



AD-VISOR



The Newsletter of the Birkenhead Institute Old Boys

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Editorial

I would like to thank all the OB's who responded to my request for them to attend last years Dinner. This was in celebration of the 120th Anniversary of the founding of our School. The turnout was magnificent. There was an excellent show of members who attended at Tollemache Road. This was due to the efforts of one OB in particular. He has asked me to spare his blushes and, of course, I will honour that request. He knows to whom I am referring and he does know that I am grateful for all his efforts. We need many such OBs to attend these functions if the Association is to continue.

The Dinner itself is always a success, due in part, to the efforts of certain people at Caldys Golf Club and I refer in particular to Mrs Gail Copple and her staff in the General Office. The Golf Club has, as its secretary, a woman of remarkable talents in Mrs Copple.

I must thank some other people..... Keith Dutton (1960/63) is that remarkable person who converts my scribblings into a more readable form and sends it off by email. He then prints out the AdVisor and the envelopes and labels ready for dispatch to those who still receive by land mail. Thanks are due to him for saving your Association so much money.

Whilst on the subject of money I am still searching for an OB who will take on the job of Treasurer. It is not an arduous task and will only take up less than an hour once a year. I do not think that I should do this task (I insist that there should be a check made of our accounts every year). I have asked for this task to be taken by an OB and so far have been deafened by the silence.

I must ask for your indulgence whilst I give vent to my feelings with regard to emails. After last years emails were dispatched I received news that 40+ had not been delivered due to changes to the receivers email provider. This meant that I had to telephone everyone involved and find their new address. This was several days work and also, as I do not charge for my phone calls, quite an expense, but I regard that as my donation to funds. I would be grateful if members could remember to put my email address on their file for those to be informed when they change their internet providers.

There are other people to whom I am always grateful for their efforts and advice They are Jack Bassett, Mike Pollard, Bert Bushell and Len Malcolm Thanks are due to them all.

At the Dinner there were four overseas visitors, one from Australia, one from the USA and two from Canada One of the Canadians has attended nearly every other year since we were re-established A great effort I think that you would all agree.

N.B. I must be honest and say that I feel better when I get things like the email saga out of my hair I do hope that everyone understands and forgives my little outburst.

Old Instonians Golf Society

Arthur Howarth (1959/66)

The competition for the Pyke Cup this year will be held again at Caldy Golf Club during the afternoon of the Annual Old Instonians dinner on 1st October 2010.

Last year, all that entered the competition, which as you would expect at Caldy, was played on a well -prepared and testing golf course had a thoroughly enjoyable time. As those of you present at the dinner are aware, a closely fought competition saw Mike Hayman, win the trophy with Robin McDonald a very close runner up. The Len Malcom Tankard seems to have done a runner so if anyone knows its whereabouts could they please let me know.

Following the efforts of Mike Hayman within Caldy Golf Club, the green fee this year has been reduced by the Club to £20.00 for Old Instonians. Clearly this does not apply to members of the Golf Club who are not required to pay green fees. The competition will have the same format with Tee times available from 1.00 to 2.00pm.

If you wish to participate in the competition or would like to discuss any aspect of it could you please telephone me on 0151 336 1026 and, if I am not in, leave your details on the answer phone,

Alternately e-mail your details to me on:- arthur.howarth@btinternet.com. I will get back to you.

Editor: The following two items have been prepared by Rob Wood and Dave Lee. They are both keen members of the Birkenhead History Society The Society was founded by J.E. Allison amongst others. The one time Geography Master at School was a stalwart of the Society for many years prior to his death. The Society meets every third Thursday in the month from September to May The meetings are held at the Williamson Art Gallery in Slatey Road and are very well attended. The lectures are diverse and to a high standard with photographs, maps and diagrams some of them very old but always very interesting The lectures are attended by Old Boys of all ages Further information can be obtained from your Editor or Rob and Dave

Dave Lee (1951/56)

One of my roles as a Committee Member of Birkenhead History Society in recent years has been to be responsible for answering Local History questions that arrive via the Society website. One of the most interesting questions that arrived recently concerned the origins of the 'Birkenhead Shield' that is now in the hands of a gentleman in Devon. Mr. Graham Colman had been evacuated from Malta, where his father was serving in the Army, and had been sent to Oswestry in Shropshire where he attended Oswestry Boys High School from 1943-1949.

Oswestry School no longer exists, but for a number years, Graham Colman has been organising Annual Reunions for those Old Boys of his particular class at school. He explained that a few years ago, in recognition for his efforts, he was presented with a shield that had been one of Oswestry School trophies and bears the name 'The Birkenhead Shield'. It measures 16" x 12", is made of wood, and has a number of silver plaques shaped as shields around its perimeter, which were used for recording the successful School Houses, the earliest date being 1941. Its centre bears a small Birkenhead Institute Visor insignia.



(worth a thousand words!)

Using the internet he contacted Birkenhead History Society website for possible answers. I was delighted to receive such a reference to the Institute and set about looking for reasons as to how the Birkenhead Shield found its way to Oswestry School in Shropshire as it does not feature in the known list of Institute Trophies.

Referring to the Visor, a History of the School 1889-1949 I found a reference to that period in August 1939 at the outbreak of the war when Headmaster Mr. Wynne Hughes outlined plans called "Evacuation scheme in the event of hostilities." Participation in the scheme must have been optional, some parents choosing to make private arrangements. The Visor reports departure took place on September 3rd, just a few hours after the actual declaration of War on Germany. The boys were marched to Woodside where they were boarded on a train that was to take them to Oswestry! It would appear that early difficulties of accommodation were overcome and the life of the School was so efficiently reconstructed that full examinations were sat in December. Visor suggests that those who took part in the Evacuation would never forget the hospitality that was enjoyed and the amount of academic work that took place, to which the excellent Examination results in 1940 bore witness.

So, to return to the Birkenhead Shield, I have not found any written evidence as to its origins, but one can only conclude that at some later date in 1941 Birkenhead Institute Staff presented the shield to Oswestry School as a token of their gratitude for the kindness and hospitality freely given during a worrying and uncertain time, and as a result it was so named.

Mr Colman reports that when Oswestry Boys High School was amalgamated with a Girls High School 1980 the silver ware was transferred and ended up in a cupboard and forgotten about until a friend of his 'rescued' some of the items. The question is in which cupboard are the Institute Trophies stored and can a home be found where they can be displayed publicly? Also, are there any Old Boys out there who were party to that evacuation and what memories they must have? I am sure the AdVisor Editor would be delighted to hear.

Many Old Instonians will recall the School Trophies and were possibly recipients of them. The trophies were housed in a glass fronted Oak cabinet on the wall placed down the end of the corridor near the stairs to the Physics laboratory.

The following is a list and when they were acquired.

- 1891** Silver Cup: Presented by Lieutenant Colonel St.John Blake-Campbell of the 1st Royal Cheshire Engineers in 1891 for award to the senior boy who has shown the greatest achievement in both study and games.
- 1904** Silver Cup, Presented by Samuel Stitt Esq. JP in 1904 bearing the donor's crest and motto. This was awarded to the junior boy who has proved the best all-rounder of the year.
- 1918** Silver Cup, the earliest of the House trophies. Boys of the School gave this from their earnings at Tilston Fearnal Farm Camp where they did war work in 1918. The cup is awarded annually to the Champion House in Cricket
- 1922** Silver Loving Cup. Purchased with House Funds in 1922 and awarded to the Champion House in Rugby.
- 1922** Chased Silver Cup acquired in 1922. This was at one time awarded to the Victor Ludorum. Became the Tug of War Trophy.
- 1929** Oak Challenge Shield, embellished with engraved silver, the School crest being the centre motif. Won annually by the Champion House in Athletics.
- 1930** Silver Cup presented by the Staff to the Senior House Relay Team.

- 1930** Silver Cup presented by the former Headmaster R. Wynne-Hughes for the Intermediate House Relay Team.
- 1931** Silver Loving Cup presented to the winning House in the Senior Cross Country.
- 1931** Silver Loving Cup (a smaller replica of the previous trophy) Presented by Miss Harkness, formerly the School Secretary. Awarded to the winning House in the Junior Cross Country.
- 1932** Silver Cup presented by Susan Atkin and known as the Atkin Challenge Cup for the Victor Ludorum.
- 1933** Challenge Shield embellished with worked bronze relief presented to the School by the British Chess Federation in recognition of the Institute Chess Team's outstanding performances in the Wright Shield Competition . This is awarded annually to the Champion Chess Player of the School.
- 1934** Silver Cup presented by the Old Boys' Association for the Junior Victor Ludorum.
- 1935** Silver Urn presented by Mrs Jackson (formerly Miss Atkin) for the Mile Champion.
- 1935** Silver Rose Bowl presented by Mrs Barker and awarded to Junior Cross Country Run.
- 1936** Silver Cup purchased from House Funds and awarded to the Champion House at Swimming.
- 1937** Silver Cup presented by Birkenhead Corporation to commemorate the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. Known as the Coronation Cup, the trophy was awarded to the Champion House.
- 1948** Silver Cup presented by Robert Smith Esq. To commemorate the overall period of 17 years during which his sons J.N.Smith and V.L.Smith attended the School. It is allotted to the winner of the Senior Cross Country Run.



This is a photograph from around 1959, showing Danny Webb with R.F. Salmon in the entrance hall. During my years, (1960/63). the trophy cabinet described above, was in the entrance hall and can clearly be seen. (Keith Dutton)

There maybe other trophies, that were donated since my presence at the Institute 1954-1960 and we would welcome any further information

At present all the School trophies are in the basement of the Williamson Art Gallery in Slatey Road Birkenhead.

A number of them were put on display at the annual dinner a couple of years ago.

If Old Boys wish to view them Colin Simpson, the Curator, is the person to contact at the Williamson Art Gallery.

Finally it is unfortunate these trophies cannot be placed on display since they form an important part of the history of Birkenhead. Alternatively they could be donated to other Schools for their own presentation.

Any other suggestions?

OBITUARY

Derek Burls(living in Somerset)

Brian May (1933/38)

Leighton Hill (1931/36)

William Hastings(1918/29)

Frank Geoff Hughes BSC(Eng) RNVR

John Mervyn Owen

John Williams (1941/48)

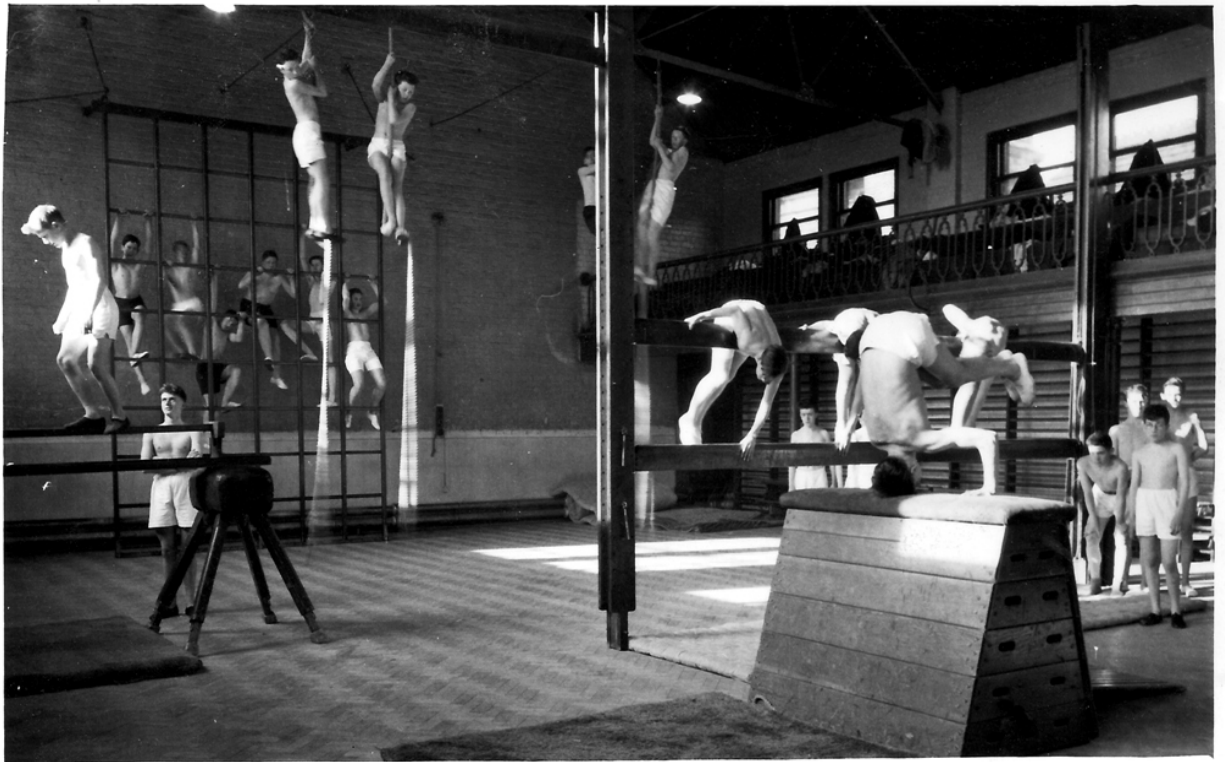
Harry Kelsall Evans

John Norris (Norrie) Smith

An OB has produced an email site with an extensive collection of details about our School He is Philip Ronald Price (1960/67) I would refer all interested parties to contact:-
www.freewebs.com/birkenheadinstitute/ also biwirral@yahoo.co.uk



Just to fill in some space, and as a reminder, a photograph of the school, from Whetstone Lane in around 1959.



P.E. in the hall, again around 1959.

APPLICATION FORM FOR THE ANNUAL DINNER

Please return the completed form to :-

**Harry Burkett
13 Prenton Farm Road
Prenton
Birkenhead
CH43 3BN**



I will/will not be attending the Dinner at Caldy Golf Club on Friday October 1st 2010 Time 6.30pm for 7.30pm.

(For those attending please enclose a cheque for £25 made out to BIOB).

Donations for the draw will be welcome.

Dress:- Blazer and Flannels or Lounge Suit.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

Email ADDRESS.....

TELEPHONE NUMBER.....

(including dial code)

YEAR OF BIRTH.....

Any Dietary Arrangements.....