

Events

To book your own events at the club please contact banqueting@eastindiaclub.com

How to book the following events organised by the club:

Website

The easiest and quickest way to book an event is via the club website. Log in and visit the Book Events webpage.

Email

Alternatively, email secretary@eastindiaclub.com We will acknowledge your email booking request within two working days. Please contact us if you do not receive an email confirmation.

Telephone

Please call 0207 930 1000 to speak to a member of staff.

December

Tri clubs church service and Christmas party

*Tuesday 3 December
6.30pm church service
7.45pm party*

Up to seven guests per member

Tickets: £70 pp

Dress: lounge suits and cocktail dress

The club will be at home to members and their guests for the annual Christmas cocktail party. The evening starts with a carol service, mince pies and mulled wine at St James's Church, Piccadilly (6.30pm to 7.30pm), followed by a reception and buffet in the Smoking Room (7.45pm to 10.30pm).



Other Christmas carol services

The club chaplain is also chaplain of St Peter ad Vincula in the Tower of London, and the club lies within the parish of St James's Piccadilly, both of which hold carol and other services. Please book direct. For Sunday lunch reservations on those days, please book in advance with the Dining Room.

The Royal Military Chapel (The Guards Chapel)

*Sunday 8 December
11am Festival of lessons and carols*
To book, visit hdcarolservice19.eventbrite.co.uk

Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula, Tower of London

*Sunday 15 December
11am State carol service and/or 5pm carols by candlelight*
To book, email TowerOfLondonChapelAdministrator@hrp.org.uk

St James's Piccadilly

*Sunday 15 December
6pm Festival of lessons and carols*

January Wine tasting, an introduction

*Tuesday 14 January
6.30pm*

*Young members aged 18-34 only
Tickets: £30 pp, includes sandwiches
Dress: lounge suits*

For our young members only, this wine tasting offers an introduction to wines. Presented by club sommelier Eric Lagré, members will try a range of club wines through a blind tasting game. For dinner reservations afterwards, please book in advance with the Dining Room.



Casino evening

*Friday 24 January
7pm-11pm
Up to nine guests per member
Tickets: £60 pp*

Dress: black tie and cocktail dress



A fun evening of stud poker, roulette and craps, accompanied by a jazz band, with drinks, a buffet and prizes for the top three most successful players.

Young members' drinks

*Wednesday 29 January
7pm-8pm
Young members aged 18-34 years only
Tickets: free*

Dress: lounge suits
Hosted by the young members' committee, members aged 18-34 are cordially invited to a club social to meet fellow Eastindiemen. Drinks and canapés provided.



Burns' night

*Thursday 30 January
6.30pm for 7pm
Up to three guests per member*

*Tickets: £95 pp
Dress: black tie and cocktail dress*

The club's annual Burns' night supper, comprising traditional toasts, guest speakers and a fine meal for members and their lassies. Price includes wines and ports.



February Library lecture and dinner Charles Moore

*Tuesday 4 February
6.45pm for 7pm
Up to three guests per member*

Tickets: £75 pp, includes signed copy of Margaret Thatcher: The Authorised Biography Volume 3

Dress: lounge suits
Former editor and journalist, Charles Moore returns to the club to discuss the final part of his bestselling and definitive biography of Britain's first female prime minister. This volume tells the story of her last period in office, her combative approach to retirement and the controversy that surrounded her.



Member and daughter dinner

*Wednesday 12 February
7.15pm for 8pm
Up to five guests per member*

*Tickets: £60 pp, includes a photograph
Dress: black tie and cocktail dress*

An evening for members, wives and their daughters to come together for fine dining, with a guest speaker.



Rugby lunch England v Ireland

Friday 21 February
12.30pm for 1pm

Up to three prospective member
(gentlemen) guests per member
Tickets: £65 pp

Dress: lounge suits

Lunch with wine and port ahead of
the weekend's Six Nations' match at
Twickenham.



March

Rugby lunch England v Wales

Friday 6 March
12.30pm for 1pm

Up to three prospective member
(gentlemen) guests per member
Tickets: £65 pp

Dress: lounge suits

Lunch with wine and port ahead of
the weekend's Six Nations' match at
Twickenham.



Rugby Six Nations' match England v Ireland

Sunday 23 February
Kick off 3pm

Tickets: from £100 pp + £15 pp ballot fee
Optional coach with lunch, tea and matchday
programme £60 pp

Now ballotable via the club's website



Rugby Six Nations' match England v Wales

Saturday 7 March
Kick off 4.45pm

Tickets: from £100 pp + £15 pp ballot fee
Optional coach with lunch, tea and matchday
programme £60 pp

Now ballotable via the club's website



Young members' drinks

Thursday 27 February
7pm-8pm

Young members aged 18-34 years only

Tickets: free

Dress: lounge suits



Hosted by the young members' committee,
members aged 18-34 are cordially invited to
a club social to meet fellow Eastindiemen.
Drinks and canapés provided.

Jazz at No 16

Friday 28 February
7.30pm-10.30pm

Up to three guests per member
Tickets: £65 pp, include a buffet supper
with wine.

Dress: lounge suits

Jazz at No 16 returns with the Leon Greening
trio, featuring Terry Smith on guitar.



Gourmet dinner

Thursday 26 March

7.15pm reception

8pm dinner

Up to three guests per
member

Tickets: £115 pp

Dress: black tie and
cocktail dress

The wine committee presents a gourmet
dinner highlighting classic pairings of
traditional fare and fine wines. Menu by chef
de cuisine Mark Leach and wines presented
by Mark Pardoe MW.



Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race

Sunday 29 March

Auriol Kensington Rowing Club

1pm-9pm

Up to nine guests per member

Tickets: TBC



Dress: blazers
Watch the
Oxford and
Cambridge Boat
Race, over a

one-and-three-quarter-mile stretch of the

Thames, from Auriol Kensington Rowing Club.
Tickets include welcome aperitif, lunch and
access to the AK bar and roof terrace.

Library lecture and dinner Vincent Aiello, Jell-O

Tuesday 31 March
6.45pm for 7pm

Up to three guests
per member

Tickets: £62 pp

Dress: lounge suits

TOPGUN instructor

and air wing operation officer Vincent Aiello
talks about his 25 years in service with the
United States Navy, mainly flying F/A-18
Hornet and Super Hornet as well as the F-16
Fighting Falcon. Vincent accrued more than
3,800 flight hours and 705 carrier landings
during his service.



April

Young members' dinner

Thursday 2 April

7.30pm for 8pm

Young members

aged 18-34 years

and up to three

prospective

member

(gentlemen)

guests

Tickets: £50 pp

Dress: lounge

suit with school tie

The young members committee presents a
dinner for members aged 18-34.



St George's day dinner

Tuesday 23 April

7pm for 7.30pm

One prospective

member

(gentleman)

guest per

member

Tickets: £85 pp

Dress: black tie

The club will be holding a dinner to
commemorate St George's day.



Ascot Box

The Club's private box is available for
members to book the 26 meetings at

Available dates for the Ascot Box in 2020

8 May	Racenight	Flat	£655
16-17 and 20 June	Royal Ascot	Flat	£4,730
11 July	Family Raceday	Flat	£570
24 July	King George Weekend	Flat	£655
2-3 October	Ascot Beer Festival	Flat	£475
21 November	November Meeting	Jumps	£475

Ascot in the year. The box holds 12 for a
sit down meal and 18 for a buffet. More
details over the box are available at the
Membership Office.



East & West

Issue number 105 Christmas 2019



SMASHING



LEG-SLAPPING



STYLISH



STEADFAST



STEELY



The East India Club directory

The East India Club
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 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 2020)

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	£133 (€81*)
Single with small shower	£111 (€69*)
Single without facilities	£89 (€59*)
Double or twin room for single occ	£181
Double or twin room for double occ	£196
St James's Suite	£316

Reciprocal members & guests

Single ensuite	£177 (€112*)
Single with small shower	£155 (€98*)
Double or twin room for single occ	£222
Double or twin for double occ	£243
St James's Suite	£380

* 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



Decanter

£85



Cut glass tumbler

Engraved with club crest. £30

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

January 2020

- 14 Wine tasting, young members only
- 24 Casino evening
- 29 Young member drinks
- 30 Burns' night

February

- 4 Library lecture and dinner
- 12 Member and daughter dinner
- 21 Rugby lunch v Ireland
- 27 Young member drinks
- 28 Jazz at No 16

March

- 6 Rugby lunch v Wales
- 26 Gourmet dinner
- 29 Oxford & Cambridge boat race
- 31 Library lecture and dinner

April

- 2 Young members' dinner
- 10 Good Friday
- 13 Bank holiday
- 23 St George's day dinner

May

- 8 Bank holiday
- 13 AGM
- 25 Bank holiday

Christmas

The club closes for Christmas after lunch on Monday 23 December 2019 and re-opens at 9am on Thursday 2 Jan 2020.

Sunday lunch

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



East & West

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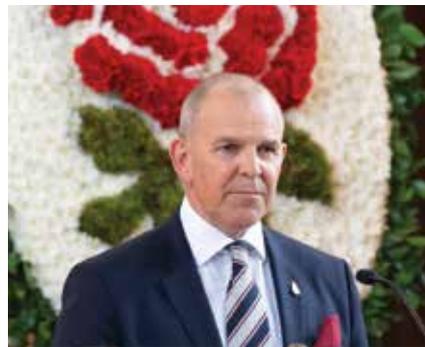
Published on behalf of The East India Club by Charlie Jacoby, c/o The East India Club
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Cover photo: view of the square from the club

A summer and autumn of outstanding sporting events helped fill the club and pleased the chairman. He also recalls the memorial for his father, attended by 200 club members, which continued into the early hours.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This is a special time to be an English sports fan, as we look back on the second half of 2019, with world cup final appearances as regular as the proverbial London bus. I was fortunate enough to be at Lord's on Sunday 14 July to witness that extraordinary match between England and New Zealand. Maybe not the pyrotechnics that one-day cricket has become known for



The chairman at his father's memorial

but, in terms of sheer excitement and nerve shredding tension, it was unforgettable.

And more recently, during the last six weeks, we have seen a great Rugby World Cup tournament from Japan, though it ended ultimately with disappointment for northern hemisphere rugby fans. There were many great matches but for me the two standout performances were Japan against Scotland in the pool stage and then England's win against New Zealand in the semi-final. As they look back on 2019 you can be sure that the men in black will be glad to see the back of England.

Among all the sporting headlines, it is now easy to forget that we also found time for an Ashes series and the club marked the occasion of the Lord's test by hosting an evening with David Gower. Organised by the library committee, a

full house enjoyed his stories of sharing a dressing room with Alan Lamb, Ian Botham et al and, as you would expect he was engaging company, even though he had to be on parade the next morning to honour his Sky Sports commitments. The test match coverage clearly showed that the Australians had plenty of travelling support and we were pleased to welcome our share with a good number of overseas and reciprocal members

staying in the club for extended periods. It led to many an interesting conversation on the respective merits of two evenly matched sides, whether at the club table or in the American Bar, and also contributed to some strong occupancy figures for the sometimes quiet summer months.

The memorial service for my father on Wednesday 4 September saw almost 200 East India members as part of the congregation of 500 at St James's Church on Piccadilly. It was a remarkable turn out for a 94-year-old, with attendees representing all facets of his long and eventful life. Thankfully it was an uplifting occasion with plenty of laughter and the reception which followed, taking over the entire front of the club, continued in a similar vein into the early hours. It was a fitting celebration of a life well lived and I received considerable feedback from members to the effect that the club had marked the event appropriately. On behalf of the family, I would like to thank the committee and all the staff involved in delivering such a memorable occasion.

The Lord Mayor's lunch was a great success and, as I write, the club is gearing up for the house dinner on Tuesday 12 November, which will offer members a final opportunity to acknowledge the passing of our life president. It promises to be a special evening.

In my last report, I commented upon the final stages of the room refurbishment programme that has been underway for some years in order to bring our accommodation up to scratch. Members and reciprocals alike

appear to recognise the improved quality and exceptional value. I can report that the most recent occupancy figures show a third consecutive record occupancy month in September.

This is good news and will, I hope, lay the foundations for a busy and profitable banqueting season which will include the tri clubs party and the carol concert, in the run up to Christmas. It is also appropriate to remind members that the year end is a time to show our appreciation for the staff who have looked after us with such dedication during 2019 by giving generously to the staff fund appeal.

Duncan Steele-Bodger, Chairman

“ An uplifting occasion with plenty of laughter... a fitting celebration of a life well lived ”

The golf courses of the west country welcomed EPICS this summer, and a series of matches in the south-east of England brought our golfers sporting highs and occasional lows

CREAM OF THE COURSES

by Ben Hurworth

Summer saw EPICS embark on their East Devon Tour. Patrick Duke organised a wonderful series of matches for our team of ten in Devon.

We first played a match against Lyme Regis GC at East Devon GC, a challenging and stunning course. We followed this with rounds at Thurlestone, Tiverton and finally Taunton and Pickering. Dinner at the Angel in Dartmouth was the culinary highlight.

At the autumn meeting at New Zealand GC, captain Ben Hurworth (32 points) edged Ziggy Siczko (31) into second place with David Brench (29) third. New member Mike Roberts won longest drive and John Luke nearest the pin. The captain and Mike Roberts won the afternoon foursomes.

Andrew Rudkin won his first EPICS event on count-back from Ray McGhee (both 36) with Rod Alexander (33) third at Captain's Day at New Zealand GC. Andrew also won nearest the pin with Paul Blows winning longest drive. In the final of the Millennium Cup, held on Captain's Day, Alan Botterill defeated Nick Owen.

We played five matches. Huntercombe GC is a new fixture on a beautiful course where we managed a draw. At Royal Blackheath GC, always an enjoyable occasion, tradition dictates that the match is a 'half'.

The Quadrangular match is now in its second year. Our team returned to Sandy Lodge GC to play against the Oriental, Reform and China Golfing Society. We finished a creditable second to the China GS who retained the trophy.

Our match against the Bar GS was halved as heavy rain meant that we didn't venture out after lunch. And we suffered a heavy defeat at Wrotham Heath GC in the morning foursomes match.



EPICS enjoying dinner at the Angel in Dartmouth

Sports Shorts

On your bicyclette

One week ahead of the race proper, club member Nigel Chapman completed the Tour de France course, 'le loop', in July. He raised money for the William Wates Foundation.



Sir John's medals

Auctioneer Spink offered Sir John Astley's medals earlier this year. Sir John founded the Sports Club, one of the East India's constituent clubs. We were outbid at the time. However, the successful bidder, delighted that Sir John's old club wanted his medals, recently offered them to us. A small band of members donated the necessary funds and we bought them. Members Jack West-Sherring and Robert Wilde-Evans have set up the three medals for display in the front hall.

Rowing

Pushing the boat out

by Mike Biggs, Benjamin Sherry and Rory Hunt

In early August we competed in the Henley Town & Visitors Regatta. Our first was against locals' Upper Thames in the band 1 open 2-. We were lucky to lead them the whole way and not have to



Club rowers line up at Henley



Silverware handed out at the annual dinner

sprint at the end to progress to the final. A few hours later we were side-by-side to UL Tyrian, which contained an ex-GB rower. Our lightweights would not go down without a fight and sprinted off the start to gain a length lead. With 100m to go UL started to move back and EIC responded. Well done to Benjamin Sherry and Joshua Tyrrell for winning the Blakeway Cup, the top event for open pairs at the regatta and our first 'elite' event win.

For more on rowing, see page 7.

Snooker

Zimmer frames

by Bernard Stirzaker

Aged 95, John Everest from the RAC still plays a fair game of snooker and billiards on a regular basis. Good luck to him and long may he continue. He was part of the RAC team that were worthy winners of the St James's Cup, played against the East India Club. The close match was hard fought and the final score was nine games to eight.

At the time of writing this article, the London clubs' singles handicap competition (Hoffman Cup) is moving towards the business end, with five players from the East India Club still participating. This is the second year of the competition and has attracted 54 participants.

After *East & West* went to press, the section was due to play the United Club of Guernsey at the East India Club, the RAC and the Stephens Green Hibernian Club in Dublin.

Internal competitions are being played, and Bryan Tan won the final against myself in the Devonshire Cup Scratch competition.

Polo

Club polo moves up a gear

by Dan Odutola

The polo governing body, SUPA/SAPA (part of the Hurlingham Polo Association), has voted to allow the club's polo section to compete in SUPA competitions as a 'university team' due to the high number of J7s in the section. Those of us who are not at university will be able to compete in SAPA competitions. This means all members who would like to compete against other clubs, irrespective of polo experience, will be able to.

Our polo lessons sell out quickly, thanks in part to our WhatsApp group. One of the Sunday lessons, at Conroy Polo, sold out hours after being announced.



A photo from a club polo outing

We held an end-of-season drinks reception in September. Staying on drink, the Ascot Beer Festival was a great way to watch the penultimate day of Ascot's flat racing season with almost 200 different real ales, ciders, perries and over 80 gins from around the world.

In November, we held an introduction to the rules of polo at the club, followed by drinks and canapés. We have also commissioned a bespoke East India Club Arg polo belt from Pampeano, available in 28in-42in at £45 for polo section members, £55 for section non-members.

I'm grateful to Ben Tangney and Daniel Drewek for helping out at different times, and the polo section now has its own organising committee. I would like to pay tribute to Harman Gill, who set up the polo section eight years ago.

The spectating trips were a fantastic foundation for the section and we wouldn't have been able to grow so quickly this year without his hard work. He has decided to move to a more passive role and I am grateful for the hard work and effort that he's put into the section.

In August, the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, invited us back to spectate polo in front of New College for now the seventh year running. We watched teams from RMAS, the Royal Navy and RAF. We will have a lot more trips to watch fellow EIC members play during the next 12 months.

For a short YouTube video about the East India Club v Durham University Polo Tournament, please visit [Bit.ly/eicpolo](https://bit.ly/eicpolo)

Sports Shorts

Shattering news

Our cricket team may have lost to Chobham but we inflicted structural damage to their clubhouse thanks to Freddie Ullmann's six, from the penultimate ball of the East India Club's innings. For more, see page 12



Rugby win

by James Hornigold

For our match against London Japanese, 28 players turned up, 18 of whom had not played for the club before. We won 46-24 in 26-degree heat. Both teams retired to the pub and all newcomers were bought pints by the other players. We also beat London Japanese at a 6 v 6 boat race. We will have a re-match in early 2020. Their captain says that this is his favourite match of the season.



Shot down

The editor (left) captained the club's shooting team to not quite bottom of the inter-club shoot at Holland & Holland Shooting School. Other club shooters are (left-right) Alexander James, Edward Sheasby and Alexi Samarenko. For more on shooting, see page 8.



Ascot

Ascot box dates

The club's box, number 447, is a wonderful way to entertain. It is available in 2020 on the following dates and prices per day (ex VAT). Catering costs are additional. The box holds 12 for a sit-down meal and 18 for a buffet. Please contact the membership secretary for more details.



The club's box at Ascot

8 May	Racenight	Flat	£655
16-17 and 20 June	Royal Ascot	Flat	£4,730
11 July	Family Raceday	Flat	£570
24 July	King George Weekend	Flat	£655
2-3 October	Ascot Beer Festival	Flat	£475
21 November	November Meeting	Jumps	£475



The view from the box

A visit to Warwickshire to one of the country's premier motor museums preceded the club's annual display of classic cars in St James's Square. Members and guests enjoyed remarkable examples of motoring genius before driving their own cherished cars to London.

MOTORING OVER THE CHILTERN

by Richard Muir Beddall

A group of 36 members, friends and family from the club's motoring section, accompanied by a member of our reciprocal club, Phyllis Court, gathered at the British Motor Museum at Gaydon in Warwickshire and enjoyed two informative tours of the main museum and the collections centre which adjoins it.

The museum started life as the British Motor Industry Heritage Centre in 1993. It offers a helpful archive service which provides copies of factory records for cars,



Motoring section members visit the British Motor Museum in Warwickshire, before driving their own cars to the club for dinner



Tyre kicker: the secretary eyes up a new set of wheels

As well as learning about many of the cars in the museum during our tours, the guides were full of interesting information about roads and driving – for instance, the name pothole came from the days when road surfaces were finished in clay and often members of the public would pinch handfuls of clay to make pots, thus creating potholes in the roads.



Sports cars caught the eyes of members



Set up by British Leyland, the museum now has a wide range of vehicles on display

known as heritage certificates which, as well as being useful to keep with a car's history documents, can also be of help when registering a car with the DVLA that has been imported or kept in a barn for a number of years.



Richard Muir Beddall's 1951 Bentley MkVI Sports Lightweight by HJ Mulliner

several royal vehicles, royal procession Land Rovers and interesting prototypes.

After a fascinating four hours or so at the museum, we departed individually down the M40 towards St James's Square. Wind and rain precluded our habitual walk round our static display of cars in the garden before dinner.

After champagne in the East India Room, we sat down to our black-tie dinner, at the end of which every owner was asked to stand and chat about their car. Some interesting stories were told, including the story that, when smuggling alcohol into Switzerland from the EU, Teslas are fitted with more secret compartments than other production cars.

The motoring section is for those members who love their car, regardless of age or make, and this was born out by the variety of cars which took part in this year's main event – from pre-war to brand new. The makes were Bentley, Aston Martin, Mercedes Benz, MG, Wolseley, Jaguar, Maserati, Alfa Romeo, Porsche and Tesla. One of the regular attendees, Terence Glossop, owns a 1992 Mercedes Benz four-door saloon which he has owned from new and was his everyday car. He loves it so much that he couldn't bear to part with it. That is the spirit of the membership of our section.



Members park their cars in the gardens

The club's watery activities come together as yacht squadron commodore Jim Miller swaps bowsprit for rod and heads to Alaska. There he encounters bears and boat planes.

UP THE CREEK

by Jim Miller, club yacht squadron commodore

Alaska has three million lakes, many connected to the Pacific or Barents by creeks and rivers, up which the Pacific salmon, including chum, sockeye, king and silver, swim to spawn in August and September. Down from the lakes come rainbow trout to feed on the salmon eggs.

Knowing nothing about the sport of flyfishing, I joined the club's flyfishing section to buy the section tie in order to up considerably my fishing standing. After advice from section chairman Peter Matthison, I contacted Robin Elwes, a top fly instructor at Farlows, on Pall Mall. Robin taught me to cast and set up my line for rainbow in Alaska. Through tangles and curses, Robin generously passed on his decades of knowledge.



The commodore's fishing party

Over the four days of fishing - for rainbow trout from a rowed inflatable on the Moraine River, for rainbow where the Kvichak River comes out of Iliamna Lake, and for silver salmon from aluminium speedboats on the Ekwok River - my guides and friends were so generous in accommodating my amateur style. It was a most splendid outdoors experience. I caught about 100 fish, the largest a chum salmon of about 25in caught by accident.



Fellow fishermen



The commodore on the Moraine River

Flyfishing report

The club outing to Ravensthorpe in September was on a hot and sunny day, so conditions not good for fishing. However, section chairman Peter Matthison enjoyed a red-letter day with a 12lb and three others in the 2lb 8oz range.

The next outing was to Adwell, with half a dozen members and friends attending. There was nice enough weather and usual coffee and biscuits served by the owner Tom Birch-Reynardson made a good start for the day. Everyone had fish, including some nice browns. Best fish was a rainbow of 3lb.

The bass fishing in Chichester Harbour in August with Salty Dog had to be cancelled due to winds of over 60mph. The club's flyfishing section will rearrange that for next year.

The annual dinner is on Saturday 29 February 2020 in the Clive Room.



Peter Matthison and his 12lb monster

Details of days available on the Loddon, which we share with the Lawyers' Fishing Club, will be out before the next edition of *East & West*. Once again, our thanks to Nick Marshall from the LFC for administering that so smoothly.

Rowing

Pulling hard

by Mike Biggs, Benjamin Sherry and Rory Hunt

The 2018-19 rowing season was the busiest since the section began competing in 2013. We had crews competing at the Head of the River Fours, Bedford Fours and Eights Head, Men's Head, Reading Amateur Regatta (RAR) and Henley Town and Visitors Regatta, as well as the prestigious Henley Royal Regatta (HRR). We have competed in all manner of boat classes including: 2x/2-/4-/4+/4x/8+. As you can see we have been extremely busy.

At HRR, we decided to go for the Britannia Challenge Cup for club coxed fours with a crew of Sam Hodgkiss, Thomas Rowe, Harry Bridges, Philip Lindqvist and Zac Wilde. Hon treasurer and coach Mike Biggs coached these boys up in Bedford and set a programme to get them fit.

The start of their racing was RAR in June but with Tom falling ill the night before we had to call hon secretary Benjamin Sherry up to race. Even with the sudden change they still managed to beat Oxford Academicals RC in the semi-final by 3½ lengths only to lose to a composed Bedford RC crew in the final.

A few weeks later Henley Qualifiers put us up against the best in the country. The lads showed a strong race but they were unable to qualify. They did qualify a composite crew in the Ladies' Challenge Plate: captain Rory Hunt, chairman Ron Collins and esteemed international cox Whitney Powell represented us. Our multinational "mega-crew" raced Oxford Brookes B, arguably one of the fastest five crews in the country, and rowed through them in the second half, in the process giving us our first race win at HRR. They then raced the famous Leander Club. Having tightened up their start sequence, they gave a good race to the barrier but the unity and experience of Leander managed to defeat our rowers.

At our September annual dinner, awards went to Sam Hodgkiss, Whitney Powell, Mike Biggs, Zac Wilde, Harry Bridges, Phil Lindqvist, and Martin Gwinnutt.

This shooting season saw club guns take to the field in the first 'introduction to gameshooting' day, held in Cambridgeshire. The club's shooting section holds all kinds of shoot days.

CLUB INTRODUCTION TO GAME SHOOTING

by Richard Hefford Hobbs

The first East India Club shooting section introduction to game shooting was held on Saturday 12 October at Wilobe Farm, the family home of the Newman family, in Pidley, Cambridgeshire.

Some 15 Eastindiemen, many of them J7s, and a handful of their guests were greeted by David Newman and the writer, who were the day's hosts. During the safety briefing and agenda for the day, the guests grazed on tandoori pheasant breast with bacon rolls from the farm.

So they could experience both shooting and beating, the guns were split in to two teams: standing guns and beaters. They gained a greater appreciation and a more rounded experience as they alternated between shooting and beating. Guns who needed it were assigned experienced



Boaz Levy (left) and Alexander Paraskeva

game shooters as mentors. The mentors consisted of four East Indiemen, experienced shots from Liverpool and two apprentice gunmakers, George Hobbs and Simon Witherall, who are under bursary from the Worshipful Company of Gunmakers.

Picking through the day was provided by Canine In-Tuition, a canine training company owned and operated by Lucy Tunstill, who brought eight gundogs and their handlers, some of whom had limited experience with driven game shooting. The day provided an ideal introduction to driven game shooting to them, too.

A game-themed elevenses punctuated what was an enjoyable start to the morning: pigeon, black pudding Scotch eggs, with quail egg, accompanied with partridge and juniper sausage rolls. All guns shot extremely safely



Line-up of guns at Wilobe Farm in Cambridgeshire, including 15 Eastindiemen

and confidently, and improved their gun craft through the day. Many shot their first game birds on the day. All those who shot game eagerly took the birds home to eat.

The day was brought to a close after seven drives with every member having had a shot or two at birds. The bar opened in the barn, and guns and their guests were treated to a gundog demonstration with water retrievers in the lake to the front of the barn.

Around 40 people sat for a supper of stew, cinnamon dumplings, and carrot and swede mash. All money raised was donated to the Gunmakers Company Charitable Trust, the charitable arm of the Worshipful Company of Gunmakers. To date the East India Club Shooting Section has raised a significant amount for the charity through the various events held.

Among other shoots, at the end of October, the club's shooting section enjoyed a 200-bird day at Stratfield Saye.

Upcoming events include:

Saturday 14 December 2019. Smallbore Range Day, London Bridge. £30 per person, additional shots can be purchased for a cost of £2 per ten rounds. Member Adam Rigby has organised for club members to attend another afternoon of target rifle shooting, at the conveniently located London Bridge Stock Exchange Rifle Club. The range boasts six 25m lane ranges, so members will have the opportunity to shoot with guns from air rifles to .36 black powder revolvers.

We have asked to have two to three tables at the club's sports dinner next year, which should be a repeat of a very successful event attended by many of the shooting section. Please look out for future emails regarding the event.

Date TBC 2020 Visit to Longthorne Gunmakers, Northampton courtesy of member Alan Green.

Aussie shooters' British tour

by Sanjay Bhattacharya

In July, club shooters from Australia visited the East India Club. The club's shooting section hosted 16 guests from the Adelaide Club and the Naval, Military & Airforce Club of South Australia. The trip had been in planning since April and included a week of activities for the guests, beginning with a trip to the Game Fair at Hatfield House, where falconry, best guns and expert gundogs were much admired. The following day, a group visited the Holland & Holland Shooting Ground, and had an enjoyable few hours tuition. The guests shot well though, due to a lack of driven game shooting in Australia, none of them had any experience shooting driven high clays. This was remedied with a long stay on the high tower. Next, we had an excellent tour of the Proof House. We are thankful to the Worshipful Company of Gunmakers for hosting this and a fascinating visit to the Long Room at Audley House, home to Purdey's, one of the true best gunmakers. The final event at the club was a marvellous game dinner, hosted in the Clive Room, which saw a good turnout from section members. The most memorable dish was undoubtedly a spiced squirrel soup, expertly prepared by the club kitchens. Our last expedition was a trip to Sandringham for the Holt's Charitable Shoot, in aid of the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, on a hot and sunny August morning. The East India team, made up of Sanjay Bhattacharya, Hugh MacGarvie, Peter Sharpe and Peter Tweddle, shot respectably throughout the day, coming middle of the pack with a score of 258/480, with the Adelaide Club on 214, and our friendly competition winners the Naval, Military and Airforce Club on 269. The trip was a huge success and we have received enthusiastic invitations to Australia, where shooting includes camels, kangaroos, wild pigs and a myriad of wild ducks, alongside excellent deer. We hope to plan a return trip next year.



Guns at Holt's charity clay shoot

For the hillwalking and mountaineering section, the west of Ireland produced challenging peaks, magnificent countryside, wild swimming and plenty of nightlife.

HILLWALKING IN IRELAND

by Raymond O'Malley

The September meeting of the hillwalking and mountaineering section was an unforgettable weekend in the west of Ireland which included four walks, a swim in the Atlantic, jaw-dropping views, delicious food, the odd pint of Guinness and great *craic*.

A better base than Westport, County Mayo, would be hard to find. Located on the edge of Clew Bay, close to Croagh Patrick, *The Irish Times* describes the small town well:



Connemara's Twelve Bens

"Westport is more than just a one-mountain town, blending as it does a brilliant stew of Georgian history, family-friendly amenities, bracing outdoor pursuits, vibrant nightlife and the odd show-stopping restaurant". In 2012, the town won the newspaper's award for the best place to live in Ireland. After a weekend in the town, it is difficult to argue with either of these assessments.

The group met at their hotel on a bright, autumnal Friday afternoon. The weather



Left-right: Will Tait, Christian Schaffalitzky, David Barker and the author

forecast necessitated an early start on Saturday morning if the summit of Slievemore were to be reached and enjoyed before the cloud shrouded it. After breakfast, the group drove over to Achill Island, heading for the Silver Strand of Dugort village at the eastern foot of Slievemore. On arrival, the sun was reflecting off the white-walled dwellings dotted along the beach, the sea was calm and the mountain set against a backdrop of blue. Ideal conditions. Boots on, the walkers headed off at 9am at varying speeds, up the eastern ridge towards the 671m summit. The views were breathtaking.

Suitably revived by a bowl of soup in the Beehive café in the village of Keel, the group headed to the western tip of Achill Island, and to Keem Bay via Achill-Henge.

The weather forecast, supported by a twinging knee led to the decision to replace the planned afternoon's ascent of Croaghau (688m) with a more leisurely walk up to a Second World War lookout tower (196m), past

a home of Captain Boycott (whose behaviour and surname provided the English language with the verb). The sea cliffs at Croaghau are the third highest sea cliffs in Europe.

On returning to the cars, we replaced boots with trunks and went for a swim in the refreshing waters of the Atlantic. After that momentary lapse of reason, it was almost time to head back to Westport for dinner. But only after a well-earned pint of Guinness. A lively dinner in Sol Rio, a Portuguese restaurant, was the ideal setting to share the high and low points of the day's adventures.

On Sunday morning, the group headed south from Westport into Connemara. The initial destination was the Connemara National Park, which involved a one-hour drive through magnificent, mountainous countryside; along rivers, loughs and Killary Harbour, a glacial fjord. Due to drizzle, we decided to head to Cleggan Bay, for a 6km walk along the coast under bright skies. The views from the signal tower (146m) on Knockaunbaun were stunning, with clear views out to the islands.

By the time the group returned to the park, the skies had cleared and Diamond Hill called, siren-like. At 446m, the summit promised great views of the Twelve Bens, and of the Maumturk Mountains, both possible destinations for next year's visit to Mayo. One hour's walking along a marked path and the views from the summit did not disappoint.

Over another excellent dinner at Cian's, a short walk from the hotel, the group reflected on the weekend. All had contributed to make the trip the success it was, as would be expected of Eastindiemen, and all agreed to form the nucleus of what we hope will be a larger group for next year's hillwalking and mountaineering section weekend trip to the west of Ireland.

All that was left was to have a nightcap in the Porterhouse Bar, which was full of bursting with Irish folk singing in full swing.

Grouse dinner

The kitchen dazzled once again, producing more than 80 perfectly cooked grouse for diners at the club's annual grouse dinner.

After toasting the chef for this remarkable feat, members and guests listened to speaker James Gray MP, a sportsman through and through, and regular guest of Ron Rosner at the dinner.

His appearance in doubt due to the, then, impending election announcement, James talked about the perils of politics, including the 700 hours of debate that led to foxhunting being banned, which



James Gray MP talks to members about the battle for countryside in Parliament

he fought hard against - and which makes the (time of writing) 200 hours spent on Brexit seem paltry. James pointed out that, if



Chef produced 80 perfectly-cooked grouse in a display of Hogwarts-style banqueting

the Labour Party's plans for groushooting are made law, there will be no more grouse dinners, which rattled members.

As hoped and expected, the memorial service and reception afterwards at the club to celebrate the life of Micky Steele-Bodger was well attended and thoroughly fitting. It started in St James's, Piccadilly, and moved to the club for the evening with, at peak, 500 people.

MICKY'S MEMORIAL

When Micky first entered the club as a member in 1968, could he have known that 51 years later, his life would be celebrated by many of the members in St James's, Piccadilly, and that the evening afterwards would be so memorable?

He would certainly not have thought so, but as the club became one of his life's works, perhaps, in later years, he might have imagined so.

The service was led by the Rev Lucy Winkett, with eulogies by former club chairmen Iain Wolsey and John Wood. They both gave warm tributes to Micky, as did Micky's two sons, Duncan and Guy, and a reading and tribute from his daughter, Clair. Former RFU secretary Dudley Wood's dry account of his long term friendship with Micky produced laughter from the pews.

From the church, around 500 people made their way to the club 100 yards away, for an evening to celebrate the life of the man that, more than most, means we can call ourselves Eastindiemen.

Micky Steele-Bodger was born 4 September 1925 and died 8 May 2019, aged 93.



Dudley Wood and former England prop Jeff Probyn in the club after the service



Left-right: Brothers Duncan and Guy Steele-Bodger greet former All Blacks fullback John Gallagher



The service was packed with members and old friends, especially from the world of rugby



David Cartwright (left) talks to Andy Macdonald



The bust of Micky looks on during the reception



Duncan Steele-Bodger (left) and John Monk



Dudley Wood talks, much to the enjoyment of the club chaplain (centre) and Rev Lucy Winkett



The queue to get into the club after the service



Clair Webb gives her tribute to her father

Chaplain's tribute

The death of Micky Steele-Bodger is a blow not only to his family but also to the East India Club where he has been an inspiration and a legend. We all pray that 'he rests in peace and rises in glory'. His memorial service at St James's, Piccadilly, was a fitting tribute to a man loved and respected by us all. His death is a timely reminder that we don't live forever. What we make of our life and how we use the time we are given, is often not something that we ourselves see but others see in us, or not. I smiled recently at a well retired priest friend who lives in Edinburgh. He said: "I'm waiting for the last bus Roger". Like Micky, he gave as much in old age as he did before retirement. Making the best of life is a gift given to us all.

Canon Roger J Hall MBE, club chaplain

The gentle clop of leather on willow characterised much of the summer at the club, though when it came to our own outdoor barbecue, the clatter of rain on pavement drove us indoors.

SMASHING CRICKET MATCH

Victory appeared within grasp but did not come the way of the club's cricket side in its annual match for the Turnbull Cup at Chobham. Club chairman Duncan Steele-Bodger cheered on both sides, as he is also president of Chobham Cricket Club. Heavy rain in the morning cleared for a thoroughly enjoyable day in the sun. The highlight was a six by Freddie Ullman that smashed a window in the clubhouse.



Duncan hands over the cup to the home captain



Chobham's batting in action



The club team with captain and section chairman Ed Case, front row centre

Cricket

David Gower to dinner

We will miss the honeyed voice of cricket on Sky Sports, David Gower, after he was retired by the network in September. The club welcomed him in August, when the clubhouse was well populated by Australian reciprocals, over to see their country retain the Ashes. Members, reciprocals and guests thoroughly enjoyed his 'library lecture', which included stories from his playing days in the 1980s. The following morning, he was on duty commenting on the second Ashes test at Lord's.



David Gower in full flow



Cricket enthusiasts in the Smoking Room

Indoor barbecue

Members and guests came to the club in the summer for the annual barbecue. Normally held in the gardens, a rare bout of torrential rain drove the party indoors - an operation well managed by the staff. The evening included a band and buffet in the Smoking Room, and members spilled over into other rooms nearby, too.



Music in the Smoking Room



Members line up with David during drinks



Members enjoy the talk



Members and guests in the Library

The club's library committee held two significant 'library lectures', one by former newspaper editor Sir Max Hastings and the other by historian and TV presenter James Holland.

THE DAMBUSTERS STORY

On the night of 16-17 May 1943, a squadron of RAF bombers led by Wing Commander Guy Gibson, attacked dams in the Ruhr industrial heartland of Germany. Operation Chastise used 'bouncing bombs' conceived by the British engineer Barnes Wallis to evade the dams' defences. Two of those dams - the Möhne and the Eder - were breached. Of the 133 men who set off that night, 53 died and another three were taken prisoner. Meanwhile around 1,300 people were killed by the flood waters.



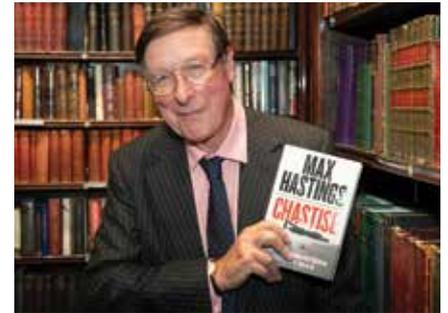
Sir Max talks to members



He counted them in... Sir Max gives his lecture to a packed Smoking Room

Journalist and historian Sir Max Hastings came to the club to give his account of this operation, out now in his new book *Chastise*. Sir Max served as editor-in-chief of the *Daily Telegraph* and editor of the *Evening Standard*.

Sir Max explains in his book how the RAF figured out back in 1937-38 that if it were possible to destroy the Ruhr industry's water supplies, it would strike a devastating blow at the heart of Nazi industry. Air force boffins knew they wanted to do it but they didn't know how. Then Arthur Collins discovered that if you placed it right up against the dam wall, a much smaller charge could break the dam. He thought that about 6,000lb-7,000lb of explosive might do the business, and the Avro



Chastise is available from bookshops priced at £25

Lancaster, the new heavy bomber, might be able to carry that. But how did you deliver that charge right up against the dam wall? It took Barnes Wallis's ingenuity to bounce the depth charge across the water.

THE BATTLE FOR FRANCE

If you thought everything that could be written about D-Day has been written, think again. Second World War historian James Holland presents an entirely new perspective on one of the most important moments in recent history, and he came to the club to present the findings of his new book, *Normandy '44*.



Author James Holland explains allied strategy and Nazi defence in 1944



After dinner in the East India Room, James took questions from members and guests

D-Day and the 76 days of bitter fighting in Normandy that followed have come to be seen as a defining episode in the Second World War. Its story has been endlessly retold, and yet it remains a narrative burdened by both myth and assumed knowledge.

In this reexamined history, James Holland presents a broader overview, one that challenges much of what we think we know about D-Day and the Normandy campaign. The sheer size and scale of the allies' war

machine ultimately dominates the strategic, operational and tactical limitations of the German forces.

This was a brutal campaign. In terms of daily casualties, the numbers were worse than for any one battle during the First World War. James Holland forensically navigates each aspect of this complex campaign.



Normandy '44 is available from bookshops priced at £25

A London property professional by day, when Julian Evans wants to feel on top of the world, he straps on crampons and starts climbing. He has recently returned from a charity fundraising trip to climb Mount Everest, and is not far short of the 'True Adventurers' Grand Slam'.

Julian Evans

Club member Julian Evans summited Mount Everest this year as part of the Explorer's Grand Slam. He approached from the north side in queues. In one of the deadliest seasons since 1996, a team he was working with lost a member. Following a 35-hour round trip from Advanced Base Camp, Julian successfully made it back down.

As well as the climber congestion, Julian overcame tough weather conditions of minus 45-degree centigrade temperatures and storms. He was guided by Sean James, and the expedition group's lead Sherpa Lakpa, who ensured safe passage for the team in the face of the conditions and a tight summit window.

"Throughout the expedition we were brilliantly guided by Sean James and Lakpa," he says. "The death zone was incredibly nerve-wracking and there were sadly fatal casualties, with our thoughts going to the families of those who lost their lives, including a lost kindred spirit from a close associate team.

Of the final climb, he says: "Storms ripped through tents at high camp, climber congestion at step 2, and sadly deaths, made for a torrid and difficult night."

"Despite the difficult conditions, it is

incredibly satisfying and a great adventure to conquer some of the world's greatest exploration challenges while raising money for worthy causes."

Resident of Oakham in Leicestershire and head of healthcare at property consultant Knight Frank, Julian's ascent raised more than £300,000 for the Matt Hampson Foundation. Julian aims to complete the True Adventurers' Grand Slam and raise more than £1 million for charity.

The True Adventurers' Grand Slam is an adventurer's challenge to reach the north and south pole and climb the 'seven summits', the highest peak on every continent. It has only been completed by 15 people in the world. Following Mount Everest, only Aconcagua in Argentina and Carstensz Pyramid in Indonesia remain left for Evans to conquer. He has raised nearly £1 million for charity through his other expeditions.

The Matt Hampson Foundation was founded by former England rugby player Matt Hampson after he suffered a catastrophic spinal injury playing rugby. It provides advice,

support, relief and treatment for anyone suffering serious injury or disability which has arisen from any cause, but in particular from participation in or training for any sport.

Julian's fundraising enjoyed significant backing from the property and healthcare industries. His lead sponsor is Caring Homes Group. Others include Runwood Homes, Maria Mallaband, Porthaven, Hadrian Healthcare,

Avery Healthcare, BondCare, Barchester Healthcare, Hallmark Healthcare, New Care and Advinia. Julian is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, member of the Alpine Club and member of the Explorers Club. He has been a member of the East India Club since 2009.

"I've commuted from Rutland to London for almost 20 years," says Julian. "The club has been brilliant as a second home and helped me navigate a busy schedule. The great thing is the charm and heritage the club retains plus the staff are fantastic".

Fellow member Lee Farmer who instigated our hillwalking and mountaineering section and who was the 25th Briton to complete the '7' congratulates Julian as there is "nothing easy about what he has done".

For more, go to Julian-Evans.co.uk

“ Storms that ripped through the tents at high camp made for a torrid and difficult night ”



Julian on Everest, earlier in 2019

Eastindiaman

Board games

As members duel for the club at chess, battle at backgammon, and even take on the more cerebral card games, congratulations to the two members snapped in the Smoking Room playing Monopoly. Perhaps it's because Piccadilly, Regent Street and Mayfair are on our doorstep.



The war and revolution that swept continental Europe during the 20th century nearly brought an end to port production. Head sommelier Eric Lagré drives up the Douro Valley to look at the latest stage of the rescue, led by legendary winemaker David Guimaraens and his family.

THE SUSTAINABLE GREATNESS OF PORT

by Eric Lagré, head sommelier

Last September, Mentzendorff invited me to Portugal to visit the facilities of the Fladgate Partnership (TFP), owners of Taylor's, Fonseca and Croft. The tour of the vineyard at Quinta da Roêda under the guidance of technical director and head winemaker David Guimaraens alone made it worth the long delay at the airport and my car sickness along the winding roads of the Douro Valley where port is grown. David presented viticulture to our small group of UK trade people, not simply as a technicality but as the cornerstone of his vision. We were enthralled.

David drew our attention to orderly rows of vines on terraces supported by dry stone walls. The Douro is indeed a hot-climate example of mountain viticulture. The higher upriver the vineyard, the more arid the climate. If the steep slopes make life difficult for growers, they are not without advantages, letting you play with location, aspect and altitude to bring the best out of the many grape varieties that constitute a port blend. "Terroir," sighs David, before explaining how the phylloxera crisis of 1865 came so close to obliterating the concept. Those traditional terraces where we were standing were built in the aftermath, in a time of rationalisation.

So, why plant several grape varieties together in a seemingly random fashion? Was multiple planting a form of blending in the vineyard or was there more to it?

This knowhow got lost as many skilled workers fled the Douro over the period of social and political unrest that led to the revolution of 1974. This exodus forced David's dad Bruce to turn from simple négociant for his family firm of Fonseca, downriver in Oporto, into a farming landowner. Firstly, in order to make terraces compatible with mechanisation, he had the hillsides blasted with dynamite and the rubble bulldozed. Unfortunately, the sides of the earth banks became alive with weeds. This led him to spraying with herbicides. Vine density was reduced and what was saved on labour was lost in profitability. More dramatically, each vineyard plot was planted with the one single grape variety that would deliver maximum fruit quality. Block planting ended up relying on no more than six 'carefully' selected cultivars. While production improved, vintage port was at risk of losing its soul through standardisation. As David puts it: "What vintage port requires is not consistency, it is greatness."

David introduced us to the St-Gorges plot, the design of which won TFP the EBS Biodiversity Prize in 2009. The earth bank



The owner's daughter scrapes the precious juice off Eric's legs before stepping out of the lagar

terraces are narrower and the use of laser technology allowed the top surface to be inclined inwards at a three-degree angle to act as a gutter in heavy downpours. One row of vines stands on the outer edge, leaving plenty of space for a tractor to trim the grass left to grow along the sides when the vine is in dormancy. Not only does this eliminate the need for herbicides but it helps fight erosion. We tasted grape berries along the way to get a sense of what each cultivar contributes to a blend. David has up to 14 varieties in small blocks across a single plot. Since one plot equals one lagar full of one day's worth of picking, blending happens in the lagar where the grapes are co-fermented. TFP uses foot treading for all its top ports (including the Fonseca LBV we list), which led David to conclude: "automated solutions exist but why change what works? Our energy is best spent on restoring sustainability and vine diversity in the vineyard."

A message from the Pigeon Loft

by Alan Taylor

About 30 years ago, when he had recently become a member of the club, this pigeon-lofter spent the first part of his Berlin school summer holiday on the Costa del Sol. At the end of this he set off on a Sunday morning by taxi to Malaga airport for his trip to London. His taxi and another he was closely following were in the fast, outside lane when, without warning, a car pulled out in front of them. Both taxis struggled to keep control of their vehicles, passing each other as they did so. At last they stopped at the central barrier and, as neither car had suffered serious damage, they decided to continue with their badly shaken passengers to the airport.

Reaching the club, the pigeon-lofter had only a headache to remind him of his adventure. He decided to take dinner in the East India Room, where the only other member present was the then chairman Micky Steele-Bodger. The pigeon-lofter introduced himself and made light of that morning's accident with the words: "Have you ever done a 'dos-e-dos' in a Spanish taxi?" The chairman chuckled and asked for the story. This done, the pigeon-lofter sat down at his own table and ordered dinner. A few minutes later Micky, having finished, got up to leave the room. He stopped at the pigeon-lofter's table and said: "I've been thinking this over. I don't think you should do it again. It might be dangerous."

After a restless night and still not in good form the pigeon-lofter extended his stay by another night. While his room was being made ready he strolled up and down the corridor beside the club offices. A member of staff approached him and said that a more comfortable room on the second floor towards the front of the club would be at the pigeon-lofter's disposal the whole day. And there he stayed enjoying the comfort, the refreshments and peace and quiet on offer. Although Micky's name was not mentioned, he was clearly behind all this. It was an example of the generosity and kindness shown to everyone in the club during his many years in office. How we miss him.

Encouraging bright stars of catering, the club supports apprenticeships through Westminster Kingsway. One of our three current apprentices is Jack Clarke who has been working at the club for two years and is now in the last year of his apprenticeship.

STAFF PROFILE

Jack Clarke



To run one of the most thriving kitchens in London, you need to foster talent. Head chef Mark Leach makes sure he does that with close ties to London's premier catering college, Westminster Kingsway.

Jack Clarke from Reigate is the latest in a long line of young chefs to serve his apprenticeship in the club's kitchens. He came to the club in 2017 and is now in the last year of his apprenticeship.

Jack is doing a diploma with the Royal

Academy of Culinary Arts, equivalent to a BTEC, facilitated through Westminster Kingsway. From school, Jack could choose between catering courses in London and Bournemouth. He chose Westminster Kingsway after attending its Young Chefs' Academy, a Saturday school for 13-to-16-year-olds offering tuition and a certificate on completion. "It was when I went there I decided I wanted to become a chef," he says. "I had been doing A-levels and I realised I didn't want to go to university."

Westminster Kingsway offers apprenticeships from level 2 intermediate, where students learn to be a commis or production chef, through level 3 advanced, which teaches how to be a chef de partie, up to level 4 higher for senior chefs, as well as apprenticeships in general hospitality.

A commis chef is the most common starting position in many kitchens and in principal the most junior culinary role. A commis chef prepares food and carries out basic cooking tasks under the supervision of a more senior chef. The primary objective of the commis chef is to learn and understand how to carry out the basic functions in every section of the kitchen.

“ I take the basics that I learn at the club, add them to what I learn in college, and I can take both away and do what I want to do ”

A production chef works as part of a team in time-bound and often challenging kitchen environments: for example, schools, hospitals, the armed forces, care homes and high street casual dining or pub kitchens.

A chef de partie is responsible for running a specific section of the kitchen, for example, sauces, pastries or fish. This is why the job is sometimes called a station chef or line cook. This type of chef usually manages a small team of workers, which they must keep organised so that dishes go out on time and the work area remains clean and orderly.

"I learn modern contemporary cuisine at college," says Jack. "I take the basics that I learn at the club, add them to what I learn in college, and I can take both away and do what I want to do."

Jack's first ambition is to travel and cook. He wants to visit Asia. "When I get back, I will go for a job in a hotel or a club," he says.

"I had no idea about clubland before I came to the East India," he says. "People in my class are serving apprenticeships in the Garrick and Boodles. One member of my class is working for Galvin La Chapelle."

"Catering at the East India Club is more classical than at a starred restaurant. That suits me for now. I learn a lot here. There are things I have learned here that people in my class do not know how to do, like filleting fish and butchery. They spend too much time doing 'fusion food!'"

Staff qualifications



Hall porter Jojo Luarca is awarded his degree in mechanical engineering at the University of East London



Head of bars and banqueting Farid Gaouir achieves his foundation degree in event management at the University of West London

A WORD FROM THE SECRETARY

by Alex Bray



Tucked away and out of sight, an interesting piece of furniture has been restored and is now displayed in the Waterloo Room. It is a

George IV rosewood and parcel gilt games table, circa 1800. The complex folding circular baize-lined top encloses a brass-banded compartment with an arrangement of internal flaps forming various gaming boards. The lowest tier has brass-lined wells and painted and engraved ivory panels, but sadly without any of the original counters or pieces. The whole is within an ebonised reel edge on a turned and foliate carved baluster stem, thought to be teak, with a chequer-banded tricorne platform and winged lions paw feet. Just occasionally we are asked about a card table for a social game and so, with a bit of care, members can enjoy using the baize for its specific purpose.

Another object of interest is the cricket bat signed by both teams playing in the 1946-47 Ashes series in Australia. Located in the American Bar, library committee chairman and cricket enthusiast St John

Brown has documented the signatures for the record.

I am pleased to report that a group of members interested in military matters were successful in securing the medals of Sir John Astley, founder and president of the Sports Club, awarded for his part in the Crimea campaign (see page 4).

We welcome James Neil who has started as our part-time librarian, usually working on a Tuesday 10am to 4.30pm. James has taken over from Jane Trodd who, after nearly three-and-a-half years took additional hours in one of her other employments. We thank Jane for the work she did to maintain and improve the club's library, which is increasingly enjoyed by members.

From a visit to Bentley Priory it became apparent that there were several East India RAF squadrons. We have on display the crest of 146 Squadron and an enquiry to the air historical branch has confirmed the other squadrons as 65, 92, 123 and 149.

It would be tremendous if a member has a contact at the College of Arms to help with presenting the additional squadron crests in time for a flying-related lecture event on Tuesday 31 March 2020.

I am delighted to highlight the following long serving staff: Rizwan, from accounts and a duty manager for 20 years, and Querubin known as Junior, breakfast head waiter, for ten years. In addition, we congratulate head of bars and banqueting Farid for achieving his foundation degree in event management and thank him for inviting me to his graduation, and to hall porter Jojo for being awarded his degree in mechanical engineering.

For the current busy dining season, the wine committee recommends that a vintage port from the club's cellars be available at an advantageous by-the-glass price in the Dining Room.

Do not forget that there are bottles of vintage port, club wines and the club gins available from the American Bar for off sale in presentation boxes.

In closing, long membership pins continue to be eagerly collected and, in future, we will keep up with the anniversary for members passing the milestones of 20, 30 and 40 years continuous membership by writing to eligible members once a year in the spring.

Wishing one and all a most enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

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 online 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.

Does the East India Club have charitable aims? The answer is no – but there are exceptions. It donates to charity in a number of ways and based on the interests of members.

THE CLUB AND CHARITIES

The club has informal relationships with all kinds of charities. Unlike a city livery company, which has formal charitable aims, most London clubs, including the East India Club, are primarily social and for the benefit of members.

There are exceptions. One of the club's regular charitable donations is to the Lord Mayor's Appeal. That is one of the reasons the Lord Mayor makes luncheon at the East India Club one of his or her few annual

She Can Be and City Giving Day. It has its own charity partners; Place2Be, OnSide Youth Zones and Samaritans.

Caroline Wright, chief executive of the Lord Mayor's Appeal Charity says: "Our partnership with Place2Be will enable the delivery of a transformational mental health programme in 180 schools in London, our partnership with OnSide will enable them to build five new state of the art Youth Zones in areas of high deprivation in London,



Club members donate food items for the Tower Hamlets food bank at the harvest festival service at St Peter Ad Vincula in the Tower of London



The Lord Mayor takes his place as members prepare to enjoy the Lord Mayor's Luncheon

calendar events – and it is a lunch enjoyed by more than 100 every year. This year, the Lord Mayor's Appeal ambition and commitment is to create 'a better city for all'. The appeal aims to develop the Lord Mayor's four 'thought leadership initiatives' under the headings: Power of Inclusion, This is Me,

and our partnership with Samaritans has enabled the development of a revolutionary online wellbeing programme for employees in London and beyond. That is why your donation is so important to the appeal."

Many of the club's sporting sections have chosen charities, too. The flyfishing section

has, for many years, supported Second Chance, which started in 1984 as 'Foster An Angler' for under-privileged children, and has now grown into a charity that still takes youngsters fishing and uses the medium of this popular leisure time activity to establish links and lines of communication between the youngsters and the volunteer adults, and to give children a sense of achievement, confidence and a social understanding. The flyfishing section buys and donates a fishing rod to a the House of Lords annual charity auction.

More recently, the shooting section has been supporting the work of the Gunmakers Company Charitable Trust, the charitable arm of the Worshipful Company of Gunmakers, which offers bursaries to gunmaking and gunsmithing apprentices. The Heritage Craft Association has identified gunmaking skills as an endangered craft.

Weld Club

The arrival of the Weld Club on our reciprocals list in 2008 led to a request for an East India Club shield to display on their wall. Overseas member David Hudson from Australia kindly handed it over, here pictured with Weld club president Michael Snell. The Weld Club is a gentlemen's club in Perth, Western Australia, founded in 1871 by members of the establishment of Perth. It was named after the then governor of Western Australia, Sir Frederick Weld who was the first patron. It is located at the corner of the Esplanade and Barrack Street in Perth.



CALL IN THE ARMY

Military exercise



In this photo sent in by member Rob Farrow, young member Officer Cadet Alex Scott takes a break from manoeuvres in true East India fashion. If you are a young member interested in joining the military, Alex and Capt Max Kuhnke are available for advice. Please contact the secretary for details.

New members

The club welcomes the following:

AG Anthony Esq	K Edgeley Esq
J Broughton Esq	PN Ferrier Esq
AR Brumwell Esq	1 Ltn N Ferronato
NF Buffin Esq	K Flannery Esq
Capt AFG Buttery	DJ Fletcher Esq
R Davis Esq	JM Foster Esq
E Denning Esq	MR George FCA FCCA Esq
SP Dwelley Esq	C Hall Esq

Prof T S Hansen
C Harrowing Esq
RC Hayes Esq
CP Hopkins Esq
CJ Horler Esq
Col T W House (rettd)
PJ Jardine Esq
P Kansal Esq
Dr DA Kobal
D Koppel Esq

JXZ Lang Esq
R Maffei Esq
S McGregor Esq
DC Mitchell Esq
SAR Moore Esq
HOJ Morad Esq
C Moran Esq
EW Owen Esq
C Partassides Esq
R Ranganathan Esq

JR Simpson Esq
H Singharay Esq
J Smith Esq
SJ Thomas Esq
JRS Tubb Esq
AH Watson Esq
CJ Webster Esq
SJ Williams Esq
LA Winter Esq
Dr K Yan
HA Zimnoch Esq

New J7 members

The club welcomes the following:

Ardingly College

EG Allan Esq
WGE Buchanan Esq

Bedford School

A Bhamra Esq

Berkhamsted School

OJ Collett Esq

Bloxham School

PG McDonnell Esq

Bolton School

HJ Webb Esq

Brentwood School

A Seaton Esq

Bromsgrove School

GG Leversha Esq

Bryanston School

ECM Fitzwilliams Esq
F Frostwick Esq

Canford School

ME Bryan Esq

Charterhouse

ER Halford Esq
MA Monnoo Esq

Cheltenham College

J Dell Esq

City of London School

JJ Hodgkinson-Toay Esq
DL Taylor Esq

Clayesmore School

EAW Haines Esq

Clifton College

O Lambo Esq

Colfe's School

H Rockall Esq
MAJ Walker Esq

Dulwich College

PS Marc Esq
FAF Schneideman Esq

Eastbourne College

JA Holman-Dine Esq

Elizabeth College

J Goss Esq

Ellesmere College

SB Admiraal Esq
SR Phillips Esq

Eton College

ATD Chak Esq
C East Esq
A Pappalardo Esq
JCD Quillen Esq
CD Schick Esq
DL Wong Esq

Forest School

A Deslandes-Gayle Esq

Framlingham College

RE Pearson-Shaul Esq

Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School

BGL Levy Esq
A Misra Esq
G Sinha Ray Esq

Haileybury

J Reed Esq

Hampton School

JPW Lea Esq

Harrow School

A Chan Esq
FG Hall Esq
J Holmes Esq
L Palazzo Esq

Highgate School

A Constantinou Esq
E Dhanowa Esq

Hurstpierpoint College

TAG Fisher Esq
S Taite-Ellis Esq

King Edward's School (Birmingham)

A Aulak Esq

King's College School (Wimbledon)

NRJ Ashworth Esq

King's School (Canterbury)

SC Poole Esq
EJ Streeter Esq

Leys School

BDF Findlay Esq

Loretto School

CA Sinclair Esq

Marlborough College

JF Kirkwood Esq
AW Pugh Esq

Merchiston Castle School

P Reid Esq

Michaelhouse

TT Maenetje Esq

Mill Hill School

JB Cohen Esq

Oakham School

EJ Leadley Esq

Perse School

WJC Laing Esq

Portsmouth Grammar School

AJGA Benali Esq

Queen's College (Taunton)

M Sydes Esq
AW Wilcox Esq

Radley College

JEA House Esq
WCO House Esq
CEW Robertson Esq

Repton School

G Shirley Esq

The Royal Hospital School

N Paddon Esq
T Paddon Esq
N Sims Esq

Sherborne School

V Hagg-Davies Esq

Shrewsbury School

ERM Williams Esq

St Columba's College (St Albans)

JS Leming Esq

St Edward's College

RA Mackay Stewart Esq

St Paul's School

TDT O'Driscoll Esq
EM Sharma Esq
L Tanner Esq

St Peter's School

PAA Herrenschmidt Esq
AIV Phillips Esq

Stonyhurst College

JD Kinney Esq
JJ Klose Esq
CMV Stiens Esq

Tonbridge School

W Shields Esq

University College School

W Hainsworth Esq

Wellington College (Berkshire)

O Glover Esq
CTC Hung Esq
TOM Reader Esq

Wells Cathedral School

JHA Ward Esq

Winchester College

KX Amin Esq
A Luerojvong Esq
TR Marcotty Esq
MH Unwin Esq

Wrekin College

EJP Evlyn-Bufton Esq
CJ Walsh Esq

Yarm School

AHM Leith-Ross Esq
D Viswanath Esq

Introduced or by interview rule 14c

E De Figueiredo Esq
ES Mackay Esq
F Parker Esq
HJ Garbutt Esq
HP Dyason Esq
FHD Bentley Esq
SJ Rac Esq

Deceased

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

A Glanville Esq
(joined 24/01/1955)

DJS Hamlyn Esq
(joined 28/01/2015)

D Henderson Esq
(joined 01/04/1950)

CF Herzberg Esq
(joined 01/01/1948)

SG Hope Esq
(joined 01/01/1961)

J Irwin Esq
(joined 23/05/1979)

Sir D Maddison
(joined 08/12/1999)

CJ Neal Esq
(joined 25/01/2017)

AD Tew Esq
(joined 01/01/1955)

Gone away

The club has lost touch with the following:

M Cameron Esq

APH Cheng Esq

K Zhang Esq

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.