

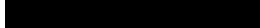
RHS Club Archive website (2002-2021)

Home page, News, FP Rugby and Committee photographs

This archive is purely for reference purposes. If you would like further information about any image, please contact the website administrator at royalhigh.co.uk/contact/, stating which image(s) are of interest

Home page

The Royal High School Club was founded in 1849 with the objective of maintaining the history and standards of the principal school of Edinburgh. Welcome to the Club website - we hope you enjoy its features.

2021 News - Former Pupil Biographies will be available soon on the Royal High London Club site -  - keep a look out for these fascinating accounts.

The **2020 Prize Giving ceremony** was created as a video given the COVID restrictions. This splendid product 'The Virtual Prize Giving', which contains all the usual components can be accessed via the home page of the School website at <https://royalhigh.wordpress.com/>

HRH The Duke of Kent visited the School on 19th January 2020, as a delayed part of the Barnton 50th celebrations. A full report is available in the [news](#) pages.

The **2019 Prize Giving** was held on Friday 28th June. A report and photographs can be seen in the [news](#) pages -

The **2019 Annual Dinner** was held on Friday 22nd March in the Principal Charlotte Square. The toast to the Club and School was offered by Professor Peter Hayes, Head of the Division of Health Sciences, Edinburgh University. Photographs of the event in the [news](#) pages.

The **50th Anniversary of the Barnton Campus** establishment is being held in 2018. Aside the 'Royal Preview for two' (see the [news](#) pages), other events were:

Procession/Sponsored Walk from Regent Road to Barnton - photos [here](#), and video [here](#)

Gala Dinner at Dynamic Earth, October 5th - photos [here](#), KT singers [here](#).

During the Gala Dinner, John Murray, Ken Thomson (Mr KT) and Anne Richards were expertly filmed by Ian Cowie for the digital history. Youtube links to the videos are available on request.

Memorial tablets for those FP's who died in World War 2 were unveiled on November 9th. The tablets were researched, designed and commissioned by a Former Pupil, with funding provided by the Royal High School Club. Photographs are available in the [news](#) pages.

A new School History - in digital format since 2017, can be obtained from [Alastair Allanach](#) who co-edits the product with Tom Bacciarelli.

Committee For pen pictures of the committee, please click [here](#)

2018 Royal Preview for Two. Alan Blyth and Keith MacConnachie are joined by their contemporary classmates and two future first formers



Were you in the pipe band?... this 1952 photo could be of interest to you



Catriona Morison (leaving year 2003) wins the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition, 2017



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Club News

These pages provide copy and photographs of Club events. Among these will be the current Presidential address, Annual Dinner photographs and other notable events. The London Club and School websites also have News pages.

Recent News

HRH The Duke of Kent visited the School on 19th January 2020, as a delayed part of the Barnton 50th celebrations. He spent around an hour in the School, including a tour of School projects displayed in the Assembly Hall. He also unveiled a commemorative plaque recording his visit. The collection of images shown below includes a record of the event, along with previous Royal visits, commencing with the Prince of Wales (the future Edward VII) in 1859, the latest being Queen Elizabeth and The Duke of Edinburgh in 1958. A timeline is also included. The visit was enabled by Val Tudball, Deputy Lieutenant (and RHS Club President in 2007).



The Duke of Kent meets Club President Ian Cowie and Val Tudball (Deputy Lieutenant)



The Duke meets the Rector



The History exhibit. All items courtesy of the RHS Club



The Duke unveils the commemorative plaque



The Club President, The School Captain, The Duke, The Rector and Val Tudball



1859 - The future Edward VII



1903 - Edward VII



1915 - The future Edward VIII



1925 - Prince Henry, future Duke of Gloucester, and father of the current Duke of Kent



1958 - The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh with Rector Dr. Imrie



The timeline of the six Royal visits

The 2019 Remembrance Service was held on Monday 11th November. Representatives of the RHS Club attended the service, which was for 5th and 6th form students on this occasion. All other pupils had attended on other days. Club President Ian Cowie laid a wreath on behalf of the Club. As is the custom, the youngest pupil at the School, assisted by School Captains, turned a page of the WWII Roll of Honour,



The platform party



The youngest pupil turns a page of the Roll of Honour



Three wreaths at the Memorial Door



The School wreath at the Memorial windows

The 2019 Prize Giving was held on Friday 28th June. The FP address was given by Susan Geary (leaving year 1991), a high-flying diplomat in the foreign office. She mentioned the list of African countries for which he has some responsibility, and most of the Continent seemed to be included!



The platform party, including FR speaker Susan Geary (front right)



The teachers (and the Royal High Club President - how did he get in there?)



The 2019 Leavers gather outside the memorial Door



Jen Menzies, Frank Crowe and the Rector enjoying the sun after the PG



They also serve who only sit and count. Ex-committee member filling the prize envelopes

The 2019 Edinburgh Dinner was held on Friday 22nd March in the Principal Charlotte Square. The toast to the Club and School was offered by Professor Peter Hayes, Head of the Division of Health Sciences, Edinburgh University. Photographs enclosed below - click for a full sized image..



Table 1 - Guests



Table 2 - The Teachers



Table 3 - Senior pupils



Table 5 - more Teachers



Table 4 - distinguished FP's and Jock



Table 5 - younger distinguished FP's



Toast List and Speakers



The Welcome slide

Memorial tablets for those Former Pupils who died in World War 2 were unveiled on November 9th.

One of the photos below shows Katy Gray and Ken Falconer, niece and nephew of Alexander Falconer. He was a Major in the Border Regiment (India) and was killed on active service in Burma in February 1945. In one of the photos below, Ken Falconer is pointing to his Uncle's entry on the new memorial. Both Katy and Ken are former teachers at the Royal High.

The unveiling of the Memorial windows on the 5th of July 1949 was accompanied by the installation of wooden memorial tablets, which sadly have deteriorated badly in the past few years, sparking the idea of creating replacements in the same form as the World War I tablets. The tablets were researched, designed and commissioned by a Former Pupil, with funding provided by the Royal High School Club.



The platform party

School pupils and guests

Katy Gray and Ken Falconer, daughter and son of Alexander Falconer

Sir Walter Scott gets in on the act

The engravers at work on the tablets

The 2018 Prize-Giving was held on June 29th.

Delivering the Former Pupil address was Anne Richards, CEO of Fidelity International. In a recorded first, the teachers assembled for a photo...



The Platform party

The teachers

Special guest former teacher Archie Davidson with Anne Richards and Ian Cowie

Platform party front row - Ian Cowie, Anne Richards, Matt MacIver and Archie Davidson

A Royal Preview for Two - the 50th Anniversary re-enactment of the event held on 24th April 1968, when the Evening News recorded the visit of two 7th form Preparatory pupils to the Barnton Campus where they would shortly be coming to study. The 'Two Boys', Alan Blyth and Keith MacConnachie, were joined by six contemporaries, two 7th form pupils from a feeder Preparatory school to continue the 50 year tradition, and two senior pupils who were school ambassadors for the event. The images shown below include the newspaper cutting of the 1968 event.



The Evening News article of 24th April 1968, Alan and Keith....

...and fifty years later - looking just as good

Alan, Keith and contemporaries, with the Rector

A group photo, including the two pupils from the feeder Prep. school, Rector and Deputy Rector, and the two senior pupils who acted as ambassadors for the event

The 2018 London Club dinner took place on Friday 16th March at the RAF Club. A wide range of photographs are available on the [London Club website](#).

The 2018 Edinburgh dinner was held on Friday 23rd March in the Principal Charlotte Square (formerly the Roxburgh). Proposing the toast to the Club and School was Ann Budge, Owner and CEO of Hearts FC. The several Hibs supporters in the audience were seen to impressed by Ann's performance. We are indebted to Ian Cowie, our next-in-line President, for the following sparkling images



The top table speakers - Rector, David Williamson, Ann Budge and School Captain Tom Campbell



The Nation Captains table, but with the addition of Harry Crowe to keep them in order



The School (Teachers plus Administration) featuring Di Aitken at her first dinner



Frank Crowe's table



Frank Crowe's #2 table, featuring Gordon and Francesca Liddle



The Presidents table, with Jock Dewar, Matt Maclver, Alastair MacLean and Alex Prentice



David Robb and Neil Zeiger joined debutant (also Fiddle impressario) June Nelson



The young ones: David Taylor and Zander McIvor host a table



Former Club Presidents Tudball, Grosset, Paul, Arthur and guests



Alastair Allanach joined the Rector, David Rutherford, Ann Budge and David Williamson



*Matt Maclver, David Rutherford, Jock Dewar, Alex Prentice and David Williamson * 2*



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The 2017 Remembrance Service was held on Friday 10th November. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the youngest school pupil turned a page of the Roll of Honour, assisted by the School captains



The 2017 Remembrance service platform party, including the youngest student, who turned a page in the WWII memorial book, assisted by the School Captains

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The 2017 Prize Giving was held on Friday 30th June. Club President David Williamson presided, and Ken Macintosh delivered the FP address. Ken is Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, and his Rector during his School tenure was his father, Farquhar Macintosh. Ken arrived at the Royal High in 1972 in the 7th Preparatory form (where he won a Music prize), and left in 1979, winning the Nicol prize for service and a Yule scholarship. The following photograph was taken at the event. A new record was created - twenty individuals crowded the stage ! The new School Digital History was presented to all school leavers.



Ken Macintosh, MSP, headlines the splendid gathering. Ken is currently the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament

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The 2017 AGM was held on Thursday 27th April. The major change was the election of Zander McIvor to the role of Hon. Treasurer. We welcome Zander (2006 Dux) to the role, and wish him many years of success.

The 2017 Annual London Club Dinner was held on Friday 24th March at the now familiar RAF Club in Piccadilly. Speakers included Rector Pauline Walker, School Captain Angus Farquhar and TV producer Neil Zeiger.



The top table, including speakers - the Rector, Fraser Wright, David Williamson



London Club President Fraser Wright with School Captain Angus Farquhar



Neil Zeiger and partner, Ken Harper (FP and RAF host) and David Robb



Two former Presidents looking very relaxed - Simon Card and Valerie Peay

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The 2017 Annual Dinner was held on Friday 17th March at a new venue - the Carlton Hotel. Speakers included Ian Blackford MP, the Rector and School Captain Angus Farquhar. A video showing the life of the school was shown during intermissions. An innovation - in addition to School Captain and Vice Captains, the Nation captains were also invited for the first time, and were most impressed with the event.



Database man Michael Rutherford couldn't be there but we have his picture!



The pupil Captains and teachers



Jock Dewar, David Williamson, guest, Alex Prentice and (now Depute Rector) Kate Fraser



Euan Rae, David Blackford MP and guests



Immediate past President Frank Crowe with two of his table guests

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The 2016 Remembrance Service was held on Friday 11th November. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the youngest school pupil turns a page of the Roll of Honour

Photo to be added

Photo to be added

The Rector, The School Captains, Mr and Mrs George Grubb and the youngest pupil at the memorial door

School Captain Angus Farquhar with the youngest School pupil, about to turn the page of the Roll of Honour

The 2016 Prize Giving was held on Thursday 30th June. Club President David Williamson presided, and Russell Ogg delivered the FP address. The following are a selection of photographs taken at the event.



The platform party arranging themselves for the photographer (Russell Ogg in charge)



Former Club President Louise Stevenson with the Rector



Former Lord Provost George Grubb with his wife Elizabeth



Former Presidents Martin Bryden and Rab Forman

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The 2016 Club Dinner was held on Friday 18th April at the Roxburghe Hotel in Edinburgh. Frank Crowe once again expertly chaired the event, and also Toasted the Guests. The reply on behalf the guests was by Brigadier Ian Gardiner of the Royal Marines, veteran of Oman, the Falklands and Northern Ireland among other postings. School Captain Eleanor Young presented reprised her speech given at the Royal High London dinner, when she chronicled what the Royal High meant to her and her fellow students.



Former Rector George Smuga with Maria Anderson and Fiona White



School Captain Eleanor Young with Vice Captains Lorna Mahaffey and Michael Keegan



Russell Ogg and David Williamson



London Club Secretary Alex Prentice, the Rector and Kate Fraser



Top table - Russell Ogg, The Rector, Club President Frank Crowe, Brigadier Ian Gardiner, David Williamson

Club President David Williamson recently provided a short message to introduce his Presidency and welcome readers to this website...

As President of the Club, please can I encourage today's leavers to join the Royal High FP community through membership of the club.

When it was set up in 1849, it was I suppose the Victorian equivalent of today's Facebook or Twitter. A way to keep in touch. A network of people with a shared interest in, and commitment to, our school.

Through today's social media, you are already the most connected of generations; you can teach us a thing or two about how to build the Royal High network.

I hope you will therefore play a part in keeping the relationship between the FP community and the school as strong, relevant, and positive as possible.

And remember, we in the Club are always happy to help with advice, connections and work experience.

David Williamson, August 2016

The 2016 London Club Dinner was held on Friday 11th April at the RAF Club in Piccadilly, London

The 2015 Prize Giving was held on Friday 26th June. Rosy Kay, Dance Company Impresario gave an inspirational address, whetting the appetites of many aspiring School dancers. Click [here](#) for a report and photos

The 2015 Annual dinner was held on Friday 27th March. For the first time ever, the top table invited speakers were all Ladies, and there was unanimous support for the proposal to ensure this happens in future events !. Click [here](#) for a report and photos.

Rab Forman's retirement was marked by a dinner on 12th August 2014, attended by a goodly group of ex-Presidents, Rectors, and Peter Yellowlees, recently retired Club Treasurer. A few words were said by John Mitchell (on behalf of the Club Presidents), Matt Maclver (on behalf of the Rectors), and Rab on behalf of himself ! A photo showing the assembled gathering of eighteen diners will be available shortly.

The 2014 Prize Giving was held on Friday 27th June. Fraser Doherty MBE, creator of the Superjam brand gave an inspirational FP address. Click [here](#) for a report and photos

The 2014 Annual Dinner was held on Friday 7th March. Click [here](#) for a report and photos.

A pre-Christmas drinks evening was held on Thursday 12th December 2014. Around 35 members and guests attended, with a further 20 sending their apologies, so the new email circulation system seems to be working! Click [here](#) for a report and photos.

The 2013 Prize Giving was held on Friday 28th June. Click [here](#) for a report and photographs.

The 2013 AGM was held on Thursday 21st March when Sheriff Frank Crowe was elected President. He thanked Louise Stevenson for her highly successful and active Presidency, and also thanked retiring Treasurer Peter Yellowlees for his twenty four years of service - a hard act to follow. Peter's contribution to the Club will be celebrated at the Committee dinner in November. Alastair Allanach, Chair of the Finance Sub-committee for the last four years was elected (interim) Treasurer. New committee list [here](#)



A general view of the proceedings showing the newly elected Sheriff Frank Crowe

Louise Stevenson demits office

The Hon. Secretary with outgoing and incoming Presidents

Outgoing and incoming Treasurers - Peter Yellowlees and Alastair Allanach

The 2013 London Club Dinner was held on Friday 15th March. More news [here](#)

The 2013 Annual dinner was held on Friday 8th March. Click [here](#) for a report.

Douglas (Curly Bill) Mitchell died recently, aged 93. The Evening News (thanks to Bill Lothian) ran reports on consecutive weeks, such was the outpouring of remembrances. We've listed images of the newspaper articles, along with photographs from our archives of the earliest and latest XV's coached by Douglas Mitchell. Please contact the webmaster if you require copies of the Evening News articles.



The 1958-59 XV captained by Jimmy Blake



The 1975-76 XV

The Evening news articles, November 2012



Includes tributes from Charlie Bryden, Bruce Laidlaw, Alastair McIntosh, Robin Boog and Iain Cowper



A second article, this time including more tributes, this time from Bill McCosh, Dave Pickering and Bruce Laidlaw

The 2012 Prize-Giving was held on Friday 29th June. Click [here](#) for a report and photos

The 2012 London Club dinner was held on Friday 23rd March in the splendid RAF Club in Piccadilly. Captain Eric Brown delivered the principal speech, where he captivated the audience with tales of his meetings with Nazi leaders before and after the War. An extensive Edinburgh contingent attended. Photographs were taken...



The top table: Captain Eric Brown RN, Rector Jane Frith, London Club President Valerie Peay, President Louise Stevenson and School Captain Craig Taylor



Eric Brown signs a copy of his autobiography, 'Wings on my Sleeve' for Alastair Allanach

The 2011 Annual Dinner was held on Friday 18th March in the Roxburghe Hotel in Edinburgh. Speakers included former Rector Matt MacIver, current Rector Jane Frith, [Chris Crossley](#) and Wilson Hunter. The School fiddle group once again performed, and this year played a selection of their favourite pieces in the dining room immediately prior to the dinner. Photos shown below show the RHS Fiddle Group and a view of proceedings in the bar prior to the dinner - click [here](#) to see photos.



Twelve members of the School Fiddle Band under direction from June Nelson



Diners conversing prior to dinner...

2010 Prize-Giving - held on Thursday 1st July. Click [here](#) for pictures and an account of proceedings.

The 2010 Annual Dinner was held on Friday 5th March in the Roxburghe Hotel in Edinburgh. Speakers included Dr John Halliday, Rector of Dundee High School, Jane Frith, the new Rector and Austin Lafferty, a Glasgow solicitor noted for being a 'legal eagle' on Radio Scotland. The School fiddle group once again performed, and this year 'played in' the top table, the group led by their proud Rector. Click [here](#) to see photos.

John Barclay's birthday party. Dr John Barclay's 100th birthday was celebrated on St Andrews day. John, Club President in 1980 and author of the 1999 RHS Club memoir, was accompanied by his wife, and surrounded by many family, friends and admirers at the event at Strachan House in Craigcrook Road, Edinburgh. Click [here](#) for photographs of the event. Sadly, Dr Barclay died soon after his birthday.

2009 Committee dinner and presentation to George Smuga - was held on Tuesday 10th November in Edinburgh's New Club. The Committee took the opportunity to present outgoing Rector George Smuga with a token of their thanks for his ten years service. It was also an opportunity to meet new Rector Mrs Jane Frith. Click [here](#) for photos.

2009 Prize-Giving - held on Thursday 2nd July. The FP speech was delivered by Professor John Kay, and Mrs Marissa Bryden, wife of the current President presented the prizes. Click [here](#) to see photographs of the event.

Sad news in April 2008 for both present and former pupils was the deaths of two outstanding Royal High boys, [Jim Ford](#) and [Pringle Fisher](#). Both are featured on this website - click on their names to read their story. We send our condolences to both families.

2009 AGM - on 31st March Martin Bryden was elected President. Click [here](#) to see photos of the event. Martin will shortly be detailing his plans for his Presidential year.

The 2009 Annual Dinner was held on Friday 27th March in the Roxburghe Hotel in Edinburgh. Speakers included The Honourable Lady Dorrian, Acting Rector, David Simpson, London Club President Al Senter and Stewart Smith, an accomplished after dinner speaker and freelance radio and television writer. Click [here](#) to see photos of the event.

2008 Sixth form leavers gathering - Click [here](#) for a report and photographs

2008 Prize-Giving - Click [here](#) for a report and photographs.

A Club pamphlet explaining the history, activities, function and joining instructions has been produced. Click [here](#) to download a copy in Adobe format, which when printed is intended to be presented as a tri-fold document. The first recipients included all 126 School Leavers in 2008

Jim Ford MC was entertained by Lord Provost George Grubb at the City Chambers on 12th May 2008. The story of Jim and his brother Douglas Ford MC is told in [A tale Of Valour](#). Click [here](#) for a photograph of the event.

2008 AGM - Alastair Allanach was elected President. Alastair (a.k.a. 'Webmaster') [spells out](#) his intentions and objectives for his Presidential year.

2008 Annual Dinner - Rt. Hon. George Grubb, Lord Provost of Edinburgh was among the speakers at this years event. Click [here](#) for a report and photographs

George Henry - has become Honorary President in succession to St. John Spence. George introduces himself by explaining his long and active connection with School and Club. See the [entry](#) below.

RHSFP Rugby History - Hugh McKenzie has completed production of a comprehensive record of the Club from its creation in 1868 through its transformation to RHC. A web version, similar to but of much less substance than the hardback book has been created and while it is 'work in progress' is improving all the time. Click [here](#) for a link.

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[2005 President - Colin Blaikie](#)

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[A Fringe First - The Royal High School presents](#)

2016 Annual Dinner

2015 Prize Giving

The 2015 Prize Giving was held on Friday 26th June. Club President Frank Crowe expertly managed the event, while Former Pupil Rosie Kay, Dance Company Impresario gave an inspiring address, whetting the appetites of many aspiring School dancers. Rosie has frequently addressed the London Club Dinner, but this was her maiden speech at the Prize Giving.



The Platform Party, The Rector and Rosie Kay (centre) with Norrie Arthur, School violinist Thomas Kettle, and past Rectors Jane Frith and Matt Maclver



Three Rectors - Jane Frith, Pauline Walker and Matt Maclver



Platform Party in the Staff Room prior to the event

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2015 Annual Dinner

Friday 27th March saw the ever popular Annual Dinner, convened at the Roxburghe Hotel, and the accompanying photographs tell many stories. Ladies seemed to be to the fore, with the (thankfully) reduced Toast List being delivered by three Ladies, with Club President Sheriff Crowe keeping them in order. Judith McLure waxed lyrical in genuine praise of the School, and Eleanor Morton strummed her ukelele throughout her entertaining comedy presentation. The School Administration team sat at the School table, and kept the senior pupils in order. We were once again royally entertained before the dinner by the School Fiddle Group.



The top table, including partners



The School Fiddle Group led by June Nelson



David Simpson keeps time for the fiddle group



Le fabuleux le personnel de l'école - the School Administration team



A bevy of Sheriffs



Alastair MacLean and others



Pre-dinner drinks



London Club President and Secretary (Fraser Wright and Alex Prentice)



The School Table



Tina Woolnough, Alan Grosset and Rab Forman



A pair of Rutherfords and others



The speakers - Judith McLure, The Rector and Eleanor Morton (with the Club President)

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2014 Prize Giving

Friday 27th June saw the end of the 2013-2014 School year and the Commemoration and Prize-Giving. Chaired by Club President Sheriff Frank Crowe, other principal speakers were retiring Rector Jane Frith (who received a standing ovation), Dux James Powell who delivered the valedictory address and Fraser Doherty MBE who gave the FP address.

Sheriff Crowe chaired the event, and his speech was punctuated by his usual stock of self-deprecating remarks, including his recollections of sixth-form antics including games of chance and horse racing. He quipped "this is the closest I've ever been to a prize". Of the assembled teachers he said "Great gowns, I didn't realise we had so many Nobel Laureates".

Retiring teacher Anthea Gage presented the prizes. Frank introduced her as being famous for stripy clothing, zany singing and introducing ipads. New awards this year included the awarding of colours, specifically to the thirteen who had attained international honours in their sport. For them, a gold blazer pocket crest replaced the usual white version, also a School scarf with a distinctive crest.

The FP address was delivered by Fraser Doherty MBE, the 24 year old who has developed an international enterprise from his start at 14, when his Grandma taught him how to make jam. His journey has taken through potential chicken farming (as a 10 year old), Waitrose rejection (then acceptance), sharing the front page of the Sun with Susan Boyle, a dramatised Japanese TV enactment of his life (Fraser played by a young Indian boy) and the development of Superjam Charity tea parties for elderly people who live alone or in care (Fraser's Gran used to do this when he was young). Fraser delivered his all to brief address (around 10 minutes) without any notes. A lesson for all of us. More on Fraser at www.superjam.co.uk

Dux James Powell delivered the valedictory address, in which he thanked parents, staff and classmates for his development. He is undertaking a degree in Medicine at Nottingham University.

Rector Jane Frith responded, thanking many individuals and groups for their help during her five year tenure. She described her reasons for leaving, including the wish to travel and write as perhaps the principal ones. She received a standing ovation.

Proxime to Dux Isla Cowan read a very moving poem, and following a rendition of two verses of the School song the

sixth form leavers left School via the Memorial door.



School pipers welcome guests. They were also on hand to pipe the leavers through the Memorial door



Notable guests and alickadoos gather for coffee and biscuits in the staff room prior to the PG



The platform party. School Captain Robert Bough (far left), Fraser Doherty (4th left) and Jane Frith (centre wearing gown) are joined by other platform partymembers



The photo scramble. Some of the 130+ School leavers picture outside the Memorial door

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2014 Annual Dinner

Friday 7th March saw a further return to Charlotte Square, this time to the renamed Crowne Plaza. Sadly, our principal speaker, Gareth Doodes, Headmaster of Heriots, had to call off on the day, but our ever redoubtable Hon Secretary filled the gap admirably. Feature tables were the RHS Golf Club, and the 40 year reunion table.



David Simpson, Jane Frith, Alex Prentice and Bill Craig



Malcolm Henderson, Colin Blaikie, Jane Roy and Alison Macdonald



Sheriff Andrew Normand, Kenneth Cameron WS, Sheriffs Neil Mackinnon and Nigel Morrison



John Mitchell QC, Louise Stevenson with guest, Lord Mike Jones and Rab Forman



Guests with David Robb



Colin Blaikie, Alan Wardrop, Derek Moffat and Keith McAlpine



Dave Ferguson supporting Badger



David Rutherford and Robbie Reid



Colin Watson, Euan Rae, Ian McCombie and Kenny Brown



Alastair Allanach, Dave Ferguson, Badger, Tommy Cooper and guest



Derek Hodgson, Nick Greer and Kenneth Cameron



Malcolm Henderson and Colin Brown



Michael Rutherford, Dave Hill, guest and Ian Duckworth



Lady Jones and Sheriff Donald Corke

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2013 Pre-Christmas drinks evening

Thursday 12th December saw the first pre-Christmas drinks evening for seven years, and not surprisingly there were some return visits. See the 2006 function [here](#). You may notice Colin Blaikie, Hugh Mackenzie and Jock Dewar in both sets of photos - they're obviously party animals. While oldies did seem to dominate the proceedings, there were welcome inaugural visits from the 2006 Dux (Zander Mclvor), and one of the original 1973 female intake (Alison McDonald). Whighams in Charlotte Square did a reasonable job of hosting the event, albeit it was a bit of a squeeze given the Festive date. All agreed that they were looking forward to attending next year. We trust that our fledgling email contact system will be flourishing by then...



Dougie Flett, Ian Cowie and Hugh Mackenzie



Guest, Dougie Plews, Stuart Macmillan and Colin Blaikie



Club President Frank Crowe, Stuart Rennie and guest



Stuart Rennie and Colin Blaikie



Young FP's Michael Rutherford, Zander Mclvor (with guest), and David Taylor



Rab, Alison Macdonald, Jane Roy and Ronnie Tait



Guests in conversation



Robin Boog, Badger, Dougie Flett and Colin Blaikie

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2013 Prize Giving

The 2013 Prize Giving was held on Friday 28th June. The Ceremony was chaired by Club President Sheriff Frank Crowe, who gave a now familiar pithy performance, interspersing the introduction of speakers with tales of his schooldays in Fife and at the High School.

He told the story of the [Great Tapestry of Scotland](#), whose many connected parts are to shortly to be hung in the Scottish Parliament (covering some of the concrete!). One panel commemorates the 1871 inaugural Scotland - England rugby match, when the only try in the Scottish victory was scored by Royal High School FP's Angus Buchanan. He also talked about the friend of his 12 year old son who won several book token prizes, and was exchanging them for guide books about Sweden to accompany his forthcoming visit with the Crowe family. On hearing this, and that the balance was to purchase academic volumes, Frank advised that if he had won such prizes as a schoolboy they would have immediately have been exchanged for bound copies of the Commando comics.

Lord (Mike) Jones FP address concentrated on the topic of change, that change which relates to the furtherance of the school leavers' career. He told of his early passion for the RAF, but how that cooled, and at the end of his commission he undertook a legal degree, and has seen some success in his changed profession. He illustrated his RAF days by producing a single eye-patch, explaining that as a Phantom bomber pilot, his final briefing before a mock nuclear bomb deployment through central Europe included an explanation of the use of the eye patch. The Phantom, hurtling along faster than the sound barrier would be not the only deployer of nuclear weapons: others would be exploding to the left and right. In pre satnav days, a stopwatch would advise when these bombs were to ignite, and the pilot would don the eye patch and look the other way. Not exactly conforming with current Health and Safety regulations, but all the RAF could afford. Neil Armstrong and his fellow astronauts had gold-lined visors. Over 150 Pupils took leave of the School, shaking hands with the Rector before passing through the Memorial Door, and being received by the RHS Club President in the big world outside.



The platform party - Front: Janette Shearer (who presented the prizes), Lord Jones, Frank Crowe and the Rector. Extreme right in the rear is Lady Jones, the rest comprising former committee members

Sixth form leavers departing School through the memorial doors. Platform party includes Messers Yellowlees, Bryden, Crossley, Tait, Tudball, Inch, Macmillan and two Rutherfords

Lord and Lady Jones (Mike and Fiona) with Frank Crowe

Three Musketeers - Retiring Treasurer Peter Yellowlees, and ex Club Presidents Stuart Macmillan and Jim Inch

Former Acting Rector David Simpson gets into the picture with the famous eagle lectern

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2013 London Club Dinner

The RAF Club in Piccadilly was the splendid setting for the London Club's annual dinner. President Valerie Peay introduced the speakers, who included Phil Edgar-Jones, currently Head of Entertainment at Sky, but famous for overseeing Big Bother when it was on Channel 4. Edinburgh Club President Louise Stevenson filled the breach caused by the sad indisposition of the Rector and School Captain by delivering a compendium address. Guests from other School Clubs in London included Douglas Forster representing Stewarts Melville FP Club, and Aman Agarwal representing Watsons College FP's.



Wendy Edgar- Jones, Valerie Peay, Alex Prentice, Louise Stevenson, Douglas Forster, Phil Edgar-Jones

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2013 Annual Dinner

The 2013 Annual Dinner, held on Friday 8th March at the Roxburgh Hotel in Edinburgh was another glittering affair, top table speeches following the usual high quality approach. Sheriff Michael O'Grady delivered the reply from the guests, utilising his customary lawyer-dry wit to humour the audience. An unusually high number of photographs was taken, and all attendees should see themselves somewhere at least once...



Top table: The Rector, Sheriff Michael O'Grady, Louise Stevenson, George Smuga



Rab Forman and legal friends



Jim Dallas, Sheriff Andrew Bell and friends



Peter Yellowlees and friends



David Rutherford, Raymond Paul and friends



The young ones - Rutherford, McIvor et al



The Crossleys, Alex Prentice, Valerie Peay and friends



The School table



Ian Forrest, Tom Fraser, Gordon Smith and friends



Ian Cowie, Graham Holton and friends



Keith and Colin Blaikie and friends



Eddie and Sarah Tait and friends



London Club President Valerie Peay, David Ingram and Guest



Lord Mackay, John Mitchell QC and Sheriffs O'Grady and Crowe - a serious legal quartet



Matt MacIver, Neil Sutherland and friends



Alan Grosset and A;astair Maclean



Macmillan, Yellowlees and friends



Jim Inch, Kenny Pollock and Val Tudball



Ingram, Allanach and Prentice



Ballotine, bacon, breast of chicken and tartlet



Louise Stevenson and the School Captains

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2012 Prize-Giving

The 2012 Prize-Giving was held on Friday 29th June. David Robb, the distinguished actor, delivered the Former Pupils speech. Recognised immediately as one of the stars of *Downton Abbey*, and accompanied by his wife, actress Briony McRoberts, he recollected his schooldays, and his experiences in acting and life. One story recalled an entry in the Funeral Order of service for the talented and famous English Rugby player, Andy Ripley. He had said "You can earn a living from what you get, but only get a life from what you give". David commended that approach to the students. Mrs Caroline Barrett, in her final duty after many years as a teacher, presented the prizes. The event was chaired by Club President Louis Stevenson.



The platform party assemble in staff room after tea and biscuits



Departing Sixth form students take leave of the School...



...and assemble outside in the *Brave New World* to compare notes



Some platform personalities - Former Rector George Smuga, Rector Jane Frith, David Robb and his wife Briony McRoberts

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2011 Annual Dinner

Another good turnout with around 125 diners, including over 40 guests. The School Fiddle Orchestra (twelve terrific young performers) played a selection of their own favourite pieces immediately before dinner. Many thanks again to June Nelson and her young charges. The performance is testament to the level of musical excellence in the School.



Chicken liver parfait and shin of beef



Al Senter and David Hunter



Table 11, including Neil Shaw and George Kirkwood



Top table -Chris Crossley, Wilson Hunter, Martin Bryden, Matt Maciver, and Jane Frith



Table 8 - including Alec Prentice, Marissa, Jean and Charlie Bryden



The Lord Provost, The Town Clerk and the Club Treasurer



The top table



School Table, including School Captain Harmandeep Shetra



Table 4 - including Gillian Crossley and Jim Dallas

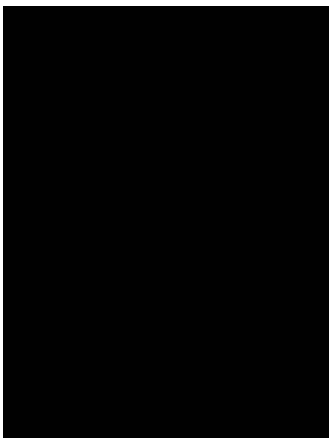


Table 13 (The Young Ones) including the incoming President Louise Stevenson

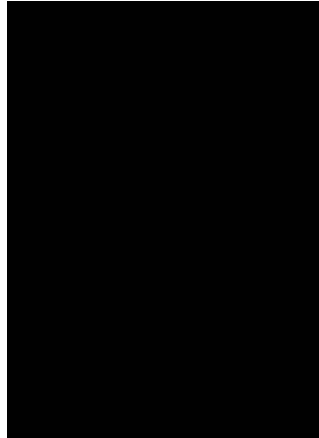
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2010 Prize-Giving

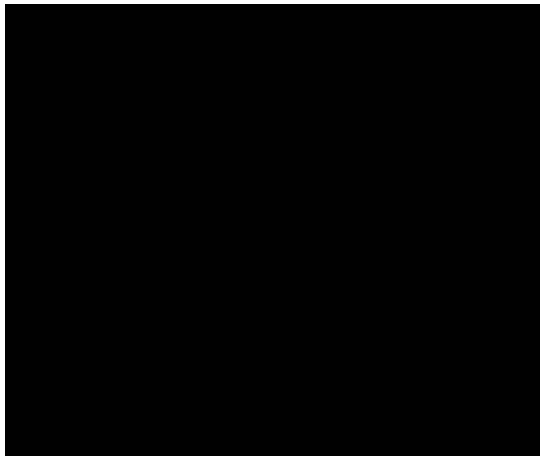
The 2010 Prize-Giving was held on Thursday 2nd July. George Pascoe-Watson, the distinguished journalist, delivered the Former Pupils speech. He mentioned that despite failing to leave via the memorial door 26 years previously, he had nevertheless during his career met the Queen, The US President in the Oval Office, been present at both Iraq Wars and in Afghanistan, but one of his fondest memories was being invited on one of John Murray's music 'tours'. Mrs Marissa Bryden, wife of the current President presented the prizes. The event was chaired by Club President Martin Bryden.



Martin Bryden and Jane Frith



All the Brydens, Martin, Marissa and Charlie



David Rutherford, Martin Bryden, Senior Vice-President Louise Stevenson, David Simpson and London Club representative Eddie tait

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2010 Annual Dinner

A good turnout this year with around 125 Diners. The school fiddle group provided no fewer than 10 players this year, and even 'piped in' the top table. Their Rector must have been very proud. Many thanks to the pupils and June Nelson for the organisation.



Fish mousse, Pot roast and Apple crumble



The top table. Dr John Halliday, Rector Jane Frith, Martin Bryden, Louise Stevenson and Austin Lafferty



The incredible string band ! The school fiddle group perform magnificently again



Rab Forman, Louise Stevenson and Dr Halliday



A bevy of celebrities, including three former presidents

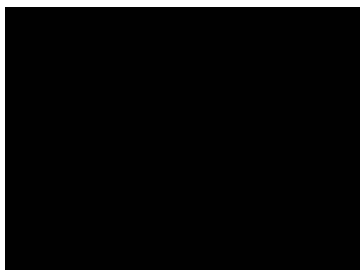


School Captain Dylan Lynch and his two Vice Captains

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Dr John Barclay's 100th Birthday party

St Andrews Day 2009 saw the 100th birthday celebration of Dr John Barclay. John, accompanied by his wife was treated to a splendid occasion, involving the delivery of letters of congratulation from the Queen and the Prime Minister. He also received a present of a laptop computer from the owners of Strachan House to allow him to continue producing the monthly newsletter, which he has been doing for the last nine years. So much for computing being the domain of youngsters. The Club and School were represented and honorary membership was conferred on him. Many happy returns John!



Dr Barclay is presented with Honorary Membership of the RHS Club by the School Vice-Captain in the presence of the Lord Provost and Rector Jane Frith

Dr Barclay (resplendent in highland dress) with his birthday cake. He had asked just for a simple cup cake, so the Strachan House kitchen created a cake out of many cup cakes!

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2009 Committee Dinner

The annual committee dinner was graced this year by the presence of no fewer than four Rectors. George Smuga was presented with a silver tray as a token of his ten years outstanding service as Rector, and Mrs Jane Frith was introduced to those present. A selection of photographs is shown below.



Mr and Mrs George Smuga and Club President Martin Bryden



Four Rectors in one photo!
David Simpson and George Smuga are joined by Mrs Jane Frith and Matt McIver



The attendees gather prior to the dinner



Mr and Mrs George Smuga, Val Tudball and Chris Crossley on the New Club balcony, overlooking the tram works and the RSA

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2009 Prize-Giving

The 2009 Prize-Giving was held on Thursday 2nd July. Professor John Kay, the distinguished economist, delivered the Former Pupils speech and Mrs Marissa Bryden, wife of the current President presented the prizes. The event was chaired by Lord Provost George Grubb.



The platform party



The platform party including Martin and Marissa Bryden



The Rector shakes hands with pupils as they leave the School through the



Pupils, guests and parents leave the event



Committee member Chris Crossley 'on duty' at the FP's stand at the lunch in the clubhouse after the PG

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2009 AGM

The 2009 AGM was held in the Scottish Arts Club, Rutland Square in Edinburgh. Martin Bryden was elected President, and received the Chain of Office from Alastair Allanach, the outgoing President.



A general view prior to the meeting



President Alastair Allanach passing the Chain of Office to the new President



'Big' brother Charlie Bryden, (1997 President) congratulates little brother Martin



New Vice-President Chris Crossley and new committee member Stewart McFarlane

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2009 Dinner

The 2009 Annual Dinner was held on Friday 27th March in the Roxburghe Hotel in Edinburgh. Speakers included The Honourable Lady Dorrian, Acting Rector David Simpson, London Club President Al Senter and Stewart Smith, an accomplished after dinner speaker and freelance radio and television writer. Around 125 members and guests attended, and were royally entertained prior to the event by a fiddle sextet consisting entirely of Royal High School pupils. The slide show from the RHS Club website was resumed after an absence last year. Thanks to the Roxburghe hotel for great food and service, and for providing the screen for the slideshow.



Leek, lamb and lemon on the menu



The Acting Rector with School Captain, Joseph Ghaemi, and Vice-Captains Rebecca Powell and Patrick Saddler



The School Fiddle Sextet play Homecoming music



Stewart McFarlane, Pringle Fisher, Ally Black, Alan Mann and Hugh Mackenzie



The Top Table: Acting Rector David Simpson, Lady Dorrian, President Allanach, Stewart Smith, London Club President Al Senter



Stuart Macmillan and Jimmy Dignall, with Matt McIver in the background



President Allanach and Hon. Secretary Rab Forman



Ex-President David Rutherford with son and daughter Michael and Claire



Tina Woolnough (Chair of the School Council), Jock, George Smuga and guest



The School table: three Captains, six teachers and Jock

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2008 School Leavers Gathering

Around thirty sixth form leavers attended the function on 8th August, the third annual event hosted by the Club. Finger food and refreshments were enjoyed along with a programme of DVD's including Shona Thomson's splendid 'RHS Club through the years', and the 2009 Prize-Giving recorded by the School Audio-Visual specialist. Still photographs taken during the Prize-Giving were also on display. The School teaching staff were also represented.

A selection of photographs from the event are shown below.



A general view of the event



Another general view of the event !



Chris Crossley and Stuart Macmillan shouldering the burden for the Committee



Still photographs from the Prize-Giving were on show and on sale

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2008 Prize-Giving

The Annual School Prize-Giving was held on Friday 27th June. A small selection of photographs are shown below. Lord Provost George Grubb chaired the event, while The Lady Provost presented the prizes. Club President Alastair Allanach gave the Former Pupil's address. Pictures are courtesy of John Stables, the School Audio-Visual Technician, who extracted these examples from the annual video record of the event.



The platform party stand to sing the hymn. At least five Club ex-Presidents are present



Lord Provost George Grubb chairing the event



Acting Rector David Simpson delivers his address



The Lady Provost presenting a prize



Another view of the platform party



Club President Alastair Allanach making the FP address



The Sixth form Leavers depart via the Memorial door...



...to be greeted by the Club President outside. Shona Thomson is in attendance

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2008 Dinner

The **2008 Dinner** was held on Friday 14th March in the Roxburghe Hotel when the principal speakers were Rt. Hon George Grubb, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Councillor Louise Lang and the traditional after dinner speech being provided by Peter Brown. Rector George Smuga made what may be his last rectorial speech as he has been seconded to the Scottish Government.

Some of the photographs suffered from an overdose of high-tech camera complexity (i.e. your website photographer doesn't understand the new camera's settings), and we apologise for those which are out of focus. We are hoping for focussed versions from other attendees.



Pre-dinner drinks



'Educationalists' Martin Bryden, David Simpson, Matt McIver and George Smuga



London Club President Al Senter enlightens the School representatives about the function of the London Club



At the bar



A Council meeting. The Lord Provost, The Director of Corporate Services and Councillor Lang mull over proceedings discussed in the Council Chamber earlier in the day



John Mitchell QC, Prof Eddie Spiers, Prof John Kay, Hon Secy Rab Forman



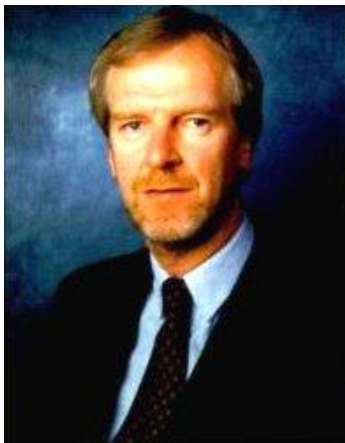
John Mitchell, Vice-President Douglas Forman, Committee Member Jim Dallas



Shona Thomson, Hugh Mackenzie, Alistair Maclean. What has Alistair just said to Hugh?

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2008 President Alastair Allanach



At the 2008 AGM, Alastair Allanach was elected President. Alastair has the following message for the website.

Alastair has the following

As website administrator, it has been my privilege for the last five years to construct the website entry (from supplied text) for the incoming President. This year I have to construct my own entry, and I apologise in advance for its brevity.

I have been involved in Royal High committee work for the past seven years, and have been particularly occupied with the memorabilia sub-committee with Val Tudball and Stuart Macmillan. I have been the webmaster and website creator for the last five years, assisted by the web sub-committee.

From this base, I have been able to see more clearly the work that the Royal High Club does to assist the Royal High School, and the many ways in which it enables connectivity between School students, teachers and the Rector, with all those who have passed through the famous Memorial Doors on their way to the first afternoon of the rest of their lives. I have come to know the Rector and several teachers well, and appreciate enormously their efforts to continue to make the school (which I remember fondly and well) a leader in Edinburgh and Scotland. I have been working closely with the Acting Rector, David Simpson to continue the excellent relationship which the Club has with the Head of School, most notably recently with George Smuga.

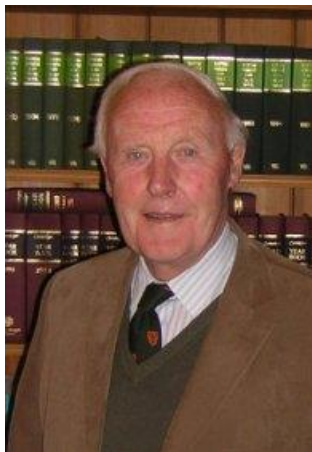
I recently spent a couple of hours in the exalted company of Matt McIver, Chief Executive and Registrar of the General Teaching Council of Scotland, initiating the compilation of his archive during his tenure as Rector of the School. This archive will appear on these pages in due course. I have spent many hours in the last year working with Hugh Mackenzie to create the draft history of the Royal High FP Rugby Club. These projects, along with many hours spent assisting with the project to ensure we do our best to secure the memorabilia of the last 175 years of the 'modern' High School, have been ones which I have enjoyed enormously and hope to continue.

My Presidential year will be marked by occasions like the Prize-Giving, Remembrance Day Service, Annual Dinner and attendance at the School Council. I intend to keep a log (blog?) of these events and record them on the website.

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Honorary President George Henry

1930-2016



After a distinguished career and long connection with the School and Club, George became Honorary President in succession to W. St. John Spence in April 2007. George has prepared this short introduction to himself.

I have every reason to be grateful for my years spent at the Royal High School.

I went to the Preparatory School at Northfield Broadway as a 5 year old in 1935, and emerged at 18 from the Senior School in Regent Road certainly a wiser and hopefully a better boy. Academically I was not brilliant, but nevertheless adequate, and my only distinction was at the age of twelve when I was Dux of the Preparatory School.

I was rather better on the sports field, and played for five years in the 1st Cricket XI ending up as captain. I also played in the 1st Rugby XV for two years and was captain of basketball. More important than any of these achievements, such as they were, was that I really enjoyed my school years despite six of those years being dominated by the Second World War. To my amazement, and the even greater amazement of my parents and classmates was my appointment as School Captain in 1947/48, perhaps my proudest school achievement.

I had many good and lasting friendships throughout my school years, and still value many of these to this day. On leaving school, I went to Edinburgh University to study law and attained an MA LLB in 1953. For three years during my University course, I served a concurrent legal apprenticeship with Lindsay Howe WS.

National Service was still compulsory at this time and I served in the Army from 1954 to 1956 rising to the dizzy rank of 2nd Lieutenant. On my demob, I joined Fyfe Ireland WS becoming a partner in 1959 and Writer to the Signet in 1964. I spent the rest of my legal career with Fyfe Ireland eventually becoming the Senior Partner.

Throughout my professional career, I maintained my contacts with the School through the Royal High School Club, Rugby and Cricket Clubs, and served for many years on the Club and other committees, including a time as Secretary and Treasurer of the Trust which ran the School Boarding House until its sale. I was Captain of the FP

Cricket Club in 1961, the Centenary year and was privileged to play against many famous cricketers. I became president of the Royal High School Club in 1977, and in April 2007 was honoured to succeed my lifelong friend St. John Spence as Honorary president. I retired in 1991 and since then my time has been fully occupied by my family of a daughter, son and four grandchildren. In between times I play golf, bowls and bridge, and watch sport. I have been an active member of Luffness Golf Club for many years where I still play badly but enjoyably, and was Captain there in 1984. Although in common with many of my contemporaries I now creak a bit, I am still fairly active, and hope that my golf handicap will decrease and that there are many grand slams to be made on the bridge table.

George sadly died in June 2016

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2007 President Val Tudball



At the 2007 AGM, Val Tudball MBE was elected President. Val has the following message for the website.

May I welcome you all to the Club website. I am enormously proud to be elected President of this venerable Club, and trust that I will be able to emulate my forebears, many of whom I am pleased to say are good friends. I feel extremely honoured to be this years President, and the committee and I in liaison with the school shall promote the interests of the school to form a strong link between the pupils past and present and to ensure continuing co-operation between former pupils and the school in matters concerning the welfare of the school. We will promote educational, sport and leisure activities as well as social, cultural and pastoral interests and also act as the parent club to all Royal High School clubs throughout the UK and abroad. We have an extremely successful club and we will ensure that this is maintained and encouraged. I have already attended the sixth formers' RHS Club introduction presented by my fellow committee member Louise Stevenson, and intend to be a regular attendee at the School Board meetings. I am looking forward to Chairing the Annual Prize-Giving on 29th June. I will also be at the Remembrance service on Friday 9th November, along with the other events such as the Annual Dinner and the London Dinner. I recently met with the Government Schools Inspectors and brought them up to date with the close links between the School and RHS Club.

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A Fringe First - The Royal High School Presents

The Royal High School has a long musical tradition covering classical concerts, choir recitals, the KT Christmas singers, the musical link with our partner school in Munich and the annual performance song and dance spectacular that is the Secret Policeman's Ball.

Never before has the Royal High School put on a show as part of the official Festival Fringe. The staff and pupils worked incredibly hard preparing for what was the musical event of the year, the schools production of WE WILL ROCK YOU. Sell-out audiences attended all the performances.



With a cast of over 100 singers and dancers this was, by far, our most ambitious project to date. We thank the many people who came along and enjoyed what was a unique event.

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2007 Prize-Giving

The Annual School Prize-Giving was held on Friday 29th June. A small selection of photographs are shown below. Club President Val Tudball chaired the event, while Mrs Tudball presented the prizes. Dr Morag Easson gave the Former Pupil's address. The event also marked the retiral of Senior Deputy Rector Neil Sutherland.



Generations of Committee members, past and present along with the Rector (includes six former Presidents)



Val and Susan Tudball, The Rector and retiring Senior Deputy Rector Neil Sutherland



Val and Susan Tudball, Dr Morag Easson, Neil Sutherland and the Rector

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2007 Dinner

The **2007 Dinner** was held on Friday 16th March in the Roxburghe Hotel when the principal speakers were Mike Mavor, Headmaster of Loretto, and Sandy Strang, the well known after dinner speaker and ex-Deputy Head of Hutcheson's Grammar School. The toast to the Guests was by Shona Gillies (leaving year 1999). The now customary computer slide show from the Club's photographic archive was shown before and after the dinner in the bar area.

On view for the first time in many years was the 'Eagle' lectern which was used at morning assembly in Regent Road. It was presented by booksellers Dr Robert and James Thin on 26th July 1925. They had been pupils in the 1870's and 1860's respectively. A photo is shown below. The Club is indebted to George Smuga and Stuart Macmillan for its safe arrival at the function.

Around 120 guests attended, and the following photographs show some of the 'revels'.



The Speakers (and the menu)



General view in the bar before the dinner



The top table (at rest)



The eagle lectern



Diners converse

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2006 November Social function

The inaugural November social function was held on 23rd November.

This inaugural event was held in Frazers Bar, an impressive art deco bar within the Dome in George Street, central Edinburgh. The event, attended by over thirty FP's and guests, including a number of committee members, was advertised as a casual pre-Christmas social. As can be seen from the photos below, a wide age-range attended. In future, this event may take the form of a drinks and snacks event for a small charge, but on this occasion it was decided to make it a pay as you go occasion.



Shona Thomson, Mark Bowman and guests



Kirsty Gillies, Lynn Davidson and guest



Euan Rae, Hugh McKenzie and guests, with Badger in the background at the bar



Jim Dallas, Ian Willox, ex-Club President Colin Blaikie and guest



The exterior of the Dome, widely considered to be the most impressive of Edinburgh's 'bank-to-bar' conversions

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2006 School Leavers function

The third annual Sixth form School Leavers function was hosted by the Club on Thursday 24th August in the Clubhouse.

The objective of the event is to make and maintain contact with those who passed through the memorial doors a few months previously (in this case on Friday 30th June). All teachers are invited along with Club Committee members. Around twenty five Leavers (including the past School Captain), several teachers and representatives from the Club committee enjoyed an informal wine and canapés function which lasted for around two hours. A video presentation prepared by Shona Thomson (our resident cinematographer) ran throughout the event. This multimedia presentation features video footage from the 2006 prize-giving incorporated with still images from our photo archives. Canapés were prepared by the resident Chef (Robin Boog) and contact details obtained from the ex-students will be used to maintain contact with them in the coming years.



A general view of the function



Guests viewing a video of the prize-giving and historical events



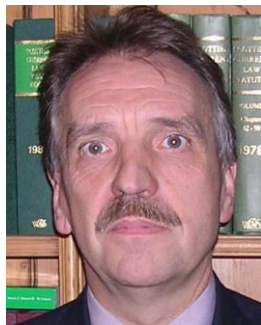
Ex President Stuart Macmillan, Senior Vice President Val Tudball, President Robin Boog and Depute Rector Sheila Paton,



President Robin in the kitchen preparing the canapés (a.k.a. somosas and sausages)

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2006 President - Robin Boog



At the 2006 AGM, Robin Boog was elected President. Robin has the following message for the website.

As President of the Royal High School Club this year can I welcome you all to the website, introduce myself, and explain what I see as the main priorities for my year in office.

I attended the Royal High from 1963 until 1969 which means that I had the pleasure of sampling the delights of both Regent Road and Barnton. After a sixth year spent mainly either in the gym or on the rugby field I went to Herriot Watt University to do Economics. My working life since then has been spent in the Life Assurance industry. After a spell away from Edinburgh I returned in 1983 and since then have been heavily involved with both the rugby club and the Athletic club at Barnton. I have also been involved in a number of other areas relating to the school, particularly the provision of sporting facilities.

Having attended both the Edinburgh and London Dinners this year I am pleased to report that both were very successful. During the remainder of my tenure I will be attending meetings of the School Board, the end of school year prize-giving and the leavers Function which will be held in August. Outwith these my main objective for the year will be to see how the FP Club can assist the school with the provision of sport for the pupils, a topic on which much press coverage and Government time is currently being expended. I would also like to try and ensure that as many of the current Leavers as possible join the FP Club.

With the Club Website we have an ideal opportunity not only to let members know what is going on but also to give members a means of communicating and keeping in touch with friends. That only works of course if the information provided is accurate and up to date and I would ask all members, when moving house or changing Email name to keep us informed.

We also want to hear from members as to what they think of the Website, what the Club should be doing, and anything else they feel is relevant. This can be done via the website or direct to myself at robinboog@aol.com.

Lastly, a word of thanks to all the members who do so much work behind the scenes for the club, much of which is unknown to most people. Without them the Club would not be the success it undoubtedly is.

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2005 Prize-Giving

The Annual School Prize-Giving was held on Friday 1st July. A small selection of photographs are shown below. Kate Wheaton, retiring after many years teaching at the School presented the prizes.



The platform guests gather in the staff room



Kate Wheaton showing off her hat after presenting the prizes



The Rector and other principal guests



London Club President Simon Card and (now) Senior Vice-President Val Tudball with leaving pupils

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2006 Annual Dinner

The 2006 Annual Dinner was held in the Roxburghe Hotel, Edinburgh, on Friday 10th March.

Around 140 members and guests contributed to a memorable evening, hosted by President Robin Boog. Club and School were toasted by Gareth Edwards, principal of George Watson's College, while replies for the School and Guests were by Rector George Smuga and Simon Card (President of the London Club) respectively. The website photographer recorded a few images, shown below.



The top table



The Immediate Past president flanked by Senior Vice-President and the 2003 President



A general view



Later in the bar. Badger is holding court

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Royal High School Club - welcome presentation to Form S6

Committee member Louise Stevenson recently visited the School and addressed form S6 with the purpose of introducing them to the Aims, Objectives and work of the Royal High Club committee. This is an extract from her presentation.

As members of The Royal High School Club, we are always looking for ways to encourage younger FPs to become involved. In August 2004, for the first time, we held a drinks reception in the clubhouse for new leavers. This was well attended and allowed an informal opportunity for new FPs to meet committee members and find out more about the club.

This year we decided to go one step further and speak to S6 pupils before they become FPs. As a representative of the committee I visited the S6 year group during their weekly hour of PSE (personal and social education) in school. In preparation for their leave taking ceremony on July 1st 2005 I spoke to them about the history and traditions of the school and club, and the point when they would become FPs.

All sixth year pupils were invited to join, and become involved in, the club; both in Edinburgh and London. I also invited them to attend a few key events in the coming year. These include the 2005 S6 Leavers Drinks Reception in August 2005 and the annual RHS Club Dinner in March 2006.

All S6 pupils were issued with information about the club web-site to encourage them to visit and keep up with events. A suggestion was made by a pupil that FPs might be interested to hear about events happening in school, such as shows or sporting events. In the future we will try to advertise these on the web-site.

Only time will tell if these presentations are beneficial in encouraging new FPs to take part in the Royal High Club. It was a pleasure to meet the current S6 and I look forward to seeing them at future events.

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2005 Annual Dinner

The 2005 Annual Dinner was held in the Roxburghe Hotel, Edinburgh, on Friday 11th March. Around 140 members and guests contributed to a memorable evening, hosted by President Colin Blaikie, and addressed by several speakers including Dr Ian Jardine, Douglas May QC and Peter Brown. We were also pleased to see Eddie Tait from the London Club at the dinner. Included are a few photographs kindly taken and supplied by Committee Member Mark Bowman.



The Top Table George Smuga, Simon Card, Dr Ian Jardine, Colin Blaikie, Douglas May QC, Peter Brown



The president and guests



John Ellis and daughter Kirsty. John retired this year after many years teaching PE at the school, latterly as Sports Coordinator. John took over from Dougie Mitchell in 1979



Some of the more mature guests



Messieurs Dewar, Smuga and younger guests



Everyone wants to be in the picture...



Roy Cowper and guests (David Graham and Stewart Clark)



David Huggan, guest, Shona Thomson, Mark Bowman

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2005 President - Colin Blaikie



At the 2005 AGM, Colin Blaikie was elected President. Colin has the following message for his presidential year.

As President of The Royal High School Club, I welcome all visitors to the web site and hope what you find here will

be of interest.

I am writing this piece part way through my year of office. As President, I am responsible for chairing the Edinburgh Dinner and attending (and speaking at) the London Dinner, and I am pleased to report that both of these were well attended. I was particularly taken with the more informal format of the London Dinner and will be discussing with my committee ways in which the Edinburgh Dinner (and the Club generally) could evolve to meet the needs of the younger generation of members who are coming through.

Of course, not everyone who leaves the school automatically becomes a member, since they have to be around at the end of the term that they leave and pay a one-off subscription fee to join as lifetime members and to receive a copy of School's History. I wonder whether in 2005 (when many leavers in fact leave prior to the end of the school year) if this is the way to maximise Club membership and would like to see if we can investigate alternative methods of joining the Club and maintaining membership during my time as President.

The Club website potentially makes it easier for members to keep in touch with the Club and other members and I am anxious that the Club keeps in touch with as many members as possible. I would like to encourage members (or leavers who are non-members !) who have any views on what the Club should be doing to contact me at colin@colinblaikie.co.uk

As far as the remainder of my Presidential year is concerned, I am attending meetings of School Board (having previously been a member some years ago) and I am looking forward to the annual prizegiving ceremony at the end of the summer term and a second School Leaver's function that the Club hopes to organise in August of 2005.

For those who remember me (and those that do not !) I attended The Royal High Primary School at Jock's Lodge and thereafter went to Barnton between 1971 and 1977 where amongst many other excellent teachers, I was taught by Jock Dewar and John Murray. I had a great time at school, playing senior rugby in my final three years, captaining the school in my final year and managing to fit in many other extra curricular activities, including the school Jazz Band and Choir.

I read law at Edinburgh university and qualified as a Solicitor in 1984 before setting up my own legal and estate agency practice in 1988. I retired from playing rugby some years ago and now find it safer to sponsor RHC ! I am married with three children and still have a passion for old Lancias !

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The Opening of the Refurbished School - Friday 2nd July 2004

This year's truly impressive annual prize-giving was augmented by a ceremony marking the official opening of the refurbished school. Sarah Boyack MSP, a former pupil, performed the opening ceremony before the assembled audience of pupils, parents, teachers, dignitaries and a number of Royal High School Club committee members. We have included a series of photographs of the official opening event. For pictures of the Prize-giving, please see the [School website](#).



Photo includes Councillor Rev Ewen Aitken, Sarah Boyack, Ms Small, The Rector,



The official party in front of the Memorial Doors. These were resited from Regent Road



2004 President with Miss Small who presented the prizes this year



Some old favourites including Badger, Louise Stevenson, Rab Forman, Stuart Macmillan

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2004 President - Alan Grosset



At the 2004 AGM, Alan Grosset was elected President. Alan has the following message for his presidential year.

As President of the Royal High School Club this year, I welcome you all to the website, and would like to introduce myself and explain some of my objectives for my year as President.

An early objective is to repeat the requirement stated by my predecessor Jim Inch which is to simplify and shorten the speeches at the Annual Dinner. To this end, the format will change, with only one reply to the Toast to the Club, and a celebrity speaker.

In terms of the year ahead, I am sure that the Rector will agree that it is good that the PPP Project is now finished and the school can look forward with some confidence to the future. The Club itself is in good heart and I hope that the 2004 Dinner will again be well supported. The format has been updated slightly as I have previously explained, and I hope members and their guests will enjoy the evening.

We are hopeful of arranging a function aimed at school leavers in the summer and the Committee, working resolutely as always, are having a look at various other alterations in the way the Club might be run in the future. I am grateful to Alastair Allanach and his sub-committee for work on the website, also to Alastair, Stuart McMillan and Val Tudball for their work on Royal High archives. Most importantly, our indefatigable secretary, Rab Forman is perpetually deserving of our thanks. I hope that all our attempts to move forward and in particular strengthen the Club's links with the School continue to bear success.

On a personal note, I left school in 1959, having served as a prefect and captained the school tennis and badminton team. I went on to Edinburgh University, graduating MA LLB before joining Alex Morison & Co WS in 1965. I became a Partner in 1970 and retired in 2002, although I remains with the Firm as a Consultant at the moment. Some of my career at school can be seen elsewhere on the website in photographic form including "Waiting in the Wings" a record of the 1953 Usher Hall School Concert.

While I was involved with a busy Edinburgh legal firm as a commercial partner and sports law specialist, I have also been heavily involved in the administration of sport outwith his legal practice. Among the posts I have held are President, Scottish Lawn Tennis Association 1983/84; Captain, Duddingston Golf Club 1992/94; and eighteen years service as a member with the Scottish Sports Council (now Sportscotland), the last eight years as Vice Chairman. I have just demitted office as the Chairman of the Confederation of British Sport, the Federation of the Governing Body umbrella bodies in the UK and still serve as the Vice Chairman of the Sports Dispute Resolution Panel Limited, a body which I helped to set up some years ago along with lawyer friends from the British Olympic Association and the Central Council of Physical Recreation.

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2004 Annual Dinner

The 2004 Annual Dinner was held in the Roxburghe Hotel, Edinburgh, on Friday 12th March. Around 140 members and guests contributed to a memorable evening, hosted by President Alan Grosset, and addressed by several speakers including Chief Constable Peter Wilson of Fife Constabulary who toasted the Club and School. Other speakers included the Rector, new committee member David Williamson and Brian Donald of BBC Scotland fame who had the mixed audience laughing in the aisles with many of the best and cleanest gags they had heard in years. For those who missed the event, the menu and toast list is featured below along with a few photographs (kindly taken

and supplied by 2002 President Stuart Macmillan).



Melon, Soup, Beef and Citrus Tart followed by Toast(s)



The Top Table - Janette Scantelbury, George Smuga, Peter Wilson, Alan Grosset, David Williamson, Brian Donald



More of the top table



The young ones



More young ones...



The old ones, featuring Brian Ronaldson



More old ones, featuring Pringle Fisher, Ally Black, Graham Acaster, Roy Cowper



General view of the tables

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Dr John Murray



Dr Murray recently retired from the School after 32 years of service for many of which he was Deputy Rector and Principal Teacher of Music. He was interviewed by the website team. Pictures from the celebratory dinner on 31st October are shown after this article.

Dr John Murray BA, PhD, GRSM, ARMCM, LRAM

This description of John Murray describes his life in the Royal High School, where he has made an immense contribution during the last thirty two years to many aspects of school life including its management, excellence in Music and sport, and the forging of links with European schools. It also describes some of his time away from the school, including his education, musical involvement and life in France.

John, a Liverpoolian, graduated from the Royal Manchester College of Music (gaining GRSM) and taught in a secondary School in Liverpool for four years before coming to the Royal High in 1971 where he was appointed principal teacher of Music. He was appointed Assistant Rector in 1979 and elevated to (sole) Depute Rector in 1985. He was an experienced Senior Manager, responsible for the day-to-day running of the School, timetabling and 5th and 6th form curriculum. He is remembered for intolerantly issuing 'Yufties' to teachers to babysit classes for those teachers who fell ill or absent (Yuftie translates as "you have to...take that class"). He is also recollected as committed and enthusiastic, compassionate and understanding.

A current Club committee member (1996 leaver) remembers Dr Murray referring to the then current 3rd year practice

of leaving shirt outside trousers as “looking like convicts from an Australian soap opera”. I was sitting beside a classmate who was a proud Australian who disliked the reference to convicts, and proceeded to challenge Dr. M on the subject. I covered in my seat as Dr. M came over to the aggrieved Australian and was relieved when Dr M simply told him to meet him after the assembly. I was expecting him be on eternal detention, but when Dr M apologised for any offence that he had caused to Australians I realised that this was an honest and fair man who was to be admired rather than feared.

He later qualified as BA, then PhD, using the life of Rector Dr Alexander Adam (High School rector from 1771-1809) for his thesis. Dr Adam was a celebrated teacher and writer, who taught until the year of his death, often to classes of up to 100. His pupils included Scott, Cockburn and Jeffrey.

John authored ‘A History of the Royal High School’ in 1997 at the behest of and with the assistance of (among many others) the Royal High School Club committee. This definitive history of the school is a chronological history from 1128 to the publication date, and John’s pride in all things ‘Royal High’ is evident in this essential read for all current and ex High Scholars. Great assistance was given (again among others) by Dr John Barclay and the then Rector Matt Mclver. It is given to all sixth-form leavers on prize-giving day, but see the shop entry for purchasing information if you do not have one, and the bibliography entry for a synopsis of the volume.

John has fond memories of ‘Curly’ Bill Mitchell’s Rugby teams, and includes Brian Scott’s unbeaten team in 1971/72 as one of the School’s high sporting achievements.

His involvement in the biennial school European music trips since 1975 has marked the High School as a leader in this field. Over 1000 students have benefited from trips to Munich and Florence, with reciprocal trips from these countries in intervening years. The European dimension has always been a part of John’s educational philosophy, and he as experienced as anyone in Scotland in this area.

His involvement with the KT singers, founded in 1978 by Kenneth Thomson, has been particularly rewarding, with well over £20,000 being donated as a result of the choir’s Christmas carol singing. John has handed over the mentoring to a young colleague, Andrew Morley, but will continue to participate whenever invited!

When asked, “what’s next” and “how will you survive without the High School” he replies that he will simply do the other things he loves – reading, music, spending time with the family, watching rugby.

He intends to spend more time in his house in the Dordogne when his wife Joan retires from her Music teaching post at the Edinburgh Academy in June next year, but is also planning to spend time in Edinburgh. His daughter Rachel works for Accenture in London while son Ben is in his last year at St Andrews University

If anyone wishes to contact John, they can do so via the [Rector](#) or through this [website](#).

See also a reminiscence of Dr John in [Where are they now?](#)

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Dinner in Edinburgh City Chambers in Honour of Dr Murray, 31st October 2003

The following photographs record some of the School and Committee personalities in addition to John Murray, the Guest of Honour. Apologies for the Hello-esque presentation format.



Matt Maclver (Past Rector),
John Murray and George
Smuga (Current Rector)



Rab Forman, Alan Grosset
and Jim Inch



Jim Inch and Peter
Yellowlees



Jock Dewar and Kate
Wheaton. What is Kate
saying about Jock?



Alastair Allanach and Val
Tudball

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2003 President- Jim Inch



At the 2003 AGM, James Inch was elected President. Jim was interviewed by the web team and the following is his message for his presidential year.

As President of the Royal High School Club I would like to welcome you to our new website.

The last couple of months have been a busy and enjoyable time for the Club.

The 2003 Dinner was again held in the Roxburgh Hotel and it was fantastic to see the event supported in such large numbers. I understand that most members were very satisfied with the meal and the venue and generally the evening was a success. The highlight for many was the toast made by John Murray. John has made an invaluable contribution to school life over the years and it was a privilege to present him at the dinner with a small token of our appreciation.

There is a feeling, however, that the format of the dinner needs to be updated. As a result a sub group has been created to consider the arrangements on the night, this includes the number of speeches and the possibility of a 'celebrity' speaker at future dinners.

As well as the Club Dinner and the recent School Prize Giving I will also be attending School Board meetings and various other events during my year as President. These events will enable me to get the views of existing members and it will also give me the opportunity to publicise the Club with a view to increasing our membership.

Our records show that the Club's membership is extremely healthy and I am delighted that the Club continues to prosper and evolve. Whilst the Club will always embrace and cherish its roots and traditions, like any organisation it cannot stand still and it is reassuring to know that the push to change and modernise is coming from within. This website for example demonstrates the Club's efforts to move with the times.

I recognise that as President I am well placed to contribute to the well being of the Club. I would like to see the Club broaden its membership base and become more inclusive. This could be achieved by strengthening the Club's links with existing pupils at the school. The future success of the Club is dependent on encouraging these pupils and recent RHS leavers to play an active role in its running. This is just one idea and I would be delighted if you contacted me at jim.inch@edinburgh.gov.uk to discuss this or any other Club related activity.

Finally I would like to thank all those members who work so hard to make the Club such a success. I hope to see some of you soon.

Best wishes

Jim Inch

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2003 Annual Dinner

The 2003 Annual Dinner was held on Friday 14th March 2003. The principal speaker for the second consecutive year was the Rt. Hon. Eric Milligan, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh. Over 150 Members and Guests attended the dinner at the Roxburgh Hotel in Edinburgh. Among the highlights were the Toasts and Menu, the Revellers, and the launch of the new website. See some images below, kindly provided by Jennifer Wright (nee Gilmour). If any other images are available the website team would be grateful. Please [contact us](#).



Menu and Toasts



David Huggan, Lynn Davidson,
Mark Bowman, Kirsty Gillies



Kirsty Gillies, David Huggan,
Jennifer Wright



Emily MacDonald, Mark Bowman,
David Holmes, Kirsty Gillies,
David Huggan, Grant Bolton

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School News

This topic will be updated shortly. Contact the [School site](#) for further information.

Newsletter

Newsletter information will be available from this location, hopefully in the form of downloads

RHS FP Rugby History

RHSFP Rugby Club History

1868 - 2002

Hugh MacKenzie, known to many High Scholars as the prime mover in Old Crocks Rugby in the FP Rugby Club is extremely keen to ensure that the records and legacy of the Club is not lost, given that it was merged with Corstorphine Rugby Club in 2002 and is now known as RHC (Royal High Corstorphine). Hugh has published a book, which will be treasured by generations of rugby players who will leave it in a prominent position on their coffee tables.

While the book was being planned, the RHS Club web administrator compiled an extract from the potential publication, and given that many rugby photographs already feature here, it was seen as a welcome addition to the chronicles of the School. Many of photos originally sourced by the web administrator found their way into Hugh's publication.

This history is divided into a number of sections, and includes records, anecdotes, individual and group photographs. It has been decided to limit the annual records in this website, which consist of a team photograph and tabular information, to around a dozen specific and memorable years. It is also intended to produce a CD in due course which will contain records of all one hundred and thirty four years.

If **You** feel that you have spotted any errors, omissions, or can add anything to this record, please contact the [website administrator](#).

Topic List

The following topics are effectively the contents list of the proposed paper publication. The first list is available on this page, while the other two are available on separate pages. Click a topic to view it, and click **back to top** (which can be found at the end of each topic) to return to the index of topics. Where a **hyperlink** appears in the text and you elect to follow it, return via the back button in your browser.

[Introduction and Dedication](#)
[A Brief History of the Club](#)
[International Players](#)
[Mark Morrison](#)
[Pringle Fisher](#)
[Grounds](#)
[The Centenary](#)
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The [Club Records](#) pages contain the following topics

Barbarians
Co-optomists
International trialists
Inter-City Players
Representative Players
Leading try and points scorers
Players in the Century Club
Presidents of the SRU
Club Officials and Annual playing record
Honorary Members
Seven's Winners
Brian Scott's record
H.D.M.'s record

The [Annual Records](#) pages records the individual records for a number of special years, from the late 1880's to the late 1990's. Although most records exist for these 134 years, a dozen have been selected as representing the halcyon days of the Club. It is hoped that a CD will be produced which comprises all years in addition to the other material shown here.



Introduction and Dedication

THE PUBLICATION IS DEDICATED TO ALL THOSE PLAYERS WHO HAVE PULLED ON THE BLACK AND WHITE JERSEY AND ROLLED IN THE MUD FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL OVER THE LAST HUNDRED AND THIRTY FOUR SEASONS IT ALSO FORMS A SPECIAL DEDICATION TO THOSE PLAYERS AND MEMBERS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY IN THE TWO WORLD WARS.

This publication is primarily the work of the late Sandy Thorburn, a former High School teacher, cricketer and Rugby Club Historian. In 1950 Sandy started to collect information in order to establish and develop a statistical record of all Royal High Rugby matches including the results, players and scorers from day one in 1868. during his involvement with the Club Sandy meticulously kept a record of all the matches as they were played week by week until 1972. This momentous undertaking resulted in him being recognized as the leading Scottish Rugby Historian of this time, a status also recognized by another famous Scottish rugby personality and fellow native of Hawick Bill Maclaren. In 1968 Sandy's work was taken over by Jock Dewar, at that time a Royal High School teacher, who moved the records forward into the electronic age but basically following the statistical pattern created and established by Sandy. In 1988 the post of club Historian was handed on to Hugh MacKenzie who carried on Jock's electronic system until the club amalgamated with Corstorphine Rugby Club in 2003. This amalgamation seemed

like the appropriate time to close the book on the former club's historical records. This meant that the Royal High records may be unique in that the club could well be the only club in Scotland to have a statistical record of all the matches played, results, points scored and the names of players. This publication was produced to make sure that all Sandy's endeavours were not lost and would be maintained in honour of the many that wore the Black and White of this famous club, which was one of the eight original members of the Scottish Football Union.

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A Brief History of the Club

The Royal High Rugby Club's origins are to be found in the Royal High School, which means they are covered in the mists of time. There is some evidence, supplied by a famous Academical sportsman, that there was a 'carrying' game played in the School in about 1810. This provides a link with Sir Walter Scott, who was a pupil at that time. The original rules of Rugby Football were brought to the school in 1856 by an English Public schoolboy.



This letter (a facsimile of the original), was written by H.J.Stevenson and sent to the Scotsman newspaper in 1937. In it, he claims that he spoke in 1923 to a Rugby School representative of the Centenary of the 'Carrying Game', and they said that the game had been played at a School in Scotland as early as 1810.

The first game played by the FP Club was in 1867 against the Academicals (Accies), but the Club was not formed until the next year when it played its games at Holyrood. At that time the Club was open, but unfortunately the Rector of the School in 1870 insisted that only FP's would be allowed to play. In the early years, the Club produced many internationalists, including the honour of having Angus Buchanan in the first international against the Auld Enemy (27th March 1871 at Raeburn Place). He scored the first ever international try in the victory over England.

When the Club moved to Grange Loan it entered one of its purple patches (1881 to 1884), under the Captaincy of Nat Watt. The team was known as Nat's Lambs, a nickname which did not reflect their style of play as in [1883-84](#) they lost only one game and were recognised as the Scottish Champions.

The turn of the Century was dominated by the career of [Mark Morrison](#) who played for Scotland 23 times, captaining them to a triple crown in 1901 and then captaining the Lions on their tour of South Africa. This outstanding sporting record led to Mark being posthumously inducted into the SRU Hall of Fame, and also in 2002 into the Scottish Sporting Hall of fame.

In common with other Clubs, there was no play during the First World War. Thanks to the efforts of J. Hume and 'Podger' Laing who played for Scotland before and after the War, the Club was revived with games against Stewartonians and Heriotonians. The War Memorial was the purchase of Jock's Lodge for £1000, so the Club moved on to its eighth ground.

The second purple patch was in the 1930's under the Captaincy of W.D. Emslie, an international stand off, when crowds of 2000 were experienced. A three season spell of fast open rugby culminated in [1933-34](#) when the team shared the unofficial championship with Hillhead. In 1935 Peter Tait had mixed emotions when he received two postcards in one week, one selecting him for the Club seconds and the other for Scotland versus England ! Following instructions from the SRU, no official games were played during the Second World War. The Club still managed to play over 100, using players on home leave supplemented by School boys. Normal play was resumed in 1946-47 before the Club had another few successful seasons, particularly in [1951-52](#) under the Captaincy of Alec Harper when they were runners-up in the unofficial championship. Two now famous characters, Tom McGlashan and Jimmy Dignall played often and well during this period, Jim eventually passing P.W. Tait's record number of games.

In 1972, after an expensive visit to the courts, the Club returned to its original open status. Life continued as normal with the curate's egg, the occasional good seasons including [Pringle Fisher](#) in [1962-63](#), Eric Ireland in [1963-64](#) and Gerry McCosh in [1976-77](#).

Two City Council decisions adversely affected the Club. Firstly the decision to build the new school not beside Jock's Lodge but at Barnton, and subsequently the withdrawal of the City's annual grant to Jock's Lodge. These two decisions ultimately resulted in the sale of Jock's Lodge, and the move to Barnton where the money was used to build a pavilion, all weather playing surface and a bowling rink.

When the new Scottish League structure was implemented in 1975, the Club was placed in the First Division, but after a protest from Boroughmuir were relegated without playing a game. Life in the leagues was basically a downward spiral with few exceptions. Promotions included Robin Ford's 1978-79 team to the Second Division, Roy Ross's [1981-82](#) team to the First Division, and Alan Wardrop's 1989-90 to the Second Division after a sharp decline in the 1980's. The decline was due in no small part to the erosion of talented School pupils to senior clubs to enhance their playing careers. Several were successful in gaining international honours. On the 9th March 2002 B.J. Scott played his 400th first team game, still a little short of Hugh MacKenzie's estimated 750 games in all teams and garbs for the black and whites.

2003-04 found the team in the third Division of the National Leagues, and struggling to survive. An approach from Corstorphine was welcomed as many Club members concurred that there were too many clubs chasing a shrinking pool of players. A strong club in the west of the City seemed to be a logical solution. As a result, the highly mobile Royal High School FP Rugby Football Club, founded in 1867, and having played at nine [grounds](#) in its 134 years, returned to Union Park in Corstorphine as [RHC](#) (Royal High Corstorphine), the ground where in 1912 they had installed a bath in the pavilion for the princely sum of £5.10s.

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International Players

This most important category is prefaced by an introduction, and includes a full [list](#) and [photographs](#) of all international players.

The club has produced 26 international players who have been capped on 210 occasions by Scotland. Those players capped in the 19th century and in the pre 1914 – 1918 period had only a few opportunities to play for their country in comparison with opportunities open to players in the recent past. This difference in the number of matches makes Mark Morrison's 23 caps all the more amazing.

A large percentage of the total High School caps were won by three players; Mark Morrison with 23, J. Pringle Fisher with 20 and Ivan Tukalo with 37. It must be remembered that J. Hume and A. D. Laing's total of 7 each were won before and after the 1914-1918 War.

The Club has produced 4 Scottish captains. W.R.Gibson on one occasion, Mark C. Morrison 15 times, J Hume 3 times and J. Pringle Fisher with 9. As always Mark Morrison was the most successful. He was the first Scottish captain to win three matches against England and remains the only one to win three Calcutta Cups. His record of nine victories, two Triple Crowns and three championships over five seasons remains a record that none of his successors have come close to matching. Pringle Fisher did however captain Scotland on nine occasions and also played in their sole 'success' against the All Blacks - the 0-0 draw in 1964. Six of his caps were from the Club, while the balance were from London Scottish.

There is also a group of players, listed ,who played for a Scottish XV in games that the S.R.U. did not award caps. W. A. Gunn, J. Hume, South Africa 1912

J. Hume France 1912, 1920, 1921

W. A. Ferguson Waratahs 1927

A.V. Orr Argentina 1969

B. Laidlaw Argentina 1969

The Australian R.U. retrospectively declared the Waratahs Tour an Australian Tour and awarded caps to all who played against the Home Counties. Perhaps the S.R.U. could make a similar magnanimous gesture!

It is also possible to argue that the group of High Scholars who were international reserves would have become capped players under the current laws which allows substitutes. That would have meant in recent times G. Gramhamslaw and J. Blake may have become capped players.

There are two interesting stories concerning High School internationalists which feature in Sandy Thorburn's History. In the 1880-81 season the by-passing of A.G (Gordon) Petrie as captain of the Scottish XV led to a spell of furious disagreement between the Clubs and the Union, followed by an uneasy truce. Until finally at the A.G. M. there was a complete sweep of Union Office-Bearers and Petrie found himself elected President. Petrie played on eight consecutive occasions against England.

Angus Buchanan was a member of the first Scottish XV, and is credited with scoring the first try in an international game - against England at Raeburn Place on the 27th March 1871.

J.P.Veitch was selected to play for Scotland against Ireland in the 1886 season but decided to give up his cap so he could tour with the club and play against Halifax on the 20th February 1886. He was selected for the next game against England!

Other players to be capped only by clubs other than RHSFP RFC included Colin Telfer (Hawick) and Gordon Hunter (Selkirk). The latest to join this category is Ben Cairns (leaving year 2003) whose debut was in Scotland's victory over Argentina in Buenos Aires on 14th June 2008.

List of Full Internationalists

With the exception of A Buchanan, these players were all enrolled at the Royal High School and appeared in the FP XV. On several occasions, all in the 19th Century, there were three High School FP players in the same international side. Click [Photographs](#) to see images of the Internationalists.

A Buchanan	1	E 1871		J. Hume	7	E 1921	
A Wood	3	E 1873, 74,75				I 1921	
W St C Grant	2	E 1873, 74	Craigmount			W 1921	
A.G. Petrie	11	E 1873 - 1880				F 1912, 20-22	
		I 1877, 79, 80		A.D. Laing	7	E 1914	
N.T. Brewis	6	E 1876, 78,79,80				I 1914, 20	
		I 1879, 80	Edin Inst FP			W 1914, 20	
W.H. Masters	3	E 1880	Edin Inst FP			F 1920, 21	
		I 1879-80		E. McLaren	5	E 1923	
J.P. Veitch	7	E 1882, 84, 86				I 1923	
		I 1883, 84,85				W 1923	
G.R. Wilson	5	E 1886, 90				F 1923, 24	
		I 1890, 91		W.G.Ferguson	5	E 1928	
		W 1890				I 1928	
A. Duke	6	I 1888, 89, 90				W 1928	
		W 1888, 89, 90				F 1928	
WA. McDonald	3	E 1892	Glasgow Univ			NSW 1927	
		I 1892		W.D. Emslie	2	F 1930	
		W 1889				I 1932	
I. McIntyre	6	E 1890, 91	Wanderers	J. Park	1	W 1934	
		I 1890, 91		P.W. Tait	1	E 1935	
		W 1890, 91		W.M. Penman	1	I 1939	RAF
W.R. Gibson	14	E 1891-95		D.I. McLean	2	E 1947	
		I 1891-95				I 1947	
		W 1892-95		TPL McGlashan	8	E 1947, 54	
R.S. Davidson	1	E 1893				I 1947, 54	
H.F. Menzies	4	E 1894	West of Scot			W 1954	
		I 1893				F 1947, 54	
		W 1893, 94				NZ 1954	
J.W. Simpson	13	E 1893-95, 97,99		E.H. Henriksen	1	I 1953	
		I 1893-96		J.A. Nichol	3	E 1955	
		W 1894-96, 99				I 1955	
M.C. Morrison	23	see record				W 1955	
A.M. Butcher	1	E 1897	Edin. Acads.	J.P. Fisher	25	E 1963-68	
A.Ross	5	E 1905				I 1964-68	
		I 1905, 09				W 1964-68	
		W 1905, 09				F 1964-68	
GA Sanderson	4	E 1907				NZ 1964, 67	
		I 1907, 08				SA 1965	
		W 1907				AUS 1966	
A.W. Gunn	5	I 1912		I. Tukalo	37		
		W 1912					
		F 1912, 13					
		SA 1912					

Photographs of Full Internationalists

Photographs are available for all 34 players excepting that of W. St C Grant.



Iwan Tukalo
Scotland 1985-92
P37 W20 D2 L15
15 tries - 60 points

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Mark Morrison

Full name - Mark Coxon Morrison

Born 2nd April 1877 in Dalmeny Died 17th May 1945 in Longniddry

Educated at the Royal High School, Profession - Farmer, in East Lothian

Represented:

Scotland (23 caps, Captain 15 times)
British Isles (South Africa 1903, Captain)
Inter-City (Glasgow) 8 appearances
Representative games - 8 appearances

International appearances (* as Captain)

1896 v Wales, Ireland, England
1897 v Ireland, England
1898 v Ireland, England
1899 v Ireland, Wales*, England*
1900 v Wales*, England*
1901 v Wales*, Ireland*, England*
1902 v Wales*, Ireland*, England*
1903 v Wales*, Ireland*
1904 v Wales*, Ireland*, England*

President of Scottish Rugby Union, 1934-35

Inducted into the Scottish Sports Hall of Fame in 2002

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Pringle Fisher

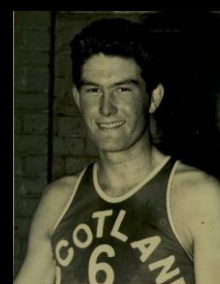
Full name - James Pringle Fisher

- Born 17th March 1939 in Edinburgh
- Married to Liz, three children
- Educated at the Royal High School 1953-58
- Profession - Dentist in London, Singapore, Germany while in RADC (Royal Army Dental Corps), then Wokingham and Edinburgh in private practice

- Played Basketball for Scotland and GB in the 1960 Rome Olympics
- BDS (Bachelor of Dental Surgery) (Edinburgh) 1964

Represented:

- Scotland 25 caps, (Captain 9 times)



- Barbarians East Midlands 25/3/1965, Llanelli 2/11/1965, Australians 28/1/1967, Wasps 19/4/1967
- Schools Inter-City 1956-57
- Captain of Army and Combined Services Surrey County
- Inter-City (Edinburgh v Glasgow) 8 appearances
- Representative games - 8 appearances, including New Zealand, South Africa, Canada, English Regions and Counties, Paris
- Captain of winning Seven at [Melrose \(1961\)](#) and [Hawick \(1962\)](#)

Olympic Basketball 1960

Pringle Fisher BDS



Capt Fisher RADC



1967 Scotland Captain

International appearances (* as Captain)

- 1963 v England
- 1964 v England, Ireland, Wales, France, New Zealand
- 1965 v England, Ireland, Wales, France, South Africa
- 1966 v England, Ireland, Wales, France, Australia*
- 1967 v England*, Ireland*, Wales*, France*, New Zealand*
- 1968 v Ireland*, Wales*, France*, England



1957 Edinburgh v Glasgow (note the six RHS players)



1957 Accies Centenary, Scottish v English schools



1958 School Cricket



France 8-9 Scotland 1967

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Grounds

The club has played on many grounds during it's history and has often been described as a very mobile club, a description that has been made more often about its playing fields than the teams that played on them.

- 1870-1873 Holyrood
- 1873-1874 Raimes Park Bonnington
- 1874-1877 Warrender Park
- 1877- 1878 No ground
- 1878-1879 Warrender Park
- 1879-1880 Old Merchiston Castle Ground
- 1880-1887 Old Carlton Ground at Grange Loan
- 1887-1897 Newington
- 1897-1920 Union Field Corstorphine
- 1920-1987 Jock's Lodge
- 1987 -1999 Dunfermline College Campus Cramond
- 1999- 2002 Royal High School Campus Barnton



The Club's first ground was at Holyrood which was a small area of the Royal Park and was shared by the Royal High F.P. cricket club, and laterally by the Athletic Club. This relationship has lasted through the many moves but the different uses of the grounds lead to many an argument between the sections, mainly centring on how to protect the wicket. Although the rugby club moved many times trying to find a more suitable ground, the club retained the use of Holyrood for the Regent road school and as a training area until 1971 when the ground was handed back to the Royal Estates. It has in the last few years been absorbed into the ground used for the Scottish Parliament,

and the site of the debating chamber is very close to the 'footprint' of the pavilion and changing rooms. Has its use been improved one asks?

The search for a suitable ground continued from 1873 until 1897. The six moves were motivated by the demands of finding a ground that had space for a large size pitch, a pavilion and accessibility. The last factor was helped by the suburban railway which made the grounds that were used on the north side of the town more accessible for matches and training which was not a great feature of Victorian rugby. Although the club only played at Newington for a short time, it was agreed at the S.R.U.'s 1895-1896 A.G.M. that the club's ground at Newington would be used for the Trial and District matches.

The Newington ground was considered too small and another search for a suitable ground was started in 1896. At this time an opportunity to lease the ground at Corstorphine, which had been leased by the University, who were moving to their new ground at Craiglockhart. A large Bazaar, supported by the P.P.s and F.P.s, was held to raise the finance to lease the ground at Corstorphine. The S.R.U. even considered buying the land and building a new International stadium, but before they made up their mind the ground was taken over by the City. Royal High might have played at the international ground!

It was decided on 12th June 1919 that a purchase of a playing field would be part of a memorial for the F.P.s who gave their lives in the 1914-1918 war. Dr. James Watt purchased the ground and access at Jock's Lodge and sold it on to the School and F.P.s at a sum less than the original purchase price. Jock's Lodge was to become the home of the club for the next 70 years. A pavilion was built in 1925 and in 1932 a stand was added. Jock's Lodge featured in the sporting life of thousands of High School P.P.s and F.P.s until the school moved to Barnton 1968. The fact that there were playing fields at Barnton meant that the City's support for Jock's Lodge was withdrawn. This event plus the stopping of an athletic fee meant that the Club could no longer support the finances needed to run Jock's Lodge. As the club's debts increased it was reluctantly agreed to sell Jock's Lodge and move to the School's grounds at Barnton. The money from the sale was used to build at Barnton a pavilion, a bowling rink and an all-weather hockey pitch in the hope of developing a community sports complex.

The rugby club moved yet again with a brief stay at the Dunfermline College Campus while the pavilion was being built at Barnton. The Barnton campus, which was opened in 1990 with a game against the Co-optimists, was to be the last Royal High Club ground.

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The Centenary

The centenary of the Club was celebrated in the 1968-1969 season. Three major events were held to commemorate the centenary of the founding of the club. A [match](#), at Jock's Lodge, against an International XV captained by Pringle Fisher, at that time the club's most capped player. This match was preceded by a XX a side match between a High School Crocks XX and an Invitation Edinburgh XX featuring many players who had played against the club. The game was played to the original laws of rugby which was scripted and rehearsed by Sandy Thorburn and Hugh MacKenzie. This event took place at Jock's Lodge before the main event of the day, the International game, which featured a school XV captained by John Fraser against a team composed entirely of current or ex-international players captained by Pringle Fisher. The third event was a Centenary Dinner, held in the Assembly Rooms, George Street, on the 14th March 1968. This large function was attended by many past and present famous Rugby players from various major Scottish clubs, including representatives from the other founding members of the S.R.U. The club was also very fortunate to have guests from other Unions, a group lead by Dannie Craven of South Africa.

The following images are of the teams, from both games, action photos and a menu card and photos of the dinner.



The Centenary dinner programme



Photos from the Centenary dinner

Under Construction



The international match programme

The teams pose before the International match

Under Construction

Under Construction

The XX side teams take the field from the comfort of the grandstand

The XX side teams pose before the match in the Junior School quadrangle (Sandy Thorburn standing second left)

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Special Games

Hugh MacKenzie has compiled a list of 'Special Games' from his memory. Details of the games and more photographs will be added in due course.

In Hugh's words ..."This section of the history depends on my memory of events and photographs I have seen over the years".

1. A Team photograph and reports on the Club's tour to Bordeaux, which must have been one of the first club visits to the south west of France.
2. There is a strange report of the 1886 tour to northern England.
3. The game at the opening of the pavilion at Jock's Lodge. There is a picture of the opening ceremony before the game against ?.
4. A team photograph at Penarth, which was the club's first game in Wales. It took place before Scotland's first win at Cardiff since the second world war.
5. The photograph of the team that played the last game at Jock's Lodge.
6. The programme of the last game 13th September 1987
7. The photograph of the team that played in 20 aside game at Murrayfield against an Edinburgh Accies 20 to commemorate one of the club's earliest fixtures.
8. A wartime team captained by Sandy
9. A photo of the first visit of an Irish team
10. A photo of joint F.P. and school team
11. An action photo of Jimmy Nichol in his first international
12. The photograph of the team that won the inaugural Golden Oldies tournament at Raeburn Place
13. The photograph and programme of the teams that played in the game at the dedication of the memorial gates.

The following images are from our own archives, and fulfil a number of the 'Special Games' requirements.



1950's Old Wesleyan (Irish) tour to Jock's Lodge. Harper, Squires and MacKenzie prominent



Opening of the New Field, Jock's Lodge, 2nd October 1920 versus Stewarts FP. (Ball kicked off by Mark Sanderson)

1951 FP's v PP's Rugby. Alec Harper prominent for the FP's with Eric Ireland on his left representing the school



Match V Stewarts on 30th September 1950 to celebrate the opening of the memorial gates

1960's Golden Oldies winners at Raeburn Place. Messers Anderson, Ross, Adamson, McConnell, with Mackenzie receiving the beer



1970 Jubilee match versus Stewarts. Ian Robertson captaining, and a 7'3" Stewarts player in the back row

1971 Murrayfield Centenary 7's versus Accies. George Neilson featuring with Penny-Farthing



10th September 1987 saw the last match at Jocks Lodge, as usual against Stewarts FP. The end of an era after 67 years



2nd September 1990 saw the Cooptimists grace the opening of the new pavilion at Barnton. The Club was only 3 years without a proper home!

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Newspaper Cuttings

To be added

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Memorabilia

To be added

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Bibliography

- RHSRFC Centenary Publication, 1968. Sandy Thorburn, Bob Ironside
- History of Scottish Rugby, 1980. Sandy Thorburn
- A Compendium of Scotland's Matches 1994. John MCI Davidson - based on an original volume by and dedicated to the memory of A.M.C. (Sandy) Thorburn

Committee

The Club constitution requires that the Committee refreshes its membership on a regular basis, and from that Committee appoints Vice-Presidents. At the 2010 AGM, a motion was approved which creates a two year Presidency, Martin Bryden being the first in this category. His tenure was 2010-2012. The immediate Past President is also invited to remain on the Committee for a further two years for continuity purposes. In 2015 this period was extended when Frank Crowe entered his third year as President.

2019-2020 Committee

Post	Incumbent	Pen picture	
President	Ian Cowie	<p>Northfield Broadway to Barnton, 1959-1972. Having taken an interest in sound and given a taste of broadcasting before leaving school I left Edinburgh University with a job with BBC Scotland. Covering radio operations initially, I latterly specialised in TV News gathering. Now semi retired I continue to offer my skills to broadcasters and corporate marketing videographers. Also aspiring to promote my food loving hobby under the alias, Mr Snax, on my website mrsnax.co.uk. Very keen to collate a video record to celebrate 50 years of RHS at Barnton</p>	
Committee	Michael Rutherford	<p>After leaving Barnton in 2001 I graduated in Chemistry at Heriot-Watt before joining the pharmaceutical industry where I now perform product development of newly patented drugs to supply clinical trials. Outside of work I am a youth football referee and member of an amateur rock & blues band. I am particularly motivated to promote the club to both former pupils and the school itself and ensuring it remains as popular as ever as in the 21st Century.</p> <p>I moved permanently to Verona in Italy in 2016, but remain active on the Committee, including the support of the email database and newsletter output</p>	
Committee	David Taylor	<p>After leaving school in 2006, I graduated from The University of Edinburgh with an honours degree in Mathematics. Since then I have worked in Finance with roles at JP Morgan, UBS, and now as an Investment Manager at Investec Wealth & Investment in Edinburgh. Outside work, I'm a keen footballer, tennis & squash player, and try to make it round a golf course every now and then.</p>	
Committee	Roland Armes	<p>I left Barnton in 1992 as Dux of School and Vice-Captain to read Medicine at Churchill College, Cambridge University. Following training in Bedford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Auckland, I work as a Consultant in Emergency Medicine with special interests in Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine, Major Trauma and Paediatrics. My interests include cycling, good food, good whisky, travelling and spending time with family.</p>	
Committee	Robert Hay	<p>I left school in 1992 and later attended Napier University to study Accounting. Upon graduating with a BA (Hons) I moved into banking and finance, and have enjoyed a varied career across retail, commercial and international banking. Still presently working in banking and finance for Lloyds Banking Group in Edinburgh, where I have worked in a finance role that has encompassed management reporting and performance analysis, planning & forecasting, stress testing and regulatory reporting. Married, I enjoy cooking, history and foreign languages. I also do my best to support the Scotland rugby team – not easy at times!</p>	
Hon. Treasurer (2017-)	Zander McIvor	Dux of School, 2006. Further information to be added	
Senior Vice President	Russell Ogg	Information to be added #3	

Rector

2014-

Pauline Walker

Pauline is currently the Rector, taking up her post in August 2014. Previous to this post she was Headteacher of Gracemount High School for 5 years.

Pauline is passionate about education and firmly believes in ensuring every young person is fully supported to make the very best of their opportunities.



Honorary Secretary

(2014 -)

David Rutherford

Club President in 2001, David rejoined the committee in 2013 and brings many years of experience in Accountancy to the role of Hon. Secretary.

Sits next to former Rector Matt MacIver at Easter Road as a seasoned season ticket holder



Past President (2016-2018)

David Williamson

Left school in 1992 as School Captain, and subsequently assisted Dr Murray in the research of his school history. Worked as Government and Media Relations Manager, and later Government and Communications Director for The Scotch Whisky Association (SWA), the industry's representative body, based in Edinburgh.

Prior to joining the SWA in 1998, David worked at the European Parliament in Brussels, following his graduation in Law and History from Edinburgh University.



Honorary President

(2017-)

Robert Forman MBE

Robert (Rab) Forman - eldest of three brothers at the school. Left school in 1965. Qualified as a solicitor and is currently senior partner of his firm. Former captain of Mortonhall Golf Club. Played occasionally for the FP 1st XV. Moderator of High Constables of Edinburgh. Was been Secretary of the Club for more years than he cares to remember and has also served as President in 1993. Father - RB Forman - was on the staff of the school. Retired from the Hon. Secy. post in 2014. Appointed an MBE in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours list. Appointed to the Chair of the Scottish Conservative Party on 4th June 2015.



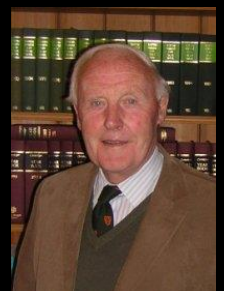
Past Committee

Past Honorary President

George Henry

Entered Northfield Broadway in 1935 leaving Regent Road as School Captain in 1947. Captain of School Cricket. MA LLB from Edinburgh in 1953, then National Service laterally as 2nd Lieutenant until 1956. Joined Fyfe Ireland, partner in 1959 and WS in 1964 eventually becoming senior partner. Captain of FP Cricket in the 1961 Centenary year. Retired in 1991 and am busy with children and grandchildren. Captain of Luffness in 1984 and golf still plays a large part in life as does bowls and bridge, at which pastime I still hope to achieve many grand slams.

Sadly, George died in June 2016



Past President (2013-2016)

Frank Crowe

At RHS 1965-70 after moving from Kirkcaldy. A very undistinguished pupil who hated team games! Took law degree at University of Dundee and joined Procurator Fiscal Service becoming Deputy Crown Agent and a solicitor advocate. Became a sheriff at Dundee in 2001 and was Director of Judicial Training 2004-8 since when have been a sheriff at Edinburgh.

Frank says "I would like to help pupils interested in a law career or the work of the court".



Past President (2011-2013)

Louise Stevenson

Left school in 1991 and am now teaching maths at Craigmount High School. I am really keen for more young FP's to be involved in the FP club and would love to see you at all our social functions, including our dinner in March. I have recently become a mum - baby Kate born in February 2007.



**Past
President
(2009-11)**

Martin Bryden

Left Regent Road through a builder's door in 1967, the last year from 'the hill'. Nevertheless, Calton Hill inspired a sense of history which has led to 31 years teaching, the last 22 as head of history at Craigmount. Still active in sport, although rugby and cricket are but a scrapbook of memories. These are now replaced by strenuous efforts to maintain single figures at Murrayfield, while attacking a growing waistline through swimming and enjoying some very social curling.



**Past
President
(2008)**

Alastair Allanach

Northfield Broadway to Calton Hill, 1950-62. Edinburgh City Police, Civil Service followed by a computing career in UK, Italy, Middle East, Africa and the Seychelles. Chairman of Edinburgh Sports Club 1996-99. Plays golf, tennis on the squash court and hill-walks. Has Supported this website exclusively since its inception around 2002.



**Past
President
(2007)**

Val Tudball

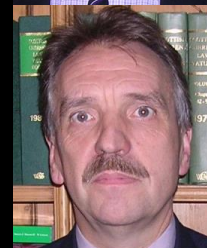
Left school in 1965. Since his return from 30 plus years banking in the Middle East is now active as a committee member of the RHS Club, plays too much golf (mostly at Murrayfield) but is marginally improving (fewer bad shots!) . Also enjoys bridge, the Hibs, the High Constables, continuing Arabic studies, some social work and being a newish grandfather.



**Past
President
(2006)**

Robin Boog

Left school in 1969. Married with 3 children, currently working for Aegon Uk in Edinburgh. Past President of the Rugby Club, now also involved with both the Athletic Club and the Barnton Campus generally. When not there or acting as unpaid taxi driver also into music and books"



**Past
President
(2005)**

Colin Blaikie

Left school in 1977. Set up own firm of solicitors & estate agents in 1988. Married with three children. Now retired from rugby but still interested in classic cars!



**Past-
President
(2004)**

Alan Grosset

Alan sadly died in August 2018

Left school in 1959; a solicitor who was a Partner in Morisons (formerly Alex Morison & Co WS), now a Consultant to that firm. A specialist in sports law, he has been President, Scottish Lawn Tennis Association; Captain, Duddingston G.C.; and a member of SportsScotland from 1984 to 1992, the last eight years as Vice Chairman. Currently Chairman, Confederation of British Sport and Vice Chairman, Sports Dispute Resolution Panel.



**Past
President
(2003)**

Jim Inch

Left school some time ago. Following a period working in the private sector joined local government in 1975 and held a number of positions before my final one as Director of Corporate Services, City of Edinburgh Council. Now happily retired. Married with four financially demanding kids.



Past Treasurer (1989-2013) **Peter Yellowlees**

Left school in 1968. I qualified as a CA in 1974 and am now a partner in an Edinburgh firm of accountants. Spent 3 years in Australia in the late 1970's which I would recommend to anyone. Sports interests include football (Hearts), cricket and golf. Married with two children



Past Rector

(2009 - 2014) **Mrs Jane Frith**

Mrs Jane Frith becomes the first Lady Rector in the nine century history of the School. Jane's degree is from Durham University, and she comes to the School after several years at Wester Hailes Education Centre. Jane provided the following pen picture:

I was educated in Rothwell, Yorkshire, and graduated from the University of Durham with a degree in English. I completed my post-graduate qualification at the University of Nottingham, and moved to Edinburgh in 1985 teaching in a number of schools in Lothian, before taking up post at Wester Hailes Education Centre, latterly as acting Principal and Head Teacher. I was appointed to The Royal High School in October 2009. My interests include travel, skiing and reading.



Past Rector (1998-2008) **George Smuga**

Educated Kirkcaldy High School and Edinburgh University. Rector of The Royal High School since 1998. Previously Head Teacher North Berwick High School and Manager Quality Assurance East Lothian Education Department. Interests include hill-walking, Hibernian FC, food, music and travel.

It was announced that Rector George Smuga would leave on Friday, 29 February 2008 to start a secondment with the Scottish Government to help develop work on the new curriculum reforms associated with "Curriculum for Excellence". The secondment is for a period of 18 to 23 months. During that period, Senior Depute David Simpson was selected to act up as Head Teacher.



Past Acting Rector

(2008-2009) **David Simpson**

Senior Depute David Simpson was selected to act up as Head Teacher in George Smuga's absence as described above. David is already well known to the Club Committee. He recently penned the following short biography. Now, we're OK with Gillespies but...

Educated James Gillespie's Boys' School, George Heriot's School, Exeter & Edinburgh Universities. Teaching background in Music and Outdoor Pursuits. Previously Head of Music at Broughton High, Depute Head at Firrhill High School, Development Officer with responsibility for Student Teachers with City of Edinburgh Council. Interests include whitewater and sea kayaking, jazz clarinet, mountaineering. The attached photo shows David at work at his desk in the School



Past President, past Hon. Treasurer, past Committee and current webmaster and archivist

Alastair Allanach

Former President stood in as Hon. Treasurer to fill the very large shoes vacated by Peter Yellowlees. Has chaired the Finance sub-committee (Yellowlees, Tudball, Macmillan, Rae) for the past four years, maintains the Club website and has co-authored and co-edited the School Digital History since 2017 with former RHS Head of English Tom Bacciarelli.

Retreated to the back benches at the 2017 AGM, then retreated entirely at the 2018 AGM. Now responsible for a number of projects within the School, including Prize Giving management, Historian and Archivist duties, digital history editing (with Tom Bacciarelli), design and creation of memorabilia, the WWII Remembrance tablets, the 50th Barnton Anniversary decade popup displays and other items.



Vice President **Euan Rae**

RHS 1968-74. After qualifying as a Chartered Accountant, I worked for 20 years in Investment Management. I am currently setting up my own fund management company. I am still a regular for the RHC rugby 3rds, which I help to organise in order to guarantee my place!

I am currently married to my first wife, Sally, and share the enjoyment of four children. I can be contacted at euan.rae@hotmail.com



Committee **Stewart McFarlane**

Information to be added

Photograph to be added

Vice President

Chris Crossley

6th Form leaver in 1968, last Pipe Major at old school but, being a traditionalist and a bit of a rebel, fell out with the Rector and was not made a prefect. Captained the 2nd XV (1967/1968) with occasional 1st XV appearances. As a Fellow of the Institute of Internal Auditors, served as audit manager with Nationwide Building Society for 19 years then finally with the Scottish Prison Service. Two offspring in their twenties and now retired to Bruntsfield golf course.



Committee

Eddie Tait

I attended The RHS (c1991) and played football, hockey and rugby for the school. I graduated with a BCom Hons from University of Edinburgh and a Masters in Banking and Finance at Heriot-Watt Uni, before moving to London in 1996 to join Morgan Stanley on Graduate Programme. I left equity research to work in the Chairman's Office at Aon and led key projects as Project Manager. I was RHSC Secretary and Treasurer 2000-2005, Founder of Scots In London / SCOTSIN, and Ex-Trustee of The Royal Scottish Corporation (ScotsCare) plus 6 other Committee posts. Enjoys Travel, Skiing and Family.



Committee

Douglas Plews

My entire education was spent at the Royal High School between 1957 and 1970, latterly making the transition from Regent Road to Barnton in 1968. After leaving school I obtained a degree at the University of Edinburgh before spending much of my career in the public sector. I obtained my MCIPD in 1991 and worked in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirling and Alloa before taking an appointment as Deputy Director of Human Resources at Queen Margaret University where I spent 6 years before taking early retirement in 2009. I now have more time to indulge my passion for golf and would like to make a contribution to the work of the RHSFP Club.

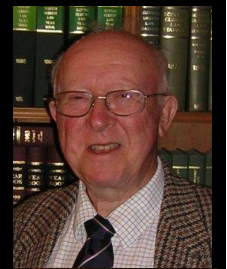


Committee

Kenneth Skinner

I joined the Royal High Preparatory in October 1937, staying until my 6th senior year, unfortunately missing the leaving ceremony. Played rugby and tennis, and captained the U 15 ½ cricket team. Following National Service played in various FP teams, also played in regional and national badminton and tennis tournaments, and involved in sport administration.

Currently member of the Craiglockhart Probus Club, also the Braids Rotary Club where I am Secretary. I also golf and curl.



Committee

Jim Dallas

I left Regent Road in 1966. Was a member of the School Swimming Team and the School Sea Scout Troop 12th Portobello later going on to be Scout Leader of the Troop. On leaving School trained to be a Chartered Surveyor specialising in residential valuation and is now a Partner in one of the local firms of surveyors. Married with 3 adult children.



Committee

Stuart Macmillan

Past President Stewart Macmillan (2002) returns to the committee (in 2008). Information to be added.



Vice President

Roy Cowper

Left school in 1961 and have lived in Edinburgh ever since except for two years in South Africa as a civil engineer on the Blaukrantz bridge in the Eastern Cape. Plays squash, golf and squash on the tennis court. Played rugby for RHSFP 5th XV to 1st XV and ended up in Hugh McKenzie's XV for retired and tired players. Recently retired from Edinburgh's sole remaining whisky distillery.



**Vice
President**

Shona Thomson

1991-1996. Gained a BA(Hons) in Screen Studies at Liverpool John Moores University. I am based in Edinburgh and currently work in property development. Making an effort to make my own films and regularly travel around Europe and beyond.



**Vice
President**

Douglas Forman

Information to be added



Committee

Neil Mitchell

RHS 69-82. Economics degree, then qualified as Chartered Tax Adviser. After working with international CA Firms now Corporate Tax partner with independent Scottish Firm, Scott & Paterson. Married with 2 young boys and trying to keep up the Munro bagging! Interests in cars, whisky and running also to be fitted in! As for golf, with memberships at Kilspindie, Bruntisfield and Crail you might think I should be good, but sadly...



Committee

David Huggan

Information to be added



Committee

Mark Bowman

Attended School 1990-1996. Studied Civil & Environmental Engineering at Edinburgh University, graduating in 2000. Currently working as a consulting civil engineer for Arup in South Queensferry. Regularly play football, badminton and am a keen mountain biker. Enjoy traveling and have just returned from a career break after traveling round the world for a couple of months.



Committee

**Miss Kirsty
Gillies**

Information to be added

