20hp model he calls 'Miss Daisy' after his granddaughter. His car collection also includes a 1988 Jaguar XJS convertible, a 1930s Singer Le Mans, a 1930s boat-tail Austin 7, and a Series 1 Land Rover from 1955 which he has had for 50 years.

Daisy is one of five grandchildren he has from his two sons, and he has three great grandchildren. His partner of 20 years, Ann, also has two boys and two grandchildren.

"I am a very lucky man. I have a lovely family, and a lot of friends. It's what you make of life," he says.

“We thought the club was wonderful and, apart from a lick of paint, it hasn't altered”

The very thought of Spanish wine makes some members gloomy, and the possibility they may be asked to taste sweet sherry or Málaga is a real fear for some members. Imagine the delight of wine tasters when club sommelier Eric Lagré introduced them to the best Andalusian wines.

OVERCOME YOUR FEARS

by Eric Lagré, head sommelier

Last July, I decided to introduce our members to Andalusia's burgeoning scene of new-wave wines: wines that put a modern twist on ancient traditions in the southernmost region of Spain. No sooner had I started to set the scene than it dawned on some of the attendees that Andalusia was the land of the acquired taste that are sherry and Málaga. They pulled faces. Happily, stylistically speaking, my selection was the most varied to date.

Spain didn't have much to offer beyond cheap bulk wines in the 1950s. After the death of Franco, the national wine industry modernised and flew in consultants from abroad. If that foreign influence contributed to restoring quality, it somewhat stripped Spanish wines of their individuality. Interestingly, people's faces radiated with glee when I poured the wine by founding father of Ronda Wines Juan Manuel Vetas, for it was a mature Bordeaux blend made with Bordelaise savoir-faire... and club members love a good claret. In contrast, they showed little enthusiasm for Finca La Melonera's MHV blend of obscure indigenous black grape varieties.

Surprisingly enough, production is dominated by white grapes in Andalusia. The sherries and sherry-like wines of the valley of the Guadalquivir are made from zalema in

Huelva, palomino in Cádiz and Pedro Ximénez in Córdoba. A range of styles is achieved by using two distinct maturation processes. Either the fortified wine is biologically aged under a veil of yeast growth that gradually turns it into a delicate manzanilla or fino full of those aldehyde compounds that give sherry its signature smell (reminiscent of glue stick to me – in an attractive way) or the wine is deliberately oxidised into a robust and nutty oloroso. Gran Barquero's fine example of amontillado, which undergoes both ageing processes one after the other, reminded us that even Montilla-Moriles, the poor cousin of sherry, can yield one of the great wines of the world too.

Biological ageing saw the light of day in Sanlúcar de Barrameda back in the late 18th century as a primitive form of manzanilla was being developed, which wasn't fortified. I presented two contrasting examples of that newly rediscovered style.

Apart from the Pedro-Ximénez-based (or PX) wines used as sweetener in the making of Harvey's Bristol Cream, the British favourite, the 'sherries' of the Atlantic-influenced valley are always bone dry. Sweet wines are more of a speciality of the mountainous province of Málaga on the Mediterranean. Málaga itself is made from white grapes too, including Pedro Ximénez but more specially moscatel. Nowadays, producers like Telmo Rodríguez show that refined, delicate wines, both



Swotting up at Eric Lagré's Andalusian wine tasting

sweet and dry, can be made from Moscatel. His sweet MR did indeed display plenty of grassy freshness and juicy fruit and none of the confected Turkish-delight perfume one usually associates with the cultivar. MR has nothing to do with Málaga as most people know it, made from sunned grapes mixed with a grape-juice reduction to syrup called arrope. I closed the evening with the rare tintilla de rota by El Gato, which, like PX and traditional Málaga, looks like black treacle. Tintilla is an indigenous black grape variety, yet the wine is not an expression of the terroir of Andalusia. It is a catalogue of all the techniques that were used in the ancient world to stabilise wine for trade around the Mediterranean. Tintilla de rota roots the region deep in 3,000 years of wine history.

A message from the Pigeon Loft

by Alan Taylor

Sometimes this pigeon loftier likes to recall times in his life to rejoice that they will never return. Certainly he has no longing for the breakfasts at school, which he entered in September 1946. The sight of bare wooden tables with piles of white bread and margarine (mixed with milk) did not tickle his taste-buds. Neither did the tin plate full of porridge with lumps.

A neighbour sitting on the same wooden form had a splendid idea for dealing with this. When he thought no-one was watching, he slipped these lumps into his mug of sugarless tea. Alas, this was observed and the lumps had to be scooped out and swallowed. Any porridge left over from breakfast was later used at supper

for making the herring in tomato sauce go further. If, when this happened, a message had come through the 'early-warning system' in time, we secretly slid the helping into paper bags we had brought with us. These were then buried near trees outside. It was rumoured that the trees later suffered decay or even death as a result.

'Enough, no more!'. With relief the pigeon loftier returns to the present. At breakfast time in the club, he makes for the Dining Room with eagerness. He is given a warm welcome and, if possible, staff lead him to his favourite table.

Unfortunately, he has to resist ordering a hot dish (age takes its toll). Instead, he makes for the buffet table.

On arrival he eyes everything from cereal

via the different types of bread to fruit and cheese before making his choice. This task is made easier by all dishes being always exactly in the same place. Even the little jars of honey are where they should be – in the second row from the left.

Back at 'base', his coffee and hot milk are there to greet him and his brown toast is seen weaving its way towards his table. Appetite and thirst are soon satisfied, and he has time to look around him and then bury his head in his newspaper. He can concentrate on this because the hearty laughter and conversation at dinner time have been modified into chuckles and quiet exchanges.

Soon it is time to leave. In keeping with general practice, he greets other members he knows warmly, but briefly. Longer conversations are kept till later. Members certainly know how to launch their day.

Between 6.45am and 1.30pm, five floors-worth of bedrooms are cleaned from top to bottom, rigorously inspected and passed as fit for members to use. Part of that remarkable team is Norma Carrión Armijos. Here is what she does – and how you can make her job easier.

STAFF PROFILE

Norma Carrión Armijos



Now here's a thought: you know those dangly cards you can put on doors to say room is 'free for servicing' or 'do not disturb'? You would make Norma's life easier if you left them showing 'room is free for servicing' when you left the room for the day. Here's her day's work to explain why.

Norma has worked as a chambermaid since 2004. She arrives at the club around 6.20am to start her day at 6.45am. Her first job is to prepare everything for housekeeping, including the early morning coffee.

Norma works six days a week. She looks after all floors over the weekend and on Mondays. During the busier Tuesday-Friday stretch, she works only on the first and second floors.

As members groggily awake – or perhaps they have been up for hours – it is Norma's job efficiently to deliver their early morning tea or coffee. But where to put it? Clothes and briefcases may be parked or draped over available spaces. She sometimes has carefully to make a space on the table. "The

window is always a good place," she says.

From 8am, she starts knocking on doors to see if they are empty, so she can clean. "If I see people leaving rooms, I know I can clean them," she says. "Reception also tells me who is checking out."

But members should not forget the importance of the 'Room is free for servicing' dangly card for door handles. "Some people use the card," she says. "But some people accidentally use it the wrong way round so it says 'Do not disturb'. Then I have to wait until 11am before I can knock on their door. "It would be more easy if people use the

“ If I see people leaving rooms, I know I can clean them. Reception also tells me who is checking out ”

card," she says. Each room takes 35 minutes. The newly refurbished rooms take longer to clean than the old rooms, because of the new showers. "After I do a room, Fay checks my work to see if it is OK. She is strict."

Norma comes from Loja, a city in southern Ecuador, not far from Peru. Her father is a joiner and carpenter and her mother works as a seamstress. She stayed in Loja until the age of 17, then moved to Spain to visit her brother for three months, who was studying at Navarra University. She says she has "many" brothers and sisters. Two sisters are currently in Spain, she has two in the UK and the rest are in Ecuador. Norma lives in Lewisham and her two UK-based sisters live nearby. "After that, I came to London," she says. "I was the last to come to London. And the East India Club was my first job."

Norma married in 2005. She has two sons, aged seven and 13. "My children understand Spanish, but they don't speak it," she says.

Her working day finishes at 1.30pm and she either has lunch in the staff canteen or she goes home to pick up her children when they come out of school at 3.20pm.

What Norma most enjoys about her job is working with Fay and the other housekeeping staff. "I like the same faces," she says. "I like the 'good mornings' and the 'goodbyes'. The members here are nice people."

Pensioners' party

Old faces came back to the club in the summer for the annual pensioners' tea party. They gathered in the Waterloo Room to enjoy tea and sandwiches, and included former maitre d' James Dempsey, and the much-missed Ofelia Santos and Laurie McCluskey. At the same time, the chairman presented long-service awards to Eric Lagré (10 years) and Jaleel (Paul) Sheikh (20 years).



Club retirees and long-service awards

A WORD FROM THE SECRETARY

by Alex Bray



Reflecting on the sounds of summer, one of them is the cry of the property committee, and the finance committee for that matter: "Are we there yet?" The

reason? These committees have so far overseen the upgrade of 37 single rooms over the last five years.

We have six rooms still to complete, which are earmarked for the first part of 2019. The works have included a thorough refurbishment of the single rooms, with improving electrics, chasing-in wiring and upgrading the bathrooms. We have adapted to the quirks of the different bedroom layouts and worked within agreed budgets with the support of a cost-conscious design company, which helped with procurement. An excellent firm of builders has now worked on a number of areas of the clubhouse over the years.

Cost of energy is an ongoing issue, especially with premium tariffs being

charged for any consumption over our allocation from the sub-station. It has therefore been important to control the most power-hungry element of the bedrooms, which is the air-conditioning. As the units work from the moment you turn them on, they do not need to be left on while you are out of your room.

By installing a single control point as part of the refurbishment, the room key activates all of the room's power apart from the power socket in the safe. That socket is on a separate circuit to allow you to recharge your devices when you are out with your room key.

In the future, we will replace air-conditioning units with the latest power-efficient versions when the opportunity arises. The twin effort of key control and updating air-conditioning should reduce consumption of electricity over time.

All being well, by the time you read this, we will have launched a refreshed website with more fluidity and features, and under-the-bonnet improvements as the IT industry calls it. Mr Jacoby has led the initiative with input from fellow committeemen.

Managerially, assistant secretary Tim Wilks and my assistant Claire have put in the hard yards with the contractor to review, refine and test the content. I look forward to reporting on features once we have launched.

It is farewell and thank you to banqueting and bars manager Joe O'Farrell who is leaving at the end of the year after nearly 30 years' service. Profiled in December 1996's East & West when he took over as banqueting supervisor, Joe has decided to carry on with life from his home in Spain.

Joe has brought great stability to the role. He has been a character around the club and members enjoy his cheeky sense of humour. Calm under pressure, his knowledge of members' events, Twickenham coaches and members' preferences in the bar has been an asset to the club's management and will be hard to replace. There have been many appreciative letters from members for the arrangements and service from Joe and his team over the years. He goes with our gratitude for a job well done.

Wishing one and all a most enjoyable Christmas and new year.

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161-165 Greenwich High Road,
Greenwich, London, SE10 8JA**
Tel: 020 8858 6011
Fax: 020 8853 3331
Email: sales@davy.co.uk
Website: www.davywine.co.uk/eic

ORDER THESE WINES FROM THE ACCOUNTS OFFICE FOR PAYMENT AND COLLECTION FROM THE CLUB

Wines and spirits per case of 12 bottles

Club claret	£127
Club white	£132
Club red (de Ciffre)	£132
Club white Burgundy	£162
Club Champagne (per case of 6)	£149
Club Cognac VSOP per 70cl bottle	£43.50

Wine gift box

Three East India Club wines in a presentation box – club claret, club white and club white Burgundy. £43



A foreign posting gives one young Royal Navy officer a chance to sample a reciprocal club in the USA, and it is superb.

THE NORFOLK YACHT AND COUNTRY CLUB

by SLt Ollie Pelendrides

In late June 2018, I passed the modern equivalent of my examinations for lieutenant and received my navigational watch certificate, qualifying as an officer of the watch for the Royal Navy. I was also honoured with assignment to HMS Queen Elizabeth, the first of the RN's new 'super carriers', in time for her maiden deployment to the eastern seaboard of the United States.

joint strike fighter, the aircraft set to become the mainstay of the RN's carrier strike group. While taking some much-needed shore leave I decided to take advantage of our reciprocal arrangement with the Norfolk Yacht and Country Club.

The club is built on the banks of the Lafayette River, with views over the tranquil river and on towards the main civilian port. A major highway runs beside one edge of the club but is well hidden by the established

a fitness centre and a dining facility. On arrival, I was greeted by a friendly and welcoming reception team in the main club house, and the administration of registering as a temporary member took a matter of minutes. I took this opportunity to explore the large main house which includes a ballroom, two dining rooms, two conference rooms, several well-appointed lounges, and direct access on to the river and the club's private mooring facilities. The main house also boasts a number of bungalow-style rooms for the use of the club's members and guests. On visiting the dining facilities across the gardens, I found a casual bar and dining room, the latter featuring floor to ceiling windows making the most of the glorious views over the Lafayette River bathed gold in the final rays of a September sun.

I took luncheon in the casual dining room and was given an impressive seafood menu and varied wine list of both new and old-world wines.

Being such a welcoming club, they had kindly allowed three of my fellow officers from the Queen Elizabeth to join me in my use of the facilities. We dined well on king scallops, fish soup and various local catches, accompanied by a refreshing riesling.

After our hearty luncheon we retired to the fitness centre which includes one indoor and two outdoor pools, a full gym and pleasant terrace with attached bar. We proceeded to spend the remainder of our afternoon swimming and lounging by the pool. The four of us agreed that this had been one of the most relaxing days of our deployment thus far.

A beautifully situated club, with welcoming staff and fine facilities, I would recommend that anyone travelling within Virginia take full advantage of our arrangement with the Norfolk Yacht and Country Club.



The Norfolk Yacht and Country Club, Norfolk, VA

During early September, HMS Queen Elizabeth visited Norfolk Naval Station to on load the trials team for the F-35B Lightning

trees and hedges of the club's small but pleasant gardens. The site is made up of three principle buildings; the main club house,

PORT Christmas bonus

The club is selling some of its vintage port. We have more than we are likely to drink in the medium term. Therefore, members are offered the following ready to drink Symington Family Estates Vintage Port from the club cellar which is surplus to requirements. Prices per case of 12 (per bottle): 1997 Gould Campbell £414 (£34.50); 1997 Quarles Harris £402 (£33.50); 1997 Smith Woodhouse £390 (£32.50); 2000 Quarles Harris £426 (£35.50); 2000 Smith Woodhouse £390 (£32.50). The port is priced per bottle for off-sale only. Please contact the American Bar or the accounts office.

Wheelchair rugby

The 'Worlds' takes place every four years and bring together the top 12 teams across the globe. It is one of the three blue riband events of the wheelchair rugby calendar, the others being the Paralympic Games and the World Wheelchair Rugby Challenge, held alongside the Rugby World Cup. The 2018 semi-final against Australia was probably the best performance from a GB team in recent times. Australia managed to narrowly edge into the final against Japan.

Submitted by honorary member David Pond, CEO of GBWR

DELIVERY Wine for a week

Snapped by a delighted member: a week's supply of wine arrives at the club

New members

The club welcomes the following:

A Babadi Esq
SR Baker Esq
AC Bloomberg Esq
DT Butcher Esq
MC Camacho Esq

GA Cathcart Esq
SB Chatterjee Esq
PN Elkington Esq
His Honour Judge Eyre QC
NP Graham Esq

JND Gray Esq
JF Hartshorne Esq
H Ho Esq
AS Hughes Esq
M Iurza Esq
JD Karas Esq
AF Kilby Esq
Dr JR Lewis

JJ Meyer Esq
M Patel Esq
Dr UB Patel
CH Pitts-Tucker Esq
D Raithatha Esq
M Rakhmatov Esq
DSA Ray-Hill Esq
DA Reed Esq

N Regan Esq
RJ Sargent Esq
LJ Seward Esq
AJE Stratton-Christensen Esq
TJB Strong Esq
LJM Wright Esq
DCN Yates Esq

New J7 members

The club welcomes the following:

Ampleforth College
TM Eyston Esq

THH Lo Esq
O McNamara Esq
HCJ Wong Esq

SCJ Thomas Esq
RWO Hutchings Esq

W Hawksworth Esq
JSH Jaffa Esq

KD Shirvani Esq
LGS Wright Esq

Bancroft's School
R Samanta Esq

Eltham College
G Seymour Esq

Merchiston Castle School
J Johnson Esq

Sherborne School
HS Fisher Esq
MA Hoevelhaus Esq

Wrekin College
JA Davis Esq

Bedford Modern School
C Liebers Esq

Emanuel School
CH Cowen Esq

Mill Hill School
O Miles Esq

Shiplake College
T Hallam Esq

Bedford School
R Stevens Esq

Eton College
WHB Connell Esq

Millfield School
TW Ursell Esq

Shrewsbury School
J Malyon Esq
CL Shaw Esq
ABDD Webb Esq

Birkenhead School
JI Mitchell Esq

J Oades Esq
J Olszowski Esq
M Palazzo Esq
R Taylor Esq
A Ward Esq

Monkton Combe School
EHG Warner Esq

Bradfield College
HJ Bird Esq

Fettes College
HRD Mclean Esq

Nottingham High School
CTC Hind Esq

St Albans School
ZD Mills Esq
DS Ross Esq

Charterhouse
I Sheikh Esq

Haberdashers' Aske's Boys'
AJ Banarsee Esq
M Lee Esq

Pocklington School
GET Cole Esq

St Paul's School
SU Hasan Esq

Cheltenham College
O Giuseppetti Esq
CL Low Esq
J Webb Esq

Haileybury
J Lever Esq
CS McCabe Esq
M Negodyuk Esq

Portsmouth Grammar School
TJF Ross Esq

Stonyhurst College
E Harriss Esq

Colfe's School
MC Arawwawala Esq
HI Brooks Esq
E Le Gassick Esq
CT Thompson-Copsey Esq
T Walker Esq

Hampton School
CPG Lindqvist Esq

Queen Elizabeth's Hospital
EP Piska Esq

Tonbridge School
OJ Bee Esq
TJC Dingle Esq
TA Pollington Esq

Cranleigh School
JPF Subba Row Esq

Harrow School
J Bird Esq
RG Robinson Esq
SC Varma Esq
H Yu Esq

Radley College
HG Day Esq

Victoria College
CJ Wilding Esq

Culford School
CM Schofield Esq
GA Terry Esq

Ipswich School
TEC Barrett Esq

Reigate Grammar School
B Adey Esq
H Brown Esq
EPC George Esq

Warwick School
JJ Chapman Esq

Downside School
PS Camprubi Royle Esq

King's College School Wimbledon
AD Ng Esq

Royal Grammar School Guildford
T Bains Esq
WJH Klintworth Esq

Wellington College Berkshire
STJ Parfitt Esq

Dulwich College
LGWW Downham Esq
D Harindiran Esq

Rugby School
E Hawksworth Esq

Winchester College
HE Chapman Esq

Deceased

It is with regret we announce the deaths of the following members:

ND Chapman Esq (joined 1992)
DD Fullarton Esq (joined 1985)
Mrs M Hatch (joined 1968)
JA Read Esq (joined 2000)
MJW Rogers Esq (joined 1991)
NG Wall Esq (joined 1988)

Gone away

The club has lost touch with the following:

H Blackett Esq
WHG David Esq
PD Jones Esq
M Meile Esq
WGW Niemeyer Esq
A Patenge Esq
PAM Poitrinal D'Hauterives Esq
C Sathirathaya Esq
SF Sheikh Esq

The photograph of last year's club committee in the last issue of East & West accidentally omitted Henry Morris, who served on the committee for 15 years. We apologise for this error. For the record, here is the picture again. Pictured (left-right) are Henry Morris, Ian Barton, Charlie Jacoby, Alex Bray, Alasdair Shaikh, Richard Robinson, St John Brown, Sir Michael Griffiths, Simon Collins, Matthew Ebsworth, Neil Edwards, Adrian Steger, Duncan Steele-Bodger, Carl Statham, Patrick Storey, Joss Bassett and Ken Morgan.



Reciprocal clubs

The East India welcomes members of other clubs from all over the world, who may use the club's facilities as if they were their own. A reciprocal arrangement has been made for members to visit these clubs when a card of introduction, obtainable from the club secretary, is required. These clubs have all been chosen for their suitability for our members but have different facilities.

If you are going to visit any of them, we suggest you telephone first and find out about them. Let us have your views on your visits and tell us if you have found other clubs with whom we should enter into reciprocal arrangements or if one of these, in your opinion, is no longer suitable.

AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

Durban	Durban Club
Johannesburg	Country Club of Johannesburg Rand Club
Pietermaritzburg	Victoria Country Club
Polokwane	Pietersburg Club
Port Elizabeth	Port Elizabeth St George's Club

KENYA

Nairobi	Muthaiga Country Club
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ZIMBABWE

Bulawayo	Bulawayo Club
Harare	☼ Country Club Harare Club

AUSTRALIA

Adelaide	Adelaide Club Naval, Military and Air Force Club of Adelaide Public Schools' Club
Brisbane	Queensland Club Tattersall's Club
Canberra	Commonwealth Club
Hobart	Tasmanian Club
Launceston	Launceston Club
Melbourne	Athenaeum Club Australian Club Melbourne Club Royal Automobile Club
Newcastle	Newcastle Club
Perth	Weld Club
Sydney	Australian Club Union, University & Schools' Club

BERMUDA

Tucker's Town	Mid-Ocean Club
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CANADA

Montreal	☼ James's Club University Club
Saint John, NB	☼ Union Club
Toronto	National Club University Club of Toronto Albany Club
Vancouver	Terminal City Club Vancouver Club
Victoria, BC	Union Club of British Columbia

EUROPE

Barcelona	Círculo Ecuestre
Bilbao	Sociedad Bilbaina
Brussels	☼ Cercle Royal Gaulois
Dublin	Stephen's Green Hibernian Club
Frankfurt	Union International Club
Gothenburg	☼ Royal Bachelors' Club
The Hague	☼ Nieuwe of Literaire Societeit de Witte
Hamburg	☼ Anglo-German Club
Helsinki	☼ Svenska Klubben
Luxembourg	☼ Cercle Munster
Madrid	☼ Financiero Génova ☼ Real Sociedad Española Club de Campo
Oporto	Oporto Cricket & Lawn Tennis Club
Paris	☼ Cercle de l'Union Interalliée Travellers Club
Stockholm	☼ Sällskapet

HONG KONG

Hong Kong	☼ Hong Kong Club ☼ Hong Kong Cricket Club
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INDIA

Calcutta	Tollygunge Club
Mumbai	Royal Bombay Yacht Club Golden Swan

JAPAN

Tokyo	Tokyo American Club
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MIDDLE EAST

Bahrain	☼ British Club
Dubai	Capital Club

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland	Northern Club
Christchurch	Canterbury Club Christchurch Club
Dunedin	Dunedin Club
Napier	Hawke's Bay Club
Wellington	Wellington Club

PAKISTAN

Karachi	Sind Club
Islamabad	Islamabad Club

SRI LANKA

Colombo	Colombo Club
Nuwara Eliya	Hill Club

SINGAPORE

Singapore	Tanglin Club
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SOUTH KOREA

Seoul	☼ Seoul Club
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UK

Belfast	☼ Ulster Reform Club
Edinburgh	New Club Royal Scots Club
Glasgow	Western Club
Guernsey	☼ United Club
Henley on Thames	Phyllis Court Club
Isle of Wight	Royal London Yacht Club, Cowes
Liverpool	☼ Athenaeum Club
London	☼ City of London Club ☼ ☼ Hurlingham Club (membership card and photo ID is essential)
Newcastle upon Tyne	Northern Counties Club
Perth	Royal Perth Golfing Society & County and City Club

USA

Albany, NY	Fort Orange Club
Berkeley, CA	Berkeley City Club
Boston, MA	Harvard Club Union Club
Bethesda, MD	Kenwood Golf & Country Club
Cincinnati, OH	Queen City Club
Chicago, IL	Standard Club Union League Club University Club of Chicago Athletic Club
Detroit, IL	Riviera Country Club
Los Angeles, CA	Mountain Lake
Mountain Lake, FL	Wianno Club (open May-Nov)
Osterville, MA	Minneapolis Club
Minneapolis, MN	Princeton Club Lotos Club Metropolitan Club Union League Club
New York, NY	Norfolk, VA Norfolk Yacht & Country Club Union League Club ☼ University Club Marines' Memorial Association University Club
St Louis, MO	☼ Racquet Club
Seattle, WA	Rainier Club
Fort Worth, TX	Fort Worth Club
Washington DC	Army & Navy Club Cosmos Club University Club

☼ Accommodation not available

☼☼ Sports facilities not available

Members are reminded that the production of a current membership card and photo ID is essential when visiting the Hurlingham Club. Our reciprocal clubs usually require an introductory card which may be obtained from the secretary's office.