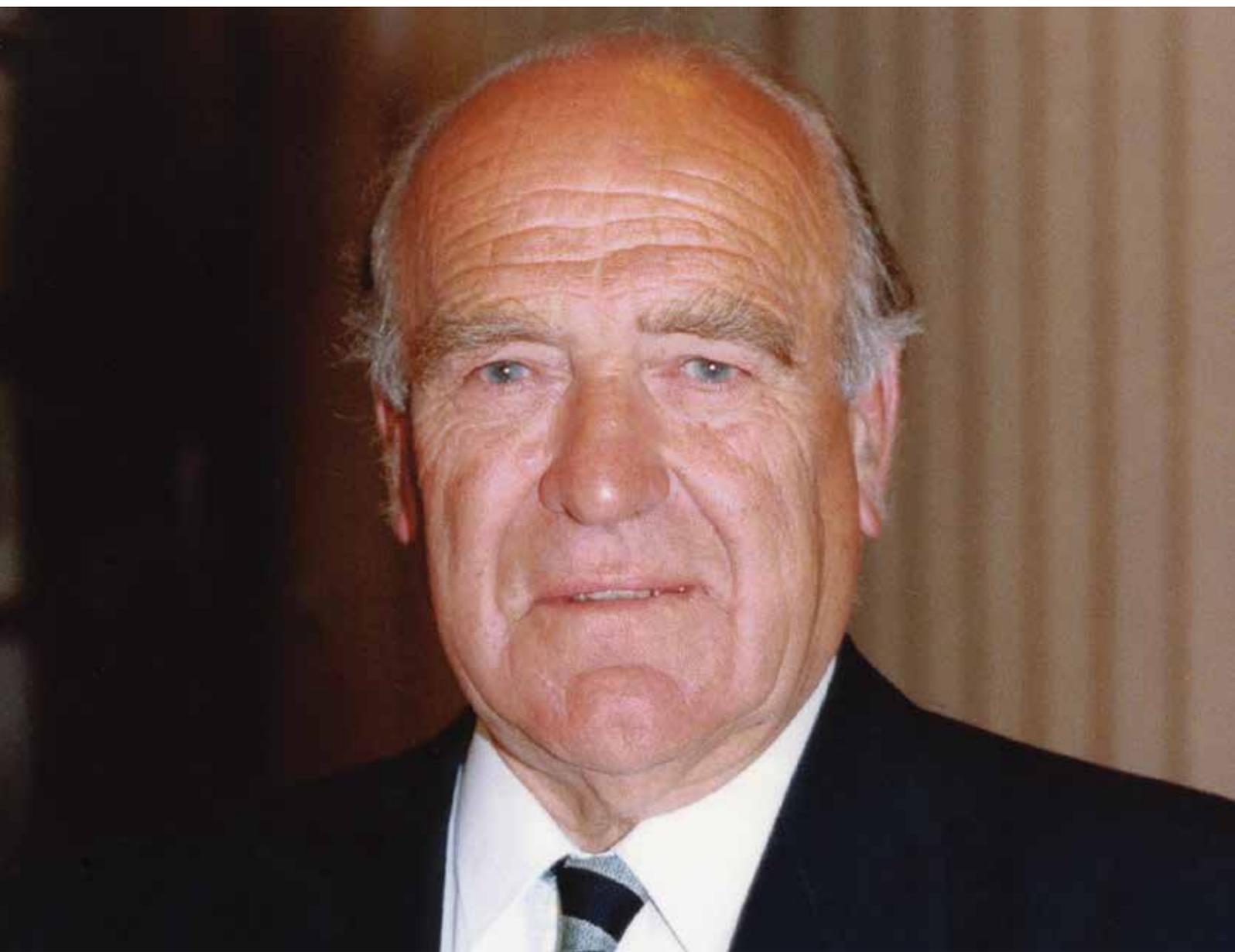




# East & West

Issue number 104 Summer 2019



**EXPLOSIVE**



**GENEROUS**



**TOUGH**



**LOYAL**



**FROM THE HIP**



# The East India Club directory

**The East India Club**  
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## 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

£30



### Bow ties

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



### Hatband

£15



### Cufflinks

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



### Blazers

£395 (navy) £350 (sports)



### Waistcoat

£160



### Napkin hook

£40



### Blazer buttons

Double breasted. £50  
 Single breasted. £35



### Umbrellas

Short. £20  
 Long. £25



### Rugby ball

£25



### Cut glass tumbler

Engraved with club crest. £30

### Decanter

£85



### 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



### The Gentlemen's Clubs of London

New edition of Anthony Lejeune's classic. £28



### Compact mirror

£22

### V-neck jumper

Lambswool in navy or burgundy, M (navy only), L, XL, XXL. £57



### Notelets

£3.75

### Club gins

EIC Gin 43% £35, EIC 'Home on Furlough' 57% £45



### Polo shirt

In red or black, L, XL, XXL. £28



### Mug

£14



### Chocolate mint creams

£8



### Golf balls

Titleist golf balls bearing club crest. £32 per dozen



### Golf tees

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



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...

### August

- 10** Classic cars summer weekend  
**13** An evening with David Gower

### September

- 4** M Steele-Bodger memorial  
**11** Library lecture and dinner  
**17** Film club  
**20** Evening of jazz  
**23** Lord Mayor's luncheon

### October

- 3** Grouse dinner  
**6** Harvest festival and lunch  
**10** Library lecture and dinner  
**12** Classic cars weekend  
**29** Fortified wine tasting

### November

- 5** Film club  
**12** House dinner  
**15** Evening of jazz  
**19** Library lecture and dinner

### December

- 3** Tri clubs service and Christmas party  
**8** Advent carols and lunch  
**12** Carol concert and dinner

### How to book

The easiest and quickest way to book an event is via the club website. Log on to the club website and visit the 'book events' webpage.

### Bank holidays

For the August bank holiday bars and catering are closed after breakfast on Sunday 25 August and reopen on Tuesday 27 August 2019. Accommodation and English breakfast remain available.

### Christmas

The club closes for Christmas after lunch on Monday 23 December 2019 and reopens at 9am on Thursday 2 January 2020.



### East & West

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 www.charliejacobyc.com

Cover photo: Micky

The loss of Micky Steele-Bodger cast a pall over the club this summer. Life president and father of chairman Duncan Steele-Bodger, the club entered a period of reflection as the book of condolences fills up.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

**T**he club's annual general meeting in May was overshadowed by the recent news that our life president, my father Micky Steele-Bodger had passed away peacefully at home a week earlier. With the club flags at half-mast and a book of condolences in the hallway it was a time for reflection and memories. My family and the club have received countless letters



*The chairman at the sports dinner*

and emails from members and staff, young and old, town, country and overseas, all with a story to tell. Many recounted their experiences of being 'bodgered', often in the American Bar but more usually in the early hours at the late bar.

He dedicated more than 30 years to the service of his beloved club, as chairman and then as life president. He attended committee meetings on a regular basis until recently and was always available to offer his counsel to those entrusted with managing the affairs of the club, whether they asked for it or not. He will be greatly missed by the membership and staff. His spirit will no doubt live on within the club and we

can, of course, continue to enjoy Bodger's Best in the American Bar. There will also be an opportunity for members to attend a celebration of his life which is planned for September. More details will be made available in due course.

On other club matters, judging by the feedback, members and their guests taking advantage of our accommodation over recent years have greatly appreciated the ongoing refurbishment programme. One room that has so far been neglected is the

St James's Suite, located on the top floor overlooking the square. At £300 per night it commands a premium price however we believe still represents great value for that special occasion. Occupancy rates have been consistently good at 75% plus although this is skewed by almost 100% occupancy at weekends. However, while the bedroom and drawing room offer the necessary comfort and charm, the bathroom no longer met expectations. The resulting upgrade is already completed and the suite is back in occupation.

Another room benefitting from a recent refurbishment is the Billiards Room. It is hidden away in the basement, past the Gym, and boasts two excellent full-size tables which are the envy of most London clubs. It hosted the recent Association of London Clubs snooker finals night where Brooks's Club and the Savile Club did battle for the crown. Brooks's came out on top, and then both teams plus snooker representatives from other ALC clubs retired to the Canadian Room for the annual dinner. This interclub event was initiated in 1991 under the sponsorship of Hine Cognac, and the East India has always played a leading role. We stepped in as sponsor in 1999 and were replaced by Fullers Brewery in 2013.

The spring is always an exciting time for the banqueting calendar. As well as regular events such as the St George's Day dinner and Gourmet dinner, this year saw the return of an old favourite. The club hosted a sports dinner, recalling the East India's merger with the Sports Club in 1939. It was a well-attended evening with speakers Bill Sweeney and Sir Craig Reddie, both East India members, performing an Olympic double act with stories from the inside

track. At the time it had just been announced that Bill Sweeney would be leaving the British Olympic Association to take up his new job as CEO of the Rugby Football Union. We wish him, and England, every success for the World Cup in Japan. It is a rare honour for the club that we have both the serving RFU president, Chris Kelly, and now CEO as members.

May I take this opportunity to wish you an enjoyable summer.

**Duncan Steele-Bodger, Chairman**

“ Many recounted their experiences of being 'bodgered', often in the American Bar ”

## SPORTS DINNER

### Sportsmen dine out

The club's merger in 1939 with the Sports Club brought a heritage and membership with it that has lasted until this day. Sports Club founder Sir John Astley, whose portrait hangs in the stairwell outside the Hogarth Room, famously kept a pair of running shorts on him at all times in case he were challenged to a race. Today, the club provides an unofficial and occasionally official central London home for rugby clubs, golf clubs and teams from across the UK's proud sporting tradition.

The dinner was also an opportunity for the club's many sporting sections to come together as 'tables' and dine, showing a dazzling array of section ties and blazers.

Speakers were Rugby Football Union chief executive Bill Sweeney and former British Olympic Association chairman Sir Craig Reddie.



After-dinner speaker Bill Sweeney of the RFU



A rare collection of blazers



The club's rugby section line up

## Motoring

### Low rollers

The club's motoring section will have a smart new badge that members can proudly display on their bumpers or radiator grills. Expect to see them in St James's Square gardens over the weekend of 10 August 2019. That's the date of the section's classic car summer event.



Following on from the success of the classic car weekend in October, Richard Muir Beddall has organised one for the summer months. Starting at 11am at the Motor Museum in Churt, near Hindhead in Surrey, members and guests will be able to look around this remarkable private motor collection, run by Robert and Tanya Lewis, spread over three large museum buildings.

We are there on the day it opens its door for its biannual charity event in aid of Help for Heroes.

The collection has been extended over the last two years. There is a new showroom, with interesting new exhibits including Lamborghini and Porsche tractors sitting alongside their sporting cousins, together with other mouth-watering classics.

This year the museum has enlisted the help of Farnham Lions to manage the event which over the years has become a must-visit highlight and is not open to the public. Access is only by pre-booked ticket and to members of the Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club, Bentley Drivers' Club, Aston Martin Owners' Club together with Ferrari, Jaguar and Morgan clubs and many more prestige marques both old and new.

Mid-afternoon, member and guests commence the drive to St James's Square. Journey time is approximately 1 hour 30 minutes. Cars will start to arrive in St James's Square at 4.30pm, where we will park a maximum of 28 cars in the gardens. Change into lounge suits and then come back for a Champagne reception around the cars (weather dependent) at 5.45pm, followed by dinner in the club at 7.15pm. Tickets are priced at £90.

The section's autumn event is on 12 October 2019 at the British Motor Museum Gaydon, Warwickshire.

## Rugby supporters

### Trail blazers

by William Downie

A visit by the National English Women's Rugby Union team to Sandy Park, Exeter to play Italy in the Women's Six Nations, encouraged Devon-based members to don their sports blazers and join the 10,545 fans to support their national team. The record crowd, for a Women's Six Nations match in England, watched an exciting and fast-flowing game of rugby. The first 20 minutes were tight and England were finding it tough to find a way through but, just after the half-hour, with the crowd roaring them on, there was to be no stopping them. Once they stepped it up in the scrum and at the breakdown, they overpowered their opponents and ran away with a 55-0 victory. England went on to secure the Women's Six Nations Grand Slam in style as they ran in 12 tries to beat Scotland 80-0 at Twickenham.



Left to right: Jim Lyon, William Downie and Alex Ward toast a magnificent England victory

## EastIndiaman

East India Club member Joe Smith last year completed the Marathon des Sables in Morocco. Around 250km, it is equivalent to about six marathons, completed over six days in the Sahara desert. Participants carry all their kit and food for the week with them. Joe is 27, and when not doing daft things in deserts, is associate director at UBS.



## Young members

### The meaning of Shuttlecock

The annual young members' dinner saw young members' committee chairman, Matthew Ebsworth, speaking warmly about the tremendous community of young members that we have at the East India Club, who enjoy the various events, interest groups and activities that the club puts on and facilitates.

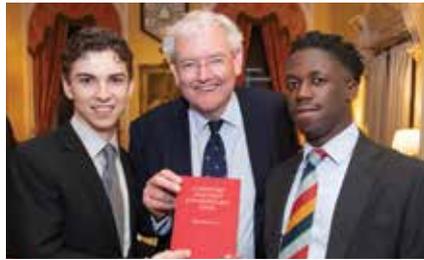
Fellow member Dr Philip Evans spoke about his exploits as a young man on the Cresta Run. He sported the 'shuttlecock' tie awarded to those who have exited the run at Shuttlecock Corner. He went on to read extracts from his amusing *A Country Doctor's Commonplace Book*.



Young members' committee chairman Matthew Ebsworth



Dr Philip Evans on breaking bones and doctoring



Philip with his book



Philip discusses a point with young member

## Golf

### Green winners

by Ben Hurworth

At EPICS' spring meeting at St George's Hill, Alan Botterill comfortably won the morning members' singles amassing 40 points with club chairman Duncan Steele-Bodger (33) second and former EPICS captain, David Morgan (29), in third place. The winning guest was Richard Park (33). Tom Watson won the longest drive with David Morgan winning nearest the pin.

A rainy day for our summer meeting at Woking GC and a curtailed 14-hole morning round resulted in David Wood winning (26) with new member, Ziggy Siczko second (25) and Neil Blackstone claiming third (24) and the nearest the pin prize. Ken Barnes had the longest drive. The morning guest winner was Richard Park (20). Ian Holmes and Max Petram (22) won the afternoon foursomes from Ken Barnes and Patrick Duke with Gordon Kenneth and Ben Hurworth in third place.

Our opening two matches were played at the New Zealand GC against the Farmers



EPICS spring meeting winner Alan Botterill and captain Ben Hurworth

Club, defeating us 7-5, with a resurgent EPICS winning a close match against the Oriental Club 6½-5½. Thank you to John Braithwaite for organising our mini tour to Kent and Sussex. The warm up rounds at Royal Cinque Ports and Littlestone preceded our match against the Reform Club at Rye; this ended in a draw.

Our match against the Caledonian Club on the Red Course at the Berkshire saw the Scots retain the trophy 5-3. Finally, I am pleased to announce that Danny Flowers will be the new EPICS captain in 2020.

EPICS welcomes new members. Please contact the secretary.

## Shorts

### Polo

The polo section's first introduction to polo lesson sold out, so now it is planning another. Organised by Dan Odutola, the section also offers novice chukkas for all that have played at N4 or above, and beginner lessons.

### Rugby lunches



Members and guests came to the club on select Fridays to dine and yarn in advance of England's Six Nations matches. Organised by Matthew Ebsworth, speakers included Rob Henderson, John Gallagher, Neil Edwards and Justins Marshall and Harrison.

## Snooker



The Interclub team snooker competition sponsored by the East India Club and Fullers Brewery saw Brooks's Club beat the Savile Club four frames to two. The winning team is, left-right, David Smart, Alex Underwood, Raymond Sancroft-Baker and Robin Hope-Morley.

### Tea

Tiffin Tea started in the Waterloo Room in April. It is available between 3pm and 5pm each day.

The chairman pays tribute to the club's life president, his father, who died a few days before the AGM. On to club matters, he reveals that we remain in good financial health, he thanks the staff for their contribution to the club experience, and he gives a careful appraisal on efforts to recover money from the defalcation, where there is an ongoing legal case.

## EAST INDIA CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All members of our club will have been saddened by the recent death of our life president who gave so much of his time and energy to the East India Club over some 40 years. He was chairman, for an unheard of 11 years, and then served as life president for more than 20 years. It is fair to say that he became the embodiment of our ethos in terms of his commitment to club life and the camaraderie to be enjoyed from socialising with fellow members and their guests. He will be sorely missed but is well remembered, as is clear from the many 'tweets' that have been circulated and the hundreds of emails, cards and messages being received by all members of my family. There will be a public celebration of his life to be held in September.

I would like to start by placing on record my thanks to those who have served as members of your committee over the past 12 months. In particular, to my deputy chairmen, Richard Robinson and Matthew Ebsworth and also those other members who chair our sub committees on finance, young members, wine, property and library that work on your behalf throughout the year.

We are also indebted to our staff, under the leadership of club secretary Alex Bray, for looking after the clubhouse and our members and I am delighted to report that once again in 2018 the staff fund was well supported by members. During the past 12 months a number of staff have achieved long service awards and deserve special thanks for their loyalty and commitment to the club:

For ten years: night porter Imran, banqueting manager Farid, head sommelier Eric, banqueting waitress Saba and Candy from accounts.

And for 20 years: head chef Mark, night porter Paul, reception supervisor Susanne and breakfast supervisor Rolly.

It is with sadness that I must record the deaths of 34 members over the last 12 months. Many were longstanding members and all will be sadly missed.

On a happier note I am pleased to acknowledge that we have eight new members who have achieved 50 years' continuous membership and from 1 January will no longer be required to pay an annual subscription. Congratulations to you all.

Socially, I am pleased to advise that the club continues to be very active and 2018 saw a full programme of events including two highly successful centenary celebrations: the East India Ball held in June, which commemorated the formation of the RAF, and the Lord Mayor's Lunch in September.

The summer barbecue is also worth a mention as we suffered from virtually the only rain during July and what rainfall it was. Despite the biblical downpour the staff responded magnificently to ensure the party kept going and many members wrote to me offering their thanks and admiration for the good humour and professionalism displayed that evening.

I turn now to the financial performance of the club during 2018. You should have seen the accounts and the salient points have been highlighted in the chairman's report. In brief:

- There was a modest increase in turnover to £6.75 million.
- Bedroom occupancy was slightly lower at around 73.5%.
- We continue to see a gradual decline in covers, particularly at lunchtime.
- Membership fell by 2% but is still circa 5,400 members.
- We continued the modernisation programme with a further 13 bedrooms

completed at a cost of £350,000.

- 45 Old Gloucester Street was sold for £1.72 million and the proceeds were used to pay down the loan secured on 46 Old Gloucester Street. This now stands at only £1.06 million and the interest costs are easily covered by the rental income being received.
- Overall there was a trading loss of £173,000. After taking into account a gain of £1.26 million on the disposal of 45 Old Gloucester Street and a prudent write down of £622,000 on 46 Old Gloucester Street the result was a trading profit before tax of £435,000.
- We have net assets of £31 million with reserves in excess of £4 million.

I believe that this represents a satisfactory performance during the year under review and remain confident that the club is in sound health.

There are of course challenges. We continue to face cost pressures from rises in business rates and the London living wage. The enforced increases in subscriptions are unwelcome and will likely have an ongoing impact upon our membership numbers - although at this stage it is negligible. Our year end figure of 5,383 members is down. However, after a number of years of growth it still represents the third highest total in the club's history, bettered only by December 2016 and December 2017.

We still plan to sell the remaining property at 46 Old Gloucester Street. While it has a positive net revenue position it is nevertheless tying up over £1 million of our capital that could be put to better use



Committee members, left-right, Simon Collins, Carl Statham and Joss Bassett

elsewhere within the club. In particular, we have a number of property projects under consideration for this building that will not be actively pursued until the funds have been released from this sale.

We continue to process the fall-out from the HMC's decision to cease working with us. We have now contacted all relevant schools and a large number (in excess of 150) have confirmed their willingness to continue to work with our club. We are now in direct liaison with these schools to encourage more referrals of school-leavers. We also plan to open out the schools' criteria to include other schools of good reputation that would be interested to work with us. The final suggested amendment is to open up the preferential J7 subscription to all 18-24 year olds that are elected as members and the necessary resolutions to allow these changes to happen will be voted upon shortly.

We continue to pursue all options to reverse the losses suffered by the club from the defalcations in 2014.

Members will recall that in January 2014 it was discovered that a rogue employee had stolen significant sums from one of the club's bank accounts at Royal Bank of Scotland using the on-line banking facility.

Periodic updates on these defalcations have been provided to members, in the immediate aftermath by letter/email and latterly annually at the AGM, and I wish to take this opportunity to tell you where we now find ourselves.

Clearly the club weathered the storm without our day to day operations being interrupted and services to members continued unaffected and our finances remain healthy, which is a tribute to the prudence with which the club's affairs have been conducted over many years.

I now wish to inform members of how we intend to press home our outstanding claims against the Royal Bank of Scotland in hope of reaching a just settlement, and so to bring this unhappy chapter to a close.

As you know, steps were taken more or less immediately to improve our systems of corporate governance and checks and balances to ensure that there should never be a repeat.

After long negotiations a substantial recovery was made from the gambling house to which all of the money found its way (although there was no admission of liability) and an agreement has been reached with the culprit and the courts whereby in due course a further recovery will be made from his personal pension fund.

In terms of financial outcomes, the programme of actions taken to identify needed changes, reorganise and improve management systems and controls and increase staff awareness of the key issues



*The AGM in the Smoking Room*

involved a cost of approximately £134,000. The committee regards these actions as having been necessary in any case.

In terms of direct action to recover money lost, the club is just under £170,000 better off than we were the day the defalcations were discovered, net of the legal and other costs we have incurred to pursue our claims.

The unresolved aspect is the extent to which the bank may be liable to compensate the club. There has been correspondence between the club and the bank throughout the five years since the discovery of the defalcations, at first direct and latterly through solicitors. The bank has at all times denied any responsibility and in addition it is fair to say that the bank has conducted the correspondence in a high-handed and unhelpful, even deliberately misleading manner, and has refused to engage in any meaningful dialogue.

The bank's terms and conditions of course seek to exclude any liability and the underlying duty of care which any bank owes to its customers is surprisingly limited in scope. However, there is a growing body of case law which has in part developed since the defalcations occurred and which suggests that in the specific circumstances of our case there was a duty of care and it was breached. We are aware that the club's processes and controls were created in the pre-digital age and that more trust was placed on individuals than, with hindsight, was prudent. Thus

we have throughout been willing to accept a level of responsibility for some of the loss we suffered. Nevertheless, a level of responsibility must lie with the bank and we are advised by leading counsel that there is a case that the bank has fallen short of a duty of care and that some compensation should be due.

The committee has concluded that further attempts to persuade the bank to act reasonably and to reach an accommodation will be fruitless and that this matter must be pressed to a conclusion.

It would not be appropriate to reveal further detail today, but based on the advice of leading counsel, the committee has decided to set out our stall fully in the form of a statement of claim. This should either force the bank to address the issue head-on and demonstrate that it has an answer to our case and no liability to compensate the club, or it will establish that we are right and that compensation is due.

While there is no certainty of success, of course, this represents a worthwhile investment and at worst we would remain in credit after the recoveries we have made which I referred to above. Clearly, I cannot go into further details here as to our case for fear of waiving legal privilege and compromising our position. Once this action has been concluded I will be able to make a final report to the membership and bring the matter to a conclusion.

## Committee election

**M**embers elected to the committee in 2019 are:  
J Bassett, P Storey, Sir M Griffiths, A Walker, J Monk and A Steger. The chairman

congratulated and welcomed back Messrs Bassett, Griffiths, Steger and Storey and, also, to Messrs Monk and Walker, returning to the committee after an absence of some years. Commiserations to Messrs Collins, Drayton, Elliott, Garbutt and Statham. Simon Collins served on the committee from 1985 to 1993 and again from 2010 to 2019.

With the decision by the HMC, the Headmasters' & Headmistresses' Conference, to end its formal arrangement with the club over school leavers looking for a London club, the chairman has moved to change the articles of association and instigate J7 '2.0'. He took questions from members at the AGM about how it will work.

## WHAT NEXT FOR THE J7 SCHEME?

**T**he future of the club's J7 initiative was the subject of most of the questions to the chairman at the AGM. The HMC recently ended its endorsement of the club to young men leaving its member schools because the club does not accept lady members. The club voted on a special resolution to amend article 38 of the articles of association.

Mr Waldron asked a question about the consideration of the removal of the gender requirement for members generally rather than just honorary members. The chairman replied: "I think that that is something I personally want to avoid, but I am certainly continuing to look at what the options are and giving thought and discussing with colleagues how it might be implemented."

Mr Tait asked about retention of J7s after the age of 25. The chairman replied that it has generally been around 25% to 30%. "What we are trying to do is engage with the J7s and give them the sense that this is a club where it is worth spending the money to continue as a member. For some of them it won't work - but we agree that 30% is perhaps low and we should try to do something about it."

Deputy chairman Matthew Ebsworth added: "Since 1972, when the Public Schools Club came on board, we have attracted anywhere between 250 and 300 J7s at the age of 18. The rate of retention has always been around 30%, nothing much has changed. Even though we would like it to be higher, it is only recently we have started to consider how we may retain more."

Dr North asked what kind of school leaver could now be considered for J7 membership and Mr Pelendrides hoped the choice would

not be elitist. The chairman replied: "It is certainly not the policy or the plan that we suddenly go out and invite hundreds of schools to join us. That is not what we are about, but it does give us the option to selectively pick other schools that were not or are not part of the HMC that we feel would be appropriate as a channel for new members to this club."

Mr Dean pointed out that the club's sporting sections are a good way to encourage new J7s. Mr Williamson was concerned that the club will have to maintain separate conversations with 150 different schools. The chairman replied: "The HMC opted to no longer work with us but due to the feeling amongst the members of the HMC they left it to each individual school to make their own mind up. As I said earlier we have contacted all of the schools and a good number of them have said they are happy to carry on working with us. Some have said that they don't want to be an honorary member but that they are happy to support their leavers' applications to us, and others: 'Thank



Members of the committee, left-right: Oliver Bolton, Adrian Steger and Sir Michael Griffiths

you, we don't need to be involved anymore."

Mr Ebsworth replied to Mr Poynder's question about whether the club will be transparent about which schools it will consider for J7 membership, that the schools will initially be considered by the young members' committee. "The recommendation would be made by the young members' committee to the main committee," he said.



The chairman takes questions from the floor

## COMMITTEE MEN

**T**he secretary, chairman, former chairmen and members of the committee (left-right): Alex Bray, Joss Bassett, Matthew Ebsworth, Richard Robinson, Neil Edwards, Alasdair Shaikh, Ken Morgan, Sir Michael Griffiths, Iain Wolsey, John Wood, Duncan Steele-Bodger, Simon Collins, Charlie Jacoby, Carl Statham, Ian Barton, David Cartwright, Adrian Steger, Oliver Bolton and Paul Garbutt. Not present are committeemen St John Brown and Patrick Storey.



One of London's great journalists came to the club to talk about his new book. *Crucible* is Jonathan Fenby's meticulous history of the events of 1947-1948, a 13-month period which, he says, changed the world like no other before or since.

## CRUCIBLE OF WORLD HISTORY

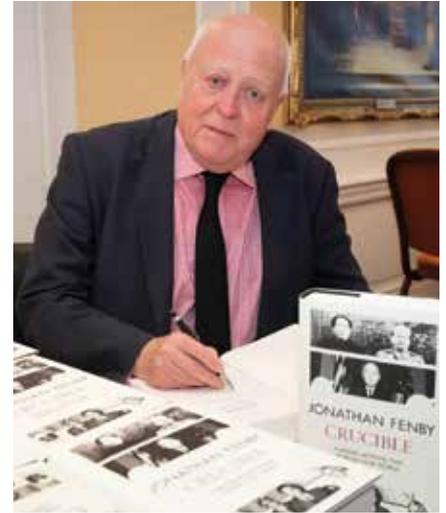
by Adrian Steger

**T**he distinguished writer Jonathan Fenby gave a Library lecture about the events of 1947-1948 and how they affected the world then and continue to this day. It is the subject of his recent book.

Jonathan's career as a journalist includes Reuters, editing *The Observer* and then the *South China Morning Post* during the handover of Hong Kong. He is also the author of 20 books covering France, China and journalism.



Dinner with Jonathan answering more questions



Jonathan signs copies of his book



Jonathan Fenby on 1947-1948

In his talk he described the breakdown of post war relations between the USSR and the west, and how the development of the Marshall plan to rescue western European economies concentrated that breakdown

between Soviet and American relations. He discussed the appearance of the Warsaw Pact countries behind the iron curtain.

Jonathan brought in other events, including the establishment of the state of

Israel, the confused, uncoordinated reaction of the Arab states to this, and the partition of India. He showed how mutual dislike in both these theatres had been simmering and was brought to the boil by Britain's lack of political and economic strength – as, also, with its mandate in Palestine. As a result, there was war.

Apart from these overviews and descriptions of their repercussions up to today, Jonathan reminded members and guests of the importance of the individual in history, be it de Gaulle against communism in France, the difference between Roosevelt and Truman, the emergence of Tito, or the poor health of many participants in negotiations, such as Bevin.

He covered Stalin and the fear he instilled in the people of the USSR. On a lighter note he told us that, when asked if he had sentiments, Marshall said he reserved them for Mrs Marshall. An enjoyable and instructive evening was had by all.

## St George's day

**T**he St George's day celebrations were enhanced by a wonderful example of English engineering, parked across the road from the club. When member Rob Farrow drove it, it sported an East India Club pennant, but he changed it to reflect the celebration of the day.

Members gathered at the club for St George's day with Alasdair Shaikh as dinner chairman. His inclusion in his speech of

Richmond Golf courses' adjustment to their rules to compensate for the actions of the Luftwaffe was amusing.

As were the after-dinner observations of hockey superstar Roger Dakin: 31 caps for England, during which time he was voted European goalkeeper of the year by the German team, who appreciated his unique efforts during their landslide wins in the 1970s. Iain Wolsey's rendition of the 'Once more into the breach' speech from *Henry V* – with the addition of a cricket reference – that he last performed in 1958.



Members of the UK gun trade came to the club to show off their wares. Among them, Master of the Worshipful Company of Gunmakers, Mrs Diana Berry, made a speech to members.

## EAST INDIA BIG GUNS

The shooting section put on a celebration of English gunmaking at the club in the spring. Aply organised by Sanjay Bhattacharya and Richard Hefford-Hobbs, great gunmaking names brought their gunsmiths to the East India Room to explain gunmaking to members and guests.

Also present was Diana Berry, Master of the Worshipful Company of Gunmakers, who made a speech about the importance of attracting and encouraging young gunmaking talent, and how the livery company is working to do that.

The club's shooting section has a full programme of events coming up, including:

**Friday 26 July:** the Game Fair, Hatfield House

**Saturday 27 July:** inter-club clay shoot

**Tuesday 30 July:** tour of the London Proof House

**Wednesday 31 July:** inter-club shooting dinner

**Friday 2 August:** Holt's charitable clay shoot, Sandringham Estate

**Saturday 10 August:** fullbore rifle day at Bisley

**Saturday 12 October:** novices game shoot on a Cambridgeshire Farm

**Saturday 26 October:** shoot day, Stratfield Saye estate, Hampshire

**Saturday 9 November:** shoot day, Stratfield Saye estate, Hampshire



Gunsmiths explain their work



Members and guests meet the British gun trade



Carl Statham: 'you never miss in the shop'



The gun trade and others, including Sanjay Bhattacharya from the club's shooting section (centre, back)

### Flyfishing

## Trout and Chichester

The club's section of the River Loddon is fishing well. The fish switched on to the dries on time in May, and members took days to coincide.

The section also went on its second boat fishing event of the calendar in a friendly reservoir trout competition against Thurner's All Stars at Ravensthorpe reservoir.

On Saturday 10 August, the section is going sea bass fishing in Chichester Harbour with friend Paul Haldenwang of Salty Dog Fishing. While the opportunity exists to do this in exotic sun-kissed locations around the globe, many of us

do not have the time to do so. This has brought about development of the sport on our own shores. As we are all aware sea fish are inevitably more powerful than freshwater species so the chance to go after sea bass in particular on a light fly rod makes for great sport.

On Saturday 10 August, the tides will be good for late morning fishing. There will be fishing from the boat then wading on the sand and shingle islands in the harbour in the afternoon. Start time is 8am and we fish until 4pm. Cost per rod is £185 and please bring your own packed lunch. All rods, reels and lines are included.

Three fisherman can fish off boat at any time in a combination of one on bow with fly rod, one on the stern with fly rod and one mid ship with spinning rod. Paul finds that anglers like to alternate between the two types of fishing as it gives the shoulders and arms time to rest.

## Wet bobs

The club is grateful to Auriol Kensington rowing club for letting members and guests once again use its excellent facilities for the Boat Race. For the second year in succession Cambridge beat Oxford in both the men's and women's.



Members with Whitney Powell, cox of the men's 8 at Leander



## Jazz at no 16

by Howard Lambert

Our musical section 'Jazz at No 16' was treated to an exhilarating concert at the club in May. The Spike Wells Trio featured Spike on drums with the exciting young pianist Leon Greening on piano and the simpatico bass of Chris Dodd.

Spike's career goes back to 1968 when he joined the Tubby Hayes Quartet, and he has since worked with Stan Getz, Ronnie Scott, Humphrey Lyttelton and other American and English stars.

Leon Greening has been a mainstay of the London jazz scene in recent years and his exciting style of hard-swinging, post-bop, was appreciated by the audience. Leon performs regularly at Ronnie Scotts, 606 Club and all the major UK jazz clubs and festivals. In 2012, he recorded his debut album *Cookin' in Brooklyn* in New York. He is fast making a name for himself as a brilliant jazz pianist.

Chris Dodd on double bass was also making his debut at the club. He began his professional career in Sheffield before moving to London where his busy diary of work commenced. He works extensively on the European and UK scene.

The evening's music ranged from the nostalgia of *A Nightingale sang in Berkeley Square* to the exotica of Brazilian Bossa Nova and jazz originals like *Blue Daniel*.

The next concert, featuring the Leon Greening Trio, is on Friday 20 September.

The RN order to 'splice the mainbrace', awards sailors an extra tot of grog and you should be royal to order it. Jim Miller can issue the order to the club's yacht squadron

## GINS AND GUNS

by Jim Miller

I can report successful sea trials of bottle No 1 of the new 57% proof EIC Home on Furlough gin on the squadron's flagship *Eagle*. This is a significant upgrade from our previous Hendricks 41.5%.

It would be very useful if Mark could issue orders to the squadron on how a 57% EIC Home on Furlough gin and tonic is to be served afloat. In particular, should the 57% gin be served with lime, lemon or cucumber, and should any bitters be added?

In addition, the commodore's wife has bought me a two-pounder and I shall soon be designing a foredeck gun carriage and



Mrs Miller sea trials the club's 57% gin 'Home on Furlough' on board *Eagle*



Jim's two-pounder

requesting an explosives licence to use black powder for yacht race starts.

As you can see from the attached photo, the bore is tilted up on the gun's display stand. This means rain can get in when the gun is rolled out onto the lawn to intimidate neighbours. I have a bung on order and will paint it signal red.

Request to the secretary: a metal East India Club crest less than 2in in diameter to attach to the front of the bung.

## A message from the pigeon loft

by Alan Taylor

One of the pleasures of the club is the ease of communication. We all use a standard English pronunciation. The exception to this is when occasionally a member comes from Scotland or the United States. Even then, we have no difficulty understanding one another.

As a young lad, this pigeon loft - in keeping with many of his age - was confronted with several linguistic problems. In 1940, he was evacuated to southern Scotland. The other children in his local school found his English accent a source of amusement. He soon adapted and felt at ease speaking with a Scottish brogue. Returning to England in 1941, his Scottish accent caused similar amusement. To compensate for this he picked up and used the local Nor-

folk accent and dialect. He never forgot it, although he suppressed it at his Suffolk public school. End of story? Certainly not. In August 1958, he set off to West Berlin to become an assistant for English at a German grammar school. Having studied German in England, communication inside his school caused him no trouble at all. After a few weeks, members of the sixth form invited him to spend an evening with them in a local 'pub', where they spoke the Berlin dialect (frowned on in school) and he did not understand a single word. So everything had to be summarised for him in generally accepted German. Gradually he learned the Berlin dialect and still proudly uses it now and then today.

This goes for the Norfolk dialect, too. But all too rarely can he practise it, as often Norfolk speakers try to disguise their Norfolk

origins. This is particularly the case with young people who submerge themselves in television. Those who want to acquire a knowledge of spoken Norfolk (actors, and those keen to disguise their real reason for dining at the club table) are faced with an insurmountable problem. Sad to relate they have to be told that after the age of 15 they will not learn to speak Norfolk.

On a more cheerful note, here in London we have the treat of hearing a real cockney now and then. Two years' ago on a hot summer evening, this pigeon loft took a taxi back to the club from an event in the Tower of London so as not to be late for dinner. Naturally he just wore a jacket with his army badge pinned to the lapel. On arrival at the club he got out to pay through the front window. Before he could do this, the young cockney driver asked: 'Was you in the army?' On receiving the positive answer he said: 'Then it don't cost nuffink' and drove off.

The club lowered its flags to half-mast on Thursday 9 May 2018, where they stayed until the end of the month. That was the day after veterinary surgeon, England rugby international, selector, administrator and the man who did the most to save the club finally lost his last ruck with cancer.

## MICKY STEELE-BODGER

In 1986, Micky was sent out of committee to stand and wait on their vote. It was touch and go. Would he become chairman? The club was in dire financial straits, membership was at an appalling low, barely a dozen people would go to the house dinner that year and somebody had to do something.

That house dinner was held in a curtained-off area of the Dining Room. The rugby legend Albert Agar, whom Micky had invited to speak, asked Micky if he felt it was worth talking to so few.

Happily, the committee chose Micky. At once, the human dynamo buzzed into action. All but abandoning his veterinary practice in Tamworth, Micky set about making the club great again. Chairman for a remarkable 11 years, and then life president, he may have the credit for turning the club into the booming, vibrant, success it is today.

It was thanks to him that the house dinner has become a sell-out – and other events, too, including the Burns Night supper. It is due to Micky that the club has such a close association with the world of rugby. For all

members who knew him, it is Micky who produced the culture and the spirit where being marched around the square at 4am is a badge of honour.

Micky was a leading and much-loved figure in the rugby world, an outstanding ambassador for the sport as a player, administrator and the ultimate enthusiast. One of the most powerful figures in the world of rugby for more than 60 years, his obituary in the *Daily Telegraph* described him as ‘the last in a line of larger-than-life characters who dominated the amateur era’.

A pocket battleship-sized flanker whose teams included Edinburgh University, he was capped nine times for England in post-war internationals before his career was cut short by injury aged 24. He then moved into the administrative side of the game, becoming an England selector at 28. He went on to become a national selector for 15 years, a trustee and president of the Rugby Football Union in 1973, chair of the International Rugby Board, now World Rugby, in 1981, a long-serving chairman of the Home Rugby Unions Tours Committee (which looks after the Lions), and a member of the Sports Council. He was appointed a CBE in the 1990 New Year Honours ‘for services to Rugby Union Football.’

Micky has been president of the Barbarians since 1988, only their sixth in more than 120 years. He joined the Barbarians committee in 1946, starting a 73-year association with the famous invitation club. He visited the changing room one last time to congratulate the players following their 38-35 win against Argentina last December.

He endorsed the Barbarians’ values of open running rugby, camaraderie and sportsmanship. His name is forever linked with his renowned select team, Steele-Bodger’s XV, who play Cambridge University in the lead-up to the annual Varsity match against Oxford and has done so since 1948.

Michael Roland Steele-Bodger was born at Tamworth, younger son of Henry William and Kathrine, née Macdonald. His father was a well-known veterinary surgeon and elder brother Alasdair also became an eminent vet. Steele-Bodger attended Rugby School where he began playing rugby, mostly at scrum-half.

As a youngster he was an Aston Villa fan but began to lose interest in football when he thought players “were not giving



Micky and (left to right) Guy Steele-Bodger, club secretary Alex Bray and Duncan Steele-Bodger enjoy a pint of Bodger’s Best at Northampton Brewery in 2016. The beer lives on in the American Bar

everything all the time" while he began to find rugby "a compulsive game that dragged you in and you didn't want to stop".

As a player he first came to prominence at Cambridge University, where he attended Caius College, playing in wartime Varsity matches leading to selection three times for England in what were known as Victory Internationals in 1945/6. After the war he played twice in Varsity matches captaining the team in 1946 and winning two Blues. Although 5ft 8in and relatively lightweight for a forward he more than made up for it with his terrier-like approach and all-action style of play.

He continued his studies at Edinburgh University where he was a valued member of their teams in 1947 and 1948 which won the Scottish Universities' Championship. He was considered one of their outstanding post war forwards. In the same seasons, he played in all of England's Five Nations matches and their match against the touring Australians.

He was first selected for the Barbarians in 1946 as an uncapped flanker and in total represented them 13 times, captaining them twice. In January 1948 he played in their first game against international opposition, Australia, at Cardiff Arms Park where good follow up work led to his scoring the first try, which none of the Home Nations had managed against the tourists.

Bill McLaren, who played against him once in direct opposition described him in his autobiography as 'a nifty little operator', while Harlequins Rugby Club whom he also represented referred to him in their history as 'a wing forward of the light skirmishing type... who seemed to be everywhere at once'.

When first asked in 1948 to field a select team to play Cambridge before the Varsity match he agreed to do so on two conditions: that he was the sole selector and there would be a formal dinner afterwards. The match became a vital part of the 'Light Blues' preparation for Twickenham. He would look carefully at Oxford's form and try to select top-quality players for his side that best matched the Oxford players. To date, 71 matches have taken place since he selected his inaugural side.

Former Scottish international Scott Hastings remembers him fondly: "A real gent who welcomed all the players individually and had a genuine interest in them."

Sports journalist Frank Keating wrote in his Guardian column: "The actor Richard Burton once played against Micky for the RAF: 'He gave me a terrible time and a more onomatopoeic name than Steele-Bodger would be hard to find – he was, I promise you, steel; and he did, I give you my word, never stop bodgering. Say his name through clenched teeth and you will begin to see what I mean.'"

## Know your chairman

by John Breen

**M**icky was visiting Hong Kong to attend the Hong Kong 7's competition that particular year the Rugby 7's World Cup was taking place, which the HKRFU was hosting.

It was a busy and exciting time in Hong Kong, as many people had travelled from afar to attend the RWC and other rugby events, like the HKRFU 10s. Micky was in his element.

I was living in Hong Kong, and over the time of Micky's visit our paths crossed frequently. A few days before his departure, we were together having dinner. The matter of his flight back to London came up.

Through contacts of mine at that time, it was arranged that Micky would be upgraded to First Class by the airline for his flight home. He had a number of admirers working for the particular airline, and some of them had connections with the EIC.

On the particular evening of his flight, I was also flying with the same airline but to a city in Asia.

We went to the airport and checked in and proceeded to the first class lounge, where we enjoyed the hospitality. Both our flights were taking off just before midnight, so he had some time to wait in the lounge, and we enjoyed ourselves.

When it was time for Micky's flight to depart, as he was now seen as a VIP by the airline, a ground hostess collected him from the lounge and formally escorted him to the aircraft. We said goodbye and I went to my flight.

All was well, mission accomplished. Micky was safely on his flight and sitting in his first class seat. However, one thing

had been forgotten in the planning. Being characteristically restless and full of energy, how would Micky entertain himself on the long flight?

Once the flight took off and the seat belt sign went off, Micky decided that he would wander off down the aircraft, to see whom he may know on the flight.

During his wandering, his eyes fell on Bill Bishop, an old pal of his and the current chairman of the RFU sitting in business class. Micky naturally decided to spend a bit of time talking with Bill. During their talking, Micky took notice of the man sitting beside Bill, and asked, "Do you know who you are sitting beside", (while at the same time punching the person in a friendly manner on the shoulder a few times to emphasize the importance of his

question), Micky then proceeded to him all about Bill Bishop.

After Micky left them to return to his own seat, Bill turned the person saying, I do apologise regarding my friend and his behaviour.

*"Oh, said the man, don't apologise. I am a member of the East India Club. I am used to him."*

Oh, said the man, don't apologise. I am member of the East India Club. I am used to him.

I was made aware of this element of Micky's flight by Bill Bishop sometime later when we ran into each other in the American Bar. We both had a good laugh and a few more drinks. I think that Bill dined out on the story a few times. Micky being Micky, just had a good laugh, when I reminded him of the event. He did not deny it, and proceeded to explain his version of the story with a big smile, while ensuring that our glasses were full.



In June 2017, Micky receives a 20-year certificate as life president from his son, club chairman Duncan

## Memories from members and staff

**H**is ability was to get on with young and old, rich and poor, smart and unsmart. He had time for everyone and time to see off anyone after bar closing time in the hall.

*Captain James*

**M**icky exuded vibrant humanity, inspired good sense and humour in generous, liberal, measures often long into the night.

*Simon Camamile*

**I**nvariably on returning to the club after an evening function, your father would be holding court in reception and no refusal was permitted to joining the coterie around him.

*David Keating*

**I**an Meldrum, Bobby Bridges, Andrew Rose and I never forgot the royal command to parade the Bath Club Cup at a house dinner, when we had only taken our ladies to dine privately to celebrate the club's first winning of the trophy.

*Mike Jerrom*

**O**ne memory is of a Christmas party several years ago when he played the role of Father Christmas - in full attire - and came from the outside pavement on a cherry picker through the Smoking Room window, then proceeded to hand every lady present a gift.

*Michael Burmester*

**W**e first met when I was summoned to the club to join him for breakfast to discuss the centenary of the Barbarians as I had been recommended as a lawyer whose firm was familiar with the sports scene. By the time I left that morning I had joined the East India Club.

*Karl Arnold*

**I** first met Micky in 1989 during dinner in the Dining Room. As I lit a cigarette, I heard a bellow from the other side of the room... 'Young man, you are too young to smoke,' said Micky, 'and it is no good for you. More wine!' he suggested, and had a bottle sent over. I will never forget my first Micky experience.

*Saleem Siddiqi*

**M**y wife and I stayed at the club for the night on the day we were married. Of course, Micky joined us at dinner. Never has an unexpected guest at a table for two - he just pulled up a chair and chatted for ten minutes - been quite so welcome or so entertaining.

*Ted Fenton*

**A**s a young member, I had arrived late for dinner and was sat alone on the members table. Micky had already eaten but on seeing me alone came and joined me whilst I finished. He said he never liked to see people dining by themselves.

I was very grateful he took the time to make me feel part of the club.

*Thomas Stewart*

**I** loved it when your Dad said that no man should stand alone at the club bar and that members should always join them or invite them in to others' company.

*John Zimnoch*

**Y**ou only had to mention the name Steele-Bodger wherever you were in the world and someone would say "Do you mean Micky?" That would be followed by some comment of admiration or a raucous story.

*Robin Courtenay*

**H**e loved his staff and we all loved him.

*James Dempsey,  
former club maitre d'*

**T**he club has had many distinguished members and especially chairmen, but none more so than your Dad. His name is synonymous with the club, in fact he is the club.

*John Bodie*

**E**urostar from Paris broke down in the tunnel. No problem. Took a room at the club. Figured, missed the last train home, will sleep. Have a good breakfast, train and in the office by 11am latest.

Micky in reception with three strangers visiting.

"Where are you going?"

"Bed, sir."

"Can't be, it's your round."

4am, went to bed, didn't make the office.

*Graham Naisbitt*

Micky also played for Harlequins and Moseley and was the last surviving Harlequin to have played for them during the war. While training at Moseley in 1949, he badly injured knee ligaments which brought an end to his playing career. He was a force in rugby at a time when the game was moving from amateur to professional, and it is easy to forget that he had a successful career, too. He was a veterinary surgeon in the family practice in Tamworth, Staffordshire.

In 1955 he married Violet Mary St Clair née Murray, known as Muff, and they had three children during their long and happy marriage, Guy, East India Club chairman Duncan and Clair. He is survived by his wife Muff, three children, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

*Micky Steele-Bodger CBE, East India Club life president. Born: 4 September 1925 in Tamworth, Staffordshire. Died: 8 May 2019, aged 93. There will be a memorial service for him on 4 September 2019 at St James's Piccadilly.*

## Gruff charm

*by David Booth*

**I**n March 2004, I attended a memorial service at St Lawrence Jewry-next-Guildhall followed by refreshments at the Ironmongers Hall for Ole Sigvard Kverndal, a good friend. I had not long been a member of the East India Club and Micky came up to me and said in his inimitable gruff fashion: "What are you doing here?"

I was completely taken aback that he should have even recognised me but felt both humble and elated that he had recognised and spoken to a new member. That endeared him to me from thenceforth.



*Micky with Cambridge in 1946*

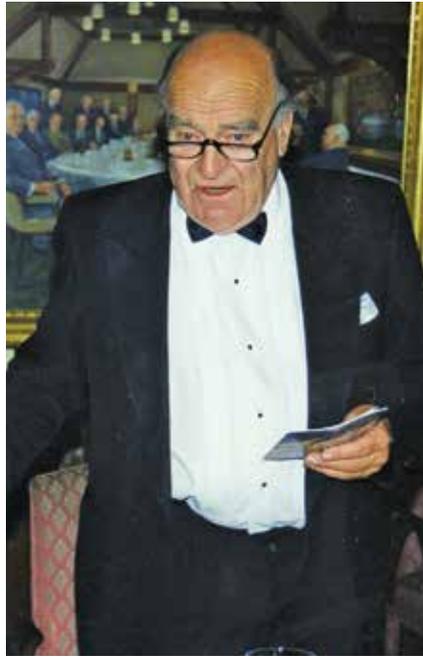
# 1940s rugby

by Gordon Mellor

I was lunching at the 'old cads table' a few years ago and S-B was sitting opposite. I said 'I know, you are an old Rugbeian and that Rugby School invented the game, but did you know that the first game of rugby ever was played at my old school Cheltenham College in 1844 and I saw the centenary match in 1944'. Micky smiled and said: 'In that case you saw me play!' Cheltenham won 6-0 in the mud on a very wet day.

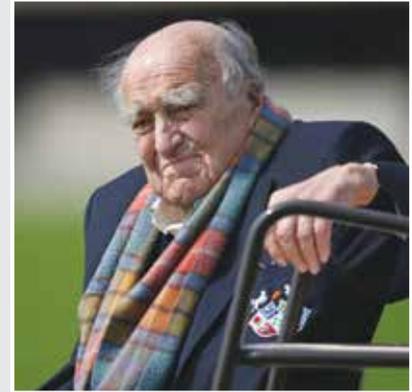
P.S. there is a stone tablet at Cheltenham saying 'near this place rugby football was first played'.

*Gordon Mellor, life member, joined the Public Schools Club in 1949*



*Micky makes one of his characteristically funny, hard-edged after-dinner speeches*

# Tributes



*Micky watching the Barbarians train in 2018*

Micky was a rugby man through and through and devoted much of his life and passion to the game. He was greatly respected by all who knew him and will be hugely missed. We are all proud to have shared his enjoyment of our sport and are indebted to him for the many roles he served with such distinction, and especially grateful to his wife, Muff, his children Guy, Duncan and Clair, his nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren for sharing him with us.

*Chris Kelly, president, RFU*

The Micky touch: at 12.30pm on 17 June 2010 Andrew George Ripley passed away. I was due at the club for an event that evening and when I arrived at about 5.30pm Micky was there in the entrance hall and my immediate thought was to tell him the sad news in person before he read or heard about it in the media. I went up to him offered my right hand and told him. He held my hand in both his and said nothing for about 30 seconds then just "he was my favourite Barbarian" with great sadness but appreciation of being told in person.

*David Booth, club member*

What came across most strongly was his belief that this was a game for players to enjoy, entertain and for them to form lasting friendships. In turn, those players respected him greatly for how much he gave to rugby and for his immense warmth and good humour."

*Chris Maidment, hon secretary, Barbarians*

Epitomised our sport and the fine Barbarians tradition... Always last at the bar.

*Jamie Roberts*



*Micky and Muff's Scottish connections were always important to him. He instigated the entertaining Burns night suppers that the club enjoys every year*



*Muff and Micky meet the Princess Royal at the club in 2015 as part of the Waterloo 200 celebrations. Her Royal Highness's reaction on reaching Micky in the line-up was: "What are you doing here?"*

If Laura in the Waterloo Room is glowing a little more than usual, that may be because she is expecting her third baby. Laura has worked at the club since 2004, and is part of the team of four staff who look after service to the meeting rooms, Waterloo and Smoking Rooms.

## STAFF PROFILE

### Laura Makareviciene



**B**ar stewardess Laura works in the Waterloo Room twice a week. The job allows her to look after her growing family. She is pregnant and expecting a happy event in the autumn.

Laura arrived in London in 2003 with no knowledge of English. She started working in a hotel in Pimlico.

A woman who worked there was married to one of the staff of the East India Club, and told Laura of a position available at the

club. In 2004, she took the job, starting as a waitress in the Dining Room. "When I saw the words 'East India Club', I did not know what to expect," she says.

"I thought it might be an Indian takeaway. But then I came to St James's Square and saw it wasn't. It was completely different."

A year later, she applied to be a bar stewardess in the Waterloo Room and got the job. You will now find her there, usually on Tuesdays and Sundays. She is one of the

team of four, including two part-timers, who run that room and the Smoking Room.

Laura worked in the Waterloo Room during its name-change from the Ladies' Drawing Room. She says the character of the room has not changed. It still offers a selection of drinks and sandwiches, so you can go there for a light lunch or supper, or afternoon tea with toast, jam and fruitcake and our new tiffin tea (see page 5). The Smoking Room's character changed after the smoking ban. "It now has a relaxed, drawing room atmosphere," she says.

She prefers working in the club to her old job in the hotel. "With the hotel, every day is different and you don't know anyone," she says. "In the club, it's more like a home from home and you know almost everybody."

*“I thought the East India Club might be an Indian takeaway - but I came to St James's Square and saw it wasn't”*

Laura is from Lithuania. Born in Kaunas, considered Lithuania's second city after Vilnius, her mother worked in a local courthouse. An only child, she left Lithuania after secondary school. A friend of hers had found work in London and asked Laura to join her.

That turned out to be a good move. As well as her long career at the club, she met and married her Lithuanian husband Minas in London. He is a building site supervisor.

The couple lives in Grays in Essex. They used to live in a two-bedroom house they bought in Dagenham but it was too small for their family. They have two children, Enrikas aged ten and Amanda aged eight, and another one on the way, a boy expected in September. Laura's working hours means she can travel offpeak and she says she can easily find a seat.

As for Brexit, Laura is not concerned. She is sure there will not be mass deportations from the UK. At the least, she says, "let us wait and see what happens."

# A WORD FROM THE SECRETARY

by Alex Bray



**W**ith gratitude to our reciprocal clubs around the world, our members travel a lot and clearly enjoy using them. During the

whole of 2018, the website produced 1,044 introduction cards for 94 clubs out of the 112 available. So far this year to mid-June, it is already 656 cards for 89 reciprocal clubs.

Another quick online statistic is the increase in payments through the members' area of the website. In 2018, we averaged 7.7 transactions per day. So far this year we are averaging 15.1. Things are certainly moving fast in the online world and providing convenience for members is clearly important.

I am therefore grateful for the enthusiasm and skill of both our membership system provider, Infodata, and our website provider (and printer of this magazine) Colour Cubed, for facilitating the progress being made in these areas. Both are long standing suppliers to the club and take a great deal of care and pride in making sure the club is satisfied.

Talking of longstanding, our contract floral

supplier Window Flowers has clocked up an amazing 70 years of supplying the club. I have seen the original correspondence between Miles' father and the club back in 1948.

Long service remains a goal for our staff. I am delighted to record the following milestones for staff service. Having completed ten years is Adam Palecpecin in housekeeping, 20 years is Rolly Isip, breakfast supervisor, profiled in *East & West* in August 2011, and Nilda Miranda in housekeeping, profiled in *East & West* August 2013, and 30 years for Felipe Cascayan (the fastest brass polisher in the West), profiled in *East & West* in December 2011. Congratulations and our thanks to them for their dedication.

The office has been busy receiving various members collecting their long membership pins. All are appreciative of the recognition and are seen proudly wearing their pins around the clubhouse.

It is satisfying to reflect that our club thrives on length of 'relationship': long-standing suppliers, long-serving staff and long-lasting members, combining seamlessly with the depth of our pool of young members and our

recruitment of young staff to bring vibrancy, consistency and reliability to life at our club. Long may it be treasured and continue.

Chef, for example, maintains his relationship with Westminster Kingsway College, looking for the brightest talent to emerge from its excellent catering courses.

This bedrock of commitment to our club is exemplified by M Steele-Bodger and, on behalf of all the staff, I record how sad we are at his passing. He personified clubability, cared deeply for the club and its staff and will be remembered in the hearts of all who knew him with admiring memories.



*Blooming marvellous: a floral display at the club by Window Flowers, which has been looking after us, man and boy, for 70 years*

## East India Club Wine Order Form

### ORDER THESE WINES FROM OUR WINE MERCHANT FOR HOME DELIVERY



#### Wine per case of 12 bottles

Club Champagne / £155 for 6  
Club white / £144  
Club white Burgundy / £174  
Club red (de Ciffre) / £144  
Club claret / £139

**All prices include VAT**



**Please order on-line or by phone.**

**Davy's Wine Merchants,  
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 presentation box - club claret, club white and club white Burgundy. £43



**Not chargeable to account. Card, cash or cheque.**

Alex Parker from ginmaker London & Scottish International came to the club with a dazzling range of his spirits

## WILD GIN TASTING



Alex Parker gave the talk

The boom in ginmaking in recent years means there is considerably more choice behind bars compared to the days when Gordons' green bottles dominated. A gin tasting in the club gave members and guests an opportunity to try half a dozen gins, from the exotic to our own, newly launched drinks – and to learn to say the word 'botanicals' with a straight face. All of them are available from Surrey-based London & Scottish International, which offers a variety of organic gins and other spirits, and makes our own club gins. The gins on trial were:

### Juniper Green Trophy Gin

The Organic Spirits Co, part of Surrey-

based London & Scottish International, is worried about your health. It worries about the chemicals that go into spirits (alcohol excepted, of course). As a result, its drinks, including Juniper Green Trophy Gin, have organic status, and – read its marketing blurb – you will be sobered by the horrifying carcinogens and poisons we drink and breathe every day. It doesn't quite claim that Juniper Green is good for you, but it comes close. [JuniperGreen.org](http://JuniperGreen.org)

### Utkins UK5 organic vodka

Another product from the Organic Spirits Co is its UK5 Organic Vodka. Again, be prepared to be exhorted not to breathe or drink anything that's not stamped by the Soil Association. For example, did you know that conventional vodka is made from grain sprayed on average at least seven times with chemicals? [UK5.org](http://UK5.org)

### Swordsman London Gin

Another one from London & Scottish International, this is a classic juniper-



The selection of gins on offer



That's the spirit: members and guests try the gins

flavoured gin made with distilled juniper, coriander, angelica and savory. More information on [TheGinGuild.com](http://TheGinGuild.com) website.

### Organic Black Chai Gin

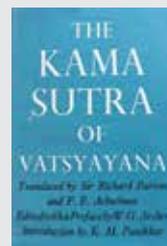
This was the wild card gin on the table. Made in Japan with Sri Lankan black chai, it is the result of a collaboration between London & Scottish International and Japan-based organic food brand Brown Sugar 1st. [BS1ST-al.com](http://BS1ST-al.com)

### East India Club Gins

The club has introduced two new gins. The blue label is 43% ABV, and includes ginger, cardamom, coriander and even curry leaves, balanced against citrus, angelica and juniper. The Navy strength variety of the club gin. 'East India Club: Home on Furlough' is 57% ABV. For a review of this one, see *Gins and Guns* on page 11.

## Letter

Dear Sir  
I was interested to read the article 'Golds Collection' and the references to Richard F Burton [East & West, spring 2019]. Sir Richard was a great friend of my forefather Forster FitzGerald Arbuthnot, and together they translated *The Kama Sutra*.



My father did some work for the book's publisher George Allen & Unwin and when Rayner Unwin (son of Stanley Unwin), the then MD, discovered my father's connection to FF Arbuthnot he gave him a first edition copy of the book from the company archive.

When the book was published in 1963, shortly after the *Lady Chatterley's Lover* trial, the standard cost for a hardback book was around 10s. Mr Unwin apparently commented that 10s was a "dirty book price" and *The Kama Sutra* was marketed at 42s.

I inherited the book when my father recently died and am happy to leave it to the club library when I pass on myself.

Simon FitzGerald Arbuthnot

## Tri clubs' party in the gardens

Members and guests from all three clubs around St James's Square came together for the annual tri clubs summer party in the gardens.

The East India Club contingent dominated the event, which transferred from the gardens, blessed with good weather, into the Smoking Room for a cold buffet.



## New members

The club welcomes the following:

M Ali Esq  
M Asad Esq  
D Calder Esq  
PR Cox Esq

CP Dean Esq  
AC Earle Esq  
Dr R Enstroem  
BWE Facer Esq

G Gagnon Esq  
I Jacob Esq  
SM Jago Esq  
DR Langham Esq  
P Larsson Esq  
PA Lawless Esq  
W Lumley Esq  
Dr KM May

C Molphy Esq  
TJ Mullins Esq  
A Nahmany Esq  
RE Owen Esq  
M Petram Esq  
BR Ryan Esq  
SR Sidwell Esq  
B Tan Esq

CC Tett Esq  
WP Tonks Esq  
KGM Von Mangoldt Esq  
J Waring Esq  
R Wollner Esq  
Dr AR Wordley

## New J7 members

The club welcomes the following:

**Bedford School**  
W Jewers Esq

**Dulwich College**  
JJ Price Esq

**Millfield School**  
CJ Stephens Esq

**University College School**  
CA Harris Esq

EJ Nicholson-Smith Esq  
Ms A Roe-Rever

**Canford School**  
HO Dodd Esq  
APG Hodgson Esq

**Eton College**  
AOA Soleye Esq

**Norwich School**  
MA Willgrass Esq

**Warwick School**  
JPS Cunliffe Esq

## Deceased

It is with regret we announce the deaths of the following members (with date joined):  
JD Bowie Esq (April 1975)  
JOD Camilleri Esq (April 2017)  
Mrs G Debenham-Taylor (January 1976)  
W MacKay Esq (January 1968)  
The Very Reverend D L Milroy OSB (February 1993)  
MR Steele-Bodger Esq CBE (January 1968)  
DJ Walker Esq (September 2003)  
TJ Walsh Esq (November 1989)  
P Warwick Esq (October 2013)

**Charterhouse**  
P Chorley Esq  
K Zhang Esq

**Fettes College**  
SH Ng Esq

**Oundle School**  
N Belenkov Esq

**West Buckland School**  
WS Mirza Esq

**City of London School**  
SJ Tomkinson Esq

**John Lyon School**  
PDS Kahai Esq

**Radley College**  
WLD MacMillan Esq

## Gone away

We have lost touch with the following. If you know where they are, please put them in touch with the secretary:  
LD Bearn Esq  
A Edwards-Bailey Esq  
T Grint Esq  
D Hall Esq  
JW Henrickson Esq  
C Langkamp Esq

**Colfe's School**  
CS Withers Esq

**Marlborough College**  
HKJ Clark Esq

**Reading Blue Coat School**  
WJ Edwards Esq

**St Paul's School**  
N Markantonis Esq  
DS Whitham Esq

**Tonbridge School**  
Z Nurzhanuly Esq

## Travellers Club, Paris

by Piers Millett

From the moment you wander off the Champs-Élysées into the Travellers Club you are in for a treat. This club is housed in the last *hôtel particulier* on what may well be Paris's most famous street. Staying there you are certainly in the thick of it. Paris is your proverbial oyster. The unassuming double green and gilt wooden doors hide an oasis of calm amongst the chaos. I will certainly be staying there again any time I find myself in town.

The Travellers Club, originally founded by a rogue set of London club regulars, offers the recognisable. There are wooden panelling, ornate iron lifts, tiled floors, and a

well-stocked bar (presided over by a friendly specialist able to converse fluently in either English or French). The bedrooms are well appointed, and spacious – incredibly so for central Paris – and seem to be undergoing modernisation and refurbishment. The crockery too sets one at ease. At a glance, its white and blue tones appear as familiar and comfortable as a well worked-in pair of shoes. It takes a keen eye to realise it is adorned by an unfamiliar crest.

There are other trappings, entirely at home in France, that may raise an eyebrow on St James's Square. Their armchairs are comfortable but cloth, rather than our old reliable leather club chairs. There was certainly more marble, gilt and carving than might be considered usual at home. It was a pleasant surprise, especially with a slightly sore head (that appeared out of nowhere and had absolutely nothing to do with the impressive wine list in the rooms) that breakfast is served in your room and until 10.30am.

Some experiences are a little more jarring for those used to the ways of our own retreat. Gentlemen using phones or computers are not an unusual sight. Seeing a lively American gentleman smoking a giant cigar at the bar was a surprise, when I happened to wander in looking for refreshment. However, the greatest change was the dining room. Of course, ours remains unrivalled. The food is excellent (I am led to believe) but as supper is only served one evening in the week, I was not able to partake myself. Nevertheless, the porter was able to suggest a bistro a couple of streets away, just out of the hustle and

bustle where, on entry, you are greeted by a parade of glass cases housing prime cuts of steak which seem to get older and more mature the further from the door you wander. That's another familiar feeling for the author.

It is also important to note that the Travellers Club's current premises, the Hôtel de la Païva, is a house with a history. It was built at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century by the infamous courtesan Esther Lachmann, better known as La Païva, and ultimately a Portuguese marchioness and a Prussian countess. It houses some historical points of interest, for example a spiral staircase carved from yellow onyx-marble. There is a matching bath tub (but not on the staircase I was relieved to hear). Fitting with the house's madame, and the decadence of the time, there is also reputedly a silver bath tub with a third tap able to fill it to the brim with Champagne. It was not in my room (La Païva), nor that of any of the other guests I met while there.

Thank goodness, imagine having to explain that bar bill.



Travellers Club interior



Le petit déjeuner

# 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 members' area of our website, 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
Detroit, IL	Athletic Club
Los Angeles, CA	Riviera Country Club
Mountain Lake, FL	Mountain Lake
Osterville, MA	Wianno Club (open May-Nov)
Minneapolis, MN	Minneapolis Club
New York, NY	Princeton Club Lotos Club Metropolitan Club Union League Club
Norfolk, VA	Norfolk Yacht & Country Club
Philadelphia, PA	Union League Club
Phoenix, AZ	☼ University Club
San Francisco, CA	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 website.