

T.O.G.S. NEWS.

The Newsletter of Torquay Old Grammarians Society

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T.O.G.S. Annual Reunion Dinner 2010.

The Riviera International Conference Centre has been provisionally booked for the 2010 dinner to be held on Friday July 2nd. A ticket application form is attached to this Newsletter. Dress is Lounge suits or Blazer and Slacks. Please bring any photographs and memorabilia you think might be interesting to our members.

The 2010 Dinner will represent 25 years of the reformed Old Grammarians Society.

Three past & present students of TBGS have benefited from a bequest left to the Old Grammarians Society by its late Patron & Old Boy, Wilfred H Hore.

Grants were recently awarded to the following:

Alex Paske, who left in 2008, and is currently studying for a degree in Chemistry. His sport is Judo Kwai and the money will go towards expenses for training camps & competitions to enable him to gain experience on the World stage and for the Olympics.

Dafydd Bury, who is currently at Exeter University having left TBGS in 2009. His sport is Hockey. He is in the Commonwealth Games training squad for 2010 representing Wales. In 2009, he was voted Torbay Sports Personality of the year and was the National Senior County Champion. He will put the grant towards his travelling expenses which include monthly travel to Wrexham and Cardiff.

David Swift. Already mentioned in this Newsletter as an Olympic Hopeful in the discipline of Skeleton Bob. Narrowly missing a place in the GB team for the Vancouver Winter Olympics, he will use the grant towards his expenses for training etc. for the 2014 Winter Olympics. Skeleton Bob has been brought to the forefront of our attention by Amy Williams winner of our only Winter Games Gold Medal in the Women's event in Whistler.

Scott Smith, a Year 13 pupil at TBGS, whose sport is Martial Arts. As well as his own achievements, which include gold medals in Nottingham, Peterborough & Ohio in 2008, he founded the Fuzion Martial Arts team and is a founder member and coach of Team Zion. These two involve touring the country to give displays for charity and to train youngsters. He will use the grant to pay for equipment to assist him in training his students.

Daniel Chow, currently in Year 9 at TBGS, who was SW Singles Badminton U13 Champion in 2009.

He also won a bronze medal in the National Badminton Championships and a gold medal at the U13 Open Badminton Championships. He also represented England in Denmark in April 2009. He will use the award to assist with access to more training and travel to more National and International competitions.

1968 School Photograph.

Richard Hussey(1965-72) of Francis Clarke & Co had called to see the Headmaster professionally, and was looking at the assembled Grammar School pictures in the School main corridor trying to find one with him on it. The Headmaster told him that the 1968 photograph had been mislaid/lost. Richard was able to provide his copy and a photo renovator was able to copy it. The Headmaster said the Photograph was now being framed and would be mounted in its chronological place in the corridor - thanked Richard - and said it was always an omission soon to be corrected.

News from the School

George Fearnley, (Year 9), has been rising through the national ranks over the past year with Exeter City Swimming Club. He produced an excellent swim to claim the junior boys' 100m freestyle crown at the English Schools' National Championships

Having qualified for his first ASA National Championships — where he made finals in four events — he was selected to swim for the South West Schools at Crystal Palace in the Premier school swimming competition of the year.

Qualifying third from the heats, George produced a personal best to clinch the title in a very close race. He was also a member of the South West junior boys' team that romped to victory in both the 4x50m freestyle team and medley team races — and both races were won in national record time.

Speech Day 2009

PUPILS, staff and parents at Torquay Boys' Grammar School have celebrated some of the school's most 'outstanding' exam results ever.

Headmaster Roy Pike told the annual speech day the school was ranked 15th in the country for GCSE results and 11th nationally for A Levels.

At GCSE, 60 pupils gained at least eight As and A*s, achieving the highest points score ever at the school.

“Almost 70 per cent of the GCSEs taken were at A or A* — that is nothing short of brilliant,” said Mr Pike at the ceremony at the Riviera International Centre.

The A Level students achieved an average of 4.1 passes per candidate, with almost three quarters of the 530 examinations taken resulting in A or B marks. Fourteen at Oxbridge.

“I congratulate hard-working, professional staff and ambitious, conscientious students — these results are down to you,” said Mr Pike.

“I believe our commitment to continually upgrading your resources and facilities also raises morale and motivates.”

Highlighting some of the boys' many successes, Mr Pike mentioned the school's latest National Texas Instrument maths team of Brett Larder, Ben Kingsley-Smith, George King, Johnny Green and Dylan Ede. They came a close second in the national tournament final in London.

The school's UK Senior Maths Team Challenge team of Brett Larder, Ben Kingsley-Smith, Rob Thompson and Peter Richards are in the national final.

Wicket-keeper and batsman Matt Thompson is being watched by Worcestershire and Northants cricket teams and has a Brian Johnston scholarship.

Daniel Chow plays badminton for England, recently playing for his country in Denmark.

Mr Pike said Alex Paske is making such progress in judo that he, along with Old Boy and skier Jay Geyer, might well compete in future Olympics, and James Barlow has been hugely successful in sailing. "We could have the next Ben Ainsley," said Mr Pike.

George Fearnley, a winner of the individual event at the English Schools' Swimming Association's National Championships in Crystal Palace, will be considered for the English Schools' Swimming Team in the International next March.

Those attending the speech day also learnt about Torbay's outstanding natural attractions.

These included the seams of internationally prized gold in its rocks from speaker Dominic Acland, chief executive of Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust.

The School Chess Team are the Western Division National Schools Champions, consists of Harry Mann, Freddie Sugden, Robert Thompson and Jeffrey Leung are the Western Divisions

News of Old Boys

Jack Porter (1999-96) graduated in July 2009 with a Mathematics degree from Durhan University. He is currently playing cricket in Australia for a new club, Altona North, where he has achieved considerable success as a bowler, including a haul of two hat tricks in three games and claimed 29 wickets in just 29 games.

On his return to the UK in the Spring, he is hoping to be selected to play friendlies for the Devon county side. Whilst at school he played for Hele Rovers football team, Torquay Athletic and played cricket for Hele.

Dan Gregory(1999-06) is on his way to becoming a pilot in the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm. The 22-year-old has just completed the initial phase of his training which took place at Dartmouth's Britannia Royal Naval College. His parents, David and Debbie Gregory, attended Dan's passing out parade in early December which took place in front of the Duke of Wessex who is the honorary Commodore of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

Midshipman Gregory has stayed on at BRNC to carry out his 'flying grading', the first of many professional hurdles which will lead to his ultimate wish of flying either fixed or rotary winged aircraft. The course at BRNC is designed to set numerous challenges with a significant emphasis on developing leadership skills throughout the training in addition to academic work. His 10 weeks have been spent at sea in the amphibious assault ship HMS Albion which was operating in UK waters learning how a fully operational warship functions across all areas and specialisations.

David Swift (1997-2004) was named Teign sports personality for 2009, having won the Teignbridge title the previous year.

After leaving school he went to Bath University from which he graduated in Sports & Exercise in 2006.

David is a member of the Great Britain Bob Skeleton squad. He took silver in the World Junior Championships in 2007-08 and gold the same year in the British Championships. He currently spends

around six months a year in training and racing overseas and the other six months working and training in Bath.

At school he was athletics champion and flying rugby winger for Torquay Athletic's youth team.

Dylan Turner (1993-98)

A SOUTH Devon actor has landed a role alongside one of the stars of an award-winning American TV crime show. Torquay-born Dylan Turner is appearing with The Wire's Dominic West in London's West End. For former Torquay Boys' Grammar School pupil Dylan, the role in Life Is A Dream is a deliberate move away from the world of musical theatre which has seen him star in shows Mama Mia, Chicago, Grease, Sweet Charity and Footloose.

His is currently appearing alongside Dominic West in Life Is A Dream at The Donmar Warehouse.

Dylan grew up in Torquay and his talents were nurtured in local productions including appearances at the Babbacombe Theatre.

Lee Farmer (1983-88)

WHILE most of us were preparing for Christmas, Torquay-born mountaineer and explorer Lee Farmer climbed to the top of South America's highest mountain.

The former Torquay Boys' Grammar School pupil is now one step nearer to completing his Seven Summits Challenge.

At 22,835ft high, Aconcagua, also known as the Stone Sentinel, in Argentina is the tallest peak in South America and the highest in the world outside the Himalayan mountain range.

Lee, 36, a qualified mountain guide, said: "It was a tough climb, battling through freezing gale force winds which roll in off the Pacific Ocean and over the Andes, but I carried on as I desperately wanted this summit."

This was Lee's third attempt at the Stone Sentinel. In 2004 and 2006 he was forced to turn back just 900 metres short of the summit. Anxious friends and family in Torquay and Newton Abbot heard the good news via satellite phone from the top of the mountain. It wasn't all plain sailing for Lee though as the night before his summit bid, gale force winds and a blizzard pounded his precarious camp at 5,900 metres.

The Seven Summits Challenge is the attempt to climb the highest mountains of all seven continents.

The feat was first completed in 1985 by American Dick Bass. Lee has now climbed six out of the seven mountains.

His final mountain challenge will be Mt Denali in Alaska — North America's highest peak.

"If I'm successful on Denali in 2010 I'll be around the 150th person in the world to complete the Seven Summits Challenge," he said.

This year alone, Lee has climbed to the summit of Mt Kinabalu in Malaysia and climbed Mt Kilimanjaro in Africa twice. He has also visited the South Pole in Antarctica

(Courtesy Herald Express)

T.O.G.S.

The TOGS tie is available from the Treasurer at £9 (inc. p&p) and is proving to be very popular with members.

Copies of the T.B.G.S. Centenary Book are available from the School. Tel. No. 01803 615501

Contact Details.

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Obituaries

Gregory Grant Halliday (1942-47) died on March 1st aged 78. Until retirement Greg had run the family business, the Marble works. Greg's son, Andrew is also a member of T.O.G.S. and is an Orthopaedic Consultant at Grantham Hospital.

Colin Hathaway (1942-'49) Obtained a National Service Commission in the Royal Engineers.

Louis Hooper

A TORQUAY Boys' Grammar School student who lost his battle with leukaemia on Christmas Eve has been described as a 'superbly brave boy'.

Sixth former Louis Hooper, 17, was diagnosed in April and in early December was told his condition was terminal.

He even passed some GCSEs, studying from his hospital bed while he underwent chemotherapy treatment at Bristol children's hospital.

Head teacher Roy Pike was among teachers and school friends who visited Louis just before he died at his Exeter home on Christmas Eve.

Mr Pike said: "Louis was determined to begin with the sixth form, but he found it very tiring.

"He returned for further chemotherapy at Bristol, but was told it was not going to work. He was incredibly brave and he said he had a good life and it was a battle he was not going to win."

Louis's funeral will be held on Friday at Exeter Cathedral.

Louis was a keen cricketer and musician.

Mark Gerrard

Tributes have been paid to a former England Schoolboys football captain and well known amateur footballer who has died suddenly in Spain. Friends yesterday hailed Mark Gennard, a pupil at Torquay Boys' Grammar School in the 1980s, as 'incredibly academically and athletically talented'.

He grew up in Brixham, where he played football and had an early career working on trawlers, before later moving to Spain with his girlfriend, Charlotte. Last Friday Mark was found dead in Alicante, Spain, aged 42.

The British Foreign Office confirmed it had been informed of a British citizen's death in Alicante and staff were in touch with the next of kin in Spain.

He skippered the England Schools FA U18 side in the 1984/85 season, playing twice against Scotland and once against Wales. He scored one goal. In addition to his sporting abilities, he was on Torquay Boys' Grammar School's list of potential Oxbridge candidates.

Chris Penford, deputy head teacher at Torquay Boys' Grammar School, coached Mark during his teenage years.

He said: "Mark was a very talented young man and a very bright chap. I thought the world of Mark. He was a lovely lad.

"As a player he was always fair and wouldn't foul someone on purpose, and he was always at ease with

people, whatever he did. He was never uncomfortable.

"It was these attributes which earned him the captaincy of England, and he was incredibly proud to captain his country."

Mark captained the grammar school at football and rugby, and captained Torbay and Devon football teams.

He also signed schoolboy forms for Torquay United, and he captained Torquay Boys' Grammar School to the Individual Schools U19 National Cup in 1984 when he was 17.

They beat Liverpool school De La Salle 4-0 in the final, and Mark was among the scorers.

Although his appearances at Torquay United were limited, he is still fondly remembered by those who played with him.

Former Gulls star Mark Loram, who grew up with Mark Gennard, said: "I was probably the first person he met in Brixham when he moved down from Wolverhampton, so I'm absolutely gutted to hear the news.

"Mark would do anything for anybody. He was that sort of guy. He was a good mate, and that's all you want. As a player, he was the best defender around."

Savvas Savva, who was also at Torquay United with Mark Gennard, added: "When I heard the news I took it hard. It was a real shock.

"He was a great player and a really nice guy. He should have been a full-time professional footballer. He was so good. He had it all."

When Mark left Torquay Boys' Grammar School he turned his back on university in favour of a career on Brixham trawlers — but he continued to play football, turning out for a number of Devon teams.

Bill Harris, Brixham Villa secretary, said: "He was an outstanding bloke. He played for us and he played for England schoolboys.

"We watched him grow up and he was a great footballer. He was really down to earth and everybody liked him. He was such a genuine bloke. It's a real tragedy."

Mark leaves three children. (Courtesy Herald Express)

2009 Annual General MeetingGM.

Officers:

Patron: Denis Reid (sine die)

President: Michael Angelos

Hon Sec: John V.Pearce

Treasurer. P.Whatton

Registrar. D Simmons -

Committee: D Cavaliere, B Holmes, C Madge, C Turner, G.P. Willis, John Alford, D Simmons, M Downing, Karl Griffin.

Vice- Presidents: (who also serve as Committee members) R E Pike, D. Reid, Don. Roberts, D. Brunsdon, Simon Whittaker, Graham Bradshaw

Honorary Members.

Current Staff:- Roy E Pike (Headmaster), Chris. D Penford

Former Staff:- Barry K Hobbs (Headmaster 1982- '86), Peter J Hewitt (Deputy Headmaster), David Berry (Deputy Headmaster), Gilbert Head-Rapson, John B Hopwood, David Johnson, Don J Roberts, David Golder, Ian Kay, David Kerswell, A.K.Hele.

Governors:- Chairman Brian Wills-Pope